



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

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

In her young adult novel *Small Spaces*, Katherine Arden speaks to the experience of many of us. She writes, “You don’t waste October sunshine. Soon the old autumn sun would bed down in cloud blankets and there would be weeks of gray rain before it finally decided to snow.” As I write this paragraph, there are twelve hours and nine minutes between sunrise and sunset. When we gather for worship and the Lord’s Supper on October 2, there will be eleven hours and forty-two minutes. Our days are getting shorter and cooler, and we know not to take any of the gorgeous moments of fall for granted. The brightness of the sun’s glare, which may have been so annoying and even overwhelming in July, is now a gift to be savored. We’d store it up if we could.



I’m thinking about things we take for granted as I contemplate one of the administrative tasks to which the elders of the congregation must be attentive each fall. We are charged by our denomination’s *Book of Order* to help the members of the congregation in “*reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.*”

When did you first become connected with the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights? How has that connection changed over the years? Many who read this note are long-time friends and well-wishers; perhaps you live out of state and consider yourself a “fan” of CHUP, but not a member. We’re glad you’re here. Others of you are here every time the door opens, and you’ve taught Sunday School, served as an officer, and led worship. Most of us are somewhere in between. How would you describe your participation in and connection with the Body of Christ here?

On Sunday, October 2, we will observe World Wide Communion Sunday. If there’s anything in church that is akin to “Family Dinner”, it’s when we gather at the Lord’s Table to break the bread. If you are someone who has discovered a new sense of delight in your faith in recent months or years, perhaps you’re already looking forward to this time. Maybe you’re thinking, “Yes, it’s about time that I became an official ‘member’ of the congregation.” If you’re someone who fell out of the habit of attending worship during the pandemic, you might feel hesitant or awkward about returning. “It’s been a long time,” you think. “Am I still that person? Can I just walk in and sit in the same pew?” Whatever your situation, I hope and pray that you will be able to join with the family of faith that gathers here and share in the Lord’s Supper. I pray that none will take the gift of this community lightly.

If for some reason there’s been a rupture in your relationship with the congregation, or a change in your own sense of faith, let me encourage you to reach out to me or to one of the elders. Let’s talk about where we’ve been, where we might go, and who you are becoming. The congregation is not a vague entity – it is us. Let us “evaluate the integrity” of our membership practices, and seek ways to grow together.

I look for you in worship each week,

Pastor Dave

## Fellowship Opportunities

**Sunday Fellowship**—— As fall begins and the leaves start to change, we have started fellowship groups. Mens group, moms group, young adult, intergenerational, whatever our needs groups will be formed. This is a time to gather, connect, read scripture, pray for one another through life's many joys and challenges. Childcare will be provided, and we will meet from 9:45– 10:45. We look forward to using these groups to strengthen our relationships, not only with each other, but with God during this fellowship time.

**All Church Retreat** —— While we all enjoy the fall, we all also enjoy the all church retreat each year. Mark your calendars for November 18th-20th for this year's retreat. More information will be coming out throughout this month, so keep your eye out for any information you may need. Any question? Please contact Megan Veltman (mveltm636@gmail.com) or Adam Simcox (adamjsimcox@gmail.com).

**Women's Fellowship Group** —— Ladies, please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings at 10, for an hour of study, prayer and fellowship! Bring a friend, or two. If transportation is needed, please contact Dani Anderson. Look forward to seeing you there!

**Preschool** —— September was full of excitement and new routines for our 25 students as the new school year began. The children were eager to chose new activities each day, the sand table, train tracks, and light table were some of the favorites. Dancing and singing songs is the best part of circle time in our preschool class. The pre-k class enjoys building with the magna tiles and playing with playdoh. We are looking forward to experiencing all the ways the kids will grow over the upcoming months as we explore our changing themes each month. We begin October with our partnership with the education outreach team at Allegheny County Parks teaching us about nocturnal animals with interactive, hands-on activities. We are looking for classroom volunteers, to help with transitions, activities and afterschool prep work. You can schedule a tour if you'd like to see us in action, Contact Cheri for more details. We are looking for sponsors and donations to support our scholarship program, if you'd like details on how your regular monthly or quarterly donations can make a difference, please contact Cheri.





