



The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

The Runner

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

Who is Jesus? You may think that is an odd question for a pastor to pose in a newsletter that is sent to a couple of hundred people, all of whom have some standing connection to a church which professes to be a part of “the body of Christ”. I mean, if we aren’t starting from a place of agreement on who Jesus is, then how can we hope get very far?

And yet our culture today is filled with all kinds of different depictions and understandings of Jesus. Not a few of our neighbors see him as a blond-haired, blue-eyed representative of the Divine who has come in order to make sure that America doesn’t get soft on the Second Amendment or allow weakened borders to threaten our security and privilege. Others think of Jesus as a Palestinian peasant who rose up to speak courageously about the systems of power (religious and civil) that oppressed the people in his world. I have friends who view Jesus the way that we teach our children to view the Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus: if we keep up our end of the bargain (say our prayers every night, do our best to be good), then he’ll leave us a treat in the form of a better job, an attractive life partner, or deliverance from pain. And still others see Jesus as an eternal “Get Out Of Jail Free” card: as long as we say that we believe all the “right” things about him, and as long as we repeat a little prayer about us being sinners and Jesus saving us, then we get to pass right by the torment of Hell and enter into eternal life.



Who is Jesus? There is no shortage of preachers, politicians, and political movements who are eager to demonstrate that Jesus is on “their side”, and in fact has sent them with express orders to build that new megachurch, or pass that new law, or facilitate this incredible cultural shift of one kind or another.

And, I’m afraid to say, for many of us, “Who is Jesus” is a question that we simply don’t consider – or haven’t for a long time. Many of us stood in front of a church a long time ago and said that we believed in or trusted in Jesus, and that sort of settled the question for us, and so we haven’t returned to it much, if at all, for years.

In September, as we are re-engaging with our program year, sending the kids off to school, wondering about the upcoming elections, and who knows what else... I’ll be guiding us through a series of scripture passages that are unique to the Gospel of John. There are seven (or maybe eight, depending on how you count these things) times in the fourth Gospel where Jesus speaks to those around him and uses the phrase, “I am”. These sayings of Jesus are an important window into understanding who HE thought he was, and can help us shape our perceptions and responses to Him. I invite you to join us in worship, each week at ELEVEN A.M in September, to consider Jesus’ words about himself and how they might impact our lives today. My hope is that in allowing Jesus to speak for himself, we can separate the Gospel from the various narratives that might seek to appropriate it for their own ends and we can become better followers of Jesus in our world.

I’ll look for you in worship!

Pastor Dave

Fellowship Opportunities

Ladies Bible Study— Please join us in Fellowship Hall Tuesday mornings at 10:00 for coffee or tea, study, conversation and prayer as we begin the new season. We will have our first gathering on Tuesday September 13th with a video series by Max Lucado "Grace". All are welcome and bring a friend! If you need transportation or have any questions please contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost. We look forward to seeing you!

Worship updates — As summer is coming to close, we would like to remind everyone that worship will be returning to the 11:00 AM start time . Sunday school will also be returning, bringing joyous times for our children. Beginning September 11th we will have some new things for our children. Starting at 9:45 we will gather for some fun & games. Children through age 10 will meet in the first floor L room (by the office) until 10:45. Children's Church is back! After the children's message during worship children of the same age will gather again to talk about the message with crafts and games. We hope to see all our friends this Fall!

Preschool — We are joyfully looking forward to another great year at preschool! We have been busy cleaning, setting up the rooms, creating lesson plans and exciting activities for the children. We will continue to have a preschool class and a pre-k class, with the return of Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. Popovic and Mrs. Mack. We started the school year with a family in the park play date. This was a fun morning meeting the families and their children, as we enjoyed playing together. As the school year begins here are some things we are looking forward to -Continuing our partnership with ALCOSAN, teaching us the importance of keeping our waters clean. Learning about the importance of being a good friend and helping others and celebrating Kindness Day with our partners at WQED Education. Singing and dancing as we expand our music activities throughout the year. We will have our Art Show and auction along with our vacation fundraiser in February. We continue to bring a high-quality early education program into this neighborhood with the prayers and support of friends, families and alumni of CHCP. A monthly donation of \$90 will subsidize some of our tuition costs per family, a \$50 monthly donation will support our science activities and dramatic play areas, allowing us to continue to provide families with enriching activities while keeping tuition at an affordable cost.

