

Greetings from First UCC!
**We pray that Easter blessings continue to fill your home
and touch your life!**

During this time, while worship services are suspended at First Church, Rev. Mike would like to share a Sunday Gospel message of hope with you. Even in the midst of this world-wide health emergency, Jesus love is still with us.

You may view the video of Rev. Mike sharing this message by clicking this link...

[May 3, 2020](#) Service

Please use this 'mini-bulletin' to follow along with the service, reading responses along with Kathleen in the video. Our 'mini-bulletin' also includes other information & announcements to keep you informed. Please feel free to share the bulletin & the video with others.



Thanks to Kathleen Dowd for serving as the "People" for our Responsive Readings.

***Thanks, as always, to our Music Director, Sheila Cooke
for recording our worship music each week.***

***Thanks to Paul Ricciardi at Golden Pepper Productions, Inc.
for setting our video up for us each week.***

***Thanks to Gabby & Cliff at Cliff Ross Advertising & Design
for assisting us with our Facebook postings.***



~ First United Church of Christ ~

229 Church St. • Easton • Pennsylvania 18042

Rev. J. Michael Dowd, Pastor ~ Sheila Cooke, Music Director

Telephone: 610-258-3361 ~ Email: firstucc2@verizon.net

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Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter ~



Invocation:

Incarnate God, you are the One who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, you are the One who comes to us in the Holy Spirit. Sovereign of earth and heaven, you are the One who calls us to recognize you today and every day as the splendid *mysterium tremendum*. Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

Call to Confession:

Beloved, we are God's children because of the love God has for us, yet we sometimes fail to respond to God's outpouring of love. Let us confess our sins together.

Confession of Sin:

Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends, and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hour, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance.

Redeeming God, teach us a stillness that leads to acts of kindness and clarity of vision. Shape in us a trust that leads to faithful witness and bold compassion. Form us in your love that loosens our worry and eases our anger. Make us true disciples Ñ filled with love, acting with justice, and living out hope. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Through the power of the resurrected Christ, our sins are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES**Our Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, May 3rd is: Psalm 23 (NIV)****Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Our New Testament Lesson for Sunday, May 3rd is: Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, May 3rd is: John 10:1-10 (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Meditation ~ “Thankless Jobs” (John 10:1-21)

A family of five were enjoying their day at the beach. The children were swimming in the ocean and building sand castles when in the distance a little old lady appeared. Her gray hair was blowing in the wind and her clothes were dirty and ragged. She was muttering something to herself as she picked up things from the beach and put them into a bag. The parents called the children to their side and told them to stay away from the old lady. As she passed by, bending down every now and then to pick things up, she smiled at the family. But her greeting wasn't returned. Many weeks later they learned that the little old lady had made it her lifelong crusade to pick up bits of glass from the beach so children wouldn't cut their feet.

A rather thankless task, wouldn't you say? Picking up bits of glass so children won't cut their feet. We've all become much more aware of the enormous importance of what we used to call the thankless or less important jobs over the past eight weeks. There are lots of people in thankless jobs, aren't there? The folks who stock the shelves and the check-out line at grocery stores, the newspaper delivery person, the Garbage Collectors, the Insta-cart person who shops and delivers groceries. Think about the postal employees, the warehouse folks, the folks who clean the hospitals and doctor's waiting rooms, the teachers who teach from home on-line. Being a caregiver to someone who is helpless, working in nursing homes. In a sense, teaching could be a thankless task (not so much after home schooling). So is being an officer of the law. Any type of service work is thankless at times. And that includes many jobs in the church.

Richard Lederer collects humorous items that appear in newspapers, signs, etc. Some of the best ones are from church bulletins. Here are some of his most recent ones. Remember these actually appeared in a church bulletin somewhere. Some of them you will have to think about.

"The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church." I believe they mean "affiliated."

Here is a hymn: "Let All the World in Every Corner Sin." Whoopee!

Here's a good one:

"Last time we asked for prayer for Jerry Butler's foot. After nine months of various treatments, it's finally all gone." Poor Jerry!

From a Louisville, KY. newspaper: "Reverend Hawley was congratulated on being able to get his parish plastered." That gives new meaning to getting them in the spirit.

