



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

I write this filled with gratitude following the final “Youth Group” meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. If you are in a home without school-age children, I suspect that you have no idea the extent to which the Coronavirus has not only disrupted programming and education, but deeply affected the mental and emotional health of our teens. For a couple of dozen kids, Sunday nights have been a safe haven – a chance to gather and explore life in this world with attentive adult mentors.

We had some small group discussion, and I asked the kids to think about positive memories of this past year, or about ways that participation in Youth Group affected them in the past nine months. After some discussion with their peers, I said, “Now, who can tell me something you’ve heard? What did your friends say about the impact of our time together?” Our young people (about half of whom are “church kids”) relayed stories of laughter and joy; they talked about how good it felt to be silly and also to be challenged to think seriously. Several young people said that someone told them that being in Youth Group helped with their confidence and anxiety; others mentioned a deeper connection with God.

We followed that with a brief lesson of, on all things, “sin”. I explained that by and large, the Bible is more likely to use the word “sin” to refer a kind of “missing the mark” or “falling short of the target” more than to enumerate a number of behaviors that really tick God off. That seemed to resonate. And then we talked about how Youth Group is one way to *practice* connecting with God and with each other.

I wonder about your practices. What are you doing that allows you to connect with The Holy? In what ways are you placing yourself in a position to get better at being “on target”, and less likely to feel as though you’ve missed the mark?

June 5 marks not only the beginning of our summer worship hours (TEN a.m.!), but our celebration of the Day of Pentecost. We’ll share communion. We’ll sing songs of faith. We’ll celebrate God’s faithfulness to the Church, and we will *practice* being a community of God’s people in this place at this time.

I hope you’re here. I hope you’re here on Pentecost, and in the weeks that follow. This neighborhood is a better place because people like you are forming this community. Let us not neglect the practice of this community and our engagement with and for each other. I invite you to reflect on the same questions I put before the young people: “How have you grown in your confidence in faith this year?” or “Where have you felt God working?” I celebrate who this community is, and who we are becoming. I’ll look for you at worship this month!



Pastor Dave



Fellowship Opportunities

- **Ladies Bible Study**—Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall. We gather for about an hour for coffee, tea and snacks, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend!
- **Congregational Life Committee** is seeking people who are willing to be greeters on Sunday mornings. Responsibilities are greeting people as they come in, making conversation with people (especially visitors), pointing out mask section, showing where bulletins are located and taking an attendance count. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Barb Prevost @ 412-509-6729 or bprevost1534@comcast.net

A Letter from CHUP'S Friend Hannah

Dear CHUP Friends,

After a 2 year pause in sending Valentour Scholar due to the pandemic, I have been selected as the PTS Valentour Scholar for 2022. Through this fellowship, students have the opportunity to travel during the summer months to different parts of the world for 7-12 weeks to learn from our global partner churches and organizations. I will be traveling from the beginning of June to mid-August to Peru, Malawi, and the US/ Mexico Border to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on short-term missions and what it means for the future of God's mission in our world. I will be conducting this research with mission partners and religious organizations. During my time at Salem College in North Carolina, I completed a two-semester study on mission work with a focus on enabling short-term trips to open doors for long-term development. Upon my return to PTS, I will complete an independent study with Dr. Hunter Farrell that will culminate in a presentation on the revised and adapted version of the short-term mission guidebook created at Salem.

I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing my experience with the CHUP community near and far on my blog hannahostlund11.wordpress.com. Please pray for me and the mission partners I will interact with this summer.

Blessings,

Hannah



The Open Door

Grounded in principles of the Christian faith, but open to all, The Open Door Youth Outreach exists to improve the lives of neighborhood youth through programming that supports strong self-identity, resiliency and behavioral competence. We are intentional in purposeful community engagement through academic assistance, social interaction and athletics, with caring adult volunteers in an environment of safety and fun.

Friday Night Rec

Another big shout out and thanks to the Waynesburg students who helped make Friday night rec fun and enjoyable for our community youth during the recent school year. We are now on a hiatus for the summer while we turn our focus on Cross Trainers summer camp. Friday night rec will reconvene in September. Volunteers are always needed to assist the Waynesburg students. In addition, we need to build up a bank of community volunteers to fill in when the students are not available. We came up short on several occasions with volunteers and had to close the building. So, we will be looking for volunteers throughout the summer to prevent closure in the future. If you are interested in assisting with Friday night rec please let me know.



Chess Club

Chess night at the Open Door is also on a hiatus for the summer and will reconvene in September. We are anticipating more participation in the Fall because chess will be offered during the Cross Trainers summer camp along with the Queen's Gambit Chess Institute as an optional activity for the campers for those who may be interested. My prayer is that this will create more buzz and interest from the campers and carry over to build up our chess club during the next school year. If you are interested in volunteering for our Chess club please let me know.



The Open Door *Continued*

CHUP/Open Door Youth Group

With the summer months quickly approaching and our youth group scattering for vacation trips, summer jobs or participation in ball games, we will also reconvene in September. Our next great adventure will be August 8th- 12th to Faith Ranch for our summer mission's trip. It will be great to get the youth out of their comfort zone and back to work doing hands on missions work in the field. Due to the Covid interruptions over the last few years, it will be a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with the youth on a hot, dusty and wonderful smelling day at a work site.



