

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 17th 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

website: www.firstucceaston.org ~ Facebook (First UCC Easton)

Sunday, May 17th, 2020 ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~



Invocation:

You have brought us, O God, to another Lord's Day, when we are privileged to worship you with our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we have unity of mind and heart as we open ourselves to the movement of your Holy Spirit. As your love grows within us, may we have rich fellowship with you and with one another. In Christ's name. Amen.

Call to Confession:

We know that we have not lived according to God's desires for us. The brokenness in the world, and the sin and despair in our hearts, threaten to consume us as a mighty flood. Yet God is our hope and our firm foundation. Let us confess our sin before our gracious God.

Confession of Sin:

Creating God, in love you moved over the waters of chaos and separated sea from dry land. And yet, we cling tightly to rigid boundaries of our own making. You claim us in the waters of baptism and declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. But too often we deny that call, conforming ourselves to the whims of culture. At Pentecost, you released your wild and transforming spirit to flow through church and world. But we want to tame that wildness, channeling your spirit through banks of ordered safety. Transform us, we pray. Soften the unyielding edges of our hearts. Loosen our grip on “the way it’s always been” and prepare us for the joy of “the way it still can be,” through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, hear this good news. Jesus Christ is our ark! His power is unequalled, his grace is unrestrained, his strength is steadfast, and his embrace is sufficient to carry all that we are and hope to be. Friends, believe the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination: (Please read together in unison)

Holy Spirit, prepare us to hear from the Scriptures. Sometimes it can be easy to dismiss a passage that seems familiar. We’ve heard it before and so we disengage. Yet we know that your word is powerful and that it is calling us to live like Jesus. Do not let us turn off our ears so quickly. Help us to listen well and respond with obedience. Let us see what it is you are doing through the Scriptures we hear today. You are working and we want to join you. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Our New Testament Lesson for Sunday, May 17th is: Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’^[a] As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’^[b]

²⁹ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Our Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, May 17th is: Psalm 66:8-20 (NIV)

Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹ he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.
¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings
and fulfill my vows to you—
¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke
when I was in trouble.
¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you
and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
¹⁹ but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
²⁰ Praise be to God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!

Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, May 17th is: John 14:15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you
and be with you forever—
¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him
nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.
¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because
I live, you also will live.
²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I
am in you.
²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The
one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show
myself to them.”

Meditation ~ “A Peaceful Mind” (John 14:15-31)

One of the most bizarre true stories from the 1990s was that of Tracy Lippard, a contestant destined for the Miss Virginia beauty pageant after winning the title of Miss Williamsburg, VA. Unfortunately, Tracy never made it to the Miss Virginia pageant. Instead, after crowning her successor as Miss Williamsburg, Tracy got in her car and drove 275 miles to Lewisburg, W.Va. Her goal was to seek revenge against her boyfriend who had jilted her for another woman. Reportedly she carried with her a 9-mm semiautomatic pistol, a butcher knife, a pair of rubber gloves, a bottle of lighter fluid and a claw hammer.

When she arrived at the home of her rival, she rang the doorbell. Her rival's father answered the door. Tracy told him that her car had broken down and she asked to use the phone. It was a ruse of course. Once inside the house, she struck her rival's father with the hammer. It stunned him, but didn't knock him out. She then pulled the gun and attempted to shoot him. Little did she know that he was an ex-secret service agent. At this point his wife, her rival's mother, joined the skirmish and the parents held the distraught Tracy until the police arrived.

After being arrested, the police questioned her as to why she would do such a terrible thing? Tracy Lippard said that she was motivated to seek revenge because she needed “inner peace.”

I suspect that most of us long for some form of inner peace, but we don't go to such desperate lengths to gain it. Still, we long for it. That's why John 14:27 is a favorite verse for so many people. Jesus says to his disciples: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Let me begin by asking an important question: do you have a peaceful mind? Well, of course, you say. Really? Let me ask a second question: Is there anyone in this listening to this who is a worrier? Does anyone live with a worrier or married to a worrier?

One woman wrote to a national magazine to say that every year, it seemed, her family would get on a highway a few miles out of the city, and her mom would wail, “Oh my goodness! I think left the iron on.” And almost every year they would turn around and go back. But as far as she could recall, not once was the iron ever plugged in. It seems her mom was dominated by the fear that all their earthly possessions would disappear in a fire caused by her forgetfulness.

That was a family ritual, she says, until she was about 14. On that occasion they were headed out of Chicago for Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and, sure enough, her mom gasped, “I just know I left the iron on.”

She says this time her father didn't say a word. He just pulled over onto the shoulder of the road, got out, opened the trunk and handed his wife her iron.

Can anyone relate to that? Worriers are amazing. Has anyone here ever worried about removing a tag from a mattress? Somewhere along the way, most some folks have read that tag “It is unlawful to remove this tag” and wondered.

Let me set your mind at ease. First, how would anyone ever know you removed that tag? I mean anyone beside the NSA and supposedly they're only interested in terrorists, not missing mattress tags.

