



The First United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Crafton Heights

# The Runner

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

As I write this, I'm still basking in the glow of a wonderful Youth Mission Trip (see article and photos elsewhere in this issue). How delighted I was when, upon my return to the Heights, I discovered a package on my porch. An out-of-state reader of my blog had kept up on the kids' adventures and sent me a copy of *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. In this version of Scripture, the editors and translators have sought to convey in the English language the truth of the (largely Greek) New Testament in a way that resonates with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in the languages used by Native Americans. I am really enjoying looking through this volume and hearing nuances of meaning that enhance my own understanding of the faith.



In particular, the *names* are fascinating. Jesus, for instance, is known herein as **Creator Sets Free**. The Apostle Peter is referred to as **Stands on the Rock**. John is **He Shows Goodwill**. The Fourth Gospel, therefore, is labeled **He Shows Goodwill Tells the Good Story**. This level of sensitivity to vocabulary and word choice really has me thinking!

I mention this because my plan is to spend much of the upcoming program year reflecting in worship on the Book of Acts. I have felt led to do this as I reflect on what it means for this congregation, and for the church throughout Pittsburgh and North America, to continue to emerge from a previous reality (the closures and conflict associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic) into a new way of being. I was therefore fascinated to see that *The First Nations Version* refers to the Book of Acts as **The Good Story Continues**. Yes! Yes, it does. My hope in exploring the accounts of the earliest Christ-followers and their engagement with their culture in a time of upheaval is to look for ways in which God's people can do that in our own day.

One of my Seminary professors insisted that calling the fifth book of the New Testament *The Acts of the Apostles* was misleading, because in many ways, they are not the initiators here. He insisted that we referred to it as *The Acts of the Holy Spirit*. While we are not adding to scripture at all, we must insist on the fact that God's story *does* continue. The Holy Spirit is still moving and active in our world today.

As we reluctantly leave the rhythms of summer behind to re-engage with school and community schedules that are quite different, I hope that you will look for ways to make your journey of discipleship a priority. We are resuming our "regular" schedule here at the church, which means Sunday School for everyone at 9:45 and worship at 11. There are new opportunities through the week; you can volunteer at the Preschool or the Open Door, and you can look each day for the movement of the Holy in your part of the world.

I'll look forward to seeing you in worship!

PS Remember, there is NO Sunday Morning Programming on September 10, due to the All-Church Retreat at Camp Crestfield that morning. If you can't make the retreat, why not take advantage of the opportunity to visit another congregation?

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").

These discussions will "premiere" during the All Church Retreat on Saturday September 10. Following that, we'll 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 first Wednesday group will meet on September 13, and the first Sunday gathering will be on September 17. The groups will next meet on September 27 and October 1, 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 beginning our Fall Tuesday group on Tuesday September 12th. 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.

**Raising the Roof:** As summer is coming to a close, we here at CHUP had been looking for a roofing company to replace our roof. After successfully finding one, we have a brand new roof! The costs of this repair are no small feat, and we do ask for financial contributions (see insert later in this edition). Because of the great work that has been done, we do have some pictures of all the hard work from the roofers, and even the fun of getting their supplies up to the roof!



# Open Door

If you know me at all, you'll know that I am a movie fan. Like most people my age, that means a fondness for the Disney Renaissance of the 1990's, and at the moment, I can't help but think about a particular scene from Mulan. After Mulan arrives at camp for the first time, she has a difficult start at trying to fit in as one of the guys. This ends with a huge fight and all of the rice being knocked onto the ground. It is at this moment that the soldiers first meet Shang. He orders them to pick up every single grain of rice, before declaring that, "tomorrow, the real work begins." As I sit here, in the time between Cross Trainers and the start of our after school programs, I can't help but relate to the new recruits in this scene.

Cross Trainers ended with a few really successful days to highlight. Our Water Day at Dunbar Field closed out week five. Moving into our last week we stayed outside with a great trip to Raccoon Creek State Park. Everyone loved being out in nature, we are looking forward to adding some more outdoor trips to our schedule next summer. Our last day of camp was our talent show, where kids got to show off their gifts and encourage one another. Showing off to our friends and families, a few performances struck me, including our "Fantastic Farmers" talking about raising chickens, and the debut of "The Ground-breakers" band playing an original song. Everyone was very supportive of each other, making it a great way to end camp. We officially closed things out with Cross Trainers Sunday that weekend, where we sang some of our favorite songs from the summer, had campers and staff share their favorite moments and testimonies from the year. And with that, camp was done. It was a blast, it was exciting, and at times, it was exhausting, but much like the characters above, now the real work begins!

We are excited to announce the return of our after school program! The fun starts on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and will run from 3:00-5:00. We will be open to all children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, and will provide homework help, some games, and a new enrichment activity each day. This will run Monday-Thursday throughout the school year. On Friday's we will continue Friday Night Rec, which will be open from 6:00-8:00 for elementary aged children, and from 8:00-10:00 for our Middle and High School students. We will have two registration days before these programs start, so stop by the Open Door from 3:00-5:00 on September 7<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> to get in on the fun! With everything ramping up, we will need some help! If you are interested in helping with any of our programs, we will have a volunteer training on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 o'clock. This is a great way for you to get involved and see everything first hand! We're excited for everything we have going on this year, and we can't wait to share them with you!

