



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Craffton Heights

# The Runner

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

As I write these lines in mid-October, many of the news stories I hear are dealing with what is being termed a “supply-chain crisis”. Many of the goods that people in one country had hoped to purchase have been stuck in some other country or on a container ship somewhere in-between. What has caused this to happen? Well, the answer to that depends on a lot of things, not the least of which is who you voted for in the last election. Some folks talk about the impact of Covid and a resulting shortage of truck drivers or other laborers crucial to the delivery of these goods. Others talk about the greed of the ultra-rich and an economic system that’s been stretched past its breaking point. Still others point to a number of policies enacted by the current or former administration.

This week, there have been dire warnings about people not being able to have the Christmas that they “need” to have. Already we’re hearing of shortages of the “best” toys and the “must-have” gifts. And yet in the midst of this, I am struck by the overwhelming availability of useless garbage. If you have a smartphone handy, Google “useless gifts”. I’m serious.

I spent the morning listening to people on the news telling me that the supply chain is hopelessly fouled and that goods cannot move. And then I learned that by the day after tomorrow, I can have shipped to my door such things as

- A can of “dehydrated water” for camping and emergencies. For \$13.30, you can buy a container that advises you to “empty” the contents into a glass, add water, and drink.
- \$8.17 will get you a book and “action figure” featuring the “Screaming Goat” (you don’t even want to know).
- There’s a quart of “headlight fluid” for you to buy to give as a gag gift to the person who knows nothing about how cars work.

When I see this nonsense, I’m aware of the fact that there’s not a shipping problem – there’s a stuff problem. There’s a heart problem. Ships and trucks and railroad cars are moving all over – but too many of them contain that which will not satisfy. We don’t want the right things.

Listen, if we’re afraid that Christmas is going to be “ruined” because we can’t buy all the presents we think we need to buy, then maybe we’re not doing it right. The month of November begins with remembering “All the Saints” – on All Saints Day we give thanks to God for those who have come before and walked alongside of us. We then shift to Thanksgiving, when we seek to reflect gratitude for the lives we’ve been given. And this year, we end with the First Sunday of Advent – a time of hope for restoration and regeneration.

This year, it strikes me that Advent is about deep-seated hunger. The creation hungers for salvation. The people of God hunger for a savior. The Holy Family hungers for shelter and sustenance. The world is hungry for peace on earth. We have so much stuff. And so little of what matters.

This month, let me encourage you to seek to direct your best self, and all your energy, to discovering that which will truly satisfy. Gather with God’s people in worship. Turn to the Lord in quiet times of prayer and reflection. Look for opportunities to engage each other with moments of meaning, rather than piles of presents. Ask God to shape your desire and enlarge your capacity to give.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. We’ll gather for worship, including sharing the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. I’ll look for you there! I promise there will be enough.

THE BEST  
*Things*  
IN LIFE ARE NOT  
*Things.*

*Pastor Dave*

## Meet Hannah! CHUP's Seminary Intern

Greetings!

My name is Hannah Ostlund and I am the field education intern at CHUP for this school year. I realize that both my schedule and my focus on working with CHUP's Youth have not allowed me to get to know many of you. I figure there is no better opportunity than now to tell you a little more about myself!

I am a second-year student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary located on the East Side of the city in the East Liberty neighborhood. I live on-campus there with my one-year-old kitten named Daisy!

As a second-year, a large part of my academic schedule is centered around Field education. However, I am also taking classes in Pastoral Care, Theology, and Greek! I am also pursuing ordination with the PC(USA). My hope after I graduate in May of 2023 is to become ordained and work in a church as a Youth Pastor or Missions Coordinator. Outside of partaking in school work, I enjoy reading for fun, chatting with family and friends, and spending tons of time with my truly spoiled kitten.

It has been a true pleasure getting to know some of you and I look forward to getting to know more of you and CHUP as the year continues! Please let me know if there is anything you would like to chat with me about or if you have any prayer concerns that I can uplift for you.

Peace,  
Hannah Ostlund

## Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

November distribution dates are still being finalized. Please call the office for dates and times. In order to receive food, you will simply need to pre-register with some general household information. At each distribution you can expect over 20 pounds of groceries and produce. There is no cost or agenda, our goal is to provide food to those in need. Please direct any questions to CHUP staff, or you can reach out directly to the Food Bank if you have a greater need or would like more details.



## Fellowship Opportunity

LADIES! Please join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM as we continue our weekly bible study and fellowship hour. All are welcome and bring a friend!