And my favorite: "Miss Charlene Mason sang, I Will Not Pass This Way Again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation." Well, even singing in church can be a thankless job, or serving on the stewardship committee. Any job where there is not much recognition or you are taken for granted can seem like a thankless job.

Thankless jobs. Repetitive jobs, boring jobs, repulsive jobs. Dirty Jobs if you remember the show.

Being a shepherd is a thankless job. It really is. Imagine dealing with dumb, smelly sheep all day. In Palestine, flocks of sheep are plentiful. They dot the countryside, clutter up highways, crowd the streets of towns and villages. The shepherd with his long staff walks in front of his flock and his sheep follow him. In fact, they crowd around so closely they hamper the shepherd's movement. Dumb, helpless sheep. According to William Barclay the life of a shepherd was very hard. The shepherd was never off duty. With little grass, the sheep were bound to wander, and since there were no protecting walls, the sheep had constantly to be watched. On either side of the narrow plateau, the ground dipped sharply down to the craggy deserts and the sheep were always liable to stray away and get lost. The shepherd's task was not only constant but dangerous, for, in addition, he had to guard the flock against wild animals, especially against wolves, and there were always thieves and robbers ready to steal the sheep. With little pay and little human contact, being a shepherd had little to recommend it. A thankless job, indeed. Yet this is exactly how Christ portrayed himself as a shepherd. And that is the most familiar image we have of Christ a shepherd holding a lamb in his arms. How sweet how tender. But a lamb is not a full-grown sheep. Its wool is not wet and matted. It isn't caught in a crevasse. It is not bleating for the shepherd to come to its rescue.

There is a certain bonding that takes place between a Shepherd and his sheep.

Jesus put it this way: "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out." Sheep-calling contests are common in Palestine. Several flocks are placed in an enclosure and mixed together. Then shepherds whistle a distinctive tune; some call or shout in a peculiar manner. Some shepherds use a pipe with a particular pitch. Each shepherd's signal is understood by his own sheep and they respond immediately. They make their way through the crowded enclosure to where their shepherd is waiting. The shepherd who collects a given number of sheep in the shortest time is the winner of the contest. Sheep know their shepherd's voice and follow him.

And the good shepherd knows his sheep. The individual sheep in a flock all look alike to the untrained eye. A good shepherd, however, can tell them apart often because of their defects and peculiar traits. A man who was tending a large flock explained this to a Christian friend who expressed surprise at his familiarity with each animal. "See that sheep over there?" he asked. "Notice how it toes in a little. The one behind it has a squint; the next one has a patch of wool off its back; ahead is one with a distinguishing black mark, while the one closest to us has a small piece torn out of its ear." Observing all of them, the believer thought about Christ, the Chief Shepherd, who also knows the individual weaknesses and failings of His flock and watches over the members with discerning love and sympathetic understanding.

Christ the Good Shepherd. Taking over the thankless job of watching over his sheep, taking the trouble to know them by name. Can you imagine that? There have always been people with a good memory for names: Napoleon " who knew thousands of his soldiers by name . . . or James A. Farley " who claimed he knew 50,000 people by their first name . . . or Charles Schwab " who knew the names of all 8,000 of his employees at Homestead Mill . . . or Charles W. Eliot " who, during his forty years as president of Harvard, earned the reputation of knowing all the students by name each year. But can you imagine Christ knowing all his sheep by name? That's billions of people over 2,000 years. No wonder we call him Master, Lord, Savior. Watching over his flock, calling them by name. AND SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR US. Here's what we need to remember: Christ calls us to follow his example.

