



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor
www.chup.org
May 2021

On May 23, the family of faith at Crafton Heights will join with the church around the world in celebrating the Day of Pentecost. We'll read from the second chapter of Acts and remember how it was that a group of believers, huddled together and perhaps isolated from others in their world due to fear and distrust, was given the gift of communication, language, and community in new and fresh ways. One of the miracles of Pentecost was the ability to express thoughts in new and previously unknown languages – resulting in the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection and the triumph of God's love.

During our fourteen-month experience with the Coronavirus, we, too, have discovered new ways to communicate. "Zoom" isn't just an expression used to convey speed, it's a verb we all know: "so, we'll zoom tonight at 8?" is a sentence that makes sense to us now in a way that it wouldn't have last February. Our world, much like that of the first disciples, abounds with new ways to communicate: in addition to Zoom, we can tweet or Tik Tok or Whatsapp; we can Instagram and Picuki and who knows what else...

But I've noticed a significant difference between our experience and that of the church in the first century. The group that had been huddled in the upper room had a message that was then shared with the world. They took their cues from the Lord, and they spoke of what they had seen and what they knew. They were sure of the message, and then they relayed it.



Too often in the past year, American Christians have not followed that example. We've become outraged or indignant by some rumor or half-truth, and have then sought to amplify that notion by whatever means we found convenient. We have chosen to believe one particular flavor of the truth; we have chosen sides and maligned those with whom we disagree; we have fostered discord and distrust rather than seeking truth and wanting to be conformed to it.

The early church had been forced into hiding, and then burst out into the streets in a festival of truth-telling and love that showed itself in action (read the last few verses of Acts 2 and see how those Christians sought to bless their neighbors). As we continue this slow trajectory of re-emergence after the pandemic, let us similarly commit to proclaiming with boldness the truths that we know; let us move to mitigate the spread of disinformation and commit to not only speaking what we know, but to doing what we know to be right and loving. Let us embrace this as a Pentecost of gratitude and joy, and join our earlier siblings in the faith by living with "glad and generous hearts!"

I look forward to celebrating the eternal truth and love of Jesus with you in new ways this Pentecost and beyond!

Pastor Dave

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!

The Open Door

The Learning Hub— Through the course of the day of online learning, the students get several breaks and play time after lunch to burn off some energy. Now that the weather is breaking the students (and staff) get to enjoy some outside time too. We continue to provide breakfast and lunch everyday with extra for students to take home, if they choose. We have also been pleasantly surprised by a few parents who supply pizza, wings, and other foods for the students and staff for lunch.

Cross Trainers – On the horizon is another fun-filled, fun-packed, busy time of Cross Trainers summer camp. We will be able to serve 30 kids (with a waiting list) Kindergarten through 5th grade. The dates of the Cross Trainer camp will run from June 28— August 6. Registration information will be available soon.

Open Door Facility – The Open Door building is being prepared for a grand reopening in the not so distant future. We are in the process of getting estimates for various projects that need to be completed before we can have full use of the building and get back to what we do best – providing a safe space for area youth to hang out and build relationships with volunteers. We are excited to make a difference in the lives of area youth and impact Crafton Heights as in years past.



Preschool

Preschool has stayed connected with families through our education packs, featuring fun themes and science ideas distributed each month in partnership with the WQED Education team. Families have also received food donations as needed, and participate in monthly story time zoom meetings. Many families have been impacted greatly due to the Covid-19 crisis and are so appreciative of the support, care, and kind words they have received during these interactions.

We are expecting to have full enrollment in the fall, and have already received numerous requests for additional scholarship assistance. The need is great, and we are looking for additional funding to help our families. The Deacons are asking for help to raise \$1000.00 in donations to support the mission of Crafton Heights Community Preschool. If you are able to contribute monetarily at this time please make your check out to The Deacons with a note that it is for the Preschool.

Prayer Concerns

Members: Virginia Jones, Marcy Davis, Mikayla Walker, McConnell Family, Cheryl Shaw, Arlene Donovan, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Aliza Ciechanowski & Family, Peter Veltman, Kitty Kistler, Maryanne Richardson.

Friends & Relatives: Fay Reynolds, Luke Barnes, Cindy Tirpak, Margie Debbie Beatty, Tom Musko, Rich Boyle, Steven Ball, Judy & Ed Moskovitz, Patricia Sullivan, Dawn Sedlock, Ellie Musolino, Lorraine Barth, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Eadie Children, Krieger Family, Mark Mattern.

Thank You

Fay Reynolds sends her gratitude to everyone who has comforted her since her husband's passing: *"Thank you for all the cards and loving notes you sent me in my time of sorrow. It's so nice to know that you still remember us. Thank you also for your prayers. I miss my church and all of you. Love to all, Fay Reynolds"*

May Birthdays

- 1st Callan McNamara
- 4th Jacob Lane
Dennis Lane
- 6th Brian Donovan
- 8th Jared Fuhs
Maisie Kistler
Maryanne Richardson
Marla Harkins
- 9th Tara Reed Julian
- 11th Mikayla Walker
- 12th Erlina Mae Adler
- 13th Raymond Schaffer
- 15th Lil McConnell
- 16th Olive Donovan
- 18th Rachael Sam
- 21st Brandon Austin
Trevin Powell
- 23rd Becky Kelly
- 26th Christina Dame
- 27th Callan Schrenker
- 28th Tranter Butti
- 29th Stephanie Miller
Wilson

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

Congratulations

To Dan and Kati Ault on the birth of their second daughter Laraine Elizabeth on April 18.

Graduates

Is there anyone in your home or family who will be celebrating a high school, college, or graduate school celebration in 2021? If so, please send us details including the school from which your family member is graduating and future plans if known. Email the church office at chup@chup.org and we will be sure to include it in the June Runner.

Food Pantry Needs

Apple Juice, Granola/fruit bars, Rice, Instant potatoes, Pasta and sauce, Tuna, Noodles/Rice packets, and Peanut butter/jelly. We also accept donations for grocery gift cards.

Meetings

Session
5/19
7:00 pm

Deacons
5/10
6:30 pm

Preschool
5/3
7:00 pm

Steering Committee
5/13
7:00 pm

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