



# First Family News

May, 2016

## LETTER FROM THE DONIGIANS

May, in addition to being beautiful, is the end of the main church year. It makes us think of missions completed. College students often complete their yearly study in May. High school students graduate shortly thereafter.

Around this time, we get to celebrate our music ministry with special services. As we write this letter, we are remembering how well the children played bells and sang this year during Children's Music Sunday. It is so uplifting to see how much our children can learn and do.

Soon our Sunday School year will be finished. During the Children's Chat, we saw how well the children had learned the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus and the lesson that God is always ready to forgive.

May is also the month of Pentecost, the day 40 days after Jesus' resurrection that the Holy Spirit came over His disciples. Jesus wanted them to be ready to take on the world and as of Pentecost He could say, "Mission completed."

Perhaps this is a lesson for all of us. Consider your life up to this date. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you have enabled Him to accomplish His mission. If your children have been baptized, if you have engaged in prayer and ministry, if you have lived as Jesus has instructed, if you have asked for forgiveness, and if you have turned your life over to God, you can say, "Missions completed so far; now I can take on the next ones." May we all celebrate our missions completed and look forward to future missions!

Blessings,

*Pastors Doug and Joyce*

## A MESSAGE FROM JON, *Director of Youth and Young Adults*

### MEANING THE WORDS WE SAY AND SING

I did not come from a faith tradition that said the Lord's Prayer or Apostle's Creed often, like we do at First Church. We did not say a confession together, and we did not incorporate any "call and response" liturgy. And although we did not incorporate these things together, we did have a basic order of things to follow: Welcome, Announcements, Singing, Prayer, Message, Singing, and we concluded with a spoken benediction by our Pastor, Pastor John Kulp. When Pastor Kulp spoke the benediction, you could feel the warmth of his love for the flock of believers that were under his care. He meant every word that he spoke.

In the pews, when we sang our hymns, there were some days where you felt really connected to the wonderful words on the hymnal's page, and other days where, although you may have been passionate, you may have been more passionate about the tone of your voice rather than the word's impact on your heart.

Hymns are wonderful, wonderful masterpieces of praises to God that have lasted through the years. In thinking about these songs, they have comforted, encouraged, and strengthened many Christians for many years. It's truly astounding to think of all of the worship one hymn can help lead.

But if we glaze over the words...where is the meaning in that?

### **BEAUTIFUL LITURGY**

Each Sunday morning, we gather to worship our Lord together. One Church. One Baptism. One Lord.

At First Church, we worship God through Prayer, Song, Message, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Confession, and a "Call and Response" type of worship style. The Pastors say one thing, the congregation says the next.

It's easy to let these wonderful words that we say become dull in their ability to pierce our soul, due to years of use. When we overlook the meaning behind the words that we speak and sing, we may focus on getting the mode of worship right, rather truly worshiping the Lord through the heart behind the words.

**The Lord's Prayer** is a wonderful thing. It starts with acknowledging the Lordship of God over our lives, and seeking His Will above our own — as it is in heaven. It then communicates our need for His sustenance and His aid in saying "Give us this day our daily bread." In being FILLED with the Lord's provision, we ask Him to forgive us of our debts (sins), as we forgive our debtors (as we forgive those who sin against us). In walking in this forgiveness, we beseech the Lord to keep us far from temptation, and to deliver us from the evil that would seek to cripple our walk in the Lord's righteousness. And the prayer closes with the acknowledgment of God's complete rule over all of life, over our lives, and how He is deserving of our earnest praise. Amen.

**The Apostle's Creed** is a BOLD proclamation of what we believe. Christian men and women have DIED for holding to these very same beliefs; refusing to denounce that CHRIST IS GOD even if by that denial their physical body would be spared of earthly torment and death. This Creed has been said by Christians for HUNDREDS of years, and like saying the Lord's Prayer, we join millions of Christians around the globe in affirming the same words in worship to the same God together. Amen.

### **WORSHIPFUL HEARTS**

God does not desire for us to say or sing mere words on a page. He desires us to worship Him, and we can do so through saying or singing those words with a worshipful and engaged heart. If we apathetically let these words of worship pass through our lips, it would be better if we were to choose to remain silent, so that we can remain honest to ourselves, and honest to God. You likely will not cry or show emotion with every song, prayer, or creed, but sing and say these words with Conviction, Trust, and Humility.

