



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

In the late Spring of 2020, after we had endured weeks and weeks of disruption and inconvenience at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic in the USA... when we were worshipping in our living rooms and washing our groceries and wondering... I made a smarmy comment: “This is the Lentiest Lent we’ve ever Lented!” Those days and weeks of fasting from gathered worship and human contact and family visits and sporting events and so much more – well, they have just dragged on and on and on, haven’t they?



In fact, as we approach Ash Wednesday 2022 one might be tempted to note that we’re still “Lenting that Lentiest of Lents” that began so long ago.

But as the author of Lamentations has said, “But yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope...” It is reasonable to acknowledge that things have changed and continue to change for the better. It’s nowhere near as bad as it was in 2020. Most of our children are in school most of the time. We’ve been able to open up the sanctuary for worship and the number of people who feel able to gather in person has increased. The Preschool and Open Door programs are running. Delta has visited us with plenty of wrath. Omicron is diminishing in its intensity and folks are venturing out more and more.

Let this be a time for us to intentionally re-engage in our common life. Inside this newsletter there are invitations for small groups and special worship; there’s an announcement about our Annual Meeting and information about the Youth Group’s annual Famine Fundraiser; and there are descriptions of Children’s Sunday School or other programs. Is it time for you to practice Lent in a different fashion this year than you’ve done recently? We often think of Lent as a season of fasting – of withholding, or abstaining, or denial. There’s plenty of solid theological grounding for that.

At the same time, however, perhaps there is reason to think of Lent 2022 as a season of disciplined engagement and intentional discipleship. Maybe this is a good month for you to reach out to another member of the CHUP family from whom you’ve become disconnected. It may also be a good opportunity look for an opportunity to get to know someone who is newer than you. If you have not ventured into our shared, in-person worship yet, then perhaps this might be the time to give that a try.

We’ve said it over and over again – we’re all in this together. Lent 2022 is a timely reminder of the ways that we can practice this truth and feel it in our bones. I hope and pray that you are well, and I look forward to seeing how the people of God engage at with each other and the world through the ministries of this congregation.

Pastor Dave

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Opportunities

- Ladies! Please join us Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall for Women's Bible Study. During Lent we will be talking about "Lent in Plain Sight". We will have discussion and prayer and all are welcome. Bring a friend!
- Children of all ages are welcome Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM for our one-room Sunday School! We meet in the old choir room on the first floor.
- The Youth Group will once again be spending time learning about those around our world who engage in struggle. As in past years, we will have a Famine Fundraiser. During the season of Lent, the kids will be raising money for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Our Famine experience will culminate during the Spring Retreat on April 1-3, when we'll go without food for 30 hours while studying the impact of income inequality, natural disaster, and trade practices on human suffering. If you'd like to know more, please speak with Bruce, Hannah, or Pastor Dave!
- The Congregation and Corporation of the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights will have our annual meeting on Sunday, March 27 immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. During this time, we will receive reports of the congregation's ministries in 2021 and elect a nominating committee for 2022. A light lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall.

One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to help those in need through these three programs. You can give starting March 2 until April 17. Children's activities associated with One Great Hour of Sharing will be distributed at CHUP on March 6. Additional information will be provided in the near future.

Food Bank Coordinator Needed

Changing Lives | Helping Others

The FOOD BANK pilot program has served approximately 20 families twice a month for the past few months. Families were grateful to receive a free box of produce and a box of staple items at each distribution. This program has come to an end, we would love for this outreach to continue with the help of a Food Bank Coordinator to take the lead. This volunteer would be responsible to set up delivery days, contact recipients and coordinate the existing team of volunteers eager to help with each distribution. CHUP has always had a heart for helping others and this is a way we can continue to help our neighbors in need. If you would like to learn more about this amazing opportunity to serve, please talk with [Barb Prevost](#) or [Cheri Mack](#).

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.

For in him we live, and move, and have our being.....

-Acts 17:28 (ESV)

Friday Night Rec

As 2022 begins, we are very excited at the Open Door for an educational and fun filled year. Friday Night Rec continues to be a fun safe place for youth to hang out on Friday nights. Both sessions are well attended. Approximately (10-15) K-5th graders meet 6pm-8pm and (15) 6th-12th graders meet 8pm-10pm every Friday night.

Most often, we find that the older young ladies love to sit and chat with volunteers. The foosball, pool table and air hockey tables usually get a good workout from the youth and adult volunteers. The go to game and stress reliever continues to be dodge ball. The snack shack is open during each session and the arts and crafts room provides a quiet place for youth to relax, draw, color, play board games or Lego building. For the most part, many of the youth just like to run around in the Open Door playing tag, hiding, and chasing friends.

The lounge area is in the planning stages of being prepared for use for those who just want to hang out and chat with their friends. Possibly in the future, a climbing wall will make its way to the Open Door for the adventurous ones.