REMINDER! Adult and Children's Sunday School is back in full swing!

- Children's Sunday School plans to use a "one-room" schoolhouse format starting at 9:45 AM and all ages are welcome. Hope to see you there!
- Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor from 9:45 - 10:30 AM. Join Peter Veltman and Kate Lyden for a scripture study. Your attendance is most welcome!

FALL RETREAT! We are excited to return to Crestfield for our All Church Retreat! Join us November 19-21 for a time of reflection, bible study, and fun, but most importantly, we are looking forward to fellowship with one another! If you haven't turned in your registration already, please do so as soon as possible. Contact [Megan Veltman](#) to reserve your spot. If you are unable to attend in-person, Worship will be live streamed from Crestfield so that you can catch worship at home on the Facebook feed.

## CHUP Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of some specific items which include:

- Cheerios
- Apple Juice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Boxed Rice
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Chicken

Your donations are greatly appreciated, especially during the upcoming holiday season.

## The Open Door

"WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH, BUT WE CAN BUILD OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE."

-FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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.

The Open Door hosts volunteers from Waynesburg University Bonner scholar program, who offer 140 hours during a semester in order to complete the program. On a weekly basis, several students make their way to the Open Door to have fun and engage with community youth during Friday Night Rec. They are truly a blessing to have around every week. There are also several Cross Trainer staff from the summer who have returned to volunteer and build upon relationships with the youth they developed over the summer



Doug Brandy and his crew replaced the sidewalk in front of the building to keep water from heavy rain and snow from getting into the building and causing water damage. Thus far, their work has paid off. There are no more water leaks from rain into the ground floor of the building. This was a major accomplishment in order to get the Open Door back open and running at full capacity.



Thanks to several volunteers and professional workers, the Open Door continues to be transformed into a more useful and brighter place for neighborhood youth to call their own. There are several more building projects and other upgrades in the works. As we move along, help is always needed in various ways as we advance the kingdom right here in Crafton Heights.

Bob Walters volunteered his time and talents to install donated cabinets in the kitchen/pantry area located on the ground floor of the building. Bruce was able to lend a hand to Bob as he used his skills to transform the kitchen into a functional room now known as the "Snack Shack" for Friday night rec and other upcoming programs





## The Open Door *Continued*

Adam Simcox and Tim Salinetro painted the inside walls to give the inside of the building a brighter look. Currently, Friday Night rec is up and running every Friday from (6pm to 8pm) for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders and (8pm to 10pm) for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders. Of course, as in past years, the go to game is dodgeball. Basketball and kickball are also participant favorites.



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEBSITE:

[theopendoorpgh.com](http://theopendoorpgh.com)

Finally, our new website is completed and was launched on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please check out our new and improved website. It will be more interactive and will help us streamline all of the activities associated with the Open Door which includes up to date information, financial donations, activity and volunteer sign ups right on the website. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Bruce at [open-door@chup.org](mailto:open-door@chup.org) or at 412-921-6153 Ext. 14.

## “Mission to Mission” Returns

For more than a decade, the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights has sent a team of adults to share in what God is doing through the faith communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Several hurricanes have ripped through that region in recent years, leaving a trail of broken homes and shattered hope. Since then, the churches have responded by coordinating teams of professional and volunteer construction workers who assist homeowners in rehabilitating their communities and addressing issues of systemic poverty. In addition to the construction, some of the CHUP volunteers have been able to participate in social service ministries such as home health visits and neighborhood childcare. Finally, each trip includes educational and devotional components as we are able to visit the US/ Mexican border and share time in study and worship.

After having cancelled the 2021 trip, we are longing to schedule one for 2022. We are currently hoping to travel **February 19 – 26**. Our plan is to take a group of adults to travel to Mission, TX, where we’ll stay with our partners at the First Presbyterian Church.

While final cost for this venture will depend on the actual number of participants and the price of the plane fare, etc., when booked as well as fund-raisers and other variables, we estimate that the cost per person will be approximately \$400. If you would like to know more about participating in a trip of this nature, please contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible.

# Preschool

October brought us colorful days of matching, stacking, sorting and counting. The children love showing how smart they are by accomplishing the tasks and activities of the day.



Using hand eye coordination to count and stack pancakes.



Counting and stacking small blocks.



The Yellow Room preschool group at circle time, picking a colorful figure to match with the house that it belongs in.