In the Old Testament, King David wrote about this very same idea. He wrote about how God desires the hearts behind people bringing an animal to sacrifice, rather than just the sacrifice in isolation of a person's sincere and humble worship. David wrote the following in Psalm 51:15–17:

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (ESV)

The Lord desires our hearts in complete worship. We are imperfect, so we will not always find the meaning in the words we read, say, or sing... but I believe that God desires for us to be seeking how we could improve in this.

As someone who did not come from a church that said the Lord's Prayer or the Creed often, I have grown to appreciate them, and I earnestly seek that my words are spoken out of a heart of worship. When I join with you all on a Sunday morning in saying these words, sometimes I take a moment to listen to those around me, all affirming their faith, and it's truly a beautiful thing.

As we say these words and sing the hymns of faith, let us continually keep our hearts in check, and always know that we are gathered together to worship a God, whose love for each and every one of us is beyond any love that we have ever known, and we can never fully grasp the depth of His mercy and grace.

"For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever. Amen."

Blessings to You,

Jon Bauman

*Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

If you would like to read more of my writings, please visit: [www.lambtheology.com](http://www.lambtheology.com)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BAPTISM NEWS** - On Sunday, April 10, we celebrated of the baptism of Honor Elizabeth Hahn, born November 23, 2015 to Bill and Amanda (Clark) Hahn. Honor is the granddaughter of Gwyn and Steve Clark and the baby sister to Noah Hahn.

**GIANT GIFT CARDS** will be on sale on the first Sunday of every month in the Narthex after the service. YouthWorx has a limited supply of gift cards in stock, ready for you. Thank you.

**JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – To anyone wanting to contribute information or an article for the June Newsletter, the firm deadline for submitting information is May 15. *(This is due to Lisa's daughter's wedding/time off at the end of May.) Thank you!*

**WANTED: GREEN THUMBS!** The Property Committee is planning a spring clean-up on Saturday, May 21, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. This would include weeding, planting, and overall maintenance of the gardens and greenery outside. Please contact Janet or Joe to volunteer or for information.

**EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT – SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP** - Come out at 5:15 p.m. for our Sunday Evening service in the Chapel for a time of music, teaching, and discussion. **YOUTHWORX** follows the Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School and Faith Factory are ending another fantastic year! May 15 will be our final day before our summer break. The entire group is invited to join us, sharing a song or two with you, at the 9:15 worship service. Please come and share the morning with us.

A very special thank you to all the Sunday School teachers who have dedicated so much time to our teaching our children and adults. Without you and your caring spirits, our program would not be a success.

Vacation Bible School Registration Opens on May 1.

Please share the program with your family and friends. To register as a participant and volunteer, please click on <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/firstucc/gpgs/Home.aspx> Again, registration opens on May 1. (VBS - July 11 – 15, Celebration Sunday July 17)

The Sunday School and Church School Association would like to thank all of you for the contributions for our One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. We were able to send a check for \$350.00 to the Cradles and Crayons organization. Thank you for helping the group out!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS IN CHAPEL - *"God is never late; He's seldom early; He's always right on Time"* by Stan Toler. You are invited to join the Adult Education Class which meets in the Chapel on Sunday mornings for this study that encourages us to trust God, even when we can't see Him; to call on God, even when we are not sure He is listening, and to trust God.

GALLERY - Spring has sprung and it is now time to change the theme in the Gallery! What's the Gallery? The Gallery is a place that we can share our talents with other people. It is located in Classroom #3 in the Sunday School wing. Please come and check out the art work of other church members. Thank you to those that let us borrow your 'Winter Art' for the past few months. The theme for May and June will be 'Beauty of Spring.' You are invited to bring any media (photo's, paintings, needle point.... etc.) to the office for display in the Gallery. Please mark your work with your name and any other info you would like us to know. Thank you for sharing!

## COMMUNION SERVICES

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the following *Sundays at 9:15 am (unless otherwise noted)*

- Pentecost Sunday, May 15
- Summer Communion, Sunday, July 24
- World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2
- Advent Sunday, November 27

Holy Communion will also be celebrated on the following *Sunday evenings at 5:15*

- April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4

## COUNCIL NEWS

A summary of the regular meeting of Council was held on April 11 as follows:

- Minutes of April meeting were approved.
- Bills of the month were approved to be paid.
- Two members of the mission team gave Council an update on 2016 trip and fundraising.
- Council biographies will be printed in weekly bulletins to help introduce deacons and elders to the congregation.
- Council continues to review First UCC Constitution and By-Laws.
- Property Committee reported on their many on-going projects and highlighted the Clean-Up Day for May 21. Council approved property's recommendation to have the parking lot resealed over the summer months.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for May 9.

