



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor  
[www.chup.org](http://www.chup.org)  
July 2021

Not long ago I had the deep privilege of visiting a long-time member of the congregation. We were able to meet IN PERSON! As we spoke, he said, "I've really appreciated being able to connect with the worship services on the computer. It's not the same, of course, but it's really important to my wife and I." We chatted for a moment about the wonders of technology and then my friend said, "I have a question about this past week's service, however."

"Of course," I said. How can I help you?

"We were trying to figure out who the young woman was who did the reading this past week. I know that we don't know everyone, but she just didn't look familiar at all."

I said quickly, "Oh, yes! That was Campbell. You know Campbell: she's Jess and Adam's daughter."

He protested, saying, "You're right, I do know Campbell, but it couldn't have been her. The person who read was too big to have been Campbell. Isn't Campbell quite young?"

This has been a year of missed connections. We've done so much remotely, and we've missed seeing each other in person in so many contexts. As a result, we've kind of lost touch with many of the important aspects of daily life together (for instance, how tall some of our children have gotten!). It took a little convincing, but my friend was finally prepared to accept my explanation that all of our children have grown, even though we haven't been together!



As I write this, our building is filled with energy: there is one team of folks cleaning up from the Open Door's Learning Hub, which completed its mission in early June. There's another group here getting ready to launch to 2021 edition of Cross Trainers. Still other folks are in the building installing air conditioners and other seasonal changes. I know that you've had energy at your home – for long-delayed trips, or home projects, or family visits. It's a good season!

My hope and prayer is that you would find a way to become more involved and enmeshed in our life together in the weeks to come. Our Cross Trainers camp will spend the summer months focused on Colossians 3:12-14, which reads, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

My hope is that the campers this year will memorize that verse, and internalize it. My deeper hope is that we might join them in that – that we will commit not just these words to memory, but that we will act in such a way so that these practices become habits. As we continue to emerge from the Pandemic, the lock-downs, and the multiple fasts we've undertaken, may we engage and re-engage with each other in ways that allow us to celebrate growth and be grateful for the joys we've known. May we each commit to growing every day! I'll look forward to seeing you in worship!

*Pastor Dave*

## Keep Masking or Quit Masking? That is the Question

Covid-19. You're sick of it right? The 19 in "Covid-19" signifies the year 2019 when the virus was first detected, and here we are halfway through 2021 still stressing about this microscopic sunburst of a germ that is still dictating how we move about our daily lives. But there's hope for sure! Vaccines have been administered, masks have started to come off in many places, and people have started to gather again. And that is all very exciting. But as we all start to make our way out of our individual Covid Caves, we are asking our faith community to remember and look out for one another with love and grace.

Some people have come running out of their cave kicking up dirt and tossing their mask in the wind, while others are still very much clinging to their masks, and have only begun to look out the window with contemplation of eventually making it outside. Remember that our congregation has been blessed with young children who have not been able to be vaccinated yet. Remember that you care about everyone who wants to be in the room, and do not want anyone to feel excluded from that space because it puts their health at risk.

We're all tired of wearing masks. But at this time our congregation has decided that we can continue to mask up for the hour-ish service out of love and generosity for everyone who is still vulnerable to the effects of contracting Covid-19. Thanks for your understanding and grace, and we look forward to the day that we can ALL meet (safely and comfortably) face to face!

## Mission Opportunity

This summer, the Deacons are raising funds to support the International Treasure House Ministries. ITHM is a mission organization that rescues orphans and destitute children in Kenya by breaking the cycle of poverty through sharing the Gospel of Jesus, providing quality education, meeting practical needs, building safe housing, and placing children in family structures. They show these children that they are treasures and their lives are valuable. You can find out more about this ministry by visiting <https://ithministries.org/>

The Deacons are trying to raise \$1000 to help this mission. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the Deacons. Thank you!

## Worship Facilitators Wanted

Who are those smiling faces (behind the masks)? Since our reopening to in-person worship, there have been designated Worship Facilitators at each service. They are there to be sure folks coming into the building are wearing masks (and they are available if you forget yours), sanitize hands, and sign in for contact tracing in the event of a COVID positive report.

They also assure that seating in the sanctuary provides social distancing and that at the end of worship we continue to practice distancing as we leave the building. We encourage people who would like to visit or chat to do so outside, weather permitting. Please be patient as we are doing this to keep this a safe space for everyone. In the past, Elders and Deacons have been tasked with this duty, but if you feel you would like to help with this we could use some volunteers. If you can help, please contact Dani Anderson or Dave Carver.

## Fellowship Opportunity

The Congregational Life committee invites you to join us at Crafton Concerts in the Park, weather permitting.

Thursday, July 17: West Hills Symphonic Band  
Thursday, July 22: Pure Gold

Concerts begin at 7:30 pm at Crafton Park. Come early for good company, dessert, great music and fun!

## Blood Drive Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who donated at the CHUP Blood Drive. This was by far one of our most successful drives thanks to all of you. We collected an amazing 32 units of blood! What is even more amazing is that 96 patients will benefit from your generosity. That is huge!

Thank you for supporting our blood drive and for helping our neighbors in need.

Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive scheduled for Sunday, September 12. We hope to see you there!

