



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

Fellowship Opportunities

- **Ladies Bible Study**—Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall as we discuss a video series by Max Lucado "You Can Get Through This". We gather for about an hour for coffee, tea and snacks, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend!
- **Sunday School**—Our last day of Sunday School will be May 22. Children of all ages are welcome to join us at 9:45.
- **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

Thank You & Farewell

As I reflect on my time at CHUP, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the amazing people that made me feel so welcomed, supported and genuinely cared for. The people of this congregation are truly one-of-a-kind. Thank you for letting me be a part of all of the wonderful ministries CHUP has to offer. Special thanks to Pastor Dave, Bruce, Cheri, Barb, Kate & Dani whom I've had the pleasure of working more closely with and will miss seeing on a regular basis. I wish you all the very best!

- Marissa Musico, Church Administrator

Deacons Mission Emphasis – Summer 2022

Thank you to everyone who participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering! With the help of the congregation, the Youth Group, and others in the community, CHUP was able to participate extensively in this offering, which will assist those suffering from food insecurity, natural disaster, and recovery from war and other incidents of violent upheaval. We hope to provide an updated total soon!

For May, June, and July, the Deacons invite you to consider participating in a relief effort in Malawi. Unlike here in Pittsburgh, Malawi really only has two seasons. The rainy season runs from about October until April, and the dry season is the rest of the year. Local farmers rely on the seasonal rains to grow their crops that will sustain them throughout the year. In late 2021, the rains were sporadic. They started well, but then dried up. Our friend Davies Lanjesi reports that when the rains started, many farmers planted their seeds, only to have the skies dry up for several weeks. The result is that these seeds sprouted, but soon withered due to lack of moisture. Those farmers with "extra" seeds were able to replant several weeks later, but many of these fields were washed away in sudden floods.

Davies writes, "The floods have been the worst in recent times. One example is that the flooded Shire River damaged the power plants and the whole country was on total blackout for over two days... The mostly affected region was the Southern region of Malawi. Some churches for Blantyre Synod in Mulanje, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Chikwawa, and Nsanje were damaged. The situation will take years to be repaired."

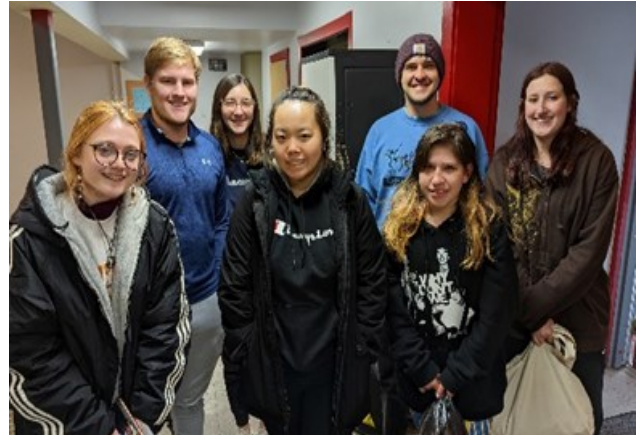
The Deacons would like to invite you to join with our family of faith in Blantyre Synod, Malawi, in addressing both the short term hunger and long-term reconstruction that are needed now. Special gifts may be sent to the Deacons (make a check payable to "CHUP Deacons" or give online at <https://chup.org/giving/>). The Deacons will start by contributing \$600, and our goal is to be able to send at least \$2000 to the Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission for relief and development efforts. Thank you for your support!

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

As we wind down Friday Night Rec for this school year, we could not have made an impact with the youth and the community without the wonderful volunteer students from Waynesburg University and adults from the Crafton Heights community. Friday Night Rec continues to be a huge success and a definite mainstay in the community. The last day before summer break will be Friday, May 27th. The lounge area is still in the planning stages and should be ready to go in September. If you or someone you know is willing to volunteer a few hours at Friday Night Rec through the end of May they can sign up at: <https://volunteersignup.org/RKBAH>



Chess Club

Chess night at the Open Door in conjunction with the Queens Gambit Chess Institute continue to meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The final session before summer break will be May 25th. It is open to all ages who like to play chess, want to learn how or want to improve their game. It is a nice opportunity for young thinkers and senior mentors to hang out and build relationships. As this develops, it is my prayer that the Open Door Chess Club will continue to grow and encourage chess enthusiasts to join us at the Open Door. Chess will be offered during the Cross Trainers summer camp as an optional activity for the campers for those who may be interested. If you are interested in giving chess night a try or have a child that has some interest, look for our next sign up on our website or contact Bruce at the Open Door.