## The Open Door

### Upcoming Dates for the Open Door:

Oct. 2- Youth Group 7:00 pm

Oct. 7- Friday Night Rec Night  
Kindergarten-5th grade 6-8pm  
6th grade-12th grade 8-10pm

Oct. 9- Youth Group 7:00 pm

Oct. 16- Youth Group 7:00 pm

Oct. 23- Youth Group 7:00 pm

Oct. 26- Chess Club 6:00pm-7:30pm

Oct. 30- Costume Bowling

Nov. 4-6—Youth Group Retreat

Nov. 11- Community Thanksgiving

Family Dinner (6:00-9:00PM)

Dec. 16- Christmas Party (6:00-10:00PM)

As we transition in to the Fall season, rec night is back in full swing with the same sessions and times. (K-5<sup>th</sup>) 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM; (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM. We are blessed again with the continued collaboration with the Waynesburg University Bonner Scholar students who volunteer every Friday. With that in mind, volunteers are very much needed to assist with Friday Night Rec. Especially, when the Waynesburg students are not able to volunteer due to school commitments and holiday time off. If you are interested in volunteering and hanging out with neighborhood youth on a Friday night, please contact Bruce at 412-921-6153 X14 or at [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org). Or you can sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/RKBAH> for one or both sessions. High school students are welcomed to help with the (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) session. All volunteers must have updated clearances. Bruce can assist if needed. We are endeavoring to build up our volunteer base not only for Friday Night Rec but for upcoming Open Door program and events. We hope that you will consider being a part of our team.

The chess club is back and will meet the last Wednesday of every month (6:00 PM -7:30 PM). We will continue our collaboration with the Queens Gambit Chess Institute. They have volunteers that will come along side chess clubs to teach and play chess with neighborhood youth and adults. We were fortunate during our Cross Trainers day camp this summer to have a 14 year old international chess champion come out to teach and play chess with our campers. It was a blast. He will continue to come out to assist with our chess club this season. This has been a great opportunity for intergenerational interactions to develop and have fun across the chess board. If you are interested, be on the look out on our Facebook page and other communications for announcements to sign up on our website: [theopendoorpg.com](http://theopendoorpg.com).

The youth group has begun our Sunday night meetings from (7pm -8:30 PM) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor youth room at CHUP. We kicked off the year by meeting at the Open Door rec building on Sunday 9/11/22. We played games to bond and began building relationships between the youth and adult volunteers. If you have a youth in 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade please have them join us on Sunday nights. We enter through the Clairhaven St. entrance and up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Our nights consist of fun games and a Bible lesson by one of the adult volunteers. Our upcoming Fall youth retreat is Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at Windy Ridge. Stay tuned for more details or contact Bruce at [opendoor@chup.org](mailto:opendoor@chup.org) or 412-921-6153.



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Megan Salinetto Yelley's brother in law, Karren Sites, Tina Dame

**Friends & Relatives:** Sue Whitaker, Than and Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet, Jr., Lisa Myers, Teresa Stacy, niece of Mary Stacy, Helen Barto, Kitty Kistler's mother.

## October Birthdays

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nicole Novak
5 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Veltman
6 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Dreyer Garrett Wolbert
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Sites
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sydney Weaver
10 <sup>th</sup>	Emersyn Joy Donovan
11 <sup>th</sup>	Lindsay O'Connor
12 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Durkin Madison Weaver
13 <sup>th</sup>	Campbell Simcox Piper Gielarowski
15 <sup>th</sup>	Erica Markus
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ricky Lane
17 <sup>th</sup>	Haylee Seeberger
18 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Abel Karen Seeberger
19 <sup>th</sup>	Dani Anderson
21 <sup>st</sup>	Clare Weaver
24 <sup>th</sup>	Lorelai Lee Ault
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kristie Connor Makayla Rose Slotten
27 <sup>th</sup>	Colleen Lane
28 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Zeisloft
29 <sup>th</sup>	Noah Lane Rayna Neszpaul Micah Veltman
30 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Lane Stephanie Summers
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Claassen

## 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.

## CHUP Blood Drive

Many thanks to everyone that donated at the most recent CHUP Blood Drive. We had another successful drive. We collected **29 units** of blood which is amazing. What is even more amazing is that **87 patients** will benefit from your generosity. That is huge! Thank you for supporting our blood drive and for helping our neighbors in need. Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive scheduled for **Sunday, December 4th**

## 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. You are not alone!





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