

The First United
Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights

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



The
Runner

In the summer of 1741, George Handel received a letter from his colleague Charles Jennens. Jennens mentioned that he had an idea for a musical performance that would use the words of scripture to trace the nativity, passion, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. Handel loved the concept, and he locked himself away and beginning on August 22 of that year, he wrote like nobody's business for 24 days. The resulting work was *Messiah*, one of the best-known and most frequently performed works in Western music. You may not know all of it, but you've surely heard the *Hallelujah* chorus.

One of the texts that Handel and Jennens use is from Isaiah 9:6:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The prophecy of Isaiah was spoken centuries before the birth of Jesus. How did the people of God living 700 years or so BCE understand that text? To whom, or to what did they think it pointed?

In the years after Jesus' life, death, and resurrection many of his followers saw in him a sense in which these words were "fulfilled" – they came true, in some ways. What did *those* folks think about how Jesus did or did not live into the hopes of Isaiah?

Lastly, how do Christ-followers in 2023 understand these names to be relevant to either Jesus or ourselves? In Advent 2023, we will walk through this verse and consider these titles – first in the understanding of Isaiah's original hearers, and then through the eyes of the New Testament church, and finally in our own day. What were the expectations that these titles carried? And did Jesus fulfil them?

Join with your family of faith in worship this Advent Season as we consider Jesus of Nazareth, who is, in fact
Wonderful Counsellor
The Mighty God
The Everlasting Father
The Prince of Peace

For 24 days – the same length in which Handel wrote *Messiah*, we will consider this ancient text in worship. Sharon and I wish you Advent Hope and Christmas Joy as December draws near. I'll look for you in worship!

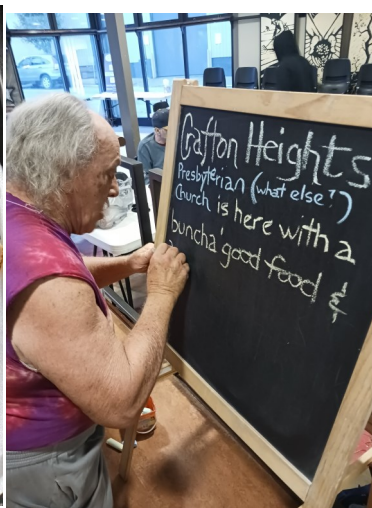
Pastor Dave

The Table

The rising price of food is forcing many of our neighbors to make hard choices. Dinner or gas? Groceries or medications? This is the reality for a growing number of our neighbors.

The Table, a ministry of the Hot Metal Bridge Church on the South Side, is working to address this need. A healthy, hot meal is served, free of charge, every Tuesday and Thursday year round. The Deacons at CHUP provide that meal on the second Tuesday of every month. Chef Dog Schneider and a small, committed group of volunteers plan, prepare and serve that meal with love. Members of the congregation join in providing cookies for dessert. In this process, needs are met and relationships grow.

Serving a meal for 80-100 people is an expensive endeavor. The Deacons are hoping to fund this ministry for all of 2024. Can you join our team and help fund this ministry? Please consider making a donation...\$10...\$50... whatever you can afford. Please give what you can to help CHUP help our hungry neighbors.



Fellowship Opportunities

Ladies!

Join us this holiday season! Wee meet Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 for study, conversation & prayer.

This month we'll be using a Max Lucado video series "Who Needs Christmas?". All are welcome - bring a friend. If you have any questions or need transportation - contact Dani Anderson or Barb Prevost.

The Congregation of the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights will have a brief meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 10. The purposes of this meeting will include 1) the election of officers for the congregation and 2) approving the Terms of Call for Pastor Dave Carver for 2024 and 3) any other business that is properly brought forth.



Christmas Joy Special Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are there with the leaders of our Church-past, present and future.

On Sunday December 24, 2023 you will have the opportunity to give. If you are writing a check, make it out to the Deacons.

Your contribution to the Christmas Joy Offering is deeply appreciated and makes a difference-for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

“Mission to Mission” 2024!