Cross Trainers Summer Day Camp 2022

We are gearing up for another fun filled and exciting summer for the community youth of Crafton Heights and the surrounding areas. Our camp will be in full flight June 27th to August 5th. The theme for the summer is "Together We are Stronger." Our goal this summer is to have 45 (K-5th) graders and 15 (6th-8th) graders. This summer we wanted to include the (6th-8th) graders because after they age out after 5th grade many, if not all of them, have nothing much to do during the summer. We want them to have a fun summer as well. So, keep our team in prayer throughout the summer and if you would like to sponsor a camper or more you can send a check to the Open Door. We want to continue to make



Mark your calendar for these upcoming important dates and check out the website to register for the Open Door programs and CHUP youth group in 2022:

- Open Door Golf Outing June 10th, 2022 @1pm at Quicksilver Golf Course
- Cross Trainers Summer Camp June 27th - Aug. 5th
- CHUP/Open Door Youth Missions Trip to Faith Ranch – Aug. 8th – 12th
- Friday Night Rec resumes Friday September 9th, 2022

Check out our website at theopendoorpggh.com for up to date information, financial donations, event registration and volunteer sign ups. If you are interested in helping out, in any way, or want more information please contact Bruce at opendoor@chup.org or at 412-921-6153 Ext. 14.

Preschool

The end of May was full of excitement and activities. The class rooms were full of end of year projects, photos, and family gifts to make and share. The children made a custom canvas photo picture of themselves blowing hearts to their loved ones. They turned out super cute and families have a thoughtful keepsake photo of their child. Our Putt 4 Preschool mini golf event was well attended and full of laughter, good food, great gift baskets and a fun time had by all. This was a great way to celebrate together. Thank you, Linda and Denis Piper for securing Tee Sponsors.

Our end of year graduation celebration was full of lively songs and a slideshow of all the great activities that were going on throughout the year. This year we were able to stream the celebration live through ZOOM to fifteen friends as far away as Sweden and Italy! Thank you, Pastor Dave, for making all the tech and streaming work. We had a wonderful school year filled with many partnerships that really enhanced our preschool program. Thank you, WQED Education, The Children's School at CMU, Schafer Foundation, Allegheny Parks, ALCOSAN, and the Adopt an Animal at Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. We are still accepting donations to support our scholarship assistance for our community of children.



Prayer Concerns

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

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

June Birthdays

1st Tracy Eagan
 2nd Evan Walker
 7th Jimmy Fuhs
 8th Virginia Czopek
 11th Sharon Carver
 12th John Fullwood
 15th Charmaine Kososki
 19th Vivian Ciechanowski
 21st Jason Dix
 22nd Dave Carver
 Amiya Dreyer
 25th Richard Yelley
 27th Linda Piper
 28th Carl Martelli
 30th Judah Claassen
 Don Prevost



Runner Articles

Information or articles for the July Runner are due by Monday, June 20.

You may email them to Julia at the church office: chup@chup.org

Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Services are Sundays at 11:00 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 11:00 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=PLU5XsLRABddh2dgu38_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, announcements, online worship links, and clickable information on how you can become involved in our many ministries.

Mark Your Calendar!

The next CHUP Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, June 5 from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Need Help?

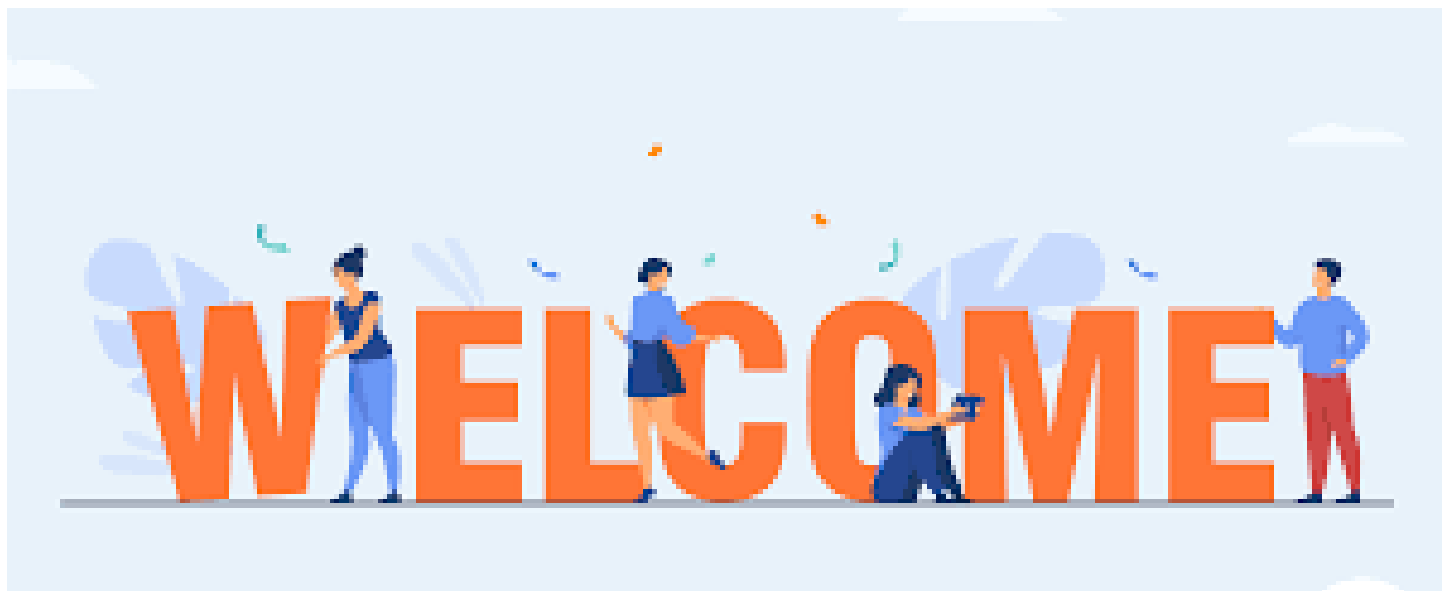
Do you need help of one kind or another? If you are in need of food, or someone to run an errand for you, or a friendly voice with whom to speak, or prayer... please let us know!

Email dave@chup.org and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day.

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