The Open Door *Continued*

CHUP/Open Door Youth Group

On the weekend of April 1st – 3rd, the youth group had the opportunity to spend the weekend on a retreat at the Windy Ridge Retreat Center. During the stay, we as a group joined in with the 30 Hour Famine and fasted from food starting Friday, April 1 around dinner time to Saturday, April 2 around 6:00 PM to bring awareness to the youth about famine, hunger and starvation, not only around the world but right in our own neighborhoods. Several lessons were shared by the youth leaders on various subjects pertaining to famine and to allow the youth to share their thoughts and experiences on going without food for a period of time. It was a great time and wonderful opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level during the weekend.



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:

- *Kids of Steel* (K-5) running program for the upcoming Pittsburgh Kid's Marathon on April 30
- Friday Night Rec will pause for the summer after Friday, May 27
- Open Door Chess Club - Wednesday night May 25 @ 6:30 PM. It will also pause for the summer.
- Open Door Golf Outing June 10, 2022 @ 1 PM at Quicksilver Golf Course
- Cross Trainers Summer Camp June 27 - August 5
- CHUP/Open Door Youth Missions Trip to Faith Ranch – August 7 – 12
- Friday Night Rec resumes Friday, September 9, 2022

Check out our website at theopendoorpg.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

Preschool Staff Highlight

The past few months I've re-introduced my teaching staff at Crafton Heights Community Preschool. This month it's my turn! I'm Cheri Mack and I'd like to highlight a few things you might not know about me. I have been the part-time director and head teacher since 1996! Providing a high-quality early childhood education in a positive learning environment for our children and a place where their families can feel supported and valued has always been my main goal. Communicating with families, supporting children, lesson planning, classroom management, fundraising, are some things that I do that go into making a great program.



Our classroom lessons revolve around our monthly themes, and are alive with hands-on activities including, art exploration, puzzles, imaginative play, fine motor skills such as drawing, writing and cutting, social interactions with peers and teachers, and fun songs. I love bringing the bigger world into the classroom. Some of our favorite themes are Ocean Life, Rainforest Animals, Dinosaurs and Art Exploration. Myself and my fellow preschool teachers take pride knowing that through hard work, dedication and teaching, the children in our preschool receive a strong education foundation.



Mark Your Calendars

Join us for two fun events in May!

- Putt 4 Preschool mini golf fundraiser on Sunday, May 22 at Scally's from 3-6 PM.
- Preschool "End of Year Celebration" on Tuesday, May 24 at 10 AM in the sanctuary, refreshments will be served after the program.



Crafton Heights Community Preschool

"Nurturing our children together"

PUTT FOR PRESCHOOL

Mark your calendars for May 22 from 3:00-6:00 PM for a Mini Golf Fundraiser at Scally's in Moon Twp.

Tickets will include picnic style dinner with BBQ pork sandwich, hotdogs, pasta salad and cold drinks.

All proceeds will benefit Crafton Heights Community Preschool

This family event is for people of all ages and skills. Please join us for a fun filled day playing mini golf while supporting an important ministry in Crafton Heights. Proceeds will go towards ensuring that all families have a high-quality preschool program at an affordable cost. If you would like to make a difference in a child's life, come out and show your support or you can donate to CHCP.

Tickets \$10 advance \$13 at the door
children under 3 are free

For more information about the event or ways that you can help the preschool:
call 412-921-6153 or email cherischool@comcast.net



*A Ministry of the First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights
50 Stratmore St. Pittsburgh, PA. 15205 412-921-6153*

Prayer Concerns

Members: Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Ray Schaffer, 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

May Birthdays

1st Callan McNamara
 4th Jacob Lane
 Dennis Lane
 6th Brian Donovan
 8th Jared Fuhs
 Maisie Kistler
 Brittany Mankie
 Maryanne Richardson
 10th Eryn Mangan
 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



Runner Articles

Information or articles for the June Runner are due by Monday, May 23.

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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