Almost every year since 2009, the First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights has sent a team of adults (ages 18+) to share in what God is doing through the faith communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Most years, we have been able to help local residents clean up after natural disasters. In addition to the construction, some of the CHUP volunteers have been able to participate in social service ministries such as volunteering at a refugee center, sharing in 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.



Looking ahead to 2024, we are currently hoping to travel **February 17-24**. As in past years, our home base will be in 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 \$450. If you would like to know more about participating in a trip of this nature, please contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible at dave@chup.org or 412-921-6153.



PRESCHOOL NEWS



November was full of “down on the farm fun!” After reading “Mrs. Wishy Washy” the 3’s were busy washing animals after they stomped through the mud. The pre-k kids enjoyed sheep shearing, putting their fine motor skills to the test as they trimmed our little lamb. Stamp painting with apples was a fun activity during the apple lessons. We tasted Gala and Granny Smith apples, and chopped a few and cooked them into applesauce. We added corn to the sensory bins and made silos using paper towel tubes. The children loved pouring the corn into the silos, driving tractors through the corn, creating farms and fields. We finished the month with a Thanksgiving brunch, that included homemade butter and



whipped cream on the rolls and strawberries. We look forward to the restoration work being completed and anticipate being in our preschools rooms as you are reading this. The walls are painted, new area rugs are in, along with new cabinets and fixtures. We are waiting for new bookshelves and chairs to be delivered, and look forward to settling into our space again. We have started an Amazon wish list that includes some of the items that need replaced. You can check it out here- we’re listed as Crafton Heights Community Preschool.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KMQD7TWYWS8E?ref=list_d_wl_lfu_nav_1 or you can make an end of year donation to support

our program needs through VENMO.



CHComm Preschool
@chcpreschool



venmo

Scan this code to pay

OPEN DOOR

It's only been a few months, but you may remember that my first day on the job was the first day of Cross Trainers! Now, with a little bit more time and experience on the job, I can look back with pride at how our group of 56 kids rolled over from a crazy summer program to our school year programming. We are glad to have our after school program up and running once again. We have an average attendance of 12 kids each day, with a total of 16 children registered. While I have an excuse to stay young and lead activities with them each day, I am glad to have Becky Heffner on board as our Program Coordinator! With her leadership, energy, and fun loving attitude, she's starting to take this program to bigger and better places. *But don't take my word for it, see what she has to say in her article!* With room for 25 kids, we are excited to see this program continue to grow as we help with homework, learn new skills, and grow together.



Friday Night Rec is consistent, crafty, chaotic, and cool. It's one of my favorite things that we do at The Open Door. We've had 46 different children walk through our doors this school year, and every day feel vibrant, exciting, and fun! With regular help from our volunteers from Waynesburg, things have been thriving! This led us to a very successful Thanksgiving dinner that we hosted on November 17th in place of our regular Friday Night Rec.



Serving over 80 people from our community, plus 14 dedicated volunteers and staff members, we had just an incredible night! Most of the time, we only ever interact with the children, with maybe a quick hello to parents as they drop them off. This was a chance to get together with their whole family, meet new people, and enjoy a meal together. I have to thank all of the volunteers for their support on the day of, and also to all of those who provided donations to help feed everyone (I love baking, but there's not a chance I would have been able to make enough pies for everyone on my own)! The Open Door thrives when our doors are open, and I am glad to say that the evening was a success, and I look forward to our next big event, our Christmas Party on December 15th! Thanks again for your support, I look forward to all the exciting things in store for us in 2024!