## KITCHEN MINISTRIES

APRIL COMMUNITY DINNER - Our church welcomed 100 guests for the April dinner. They enjoyed baked ziti, Italian sausage, meatballs, green beans, salad and freshly baked bread. As always the desserts from Giant were a big hit! Our next dinner will be Thursday, May 19. Please join us!

It's Cinco de Mayo! - MAY FOOD PANTRY Items of the Month are: Rice, Salsa, Canned Beans, Taco Shells (*Food Pantry Items of the Month are coordinated with predictable sales cycle for each calendar month.*)

## MEMORIALS

We express thanks for the gifts given:

In Memory of Rev. Anna Deppen Lutz  
*Raymond and Ruthann Ely (Lutz)*  
*Stephen and Beth Cygan (Lutz)*  
*Andrew Woytek (Lutz)*  
*Susan and Eugene Shober (Lutz)*

*Suzanne Parker (Lutz)*  
*Diane and Frank Henderson (Lutz)*  
*Ellen and David Wadyka (Lutz)*  
*Jane and Philip Steeley (Lutz)*  
*Michael and Myra Wilsey (Lutz)*

*Richard and Resta Deppen (Lutz)*  
*William Shelly (Lutz)*  
*J. Frederick and Virginia Warren (Lutz)*  
*Lucinda Tuckett (Lutz)*  
*Blaine and Laurie Seip (Lutz)*  
*Susan and Woodrow Lutz (Lutz)*  
*Ronald and Teresa Kuboski (Lutz)*  
*Cynthia Zapp (Lutz)*  
*David and Linda Tyson (Lutz)*  
*Alan and Jean Tyson (Lutz)*  
*Todd and Beth Tyson (Lutz)*

*Barbara and Jim Stoneback (Lutz)*  
*Frank and Marilyn Moll I(Lutz)*  
*Carolyn Potser (Lutz)*  
*Pamela Dietz (Lutz)*

In Memory of Helen Edge  
*Order of the Eastern Star, Perkiomen Chapter #318*  
*(BFF)*

\*BFF Building for the Future fund  
\*Lutz Endowment Fund

## MISSIONS

May 22 – MISSION TRIP HOAGIE SALE - Fresh made 9" hoagies \$6 each. Turkey or Italian or Veggie (green pepper, onion, lettuce, cucumber, tomato) Hoagies available. All condiments will be in packets to keep your hoagies fresh. *Advanced orders now being taken*, please sign up in the Narthex. Contact Jill at [missiontrips@firstucc.net](mailto:missiontrips@firstucc.net) with any questions. Thank you for supporting the 2016 Mission Team.

May 15 – DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP FOR MISSION TRIP - If you plan on attending the 2016 Mission Trip, please get your volunteer form and payment submitted to Linda Friday as soon as possible.

THANK YOU for your support of the Mission Trip Soup Sales throughout the year. We held our final soup sale and you helped us raise \$415.00 to put towards the trip. Thank you again!

### 2016 ONE DREAM MISSION TEAM 3RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING!

When: June 10, 2016  
Where: Butter Valley Golf Port, Barto, PA  
Time: Registration Noon  
Shot Gun Start: 1:00 PM  
Cost: \$85.00 per Person Includes Steak Dinner and All the Fixin's  
Grab a pamphlet and see now to sign up or ways you can support the Mission Team

### 2016 ONE DREAM MISSION TEAM

If you are interested in information about the 2016 Mission Trip, please stop by the Mission Team bulletin board outside the church office. Some of the details are:

When: July 23 - July 30, 2016  
Where: Camden New York  
Who: Current 9th graders or older

The trip this year will be limited to 65 attendees. If you intend to attend the trip, you should complete the "Volunteer Form" and submit your payment. Sign up deadline is **May 15** or 65 attendees, whichever comes first. If you have questions, please contact Dean or Linda at [Missiontrips@firstucc.net](mailto:Missiontrips@firstucc.net)

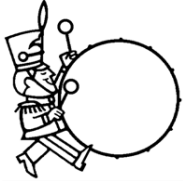
## MUSIC NEWS

YOUTH AND ADULT MUSIC SUNDAY - May 1. Come and show your appreciation for all of our choir members and directors as they wrap up their year with us!