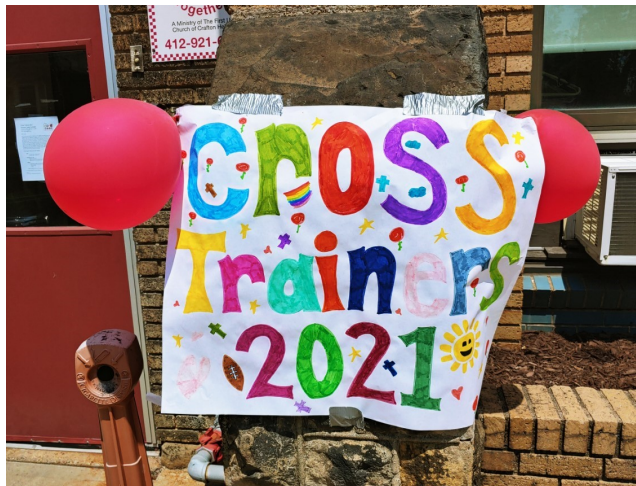
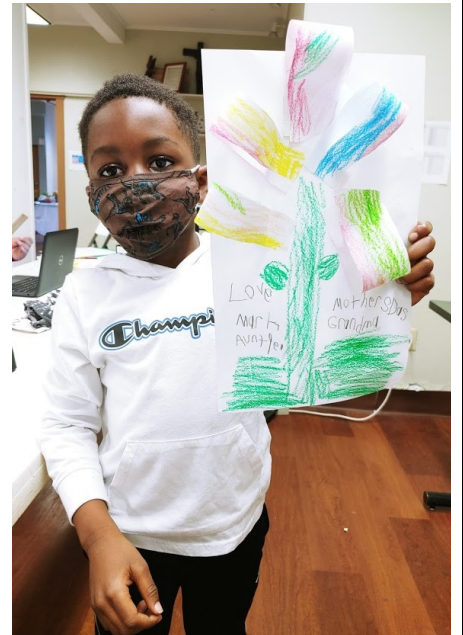
# The Open Door

**Cross Trainers!** Cross Trainer camp will run from June 28 to August 6. We will continue to follow all CDC guidelines, take temperatures of the staff and campers on a daily basis, wear masks in the building, and social distance as much as possible. But with things opening back up, we will have more options for field trips and other outdoor activities, which is exciting!

**Staff Meals.** Each summer, we ask church members and friends of The Open Door to help us feed our staff at the end of each camp day. Mealtime for Cross Trainers Staff allows them to build relationships and discuss how camp ran that day. You may make a meal and bring it into the church at 12:30, order take out, take specific fast food requests, or send gift cards! However you choose to feed our staff of 11, know that we are grateful for your support! Please visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/4q2762> or contact Bruce Blackburn [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org) to sign up.

**The Learning Hub Finished Strong!** Students picked out books from the Open Door library to take home for the summer, and helped make a sign for Cross Trainers registration day. The students and staff developed positive relationships that will last for many years to come.

**Grand Reopening Celebration.** The Open Door building is preparing for a grand reopening Saturday, September 11, 2021. Volunteers are needed to help get the building ready for the celebration. Please contact Bruce Blackburn [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org) to learn more and to volunteer.



### Preschool

**End of Year Celebration.** The preschool families met on a sunny Saturday morning at Oakwood Park. This was a fun way to meet families we had seen over zoom throughout the year , and to say goodbye to what was a very unconventional school year. The children enjoyed climbing, sliding, chasing each other, and using the long ramps to race assorted balls on the tracks. They built dinosaurs and Cootie bugs and drew with chalk.

**Support our Neighborhood Ministry.** The Crafton Heights Community Preschool offers children a high quality early childhood education along with valuable social interactions and developmental learning. As we look ahead to the 2021/22 school year we are challenged with supporting our budget while keeping our tuition costs affordable for the community we serve, as well as offering additional scholarships for families in need. We are expecting full enrollment in the fall, as we return to “normal” school days. If you would like to support a child’s tuition this fall, or would like more information on how you can support the Preschool Ministry, please contact Cheri Mack [cherischool@comcast.net](mailto:cherischool@comcast.net) .



### Youth Group

The Youth Group held their End of Year Picnic at Pastor Dave’s home There will be no Summer Mission Trip this year due to Covid travel restrictions. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Tim Prepelka, Terri Mulkerrin, McConnell Family, Cheryl Shaw, Arlene Donovan, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Aliza Ciechanowski & Family, Peter Veltman, Kitty Kistler, Maryanne Richardson.

**Friends & Relatives:** Barb, Amy, Joanne, Debbie Beatty, Cindy Tirpak, Tom Musko, Rich Boyle, Patricia Sullivan, Dawn Sedlock, Ellie Musolino, Lorraine Barth, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Eadie Children, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern, Teresa Stacy.

## July Birthdays

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Emma Pearson Carl Schrenker
4 <sup>th</sup>	Terri Mulkerrin
7 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Jacob
11 <sup>th</sup>	Madge Seidel
12 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Barth
14 <sup>th</sup>	Kelly Dix
15 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Reed Debbie Dolence
16 <sup>th</sup>	Stacey Donovan
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Schrenker, Sr.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Connor Jacob Jones
20 <sup>th</sup>	Karren Sites
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jessica Weaver Declan Adler
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joann Mikula Carly Barnes
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thad Ciechanowski Karlana Mehl
24 <sup>th</sup>	Aliza Ciechanowski
25 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Kate Fisher
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Fuhs
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jessalyn Gielarowski
31 <sup>st</sup>	Cheri Mack

## Runner Articles

Information or articles for the August Runner are due Sunday, July 18.

You may email them to the church office  
[chup@chup.org](mailto:chup@chup.org)

## 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](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](mailto: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](http://www.chup.org) to find online newsletters, sermons, prayer concerns, giving opportunities, announcements, online worship links, and clickable information on how you can become involved in our many ministries.

## 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](mailto: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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