In his book FINDING GOD AT HOME, Ernest Boyer, Jr. tells of a woman named Sarah who lived a humble life, yet she lived it with such purpose that she influenced all those around her. Sarah was born in 1906, the last of eight children. Her father was a miner and her mother ran a boardinghouse for miners. Sarah spent much of her growing-up years working at the boardinghouse and playing with her brothers and sisters. At eighteen, she married a man from Italy. She had only met him three times before, but his family knew her family back in the Old Country, so it was considered the proper thing to do. Sarah and her husband moved to the city, where he opened up a barbershop, and they started a family. First was born a son, then a daughter. But something was different with their third child, also a son. He was soon diagnosed as having muscular dystrophy, a horrible disease that would destroy his muscles and render him unable to care for himself in the smallest way. Doctors predicted he would die before his fifth birthday. This was in the midst of the Depression, when there was barely enough money for the necessities of life. Their third child would need extensive medical care for his condition. So Sarah went to work. She took on many odd jobs, such as cleaning houses, baking bread, taking in laundry. And every morning Sarah went to Mass and prayed for her children, especially for her son. Years passed, and the boy outlived his fifth birthday, and his sixth, and his seventh. Sarah did whatever she possibly could do to care for her afflicted child. She even wrote to President Roosevelt, hoping that his own infirmities would give him compassion for others who were suffering. The President arranged for the boy to be sent to a prestigious clinic in Maryland. Sarah took her son to this clinic, where the astonished doctors told her that the boy's continued survival and slow disease progression were nothing short of a miracle. Evidently, Sarah's loving care was keeping her son alive and in fair condition. The doctors suggested that

Sarah take him home and continue to care for him in the manner in which she already had, for that seemed to work some kind of magic that the doctors couldn't match.

At the age of fourteen, Sarah's son died. Sarah's husband took to his bed with grief, and died six months later. In addition to her regular jobs, Sarah began taking classes at beauty school, and eventually turned her husband's barbershop into a beauty shop. In this way, she supported her children. But something kept nagging at Sarah. Throughout the years of her son's illness, Sarah had spent much time in hospital wards, and she was aware that there were many suffering children in these wards who had no one to visit them. So Sarah began visiting the children's wards of the local hospitals to talk to the children and let them know she cared. But the hospital had a strict policy of only allowing family members to visit, so they barred Sarah from the wards. When Sarah protested that many of these children didn't have family, the hospital staff told her that many of these children weren't used to that kind of caring, and if they got out of the hospital they wouldn't know what to do when they no longer received it. Sarah left the hospital and sat down on a park bench. And there she cried and cried. And then Sarah resolved to do something to show love and care to children who had no one else to love them. So Sarah became a foster mother, and her house became a home to many young girls who needed her.

Sarah's life followed a simple routine. Every morning she went to early Mass, then came home and cooked breakfast for her foster children. Next she worked at her beauty parlor, then she went home and baked bread. Her bread was Sarah's gift to the world around her. She never baked it for herself. Instead she gave away her loaves to churches, soup kitchens, family, friends, neighbors in need. One day, Sarah got a call from one of her granddaughters asking her to go to afternoon Mass with her. When Sarah showed up at the church that afternoon, she saw her whole family waiting for her. They lead her into the church. It was filled with Sarah's family, friends, neighbors, and former and current foster children. Some people had traveled hours to get there, and some were friends that Sarah had not seen in years. And when Sarah entered the church, they all stood and clapped. As Sarah stood there crying tears of humble joy, her youngest great-grandchild walked up and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. "Here Great-grandma.

These are yours." Sarah walked to the front of the church and gently placed the flowers in front of a statue of Mary with the baby Jesus. And she said softly, "Here. These are yours." Christ set the example. He is the Good Shepherd. He watches over his sheep. He knows each of us by name. He even lay his life in our behalf. Now he calls us to take up the often thankless job of laying down our lives for others " with no other reward than this. Someday to hear his voice say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Are we up to it? Do we have what it takes to give our lives in service to this church? This community? To those around us? We serve others even as he serves us.



Affirmation of Faith:

We believe that Jesus came to Earth, that he endured the cross, and that he died.
We believe that Jesus gave his life as a ransom for our own sin.
We believe that Jesus did not stay dead -- that he was raised to life on the third day.
We believe that Jesus conquered sin and death and that he is living and reigning in heaven with God.
We believe that we will one day see him face to face.
And as we wait, we will share these beliefs with the world.

Pastoral Prayer:

Lord God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us — for daily food, for health, for each breath we take, for freedom to choose, and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love. Our hearts are truly overwhelmed, O God, when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us. May we be worthy of that trust. May we be a people who are unafraid to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live.
Help us, O God, as followers of Jesus, to multiply all that you have given us, to risk spreading your word and perhaps see it misunderstood, to gamble by loving those whom others think worthy only of hate, to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us. Help us be faith-filled and desire to increase your glory and your goodness in this world. Make us people who share in both word and deed that which you have given to us.