## 62<sup>nd</sup> STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND LAWN FETE

Join us on Saturday, June 11 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. for our Strawberry Festival. We will be serving hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, baked beans, strawberries, ice cream, and homemade cakes and pies at a

reasonable price. We will have a silent auction and games and the Quakertown Band will entertain us with their wonderful music. Please join us for the fun and fellowship that this evening brings. The evening's proceeds will go to our Church School and Christian Education program. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Saturday to help set up, clean strawberries, serve at the food stands, help in the kitchen, waitress, cut cakes, wash dishes and trays, help with the games, clean up, and many other duties. If you can help as a volunteer, please sign up on the list in the Narthex or call the Church Office. We will again have an early and late shift. The strawberry festival is only possible because of the many caring people who pitch in to help and also because of those who attend and support our church. *Thank you!*



**BAND CONCERT PATRONS NEEDED FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

Each year, we enjoy the music of the Quakertown Band during our annual Strawberry Festival Lawn Fete. Our goal is to cover the cost with contributions of patrons. If you would like to be a patron, please bring or mail your check (made payable to First UCC Church School Association, marked Quakertown Band Patron) to the church office. Please note that if the contributions exceed the cost of the band, they will be used toward other festival costs. Thanks. If you would

like to be a patron, please bring or mail your check (made payable to First UCC Church School Association, marked Quakertown Band Patron) to the Church Office.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to be a Patron to help with the cost of the Quakertown Band at our Strawberry Festival and Lawn Fete.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**ATTENTION CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS WITH HOME BUSINESSES AND CRAFTERS** - If you are able and interested, and we hope you are, please consider donating a certificate for your service or a small basket with your craft or item to the Strawberry Festival Silent Auction. We would like to highlight your business by listing you or your company on the event webpage (<http://www.new.firstucc.net/strawberryfest>), and also with the product on the silent auction table and included in the list of auction donors. Please direct donations and/or questions to Lisa, Silent Auction Chair. *Much appreciation.*

**SILENT AUCTION** - New this year, the Silent Auction Committee is asking for the Congregation's help to broaden the variety of our strawberry festival silent auction. Statistics show that at the Strawberry Festival Silent Auction, the top three (3) items that people are bidding for and most willing to bid the highest are Gift Certificates, Gift Cards, and Theme Baskets.

We invite you to help us create these exciting Theme Baskets by signing up for the items below each Basket Category. *New items* will only be accepted as this is best for the safety and health of the church and community. If you are unable to shop and would like us to shop for you, kindly give your monetary donation to the church office and make payable to First UCC Church School Association: Attention: Silent Auction Theme Baskets. Any questions, please see Lisa or email [strawberryfestival@firstchurch.net](mailto:strawberryfestival@firstchurch.net)

**THEME BASKETS**

- |   |                               |                     |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Adventures in Travel                          | Emergency Preparedness        | Little Bit of Italy |
| Baby Love                                     | Field of Dreams in the Garden | Summer Fun          |
| Breakfast: the most important meal of the day | Grillers Delight              | Simply Spa          |
| Deck the Halls                                | "Fore" the Golfer             | Star Wars           |
|   | Lego: Bricks                  |                     |

Sign up on the Bulletin Board across from the Office. All items and monetary donations are appreciated and will be accepted until Sunday, May 15. In an effort to contain the Strawberry Fest Silent Auction to a manageable size, we are not accepting used items as we have in previous years.

## SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences Elaine Ely at the passing of her mother, Frances, who passed away on Sunday, March 26.

We also express our sympathy to Dan Helverson, for the passing of his mother, Connie, on Thursday, April 21.