Youth Group

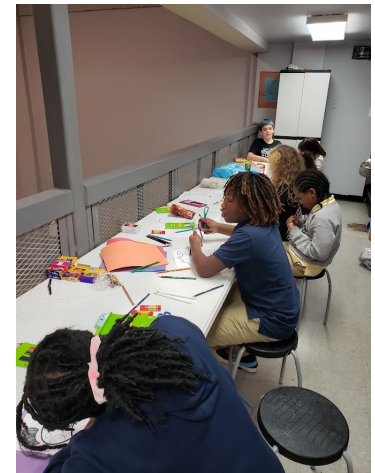
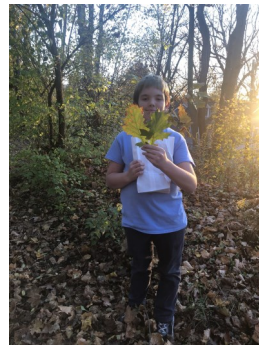
The youth group at this church is truly amazing! It's not very often that a church like ours, in the middle of a small neighborhood at the edge of the city, has a group of teenagers so dedicated to the mission of the Church. After our mission trip to the Seneca Nation in August, 6 of those kids went with Pastor Dave back to the site of their mission trip to join them for worship as they celebrated 200 years as a congregation. With over 20 youth active in the life of this church, I am overjoyed at all they continue to do. Our last hurrah for the year will be on December 17th, as we start with Caroling in the afternoon at Halcyon of Bridgeville and end the night with a Christmas party in the evening. If you would like to join us for caroling, we will be meeting at the church at 1:15 and departing by 1:30, so don't be late!



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

If you are looking for a jolt of vibrant energy, the students at our After School Program are ready to provide! Every week from Monday through Thursday, a group of kids come to us right off the bus, ready to decompress from their long day at school. These kids in grades K-5th first take a few moments to complete homework, and then we let them "get the wiggles out" with an active game. Recently, we led the group in some jumping contests and walks to Dunbar Park for some unstructured play. In the last few weeks, we have focused on Gratitude by creating a paper chain of things we are thankful for. That chain is now long enough to stretch from one side of the gym to the other! Fall is great for experiencing life with all our senses, so we had a taste test to compare apple cider and apple juice, baked applesauce cookies, and went on a nature walk along the Clearview Trail to collect a few leaves for an art project.

As a "newbie" to this program, I really enjoy seeing the same kids each day, and am thankful for how easily they've welcomed me. I'm also thankful for Mollie's faithful volunteering and Brian's steadfast guidance as we all work together to make the After School Program a safe space for kids to learn, grow, and be loved. We certainly could use more help during those 2 hours each day, so if you are interested, I would love to talk to you!





PROCEEDS BENEFIT
CRAFTON HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Vacation Giveaway is back!
Where would you go?

\$2,500 VACATION GIVEAWAY!

Buy a \$13 ticket and get a chance to win
a customized vacation for 2 including airfare!

Travel provided by Litterini Travel

Tickets on sale January 16, 2024- February 20, 2024

COST \$13 TICKET

Drawing February 27, 2024
6:00-7:00pm

Contact Cheri Mack to purchase tickets

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, Michael Weller, Wayne Arlet Jr., Lisa Myers, Teresa Stacy, Helen Barto, Amy Spezialetti, Kathy Dickey, Joe Kozman

December Birthdays

1 st	Sean Imler Lilyanne Dunhoff
2 nd	Lynn Langford William Richardson
3 rd	Michelle Kish Linnie Louise Mack
6 th	Ariel Carver
7 th	Brian Zeisloft
10 th	Nora Kistler Linnea Kunicky
11 th	Sandi Blum Field
12 th	Sarah Evans Sean Pearson Elizabeth Shrader
14 th	Matthew Barnes
16 th	Natalie Imler
19 th	Bridgette Wolbert
21 st	Diana Frick Eva Neszpaul
22 nd	Darcy Prevost
23 rd	Brandon Hartman
25 th	Jennifer McGee Morgan Pearson
27 th	Doug Schneider Lydia Veltman
28 th	Rilynn Boden
29 th	Steve Lignos
30 th	Isaiah Fullwood Isaac Salinetto



Runner Articles

Information or articles for the January Runner are due by Wednesday, December 20th.

You may email them to Nicole at the church office: 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

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, 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, January 14th, 2024. We look forward to seeing 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 and we will marshal the resources to help you face the challenges of your day.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

To order a poinsettia for Christmas, please use the form below and drop it with payment into the collection plate. All orders must be pre-paid and submitted by December 18.

The cost is \$8 each.

Please use a separate form for each poinsettia.

Name _____

Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



Open Door Cornhole Fundraiser

Escape the winter cold with
our summer tailgate themed
Cornhole Tournament!