I hope I've set your mind at ease about at least about one thing that those who go to great lengths to find something to worry about. I'm being frivolous, of course, but I am always amazed at the things people can find to worry about. As some unknown poet put it:

He worried about the weather,
He worried about his health,
He worried about his business,
He worried about his wealth.

She worried about the children,
She worried about her clothes
She worried about the neighbors.
She worried about her woes

They worried about their taxes,
They worried about their pets
They worried about their future,
They worried about their debts

They worried, still they worried,
They worried, but alas
They worried about a lot of things . . .
That did not come to pass.

In one respect or another most of us are worriers. Not to the point where we are debilitated, but we worry, and that is why we need to hear these words from our Lord, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Jesus was preparing his disciples for living in the world without his physical presence.

Think about the occasion when Jesus shared these words. It was the night before his crucifixion. In a matter of hours, the disciples would have their world flipped upside down. And he's trying to prepare them for the kind of challenges they will have to face.

After all, these are men who are preparing to go into battle. They don't know it, but many of them will suffer horrible deaths because of their loyalty to Jesus. They will need to be filled with the right stuff to face the challenges they will encounter.

It wouldn't be a matter of simply remembering to unplug the iron or removing a tag from a mattress. It would be gladiator pits, lions, swords, and crosses. And thus, Christ says to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

You and I may not be facing the challenges that the disciples of Jesus faced. There will be no gladiator pits, lions, swords or crosses. But we walk around burdened by many issues of life: sheltering in place, not seeing friends and family, unsure about our health, seeing friends and family test positive for the Corona Virus, knowing someone who succumbed, knowing someone who spends their days caring for those infected, wondering whether our kids will keep their jobs, and pay for their houses. how we're going to pay the house payment and anxious about how we are going to make it without a loved one.

Whatever our issue is, life happens and when it does it sometimes sends our world into a tailspin. It is good to know that Jesus has already spoken peace into our situation. Do not sink into the mire of despair. He has your well-being at heart. Hope, therefore, in the Lord and trust in him. His word says that everything is working out for your wellbeing (Romans 8:28). We may not see it now, but we believe that things will get better. The thing about

hopelessness is that it makes us helpless because we see no way out. Abiding in Christ's peace reminds us that there is hope, and so we can keep moving forward and refuse to give up.

In South Dakota the community of Spencer was once devastated by a tornado. Six people were killed. Many buildings were destroyed including St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. The day after the tornado a group from St. Matthew's walked with their pastor through the remaining rubble of that community. It was an unbelievable sight. There was a grain elevator twisted and fallen, a water tower toppled, vehicles and other heavy items strewn around like toys. Whole buildings were gone from their foundations.

When they neared the site of their church someone called out, "There's the statue, there's Jesus!"

Sure enough, there it was--the traditional white statue of Jesus that stands at the altar of many small churches, with arms outstretched and a loving demeanor. There the statue stood--all that was left of a 100-year old Lutheran church.

The white paint on the statue was nearly gone and the arms were cracked. But one observer that day said, "I didn't notice the damage, it was just so remarkable, so moving and so fitting to look up from the chaos around us and see Jesus, arms outstretched, welcoming, and loving his people."

What that group of church members were to learn only later was how two young girls, helping to clean up for a family member in a nearby home, had taken time to come over to where the church had been to set aside a few items of church property they found scattered in the area. When they saw the statue lying in the rubble, they figured everyone in Spencer needed to know that Jesus was still there, so they stood him up for all to see. That is our purpose today as his church--to raise up Jesus where a fearful world can see him.

Before he left them, Jesus gave his disciples what they needed most--peace, a peace that passes understanding. It was the peace that comes from knowing that no matter how serious the situation that they found themselves in, Christ was still there with outstretched arms. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Christ's peace will always be with us. That is the greatest good news that we will ever hear. No matter what our circumstances, Christ will be with us.

I know that some of us are concerned about both our immediate and long-term futures. We worry about our health, we worry about our kids, we worry about our money. Someone has said the best thing about tomorrow is that tomorrow only comes one day at a time.

A scholar once surveyed the Scriptures to discover the most significant words in all the Bible. He wanted to find the saddest word, the happiest word, the most emotional word and so on. When he came around to the Bible's most dangerous word, he identified it as tomorrow. The word tomorrow is a thief, he said, that robs dreamers of their dreams and the talented of their greatest achievements. It keeps men and women from coming to Christ and discovering the kind of life God longs for them to have. The prince of preachers, Charles H. Spurgeon, agreed. "Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow!" he wrote. "Alas, tomorrow never comes! It is in no calendar except the almanac of fools." The secret of abundant life is to entrust the future to God and to live only for today.