The Open Door *Continued*

Chess Club

Six youth and three adults participated in Chess Night at the Open Door in conjunction with the Queens Gambit Chess Institute and had a great time on Wednesday, February 16. This collaboration is beginning to take shape and provides opportunity to teach young and old alike the game of chess. It is becoming a nice, quiet spot for young thinkers and senior mentors to hang out and to test their knowledge across the checkered board. Also included at chess night, are alternative games such as checkers and other board games for those young ones who lose interest after a game or two of chess.

As this develops, it is my prayer that the Open Door Chess Club will produce chess enthusiasts that want to take their game a step further and enter in chess tournaments around the city or even in other states. There will also be opportunities for the serious player to get nationally rated as a chess player. If you are interested in giving chess night a try, look for our next sign up on our website or contact Bruce at the information below.



“Chess is a game that benefits people of all ages, especially kids, in any area of life, business, problem solving, and social skills. Chess has the unique ability to combine focus, concentration, imagination, coordination, teamwork, and leadership all at the same time.” -Dustin Diamond, Actor

Mark your calendars for these upcoming important event dates:

- Wednesday Night Chess Club: March 23, April 20, May 18
- Youth Retreat at Windy Ridge: April 1-3
- *Kids of Steel* running program in preparation of the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon on April 30
- Open Door Golf Outing at Quicksilver Golf Course: June 7 at 1:00 PM
- Cross Trainers Summer Camp: June 27—August 5
- Youth Mission Trips: August 8—12

Check out our website at theopendoorpg.org 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

In February we were wild about animals! We started our theme learning about the animals of the rainforest and the large amount of diverse wildlife and vegetation that lives there. Please come up to the 3rd floor and check out our lively bulletin boards we have created throughout the month. We welcomed the Allegheny County Park Ranger Program into our preschool, we learned about the different native animal species that live in our county by seeing up close their collection of animal skins and skulls. We had the opportunity to touch and examine the specimens, a skunk, raccoon, beaver, opossum, red fox, and black bear. Thanks to a generous donation from DEP Technologies, we were excited to welcome The Pittsburgh Zoo into the classroom for an up-close look at some animals, and learn more about our wild friends. For all events we followed COVID guidelines, wearing masks and social distancing.

Crafton Heights Community Preschool depends on supporters and their contributions to continue to bring our high-quality early education program to this neighborhood. We are looking for donations in the following areas: Sponsor a child, every child who attends CHCP receives a \$120-month scholarship, we would love to have a sponsor for every child. You could sponsor the dramatic play area \$50 each month, this area changes each month to coordinate with our themes, and allows children to explore a variety of roles while using specific toys and items. Such as a bakery, bus station, pet shop, flower shop, toy shop, train station, etc. Please consider making CHCP part of your regular donations this year. We accept VENMO, PAYPAL, Checks. Classroom volunteers are needed too, if you'd like to make a difference in a child's life consider coming into the classrooms from 9:30-11am Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Talk to Cheri for details.



VENMO

Crafton Heights Community Preschool

2022/23 ENROLLMENT GOING ON
NOW!

Do Not Delay—We anticipate full enrollment before May.

Our program is Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:00 AM -12:00 PM and we offer both Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Our nurturing teachers and stimulating curriculum foster social, academic, and physical skills. Our goal is to provide the personal and educational foundations necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Check out our FACEBOOK page and look at the albums to see all of our great learning activities.

Call for more information and an application. 412-921-6153

Preschool Staff Highlight

I'd like to re-introduce my teaching staff at Crafton Heights Community Preschool. It's been a long COVID season and we are busy teaching, learning and growing on the 3rd floor of this old building.

Let's learn a little more about "Ms. Q" as the children call her.

My name is Kristen McHugh, I have been teaching at CHCP since 2014. I have been an assistant teacher working in the pre-k room until this year. I am currently assisting in the yellow room with Mrs. Hughes. My favorite part of working at CHCP is being with the children and seeing the amazing progress they make throughout the year. It is awesome to see them go from playing alone in September, to interacting with each other and becoming friends throughout the year. The children have a genuine care for each other and look forward to being together each week. It is a real pleasure to be part of the preschool team and to make a difference in each child's life and have a positive impact on families each year.

My husband Brian and I have been married for twenty-one years and have two children, Amber (16) and Wyatt (13). We have lived in Crafton for 16 years. In our spare time, our favorite family activity is to go hiking with our dogs and enjoy the beauty of nature.



Lenten Themes at CHUP

Dust. Bread. Coins. Shoes. These common items would have been a part of Jesus' journey from the region of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem as he prepared himself and his followers for his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. During the season of Lent, you are invited to join with the community at CHUP to consider how these objects might lead us in a deeper devotion for and appreciation of the person and work of Jesus in our own lives.