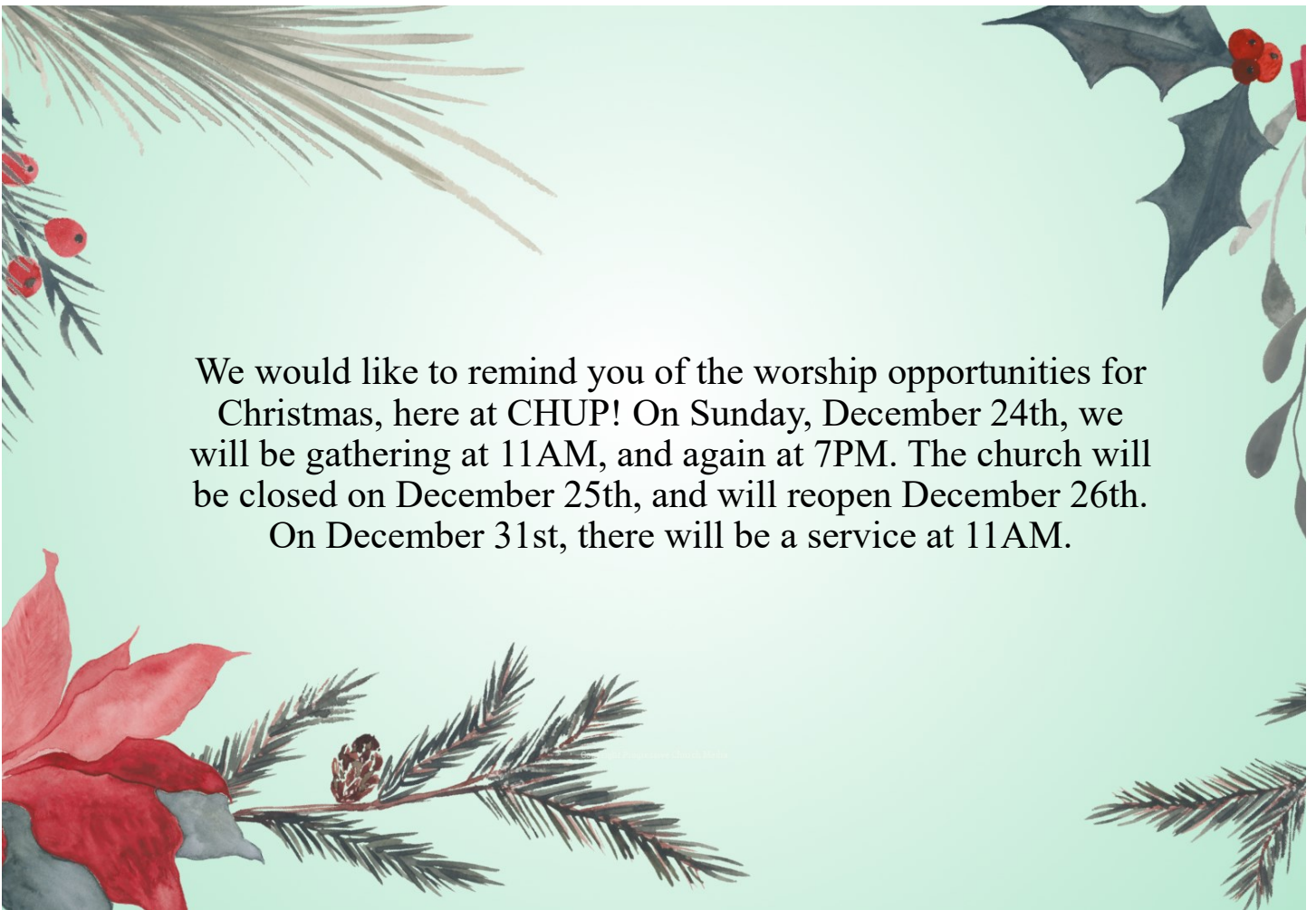
**SAVE THE
DATE**

**JANUARY
20TH**

First United Presbyterian Church
of Crafton Heights
50 Stratmore Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 862

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



We would like to remind you of the worship opportunities for Christmas, here at CHUP! On Sunday, December 24th, we will be gathering at 11AM, and again at 7PM. The church will be closed on December 25th, and will reopen December 26th. On December 31st, there will be a service at 11AM.