### Dates to remember:

- September 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (3:00-5:00) – Open Door Registration Days
- September 14<sup>th</sup> (3:00) – Volunteer Training
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – First day of Youth Group
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – First day of After School Program
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – First day of Friday Night Rec



# Preschool

CHC Preschool  
Benefit Dinner

October 3  
2023

**MAD  
MEX**



Fajitas

eeee ✨



chips & gauc

### Join us for a Fajita Party!

Dinner includes- Mad Mex steak & chicken fajitas grilled with onions & peppers served with sour cream, guacamole pico de Gallo & tortilla. Includes Mexican Chocolate Brownies, Dos Equis draft or House Margarita. Gratuity Included

★ Only 50 Tickets available  
\$60 each - contact Cheri Mack to purchase



## Volunteers Needed

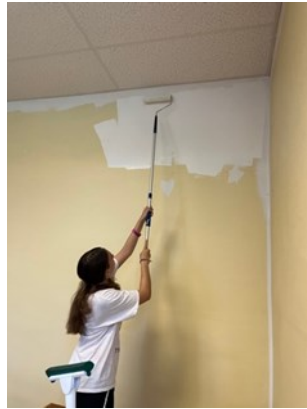
Our vibrant ministry is searching for a few volunteers to help in the classrooms. Duties include playing with the children in a variety of areas. helping with transitions, sanitizing tables, serving snacks, and other general preschool activities. We are also looking for a couple behind the scene helpers, to put away books, and help rotate the themes.

We will have 2 information / training sessions on September 19 at 12:30pm and October 11th (time to be determined)

Interested? Talk with Cheri Mack, Lynn Langford or Kitty Kistler

Clearances are required- we'll help you fill them out.





### *Na:weh Skennio*

This is the traditional greeting in the language of the Seneca Nation, where the CHUP Youth Group spent a week in August working with our partners at the Wright Memorial Presbyterian Church. It means, essentially, “thank you for being”. It reflects the notion that we are all connected, somehow, in the Mystery of God’s love and power and grace. It was a joy and grace-filled week as our team of 14 worked to help improve the church building, engaged the people of the congregation and the culture of the Seneca, and visited some interesting and awe-inspiring parts of Western New York. We are deeply grateful for the support that the congregation has given us, ranging from attending the Baked Potato Luncheon back in the Spring to freeing up Pastor Dave’s schedule to encouraging us with your prayer. Here are a few images of our time away!



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Florence Hall, Marge Freeman, Eleanor Arlet, Megan Salinetto Yelley's brother in law, Peter Veltman, Maryanne Richardson, Barbara Wasner, Linda Schramm, Lindsay O'Conner

**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

## September Birthdays

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

## Worship Opportunities

**In-Person Worship:** Services are Sundays at 10:00 am, throughout August.

**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](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. <https://chup.org/>

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.

## Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who came and donated at the CHUP Blood Drive. We collected **18 units** of blood that will in turn help **54 patients** in area hospitals. That's really awesome. Thank you!

Please mark your calendar for the next drive scheduled for, **Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 8:00 am - 12:30 PM.** 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. You are not alone!





**First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights**  
Pastor David B. Carver

August, 2023

Dear Family of Faith,

Think for a moment about your connection to the *place* that is the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights... Do you have memories of events that happened within these walls? Baptisms or weddings or funerals or commissionings? Preschool or Youth Group or Choir or Candlelight Services?

We have often said that the church is not the building, but the people. We sure learned the truth of that through the COVID pandemic, where for so much of the time the building was closed – but the church remained open in so many ways!

That said, we are at a critical juncture in the life of our congregation: the roof on both the sanctuary and the Christian Education building has outlived its usefulness. We are in the process of having a replacement roof installed right now. As you might expect, this is not an inexpensive procedure. We anticipate that this will cost about \$66,000. The good news is that we've been aware of the need for a while, and we've been able to save. However, we cannot responsibly deplete our reserves in order to replace the roof. To that end, we are making this special appeal in the hopes that we might raise \$40,000 in dedicated giving toward the replacement of our roof.

Your Building and Grounds team has done a wonderful job at soliciting bids and vetting the contractors. The finished product will have a 27 year warranty which will allow us to protect this building into the next generation, thus allowing many more memories to be made here.

The Psalmist wrote, “How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.” (Psalm 84) We, the leadership of this congregation, believe that we are called to move into the future by securing this structure in a way that will allow us to continue the many vital ministries that take place here. Will you join us?

To make a dedicated gift to help replace the roof, please include your gift with your regular offering, mail a check, or make a donation online at <https://chup.org/giving/> Thank you for your prayerful consideration of and participation in this effort.

Yours in the service of Jesus,

The Elders of the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights

*Growing in scripture ❖ Sharing life's journey ❖ Carrying the hope of Jesus Christ to the world*

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