



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

David B. Carver, Pastor
www.chup.org
October 2023

The good people at “Family Feud” asked, “*What is the most important piece of furniture in your home?*” You’ll have to look elsewhere in this issue to find out what the survey said, but when I heard that question, I knew that hands down, for me, it’s the kitchen table.

When I say that, I mean to say that in my home on Cumberland St., I consider the kitchen table to be incredibly valuable. I think about the things that have happened there – we’ve had great conversation, rolled out the crusts to hundreds of pies, played cards and other games, and (perhaps obviously) eaten countless meals with people we’ve loved. The particular piece of which I’m thinking is an old maple table. In 1989, I was hired to clean out a house in Rochester NY, and among the items of which I was to dispose was Mrs. Kelly’s old kitchen table and four chairs that matched. I refinished them, and discovered that there was great beauty there. When we came to Pittsburgh in 1993, well, it just seemed to fit in the kitchen. I suspect that it’s probably about 80 years old by now – and I love it.



I’d suggest that the most important piece of furniture in the home we share – the building in which we worship – is also the table. It’s a communion table, and it’s borne witness to so much history! Think of the weddings and the funerals, the baptisms and the ordinations that this small table has accompanied. I suspect that it’s at least a hundred years old, and it’s been cared for so well that it will surely outlast me.

More than all the things that this table has seen, however, is the symbol that it has been. Many people talk about the front of a sanctuary as the “altar”. In reality, as a Presbyterian Church, CHUP doesn’t have an altar. An altar is a place at which sacrifices are made. In some traditions, the worship leader is understood to present the body and blood of Jesus at each eucharist – a perpetual sacrifice. In those circles of faith, “altar” is the right word. Yet Presbyterians believe that the sacrifice of Jesus was made once and for all on a hill in Jerusalem – it is impossible for a pastor or other worship leader to make that sacrifice again. Therefore, the Lord’s Supper takes place at a table, not an altar. Sometimes (as is the case at CHUP), it’s a little bit fancy – but in reality, it’s just a supper table. It’s the place where the sustenance that has been provided to us is prepared and shared.

As we enter into the month of October, I’ll remind you that the first Sunday of October is World Wide Communion Sunday. This is the 90th anniversary of the first such gathering, in 1933 at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church across town. As we meet together at our table, I’ll encourage you to remember the other tables where you’ve shared such a feast. Moreover, I’ll invite you to imagine our sister church, Mbenjere (in Ntaja, Malawi) and similar tables in South Sudan and elsewhere. When we gather around the Lord’s table, we celebrate the miracle that it is not a single piece of furniture defined by its composition or location. Rather, it stands for all the places where we have been met in our times of need and joy, and where we have been equipped to go out and share the love of Jesus in ways that matter to people. I’ll look forward to seeing you around the table soon!

Pastor Dave

Fellowship Opportunities

Ted Talks: Many (but surely not ALL) of the members of the CHUP community have enjoyed watching three seasons of Apple TV's *Ted Lasso*. There is much to appreciate about not only the story line, but some of the rich spiritual insight that comes through.

To that end, you are invited to a series of discussions that would use clips from this show as a "jumping off" point for a Bible Study exploring aspects of our faith and spirituality. *Ted Talks: Spiritual Wisdom and Insight From Ted Lasso* will invite anyone, whether you've seen the program or not, to conversations around topics like Finding Your Passion ("Football is life!"), or Who has Your Back? ("Diamond Dogs, Mount up!") or The Nature of Hope ("Believe").

While these discussions "premiered" September 10, you can join at any time. We offer each session twice: once on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and then again the following Sunday morning at 9:45. There will be six meetings in all (although they'll take place on twelve different days). The groups will next meet on September 27 and October 1, and again on October 11 and October 15, and October 25 and October 29, respectively. If you're interested in attending, or would like a virtual link for the Wednesday evening conversation, please talk with Pastor Dave!

Ladies Fellowship: Ladies! We are enjoying our time together, and are always looking to welcome more people. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 every Tuesday for a light snack, study, prayer and fellowship. Our first video series this fall will be Max Lucados "Anxious about Nothing". All are welcome, and bring a friend! If you have any questions, contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost.

Answers to the Family Feud question "What is the most important piece of furniture in your home?"