We pray for the church gathered on-line today and around the world, that it may encourage all of its members to discover, develop and use all their gifts, those of nature and those of grace. We pray for those who are poor in body or in spirit, for those oppressed and heavy laden, for those sick or in despair, especially those in our extended church family in need of your love, comfort and care. We rejoice that Gregg D is healed and is at home, we celebrate Margaret's nieces Sarah and Hannah and her new daughter Rheia. We share our prayers for Tom Bougher and Bev Lambert's great granddaughter and Marilyn Crozier Snuggs. We remember with fondness Rebecca's father Joe Perio and Cuong Vu, MD retinal specialist, is a good friend of Karen Beling's. The Vu's were among the Viet Nameese boat people who were adopted into this country.

We raise those in our congregation sharing their witness as they serve those in need of healing, David Skillenge, Jill West, Helen Corona, Keith Berger and Donna who serves youngsters in NYC. We think of those who must work in essential jobs including David Wandersee and Ross Forsythe.

Minister by your Spirit and by us, to all those for whom we have prayed, and help us walk faithfully in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction:

Jesus is alive! But, can those who "read" your life tell? Go in the power of there sur recti on to live as Easter people in a Good Friday world knowing that God -- Father, Son and Spirit -- always goes with you. Amen.



As we navigate our way through this difficult and unpredictable time please share your personal, family and neighbor prayer requests. You can send them by email for our church office: firstucc2@verizon.net or you may call the office & leave a message. Also please share our First UCC Worship program & video with your friends and family.



Announcements for May 3rd, 2020 ~

No matter who you are, or where you are on your life's journey, you're welcome here. Join us in celebrating First UCC's respect for the past and faith in the future.





PLEASE NOTE: Hospitals no longer notify the church or the pastor unless you SPECIFICALLY REQUEST IT. So please, if you or a family member is hospitalized, let us know by calling the office at 610-258-3361! Please see our prayer list below.

OR by calling or texting Rev. Mike directly on his cell phone at 610-216-5471.



IMPORTANT FIRST CHURCH NOTES...

Rev. Dowd & our First Church leadership will continue to monitor the ongoing Corona virus situation. We will be especially mindful of the most vulnerable members of our First Church Family & make decisions accordingly.

We will be meeting on an ongoing basis to discuss upcoming events, projects & etc. We will share information on these decisions as they are made.

Please keep watching your **e-mail**, our **website** at www.firstucceaston.org, or our **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstUCCEaston> or call our **Church Office at 610-258-3361** for updates & information.



FIRST LADIES & FUNDRAISER NOTES: The **First Ladies Fund Raisers** that were in progress ("Shoo Fly Cake Sale" & Barbeque Sale) **have been CANCELED. Any orders that were already placed will be refunded once we begin gathering for worship again.**

CHOIR APPRECIATION POSTPONED! Though our Choir Appreciation Sunday & reception have been postponed until we can re-group (hopefully) in the coming weeks, we want to recognize all those who contributed to enriching our worship services over the past year! Please see the "THANK YOU CHOIR MEMBERS" note on page 11.

“SUNSHINE FUND” - We are also most grateful for continued donations to our “Sunshine Fund”, which goes to assist any of our First Church Family members who are in need. **THIS FUND IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW, with many people being out of work due to this health emergency.** Though we have published our Easter dedications today, we are still accepting donations to our “Sunshine Fund”. **A REMINDER – If you are experiencing an emergency need, please contact the Church Office or Rev. Mike directly. All requests will be kept confidential.**



STEWARDSHIP NOTE ~

- With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, church services and other activities at First UCC have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Even though our church services are suspended, our church expenses (gas bill, electric bill, etc.) must still be paid each month. With this in mind, we ask that you continue to contribute during this health crisis. You can...
 - **MAIL your contributions** to the church at 229 Church Street, Easton, PA 18042.
 - **DROP your envelope through the MAIL SLOT in the Church St. door of the SCHOOLHOUSE** (formerly the Office). Please make sure your name or envelope number is on it.
 - **Online Giving**, which allows you to make your contributions online from either your bank checking or bank savings account. If you are interested in this online option, please contact Rich Phifer at 610-217-9244 or email Rich at raphifer@rcn.com to get further information about this payment option.



