



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

For the Runner, From the Pastor - July 2022

Just prior to writing this article, I changed the paraments in the sanctuary. The paraments are the cloths that hang from the pulpit, rest on the communion table, and serve as our banners. There are four colors that we use: white for celebration (Easter! Epiphany!), purple or blue for reflection and confession (Advent and Lent), red for Pentecost (signifying the flame of the Holy Spirit), and green for “Ordinary Time”. There are two chunks of ordinary time in our church year: a few weeks between the day of Epiphany and the beginning of Lent, and a much longer stretch between Pentecost and Advent.

The word “ordinary” comes from the Latin ordinalis, which means “showing order” (some of you math whizzes might think of “ordinal numbers”). It’s sometimes easier to think about what it means to live a life of faith when we’re in the midst of some special season like Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter, but the church calendar reminds us that there is meaning each and every day. Whether it’s the 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time (July 3, 2022) or the 33rd (November 13, 2022), there are opportunities for faithfulness and intentional living to be found.

Let me offer you some ideas about growing in your faith in these “ordinary days” of summer, when many of us find our schedules rearranged into something that is definitely out of the ordinary!

Get outside. Maybe you’ll sit on the porch, or maybe you’ll take a bike ride or go fishing, or work in the garden. But go outside. And while you’re there, be intentional! Read Psalm 8 after an evening of star-gazing. For a transcendental moment, sit on your porch during a thunderstorm and read Psalm 29. As you watch your garden or your children or your grandchildren grow, think about the ways that you have changed in the last two or twenty years.

Buy (and use) some stamps. That’s right, go to the Post Office (or order them online) and spend some time in thoughtful, intentional correspondence with someone. Maybe you need to send a note of encouragement, or an affirmation. Perhaps you need to seek or offer forgiveness. Maybe you just have a silly cartoon to pass along. Give someone you love the gift of “real” mail and give thanks to God for the way that Jesus reaches out to us.

Sit in a different pew. If you’ve been worshipping at home, come into the building. The airflow is good, the transmission rates are down, and summer travel generally means thinner crowds. If you’re traveling, visit another congregation. Show up and see how God is moving in that place. If there’s something that is preventing you from worshipping at CHUP, talk about it with me or one of the leaders of the congregation. Be intentional as you worship this summer.

Wonder! Take some time to read a good book, to wander down a new trail, or to learn something new. Maybe listen to a different kind of music for a week, or change your social media habits, or try a new discipline such as giving blood or picking up litter. Learn how to do something different!

It’s “ordinary time” – that is, time that is built for meaning! Time that is meant to count! I hope and pray that you are using the gift of time you’ve been given this season in ways that enrich yourself, honor God, and encourage your neighbor.

I’ll look for you in worship!



Pastor Dave

Fellowship Opportunities

- **Ladies Bible Study**—Our Tuesday group is finished for the summer but we still want to connect. On Wednesday July 6th you are invited to B.Y.O.L (bring your own lunch) and meet at the shelter behind the Greentree library. We'll meet at 11:00 for lunch and fellowship. (Rain date will be the 7th) We hope to see you there. All are welcome and bring a friend! If you need transportation or have any questions contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost.
- **Pittsburgh Prays**—On Sunday, July 10, a cross-section of the Pittsburgh Christian Community will gather at Heinz Field for an afternoon of worship, prayer, and unity. Pittsburgh Prays (<http://www.pittsburghprays.com>) is being sponsored by a network of Christian ministries in the hopes that Christians of all kinds will gather to pray, to ask for reconciliation in our city and unity in the church, to give thanks to God for God's presence during trying times, and to grow closer to one another as members of Christ's body. The event is scheduled to run from 1 – 4 pm, and there is no charge. If you'd like to go, please check in with Pastor Dave!

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.
- **Crafton Concerts in the Park**—For several years we have been attending the concerts presented by Crafton Performing Arts. The concerts start at 7:30 PM, There are bleachers for seating or you can bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Those of us who attend sit beside the bleachers to the left of the stage. We'd love for any and all to join us for good music and fellowship.

July 7th - Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra

July 14th - Street Level (Chicago Tribute)

July 21st - Dr. Zoot

July 28 - RML Jazz

Thank you to all the folks (14) who signed up to be greeters and substitutes. Your willingness to help with this hospitality ministry is greatly appreciated.



From the Deacons

- The Deacons have been hard at work fulfilling their ministries of compassion, love, caring, prayer and congregational and community service. Along with donations from the congregation they have given:

\$2015.15 to One Great Hour of Sharing, a Presbyterian offering that provides resources to millions of people worldwide who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

\$750.00 to Malawi to help with the aftermath of severe flooding

From the monies entrusted to them from the church budget:

\$250.00 to Hannah Ostlund, our seminarian, to deliver to our sister church in Malawi

\$50.00 to Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

\$100.00 to Foundation of Hope, an interfaith, faith-based non-profit that works with incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with God, rebuild their lives and reconcile to their communities.

\$150.00 to Beechwood Elementary for their Nationality Night. Deacons provided bags with pantry items to help families with food insecurity.

\$500.00 to contact@ukrainetrustchain.org - Individuals may use this address to make personal contributions.

The Deacons also continued to provide meals for the Table Ministry, cared for those who experienced loss, were hospitalized or welcomed a new family member. They also continue to replenish the Food Pantry as needed. They are accepting gift card to Giant Eagle, Aldi or Shop 'n' Save at this time.

Cross Trainers Summer Day Camp 2022

Our Crosstrainers summer program has began and runs until August 5th! and we need your help! Every summer we ask for volunteers to feed our staff. You can provide a meal by cooking, grabbing a gift card, picking up take out, or donating money. However you feed our summer staff, please know that we are grateful for you! Just like family, mealtime for Crosstrainers Staff allows them to build relationships and discuss how camp ran that day, while sharing a meal together. However you choose to feed our staff of 13, know that we are grateful for your support! Please use the link to pick your date! <https://mealtrain.com/4q2762>



Preschool



Our final group pictures of our last day of preschool. Our older friends will be going to kindergarten this September and our younger friends will be returning for another great year at preschool. The children grew so much throughout the school year, not just in inches but in developing social skills, increasing their vocabulary and communicating with each other, along with learning age appropriate academic skills.



Our end of year celebration included a photo slide show of the school year, a presentation of certificates and a few songs. Here's a picture of the children moving to the favorite graduation song, Tooty-Ta.

We ended the year with a Putt 4 Preschool mini golf fundraiser at Scally's. Preschool friends and families came out for a fun afternoon of mini golf, and a BBQ picnic. We had many gift baskets, Tee sponsors and donors whose support made this day a huge success.



Would you like to make a difference in the lives of our young children? Donate! We are looking for sponsors who can supplement our tuition costs. Use the VENMO QR code to make an easy donation to our program.



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

July Birthdays

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



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!

Thank you to everyone who came and donated at the CHUP Blood Drive. We collected 20 units of blood that will in turn help 60 patients in area hospitals. That's really awesome, thank you! Please mark your calendar for the next drive scheduled for, Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 8:00 am - 12:30 PM. Hope to see you there!

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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