



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor
www.chup.org
August 2022

I got a text message the other day that made my heart sing. “We’ve spent some time talking about faith and life in general and wonder if you have time to talk with us…” An email from someone else was similar: “As our child gets older, my [spouse] and I are thinking about the place that faith might have in their life – and that got us to thinking about the place it could have in our lives. Can we talk?”

So much of our lives we are moving from project to deadline to “stuff that needs to be done”. One of the rare privileges I have as your pastor is being a part of times where we set aside some of that important business to be attentive to matters that are vital, if quiet. As our summer enters the home stretch, have you thought about how you are engaging with faith right now? Do you have ideas as to what kinds of practices might be helpful to you in September and beyond? How are you planning to spend some of your time and energy contemplating and doing the things that have ultimate significance? This is not to downplay the fact that the groceries need to be bought, the yard needs some attention, and you really should call your mother – but let me encourage you to think about how you might engage the Holy in the context of this beautiful, amazing, messy life you’ve been given.



For more than a hundred years, folks have met for a few moments on Sunday mornings at the corner of Stratmore and Clairhaven streets to do just that – to seek to engage, and to be engaged by the Author of all that is.

I resonate with Anne LaMott, a writer and teacher who tweeted a few years ago, “I live for Sundays. It’s like going to the spiritual gas station to fill up on fuel and clean the dirty windshield and mirrors. I usually show up nuts, self-obsessed, vaguely agitated, and I am at once reminded not of who I am, but Whose I am.”

This is a fantastic time for you to give some thought to how you might live into your calling as a child of God in the year that lies before us. Are there particular gatherings and programs that would suit you? Do you wish that there was a chance for you to talk about something in particular? Are there those in your home who could benefit from some structure like Sunday School or Youth Group? Has something happened in your life to present a roadblock to faith that seems insurmountable? As I said at the top of this page, those are the kinds of conversations that I find to be so liberating.

Your friends who serve as Elders and Deacons, along with those at the Preschool and the Open Door, are hard at work trying to imagine a structure for the coming months that can help us to grow in our ability to claim our identity as Christ-followers. That structure will be better if they hear from you the kinds of things that matter to you. If you’d like to talk about how to move forward in faith, please call me or reach out to one of the other leaders at the church. We are eager to live more fully into the statement that has guided us for decades:

The First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights is a Spiritual Home.

Pastor Dave

Fellowship Opportunities

Ladies Bible Study—A great time was had by everyone who joined us for lunch in July! We will be gathering again on Friday August 12th. BYOL (Bring your own lunch) and join us for conversation and lunch at the gazebo behind Greentree Library. 11:00 - and bring a friend! If you need transportation or have any questions please contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost.



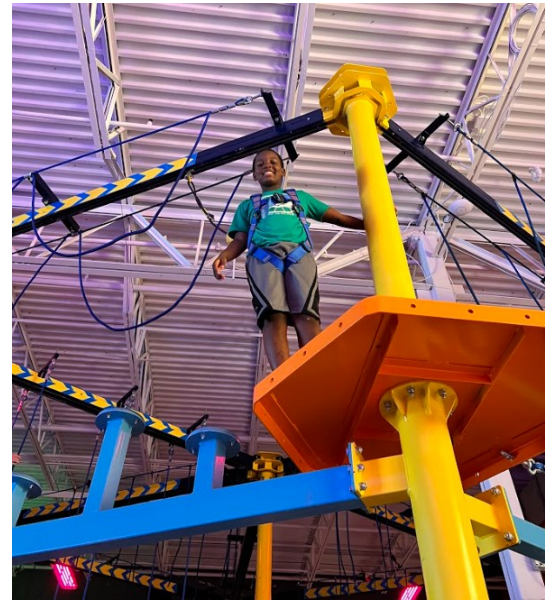
From Congregational Life Committee

- **Church Pool Party**—We are having a pool party at Crafton Pool in place of our usual all church picnic. It will be held August 5th at 7 P.M. Bring the family and friends for an evening swim or just bring yourself and sit by the side of the pool to dip your toes. Bring your favorite snack to share, towels, blankets, and anything else you would like. Drinks will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet in church closer to the date so we know how many lifeguards will be needed. If you have any questions ask Ben Veltman or Barb Prevost.

The Open Door

Cross Trainers

With our Cross Trainers program ending for 2022, we want to share with you some of our great joys from this summer! We spent most days doing our class rotations. We focused on the theme of “we are stronger together” in bible, we played our favorite games in rec, and made many crafts in art. We had several field trips, consisting of the Carnegie Museum, Fun Slides, the Science Center, Urban Air, the Pittsburgh Zoo, and a Pirate’s baseball game. Each week we had fun Fridays. For those we did a water day, a fashion show, an international day with passports so we could travel the world, and more. It has been another fun summer with the campers, camp is always an amazing opportunity that we are all grateful for!



Upcoming Dates for the Open Door:

Sept. 9- Friday Night Rec Begins
6:00pm-8:00pm (Grades k-5)
8:00pm-10:00pm (Grades 6-12)

Sept. 28- Chess Club 6:00pm-7:30pm
(Takes place last Wednesday of every month)



Prayer Concerns

Members: Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Lil McConnell

Friends & Relatives: Sue Whitaker, Than & Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet, Jr., Peter Veltman, Lisa Myers, Joe Mehl, Teresa Stacy, Helen Barto, Hannah Ostlund, Virginia Czopek

August Birthdays

1st	Luke Barnes
3rd	Ryan Lane Eleanor Arlet Hunter Ciechanowski
4th	Ella Fullwood
6th	Kitty Kistler Barbara Prevost Rucker Wolbert
9th	Florence Hall
12th	Carolyn Dunhoff
14th	Joe Knouff
17th	Lauren Mack Laurel Williams
18th	Madalyn Kistler
19th	Dennis Piper
20th	Madison Chlystek
21st	Brogan Adler
23rd	Mary Prather Kathleen Schaffer
24th	Nathan Abel Kati Ault
26th	Steve Imler Rachele Jacob
28th	Rebecca Mehl Henry Simcox
29th	Jessica Frick



Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Services are Sundays at 10:00 am. Please read our updated safety guidelines before attending in person worship: <https://files.constantcontact.com/7a16d75f001/80d3381d-f76d-4188-8553-c263835f868e.pdf>

Online Worship: Each Sunday at 10:00 am, our worship service livestreams on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CraftonHeightsChurch/> And then later on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU5XsLRAbBddh2dgu38_W9bbRu9wYaOB4

Electronic Giving

Go to <https://chup.org/giving/> to find easy options for sending your donation electronically. Feel free to contact the office chup@chup.org to find out more about how you can designate where you would like your donation to go: the Church, the Preschool, the Open Door, the Food Pantry... the list goes on! Thank you for supporting our many ministries and enabling us to spread God's love in our community and throughout the world.

CHUP Online

Did you know that you can view the Runner in full color on our website? Back issues, too! Our website is mobile friendly and easier to navigate than ever.

Please visit www.chup.org to find online newsletters, sermons, prayer concerns, giving opportunities,

Mark Your Calendar!

Please mark your calendar for the CHUP blood drive scheduled for, Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 8:00 am - 12:30 PM. Hope to see you there! Each donation will help three different people! You can save a life!

Need Help?

Do you need help of one kind or another? If you are in need of food, or someone to run an errand for you, or a friendly voice with whom to speak, or prayer... please let us know!

Email dave@chup.org and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day. You are not alone!

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