The Blue Room enjoyed stamping, gluing and painting colorful shapes. Making an assortment of buildings and vehicles, placing stamps of cats and dogs beside, above and below the shape creations they made.



Using a magnet wand to grab a letter, then put it on the matching space on the board.



*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.*

We'll be celebrating Cardigan Day/World Kindness Day on Wednesday, November 10, by singing songs about kindness and making sweater posters of how we are kind friends. Actions we've been practicing since September !



**venmo**

Need an easy dinner? Order your fresh made 12" hoagie on Mancini's buns. Choice of Italian or Turkey - \$8 each. Orders are due Nov 9 Pick up Nov 16 between 5-6pm





## Community Life Shared

Congratulations to Joe and Delia Connor, whose daughter Nova was baptized October 3.

Congratulations to Jim and Kirsten Fuhs, who exchanged the vows of marriage on October 23.

Congratulations to the McConnell, Abel and Bottiger families on the birth of baby Irene Sarah on October 2 to parents Caitlyn and Nathan Bottiger.

Christian sympathy to the family of Lou Vignone, who was killed October 7, Lou's son, Nick, has been a Cross Trainer for The Open Door, and is engaged to CHUP member Carly Barnes.

## CHUP Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed in the following areas. Please think about how you could make a difference at CHUP!

- Coordinator needed to work with Carlynton Counselor coordinating volunteer hours with high school students to work on projects around the church.
- Volunteers needed to work on the church "honey do" list. Some examples would be changing light bulbs, making minor repairs, touch up painting and organizing storage areas, just to name a few. All of this would be under the direction and guidance of the Building & Grounds committee.
- Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank coordinator—work as the liaison for the GPFB and the families receiving items, scheduling deliveries and communicating with the volunteer team.
- Volunteer needed to put away supply orders and organize the storage room about once a month.

Please leave a message with the office at 412-921-6153 or contact [Cheri Mack](#) for more details.

## The Helping Hand Fund 2.0

The CHUP Helping Hand Fund was established decades ago as a part of the vision of Dr. Leonard Schafer. "Doc" Schafer was an active member of the church and a dentist in this community, and he understood the fact that many of us need help from time to time, and that it's difficult to ask. The Helping Hand Fund became a way for members of the church to give and receive timely assistance to each other with a minimum of red tape or social awkwardness. For a long time, that fund was vibrant, but eventually grew dormant for a variety of reasons.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020-2021, the congregation received a generous gift and the elders directed that the Fund be reinvigorated and strengthened to the end that more of our members and neighbors could participate in this effort. Our hope is that the Helping Hand Fund can provide members and friends of the CHUP Community with the opportunity to assist one another with urgent financial needs such as rent, utilities, medical expenses, or other disasters. One-time grants of between \$250 – \$750 may be made upon recommendation by the ministry team responsible.

We realize that while some folks will need assistance, others may be able to "pay it forward". The Helping Hand Fund accepts donations in any amount.

If you would like to **nominate someone for a grant or apply for a grant**, please complete the form on the church website (<https://chup.org/relief-fund/>). Note that we expect that there will be a connection with the ministries of the First UP Church of Crafton Heights (including the Open Door and the Crafton Heights Community Preschool). Those who do not have an ongoing relationship with the congregation, the Preschool, or The Open Door may be eligible for a grant from the Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

While the nature of the gifts from the fund will be reported to the Session and Deacons, the names of donors or recipients remain confidential.



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Linda Schramm

**Friends & Relatives:** Erlina Mae Adler's dad, Adrienne Parris Reynolds, the family of Mary Donovan, Sue Whitaker, Than & Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Mary Johnston, the Barnes & Vignone families

## November Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jason Padula  
Thoko Mbewe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tyler Austin  
Tyler Piper
- 9<sup>th</sup> Tim Salinetto
- 10<sup>th</sup> Fran Andrews
- 12<sup>th</sup> Beverly Steinmetz
- 17<sup>th</sup> Patricia Barry
- 18<sup>th</sup> Ezra Claassen
- 21<sup>st</sup> Brian Mack
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Lucia Carver Daniels
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dietrich Zeisloft
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jonah Fullwood
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mimi Zickefoose
- 27<sup>th</sup> Courtney Barry  
Maya Fisher
- 28<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Shaw
- 29<sup>th</sup> Jamie Klein



## Runner Articles

Information or articles for the December Runner are due by Friday, November 19.

You may email them to the church office  
[chup@chup.org](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](http://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, December 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](mailto:dave@chup.org) and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day.

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