

The Heavenly Herald

“We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future.”

A letter from the Pastor...

MAY, 2024

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

- Hebrews 13:2

Dear Friends of FUPC Houston,

The Synod of the Trinity recently shared information about an important and life-giving mission happening right here in Washington Presbytery.

One of our sister churches, Charleroi Presbyterian Church, has been praying for and actively serving a new immigrant community of almost 2,000 Haitians who have been displaced from their home country due to natural disasters and more recently to the widespread violence and lack of safety plaguing this Caribbean nation.

Because the Deacon's support 2 young people in Haiti they receive regular updates about the brokenness of society from Pastor Pierre who notes the rapid rise in violence as well as poverty and extreme hunger faced by so many families. Pastor Pierre also reminds us of the strength and resilience of the church in Haiti thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of their brothers and sisters in America. Now, the needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters is not 1,500 miles away but rather only a 30-minute drive from downtown Houston, PA.

Charleroi Presbyterian Church has identified many ways in which people can help and many more will surely surface as time goes by. Right now, some of the largest needs are in providing English as a Second Language classes and other 1 hour presentations from individuals on things that many of us take for granted. Things like how to apply for a job, how to open a bank account, how to shop at an American grocery store and other general life skills. They are also looking for individuals who might be willing to sit down and listen to and pray for these people who have experienced so many traumatic circumstances.

If you would like more information or are interested in how you can make a very real difference in the lives of these children of God in the name of Jesus Christ please stop by before or after church or give me a call.

In Christ,

Pastor Ben

**First United
Presbyterian Church**
102 North Main Street
Houston, PA 15342
724-746-3040
houstonpresbyterian.org

**Pastor
Ben Libert**
1379pbl@gmail.com
724-469-1244 (Cell)

Secretary
Angela M. Itzel
secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Clerk of Session
Jan Taylor

Music Director
Karen Jones
jonesykj@verizon.net

Custodian
Robin Spiker

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May 2nd	Terri Jeffers	May 3rd	Wayne Clark
May 3rd	Bill Youmans	May 3rd	Darren Spiker
May 4th	Patty Scott	May 4th	Margaret White
May 5th	Kevin Neely	May 6th	Sandy Wallace
May 7th	Susan Stonebraker	May 8th	Brian Bayne
May 10th	Tera Washabaugh	May 11th	Casey Craig
May 12th	Gracie Jardini	May 14th	Brent Bigler
May 15th	Pastor Ben Libert	May 15th	Alec Ferrari
May 17th	Mark Marshall	May 17th	Joyce Bailey
May 17th	Aarik Yetter	May 18th	Marianne Blough
May 18th	Matthew Campbell	May 18th	Jordyn Hollenbach
May 19th	Ethan Johnston	May 22nd	Linda Stiles
May 22nd	Linda Culp	May 22nd	Robin Spiker
May 22nd	Ben Wallace	May 24th	Karlee Zanaglio
May 26th	Mindy Kelley	May 26th	Janice Blosel
May 26th	Evan Simpson	May 26th	Maddox Durkacs
May 27th	John Borda	May 29th	Tyler Williams
May 29th	Mackenzie Curry	May 30th	Jaden Spiker



May 1st - Bob & Bev Penvose Sr.
 May 6th - Ron & Terri Weber
 May 16th - Lane & Lisa McFarland
 May 18th - Buddy & Sherry Jeffers III
 May 27th - Brian & Kellie Rubbo

May 5th - Jim & Linda Culp
 May 15th - Brian & Terri Jeffers
 May 16th - Joe & Amy Wiszczor
 May 19th - Brian & Melissa Bayne

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Darryl Beton, Rich (Pepsi) Witmer, Barb Burnett, Tom Setto, John Orlando, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



APRIL PRAYER REQUEST:

Susan Stonebreaker, Karen Jones, Dorie Nicholls, Jackie Shober, Aurora, Sandy & Jack Simpson, Dan Browning, Robert Ward, Joyce Orlando, Charity, Cathy Lynch, Patty Goldbach, Pastor Melody, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, and Curtis Marcase.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders,
Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and
all unspoken requests of our church family.