Life Beyond Life — Members and friends may wish to know that former CHUP Pastor Bob Vroon has published a book entitled *Life Beyond Life: Scriptures and Meditations on the Afterlife*. Says Bob, "This brief book takes the reader through passages on death and the afterlife and it talks about what difference this makes for our life here and now. There is a study guide at the end of each chapter, which can be used for a small group Bible study. My desire is for this book to help as many people as possible." Interested folks can find the book on Amazon as well as Barnes & Noble

<https://www.amazon.com/Life-Beyond-Robert-Vroon/dp/1633574199>



The Open Door

Upcoming Dates for the Open Door:

Sept. 9- Friday Night Rec Begins
6:00pm-8:00pm (Grades k-5)
8:00pm-10:00pm (Grades 6-12)

Sept. 28- Chess Club 6:00pm-7:30pm
(Takes place last Wednesday of every month)



Cross Trainers — As this time of fellowship has ended, we are left with the utmost thanks and support from the community. From the prayers, to the meals, the support has helped us flourish. One of the campers, Linzie, left a poem that we would like to share with the congregation.

Even when there's rainy weather,
We still are stronger together.
Two are better than one,
Our strength multiplies and have more fun.

In Cross Trainers we made many friends
And will stick together to the end.
We all show off our gifts today,
We always help each other when we play.

We learned we must forgive forever,
And chose kindness whenever.
We know love records no wrongs,
We understand each other like our camp songs.



Additional announcements:

The Art Room at The Open Door hasn't really been restocked for years! Some of the materials were from the early 2000s, so we decided it was time for an update! We are starting from the beginning, and could use your help! The kids will love using these materials to create during our Friday Night Rec program. You can follow the link to purchase something from our Amazon wish-list, use the QR code on this page, or give your donation to The Open Door Art Room to Jessica

(jsimcox5@gmail.com) or Bruce (opendoor@chup.org).
Thank you!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/YVCPRMC83554?](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/YVCPRMC83554?ref=ast_share_link)



Prayer Concerns

Members: Carl Martelli, Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Erlina Mae's family, Megan Salinetto Yelley's brother in law, Karren Sites.

Friends & Relatives: Sue Whitaker, Than and Ruthina Veltman, Pastor Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet, Jr., Peter Veltman and his family, Lisa Myers, Joe Mehl, Josh's father, Teresa Stacy, niece of Mary Stacy, Helen Barto, Kitty Kistler's mother, Dolly's cousins, Paula and Bob.

September Birthdays

2nd Zachariah Schneider
 9th Matt Adler
 10th Bonnie Schrenker
 11th Jamie Chlystek
 Joseph Frick
 14th R. Bruce Buzza
 15th Kaitlin Hartman
 16th Helen Brownstein
 17th Adam Simcox
 19th Kamryn Boden
 20th James Sloan, Jr.
 21st Daniel Barry
 Erin Butti
 Mollie Sam
 23rd Steve Mulkerrin
 25th Jessica Simcox
 26th Ryan Brownstein
 Violet Carver Daniels
 Tyler Schrenker

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=PLU5XsLRABddh2dgu38_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,

Mark Your Calendar!

Please mark your calendar for the CHUP blood drive scheduled for, Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 8:00 am - 12:30 PM. Hope to see you there! Each donation will help three different people! You can save a life! If looking to make an appointment, please contact Michele Kish at chupblooddrives@gmail.com!

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!



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