ASH WEDNESDAY is Wednesday, March 2. We will mark that day with a 7 p.m. service of worship featuring the imposition of Ashes and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Those who would like to receive ashes but are unable to attend the service can stop by the church between 7:30 and 9 a.m., 11:30 and 1 p.m., and 5 – 7 p.m.

We will have several groups forming around a book entitled *Lent in Plain Sight*. This brief work by Jill Duffield is available at any online retailer, and we also have several copies available at the church. Feel free to join one of these groups to share in the discussion:

LENT
IN
PLAIN
SIGHT

A DEVOTION
THROUGH
TEN OBJECTS

JILL J.
DUFFIELD



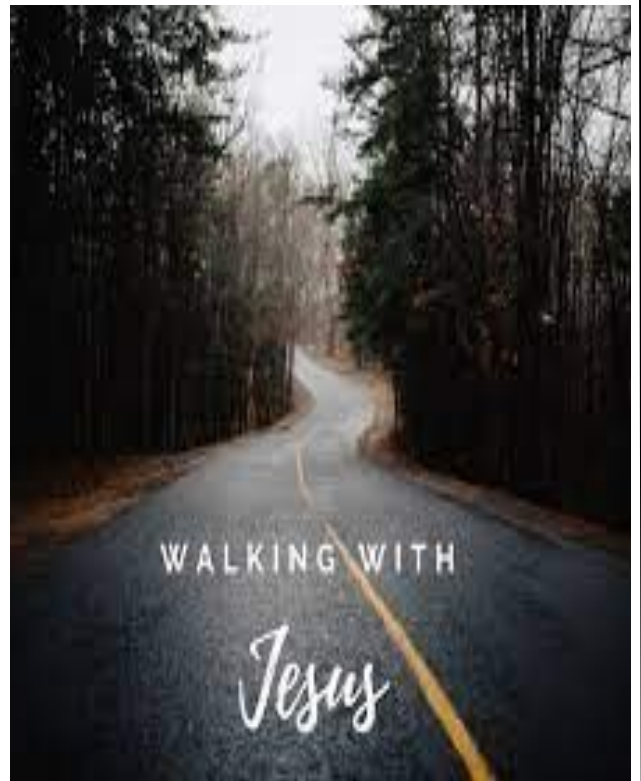
TUESDAY MORNINGS at 10 a.m. (beginning on March 8) a group of women will meet in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions about this group, please contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 7 p.m. (beginning on March 9) Pastor Dave will lead a hybrid discus-

sion. Those who attend in person can share dessert and other light refreshments as we walk through these devotions; there will also be an option to participate via Zoom.

If you'd like a book, but can't commit to a group, fantastic! Read away. Feel free to bounce between groups if that is helpful to you. And if you'd like to be connected with a group, but aren't sure about your ability to stay current with the reading, that's all right too! Share the road with the folk around you and the journey will change you anyway!

On Sundays during Lent, Pastor Dave will be preaching through portions of the Gospel of Luke that narrate Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. In addition, we will be hearing stories of journeys that have shaped our lives. If you have a story to tell about a trip that has left an impact on you, please speak with Pastor Dave!



Tell us about a TRIP that changed your life!

During the season of Lent (March 3 – April 16) we will be considering a theme of "Walking With Jesus". The scripture texts will all be rooted in the journey that Jesus took to Jerusalem – the pilgrimage that brought him through Samaria, into Jericho, and ultimately to the Mount of Olives, the Upper Room, and Calvary. As we think about this trip that Jesus and his disciples took, and the ways that it changed them, we'd like to hear from you – what are some of YOUR stories from the road? Have you undertaken a journey that left a profound imprint on your life? We're not talking so much about that fantastic vacation you took at the shore where you met that special someone, but rather, were you a part of a mission trip that changed your life? Did you have an encounter while on a vacation or business trip that helped you get a glimpse of what God is doing in the world? In other words, we're not necessarily looking for fantastic experiences that you'll remember for a lifetime, but rather for encounters on the road that made an impact on your life. If you have stories like this, please reach out to Pastor Dave (dave@chup.org) or text 412-498-5410.

Prayer Concerns

Members: Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Linda Schramm, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Sue Barth, Cheryl Shaw

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

March Birthdays

1st	David Salinetto Julia Imler
2nd	Fred Sam
3rd	Linda Dawson Cheryl Reed Carter Padula
5th	Shayden Butti
6th	Joanne Holt
8th	Jayden Musko
9th	Eric Barth
10th	Don Weaver
12th	Fay Reynolds
14th	Michelle Salinetto
17th	Marge Freeman Cody Schrenker
18th	Season Ciechanowski
19th	Rebecca Weaver
21st	Mya Austin Josh Mehl Megan Yelley
26th	Jeffrey Voeltzel
27th	Caleb Connor
28th	Justin Barth Erika Locke
30th	Arlene Donovan
31st	Everett Dix



Runner Articles

Information or articles for the April Runner are due by Monday, March 21.

You may email them to Marissa 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=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, 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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