## CONTACT AND CONNECT WITH US

By Email:

[pastordoug@firstucc.net](mailto:pastordoug@firstucc.net) (Pastor Doug Donigian, Co-Pastor)  
[pastorjoyce@firstucc.net](mailto:pastorjoyce@firstucc.net) (Pastor Joyce Donigian, Co-Pastor)  
[pastordon@firstucc.net](mailto:pastordon@firstucc.net) (Pastor Don Moyer, Min of Visitation)  
[jbauman@firstucc.net](mailto:jbauman@firstucc.net) (Jon Bauman, Dir of Youth/Yng Adults)  
[dce@firstucc.net](mailto:dce@firstucc.net) (Linda Friday, Dir of Christian Education)  
[dirmusic@firstucc.net](mailto:dirmusic@firstucc.net) (Patricia Conrad, Director of Music)  
[organist@firstucc.net](mailto:organist@firstucc.net) (Edward Swartz, Organist)  
[council@firstucc.net](mailto:council@firstucc.net) (Melissa Routson, Council Pres.)

[finance@firstucc.net](mailto:finance@firstucc.net) (Janis Weil, Financial Secretary)  
[info@firstucc.net](mailto:info@firstucc.net) (Lisa Jorgensen, Administrative Assistant)

By Phone: 215-536-4447

On the Web: [www.firstucc.net](http://www.firstucc.net)

On Facebook:

First United Church of Christ – Quakertown  
Youth Worx

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers said on my behalf during these months of surgery and treatment. *Lorraine*

First UCC, Thank you so much for allowing Pack 55 to use your beautiful facility! Our Blue and Gold Banquet was a huge success, and everyone loved having it at First church. Please accept our donation as our sincere gratitude. *Sincerely, Pack 55*

Your caring, your concern, and your prayers made our hearts smile when our minds were dwelling recently on our son, David's surgery and recovery. A 15-hour operation removed most of the benign brain tumor and good old Coumadin continues to work on reducing lung clots. He's back to work and spring is in the air! With great appreciation we thank you for the cards, emails, texts, and especially the prayers! *Bruce and Judy Elsner*

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

April 25 – LADIES BOOK CLUB – This month, we have been reading and discussing “The Silver Star” by Jeannette Walls. Join us on Monday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. On May 25, we will meet to discuss “We are All Completely beside Ourselves” by Karen Joy Fowler and on June 29, “Wicked” by Gregory Maguire.

JUNE 7 – THE FINAL WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING for the year will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The program, “Supporting Others in their Grief,” will be presented by Rev. Elaine Ely. Election of officers will also take place. Everyone is welcome!

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Lay Readers

5/1 Bill Palmisano  
5/8 Nadine Nagurny  
5/15 Kelly Charlton  
5/22 Christine Moll  
5/29 Steve Clark

### Greeters

Art and Cheryl Bryan, Lynn Routson

### Ushers

Dave and Nick Mann, David Hoffman, Steve Mann

### First Fellowship

Care Committee, Sue Moyer and Judy Elsner, Co-Chairs





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:15a-Worship-Youth & Adult Music Sunday 10:30a-First Fellowship, Faith Factory, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 2:00p-Reminisce	<b>4</b> 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8:00a-Council on Aging 5:30p-Beth-Off	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mothers' Day 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-First Fellowship, Faith Factory, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>9</b> 5:30p-Beth-Off 7:00p-Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling 5:30p-Beth-Off	<b>11</b> 10:00a-Ladies Bible Study 5:30p-Beth-Off 6:30p-Knit One, Pray Too	<b>12</b> 12:00p-AARP - Meeting at 1:00 5:30p-Beth-Off	<b>13</b> 7:00p-Cairn University Choir Concert	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15a-Worship-Pentecost, New Members, Faith Factory Singers 10:30a-Deadline: Mission Trip Sign-Up 10:30a-First Fellowship, Faith Factory, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling	<b>18</b> 10:00a-NO Ladies Bible Study	<b>19</b> 5:30p-Community Dinner	<b>20</b> 8:30a-Lisa-Off	<b>21</b> 8:00a-Spring Clean-Up Day
<b>22</b> 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-Mission Trip Hoagie Sale, Sunday School Teachers Appreciation Breakfast 10:30a-First Fellowship, Faith Factory, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>23</b> 8:30a-Lisa-Off	<b>24</b> 8:30a-Lisa-Off 12:00p-Church Office Closed 2:00p-Grief Counseling	<b>25</b> 8:30a-Lisa-Off 10:00a-NO Ladies Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15a-Worship 10:30a-First Fellowship, Faith Factory, Chancel Choir, Adult Ed 5:15p-Evening Worship 6:30p-YouthWorx	<b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b> 2:00p-Grief Counseling				

**First United Church of Christ  
151 S Fourth St  
Quakertown, PA 18951**

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## MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