First Church Prayer Requests ~

Prayer is a powerful thing! God invites us to pray with words of praise, thanksgiving & petitions for others & for ourselves. We gladly receive & share prayer concerns so that we may ‘Bear one another’s burdens’ (Galatians 6:2) and ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.’ (Romans 12:15).



IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE, please call our church office at 610-258-3361 or Rev. Mike at 610-216-5471.

We all ask for Your blessing, Lord, on all of those who are essential employees & remain in high risk positions, unable to isolate, in order to serve & protect us during this national health emergency & their families. Father bless those in Health Care, First Responders, those who care for others, all those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, those who drive us on public transit & take care of us at other places that we frequent, all those who will be cleaning public places & all those around us who must deal with the public in other ways. Including those in our own families & church family who are ‘essential’ in their work places (**David S., David W., Helen C., Jill W., Keith B., Keith C., Mark C., Ross F.**) We pray for those who reside in group facilities (nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, group homes, etc.) we pray for Your protection over them Father.

We pray for Your healing for all those afflicted with this Corona virus or who may be ~ Bev Lamberts 14 yr. old great-granddaughter, **Alexis**, living in China, **Beth** (Linda W. relative), **Doug D.** & others ~ we pray that Your healing love will wash over them, strengthen them & bring them to full & complete recovery.

Father, we lift up those who struggle with mental & emotional health & substance abuse issues, seen & unseen. For many, the amplified uncertainty of what is happening, fear, income/job loss, family stress, loss of support contacts, etc., is more than they can bear. Lord, speak Your Peace into the spirits of those who are gripped by these struggles that may be spiraling out of control. Help them to see You at the center of their storm & let them know You will be their strength.

*Lord, we pray for Your wisdom for those who are making decisions about how to keep us all safer. **Help us all to remain calm but cautious.***

We pray for those whose incomes will be affected due to closures, cancelations & cautions. This is a MAJOR problem for many. Help us to help each other through this time. Bless those who we are in debt to, (utility companies, credit card companies, loan holders, medical facilities, insurance companies, etc.) with understanding & compassion. We pray that we will be kind, compassionate & considerate with each other. Help us to see need in our neighbors & in our own families & help us to reach out, to share & to shine the light of hope on those around us.

Please keep these folks in your prayers... *Baby Rheia, sister Hazel, Hannah & Ross, Baby Cree & Trevor & Taylor C., Bob G., Bob L., Cara Nash Snyder, Chauncy H., Chris, Chris H., Debbie S. & Family, Deacon Anthony Koury, David D., Denise, Beverly F., Doris S., Edward, Eleanor, The Elliot Family, Evelyn R., Fawn B., Ferne, Greg D., Helena, James R., Jeanette O. & Family, Jill R., Joe R., John M., John & Laura O., Joyce H., Kai & Kathy, Kathleen D., Kim Kelty, Lila, Lloyd S. Jr, Marilyn Crozier Snuggs, Marjorie H., Mark, Marlene M., Michael R., Nancy M., Nancy & Ken A., Naomi, Nicole A., The Newhard Family, Phil & Mary Ellen C., Phyllis K., Ray U., Robert G., Robert S., Ruth F., Sarah, Shelly D., Stewart W., Tom B., Tom V., William C., Will P., Jr. & all those affected by the recent storms, fires & other natural disasters, and now disease, Lord, protect them, keep them strong & help them to recover their lives.*

We pray for Ashley, Barbara, Bonnie, Brittany, Claritza, Davonna, Davon, Dawn, Delila, Katie, Kimberly, Skyler, Susan, Charlene, Amy, Jailien, Jessica, Rose, Twanda, Wendy, Nancy, Natasha & all officers & prisoners at NC Prison.

ALSO, we lift up the Janney/Perio Family, the Vu family, the family of Robert Trimble, Ross Forsythe & their family, the Rush Family, the Flad/Orso Family & All whose broken hearts endlessly grieve. LORD, send Your sweet, tender & restorative love to cover them all.

Jesus, we pray for our Nation, that we can come together for each other, for this whole world Lord.

We pray for You to watch over parents & families & all of our young people. Especially now, while schools are closed. Lord keep Your hand on them & guide their choices & decisions. Help families to meet the extra needs they have during this time.

We lift up ALL victims of hatred, violence, abuse & their families & all people of faith as we pray for healing for them all, for our nation & an end to hate.

We lift up all of our military and all of our first responders, LORD, we ask for your protection over them all as they serve us all.

We pray for your mercy, grace for all those killed & healing for those wounded & for the families of the victims of the latest acts of gun violence in Portapique, Nova Scotia.. LORD, HELP US!!! Please take hold of those who are so rage filled or unstable that they unleash horrible evil into this world. Give our leaders the courage & compassion to help prevent any more of these tragedies.

We pray for our very planet. It seems to be groaning with earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, germs & all sorts of natural responses to our treatment of our host planet, our home here in the Universe. Lord help us to find better ways to live so we do not endanger ALL life that shares this planet with us.

Jesus, thank You for coming to save us! Without You, we would all be lost. AMEN.



A BIG THANK YOU to all the Choir members from Sheila! & from the rest of us too!

Sheila & our choir members put in many hours of practice throughout the year to enhance our worship honor our Lord & lift us up with songs of praise, hymns & special music. Sheila also works with our Christmas Orchestra & other musicians to add a little extra to our services whenever possible. She always takes the time to welcome everyone into our music program & we are blessed by her talents & servant's heart. Thank you to:

Senior Choir

Sopranos

Kathleen Dowd
Shirley Galante
Mae Rapp
Wendy Wandersee
Linda Wright

Altos

Nancy Amore
Denise Cardinalli
Linda Dickson
Doris Salinas

Men

Mike Dowd
Henry Salinas



Praise Choir

Nancy Amore
Denise Cardinalli
Linda Dickson
Kathleen Dowd
Mike Dowd
Shirley Galante
Mae Rapp
Doris Salinas
Henry Salinas
Wendy Wandersee
Linda Wright



Adult Hand Bell Choir

Bill Arnold
Bob Arnold
Doreen Arnold
Kelly Bartholomew
Sue Beling
Erin Cooke
Leo Cooke
Mark Cooke
Tara Cooke
Brenda Guffy
Keith Hilsenbeck
Kim Kmetz
Linda Rush

Guitar

David Kmetz



Special Thanks also to our "Christmas Orchestra" & to our "Summer Soloists" too!

***Thank you all for sharing your musical gifts
to bring glory to the Lord!***

A BIG THANK YOU also to Sheila Cooke, our Music Director, for her dedication in bringing these musicians together to bless our congregation with beautiful music & for all she does here at First Church!

Choir will be on summer Break" through July & Aug.! See You in Sept.!





**We all need to be “Corona Warriors”
We need to protect our loved ones, ourselves
& those around us!**

- One way to do that is to **LIMIT CONTACT IN PUBLIC PLACES** to only **NECESSARY** activities. In other words... **STAY HOME!!!**
- If you are sick **STAY HOME & CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR.**
- If you do go out to the store, check with neighbors & friends to see if you can pick up items for them (the fewer folks out there, the better!)
- Use grocery/pharmacy pick up services & delivery services.
- If you go out, make sure to wash your hands, sanitize your carts, car, bag handles, doors knobs, & all high touch areas.
- Katie & Larry Miner have volunteered to run **NECESSARY** errands for folks who are at high risk or cannot get out. You can contact Katie by calling 610-258-4426.

**Please keep watching your e-mail for updates & information!
Say your prayers, wash your hands & stay well!**



The Church Office will be open on a limited basis during this time.
Please call the office at 610-258-3361 if you need something or before you come,
to make sure someone is there.
(But we hope you are all practicing “Social Distancing” &
only go out if it is absolutely necessary.)

Please call the office at 610-258-3361 or e-mail us at firstucc2@verizon.net if you
have prayer requests to share or if you are in need of assistance.

***Say your prayers, wash your hands &
may God’s blessings cover you & those you love!***