June Newsletter Articles
due by Friday, May 24, 2024

SERVING THE CHURCH IN MAY, 2024

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:

May - 5th

(MV) Emmy Homitz
(GV) Virginia Bayne
(GH) Vicky Lesjak

May - 12th

(MV) Mary Skirpan
(GV) Virginia Bayne
(GH) Janice Bloesel

May - 19th

(MV) Virginia Rockwell
(GV) Virginia Bayne
(GH) Janice Bloesel

May - 26th

(MV) Dodie Hanna
(GV) Sandy Wallace
(GH) Volunteer

Elder Greeters:

May - 5th

(MV) Jan Taylor
(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Bob Blough/Gloria Schmalz

May - 12th

(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Bob Arnold
(GH) Bo Lesjak/Jonnie Swarow

May - 19th

(MV) Linda Young
(GV) Karen Jones
(GH) Jan Taylor

May - 26th

(MV) Ben Wallace
(GV) Bob Blough
(GH) Pastor Ben Libert/Bo Lesjak

Music: Karen Jones

Audiovisual: Leon Young

Liturgist: Kat Morgan

Trustees: Jan Taylor
& Gloria Schmalz

May Acolytes:

May - 5th - Gary Swarow
May - 12th - Bridget Layton
May - 19th - Julia Swarow
May - 26th - Henry Libert

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

May - 5th - Haley Steere
May - 19th - Kaleigh Valley

May - 12th - Gloria Schmalz
May - 26th - Jami Craig

PASTOR BEN'S MAY READINGS

MAY 5, 2024
6th Sunday after Easter
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Psalm 98:1-9
1 John 5:1-6
"Make a Joyful Noise"

THURSDAY MAY 9, 2024
Ascension of the Lord
Potluck Dinner 6pm

Psalm 47:1-9
Luke 24:44-53
"Does it Matter?"

Happy Mother's Day!

MAY 12, 2024
7th Sunday after Easter

Psalm 1:1-6
John 17:6-19
"How to be Happy"

MAY 19, 2024
Day of Pentecost
Pulpit Supply
Debbie Evanovich

MAY 26, 2024
Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8
John 3:1-17
"What God did NOT do"



BE OUR GUEST AT OUR ANNUAL

SPRING LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

AT 12:00 NOON

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO OUR SPRING LUNCHEON, WHICH INCLUDES HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED THEIR 50TH YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP. THERE WILL BE A DELICIOUS LUNCH, ENTERTAINMENT AND LOTS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP. IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN BY MONDAY, APRIL 29TH OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 724-746-3040.

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDING ADULTS: _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDING CHILDREN: _____



MISSION TRIP TO BECKLEY, WV

Brothers and Sisters, fellow missionaries,

If you have not heard Upper Ten Mile Presbyterian Church is planning a mission trip to Beckley, WV, the week of 17-21 June. If you are interested we will be holding a meeting on 19 May at 6:00 PM at the church.

The host church is Crab Orchard Baptist Church. We will be there first group ever for this kind of mission group. They have a large activity center in which we will stay. Currently, they have no beds, although they plan to have something. There are two showers, so it might take time to get showered. The project manager for WVMW is also the project manager for this site. This is his first year in this position. We need to keep him in our prayers, as his plate may be overflowing.

As always I feel the Lord is calling us to this site, with the challenges we may have He has a plan and will help us all through it.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Your Brother in Christ,

Chuck Young

Please join us whether it be in body or spiritually.
If you have questions, please ask Leon, Linda or Libby Young.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

You may think it's a little early, but plans are being made for our 2024 Vacation Bible School. This year we are 'diving into friendship with God' using Group's Scuba. With help from Tad the frogfish, Finnley the dolphin, Fisher the seal, Waylon the whale shark and Octavia the octopus, we will journey under the sea to learn how God is a friend who is real, who loves, we can trust, is forever, and a friend for everyone.

We need everyone's help to get the word out and reach as many kids as possible. So save the dates, June 24 – 28 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, and pass this on.

We can always use extra fins, I mean hands, so consider helping out. See Sandy Wallace to find your place in the sea!

See Registration Form on page 9.



The week will be filled with stories, songs, crafts, science, and snacks.
Volunteers are always welcome and needed to lead and guide children.
Station Leaders Sea Guides will lead groups of children to each station.

VBS is open to children 4 yrs of age through sixth grade. To register: Please complete the information below and submit.

You can also register online at houstonpresbyterian.org (VBS Tab)

Questions? 724-746-3040 or email: secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

**First United Presbyterian Church, 102 North Main Street,
Houston, PA 15342
Join us for VBS June 24-June 28, 2024 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm**

REGISTRATION FORM

Student's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade _____

Address: _____

Allergies/Medical Conditions: _____

Special Friend wishes to be with: _____

Father's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Phone: _____

In case of an Emergency and neither parent can be reached:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Photo Release: *First United Presbyterian Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that I will not receive any compensation for publication of photo use.*

Parent/Guardian/Volunteer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I do not permit photos of my child to be shared:

Parent/Guardian/Volunteer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I would like to volunteer as: _____ Crew Helper _____ Site Helper

I am available to volunteer on: _____ Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____ Fri

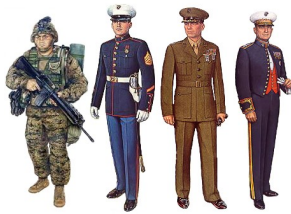
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Must have PA State Mandated Clearances to Volunteer. Clearances are FREE for volunteers.