Have you read the fable of the philosophical clock which one day meditated about its future? It had just been bought and placed on a shelf in a large farmhouse room. As soon as it was wound up for the first time it began to worry about all the work it had to do. It had to tick twice every second. That meant 60 ticks every minute, or 3,600 ticks every hour, or 86,400 every day. Each year it would have to tick 31,536,000 times, and in ten years it would have to tick 315,360,000 times. Those kinds of numbers were just too much for the clock's nervous system, and it "passed out."

But when it came to again, it had a flashing insight: it realized that it only had to tick one tick at a time. Not 630 million, or even 63 times. Just once! And anyone can tick once. This insight gave the clock a powerful injection of courage, and it went about its duty of ticking, which it has been doing for twenty-five years now.

Just one tick at a time. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Someone else put it this way:

By the yard, life is hard;
By the inch, it's a cinch.

All too often we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by our problems, and we lose our perspective. We think to ourselves that it is the end of the world. But I can assure you that it is not. Tomorrow the sun is going to rise again. Somewhere birds will be singing, and flowers will be blooming. You will still have food to eat and clothes to wear, and you will be able continue with your life.

Some folks will allow this message to go in one ear and out the other. I sometimes wonder if it is in the genes--the need to worry.

I was talking to one of my Jewish friends and he related that one of the stereotypes about Jews is that they worry a lot. I didn't put much stock in that until I read about a book written by author Arnie Plotkin titled, *14,000 Things for Jews to be Happy About*. Plotkin amassed this amazing list of things for Jews to be happy about in order to brighten the mood of his constitutionally worry prone people. The book, which was marketed through temple bookstores, was a commercial failure, but later achieved success under a new title: *14,000 Things That Could Go Wrong*.

It appears that many folks would rather worry than find reasons to be happy. Go figure. Lots of Christians are like that as well. We need to hear Jesus speak a good Jewish word to our hearts--shalom, peace. He is always there for you with his arms open wide. Cast your cares on him. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."



Affirmation of Faith:

There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

The hope in our lives is Jesus.

There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

The call we must answer is God's.

There is one faith, one hope, one Lord of us all.

The Lord of our lives is Jesus.

There is one baptism, one Father, one Mother of all.

The Creator who calls us is God.

We are one body, one family, one church,
woven by the Spirit with bonds of peace.

With Christ's children throughout all of this earth,
we are one body in unity and love.

Pastoral Prayer:

Gracious and loving Creator, Sometimes the words just are not there. God, you are so amazing that our words and thoughts of how best to praise you pale in comparison to the splendors of your name. You are the Almighty, you are the Redeemer, you are grace never ending and the embodiment of love itself. And when we come to you in prayer, sometimes words fail us in what to say. Yes, we lift up our concerns, and yet sometimes they seem so small in comparison to the tribulations encountered across your creation. How can our problems compare to disasters people face, or the fighting that surrounds people trying to escape, or the horrors that no child should ever experience? Lord God, sometimes when we come to you to pray, we are clueless as to what we should ask for. You know the thoughts in our minds and the desires of our hearts, and there are times when they conflict. Sometimes we want what is not always the best for us, and there are times that we long to hold on to the things we should let go of. There are times when really the best thing we can do is just pray thy will be done. Today we lift up our prayers for Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Gregg D, Marjorie Harron, we share our prayers for the continued health of those who spend their lives in health care and essential jobs, Keith Berger, David Wandersee, Ross Forsythe, David Skillinge, Helen Corona, Jill West and Donna who cares for children in NYC. 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.

In these moments, dear God, we are so very thankful for the lessons of your Son Jesus Christ for teaching us the words to pray when our own are insufficient, for our tradition teaches that Jesus said to pray to ...

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:

Like a rock, God is under our feet. Like a roof, God is over our heads. Like the horizon, God is beyond us. Like water in a pitcher, God is within us and in the pouring out of us. Like a pebble in the sea, we are in God. Let us go into a world that is held in the hands of God and be changed and cause change wherever we go. 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 17th, 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.**

"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 envelop 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.



ELECTION INFO...

The PA PRIMARY Election has been moved to **JUNE 2nd, 2020**. Please take note of these important deadlines...

MAY 18th is the LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE. You can register online, by mail or in person at the voter registration office.

MAY 26th is the LAST DAY to APPLY FOR A MAIL-IN/ABSENTEE BALLOT. Application to receive a mail in ballot can be filed on line, by emailing ra-voterreg@pa.gov or by calling 1-877-VOTESPA.

You can **REGISTER** or **APPLY** for mail/absentee ballots or find other election information at www.votespa.com



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... Bob G., Bob L., Chris, Debbie S. & Family, Deacon Anthony Koury, Doris S., Evelyn R., Fawn B., Ferne, Greg D., Helena, James R., Jeanette O. & Family, Jill R., Joe R., Kim Keltly, Lila, Marilyn Crozier Snuggs, Marjorie H., Mark, Marlene M., Michael R., Nancy M., Nancy & Ken A., Naomi, Nicole A., Ray U., Ruth F., Stewart W., & 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.





**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!***