Bed (43)

couch (22)

chair (12)

television (10)

table (5)

(If you ever go on the show, maybe you don't want me on your team!)

Open Door



“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:20

There are a lot of sayings and mottos that could apply to the members of this church and the children and youth that attend our programming. In light of the ongoing damage restoration, we could borrow from the post office, “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” From Energizer we could say that “it just keeps going, and going, and going...” Even Maxwell House’s, “Good to the last drop,” can be used to describe the people I am lucky enough to spend most of my days with. However, I think Matthew describes much of what I have seen even better, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” After some turmoil threw off the scheduled start of our afterschool program, I wasn’t expecting much before our first youth group meeting. As I sat upstairs waiting for kids to arrive, I was hoping for maybe 7 to 10. That would look like success to me, and I would be pretty happy. Well two kids came in the door, followed by four more, then another group, then another, and another. By the end of the night, we had over 20 teenagers playing games, singing praise, and learning a little more about their faith. We carried that momentum through to a dinner together the next week. That is where I saw Christ. With just a few of us gathered in a space, we can feel God’s presence, and how much greater is it when those numbers are multiplied. It brings me such joy to learn, worship, and grow with a dedicated community of young people, and I am looking forward to seeing how God will continue to use us to do great things.

-Brian Mack, Executive Director



Preschool

As you know, Preschool suffered a serious setback with the amount of water damage that occurred at the beginning of September. We are looking forward to the complete cleanup and restoration of our preschool area and returning to the 3rd floor in the next few weeks. In the meantime, Preschool has resumed, and we are occupying the rooms behind the sanctuary. The children and the families have adapted seamlessly thanks to the hard work of the preschool staff, Amanda Hughes, Kristen McHugh, and Zoricia Popovic, working tirelessly to transform the spaces into a welcoming comfortable preschool setting. The children eagerly returned, excited to work with the Playdoh, build the train tracks, talk with friends, sing, silly songs, and keep busy with the assorted preschool activities we provided each day. In the next few weeks we will need a team of volunteers to help us move back into our preschool area. This will include resetting the bulletin boards, reorganizing our toys and activities, restocking the art closet and setting up the furniture. If you would like to help us, at a day/evening to be determined, please contact me, I'll be happy to put you on the list of helpers. I'd like to give a huge shout out to the DRS restoration crew, they have been working, tirelessly and thoroughly, drying, cleaning and repairing all the effected areas in the building. A huge thank you to my husband, Glenn. He was able to coordinate with the contractors, the restoration crew, and the insurance company getting things done in a timely manner and helping with this process, making it a smooth transition.



A huge thank you to the management and staff at the Robinson Mad Mex restaurant. Our dinner fundraiser was a delicious, fun evening, full of great food and great friends! Thank you to the friends and supporters of CHCPreschool, coming out for a fantastic evening!



The return of our hoagie sale begins this month. The 12" fresh deli hoagies are made by Silver Star Meats. Orders due October 9, cost \$8.50 Puck up Tuesday, October 17. Let me know if you need a few for an easy dinner or lunch.

All the best-

Cheri

WHY VOLUNTEER?



With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

Read the full article here: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm>

So much of what we do at CHUP is done by volunteers! Sure we have the staff, Pastor Dave, Nicole, the custodians, preschool staff, open door staff and the music leader all have their jobs to do. But, Volunteers are the workhorses behind the Ministry here in Crafton Heights. Everyone on session volunteers their time, commitment and knowledge helping us follow the mission and rules of PC (USA). The deacons are the helping hands of the congregation, volunteers meeting the needs within our community. Then we have a number of committees that keep things running and organized, all are run by volunteers, such as the Christian Education committee, providing the childcare and Sunday school programming. The Stewardship team, volunteers working hard creating our budget, paying the bills and processing donations and contributions. We have the Building & Grounds team working hard to keep this old building up and running, we also have the Congregational Life committee a group charged with the fellowship and support that happens in these walls and we have our dedicated and talented worship team. They volunteer their talent each week bringing us songs and worship music Sunday mornings. It takes many, many people to fill these roles, and many people volunteering are pulling double or triple duty, we thank each and every one of them for their dedication, talent and time.



When you hear the need for volunteers, think about how you can give your time and talents to one of these ministries within our Ministry here in Crafton Heights. We have needs that can fill every age and skill level- high schoolers- need to put in volunteer hours, we could use some help pulling weeds, picking up litter or assisting with childcare Sunday morning or at Friday night Rec. Building and grounds could use a couple people willing to organize a couple work days, and help with some projects on the to-do list.

The Nominating committee will prayerfully be seeking people for Elders and Deacons. Maybe you felt God nudging you, calling you to be part of something bigger or meaningful. Pray that your eyes may be opened to the opportunities around you and how you can be a blessing to a person or committee in need of someone just like you.

The next time there is a mention from the pulpit for the need for volunteers with the afterschool program or preschool or childcare, it might be you we're looking for. If you have a lot of ideas, energy or desire to make a difference, we have a spot for you! If you are bored, feeling down, need to connect with people, we could put your time to good use.

Drop a note in the offering plate, reach out to Pastor Dave or give Nicole a call, we're waiting for you.

All the best- Cheri Mack

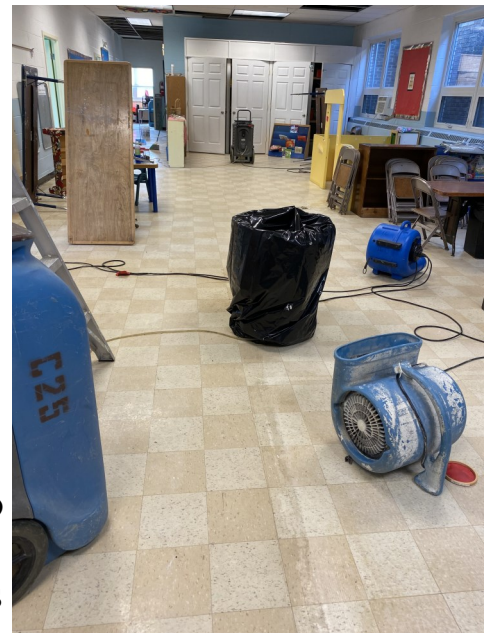
Restoration

As we have been in the throes of construction dust, we are restoring our pre-school area, our Christian education area, to their original states. With the mess that we are enduring, we wanted to update everyone on how things are going and how things are slowly starting to look better!



The drain, leading from the roof, that has been fully restored and is in good and proper condition!

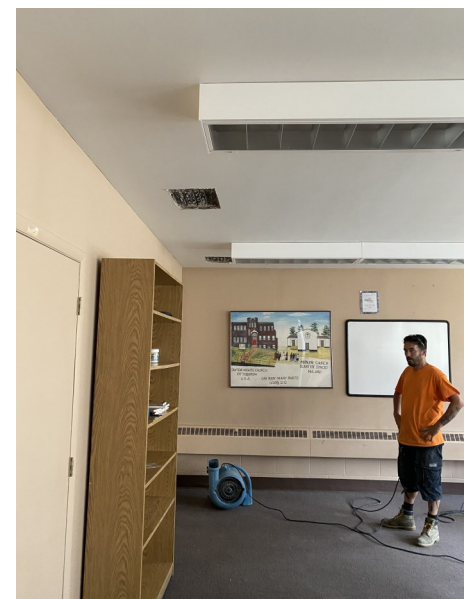
The mess that is the pre-school room, using dehumidifiers and fans to fully dry out the space, to start the restoration process.



One of the many, many holes placed strategically in the ceiling, to help with the drying process. Most of these holes have been patched, as the drying has been complete.

With some minor damage to the conference room on the first floor, the fans and dehumidifiers were used to help dry out the carpet and ceiling in here.

While restoration is far from over, progress is being made every day. We are extremely thankful for the restoration company, for their diligence in getting things back to normal at CHUP. Also, a big thank you to Glenn Mack, for overseeing things, and our staff for being so adaptive during this time.



Prayer Concerns

Members: Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Peter Veltman, Maryanne Richardson, Barbara Wasner, Lil McConnell

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), Amy Spezialetti, Kailynn Massey, Tom Byers

October Birthdays

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

Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship: Services are Sundays at 11:00 am, preceded by Sunday School at 9:45.

Online Worship: Each Sunday at 10:00 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. <https://chup.org/>

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.

Blood Drive

Please mark your calendar for the next drive scheduled for, **Sunday, January 14th**. We look forward to seeing you all 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. You are not alone!

October
— BIRTHDAYS —



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