Obtain at: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

or <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>



WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY MISSION OPPORTUNITY MOC LAUNCHES MISSION FOR MILITARY AND FAMILIES

Our Missional Outreach Committee announces two opportunities to support our military and their families.

Children’s Book Collection - Donate a new children’s book, and include a message of encouragement inside. The books will be placed in the Pittsburgh USO location, and will be distributed to children of service members during Family Day events.

Gas Cards (GetGo or Sheetz) - Cards will be given to reservists who travel to bases for their drill time. Often the distance and travel expenses are an extra burden on tight family budgets.

We are encouraging churches to collect throughout the month of May, with Fourth Presbyterian Church as the donation drop-off site. Drop-off dates and times will be shared toward the end of May.

Administration Day - Secretary



First United Presbyterian Church

**My sincere appreciation to our Deacons
for the beautiful basket on
National Administrative
Professional’s Day.**

**Working here is a pleasure, especially
working with so many wonderful,
caring, & giving people.
This is such a special Church Family!**

A heartfelt “Thank You” - Angie



RESURRECTION POWER

A Heartfelt "Thank You" to our Church Family!

Your kindness & generosity will give a wonderful warm start to the New Residents at Resurrection Power.

We are so thankful!

The Deacons

Thank You

Thank You



On Saturday April 4 our church was honored to be a Gold Sponsor for the Resurrection Power Annual Breakfast. In addition to a wonderful time of food and fellowship we were able to learn more about the life saving mission and ministry of Rez Power as they provide hope for addiction in the name of Jesus Christ. Dean Gartland, President Emeritus of City Mission in Washington, PA was given a special award for his service to those in need in Washington County, presented by Sarah Angelo, director of Resurrection Power. Please keep the staff, residents, and volunteers of Rez Power in your prayers!

IRA - Qualified Charitable Distributions: **A Tax-Efficient Way to Donate Money To Charity**

Now that we are in the tax filing season, I wanted to pass on some brief information on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A QCD is a withdrawal from an IRA that's made directly to an eligible charity.

If you currently are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your IRA account, you may want to consider making your annual donation to the church or other charities through a QCD. A QCD counts toward your RMD for the year, and it is made tax free thus avoiding you paying income tax on the distribution.

The funds are transferred directly from the IRA custodian to the eligible charity (501(c)(3) organizations and houses of worship). You must remember to let your tax preparer know how much of your total annual distribution was for a QCD so that it can be reported as such on your income tax return and excluded from your taxable gross income.

We have numerous members currently utilizing this tax favorable method of donating to our church.

If you would like any additional information on the benefits, or how to make a QCD from your IRA, feel free to see me or Bob Blough.




Buddy Jeffers
Treasurer



MAY - 2024



Regular Events
 Sunday School - 9:45am
 Worship - 11:00am
 Bible Study, Tuesday 10:30am

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1- 15-Pastor Ben Vacation	2- 16-Pastor Ben Vacation	3- 17-Pastor Ben Vacation	4-Spring Luncheon Social Hall 12:00 Noon
5-Communion Sunday	6-Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm	7-Deacons Mtg. 6:00pm	8- 9-Potluck Dinner & Ascension Worship 6:00pm	10- 11- 18-Pastor Ben Vacation		
12- 	13-Mission Mtg. 6:30pm	14- 21-Pastor Ben Vacation	15-Pastor Ben Vacation	16-Pastor Ben Vacation	17-Pastor Ben Vacation	18-Pastor Ben Vacation
19-Pastor Ben Vacation Pulpit Supply Debbie Evnovich	20-Pastor Ben Vacation Admin. Mtg. 6:30pm	21-Pastor Ben Vacation No Bible Study	22- 23- 24- 25-			
26- 	27-Memorial Day Office Closed	28-Session Mtg. 6:30pm	29- 30- 31-			



First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Houston, PA 15342

Church Office
 724-746-3040

Pastor Ext: 313
 1379pbl@gmail.com

Secretary Ext: 310
 secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website
 houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School
 Sunday School Begins
 Sept. 18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service
September — May at 11:00 a.m.
 June-July-August at 10:00 a.m.
 Nursery Available

Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Gifts and Offerings

First United Presbyterian Church
 102 North Main Street
 Houston, PA 15342



Member Visitor

Name _____ No. _____

Please apply my offering as follows:

Regular Offering \$ _____
 Deacons Fund \$ _____
 Building Fund \$ _____
 Special Project \$ _____

Memorial Fund \$ _____
 In Memory of _____
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift.