

**Greetings from First UCC!**  
**We pray that God's 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 Trinity Sunday message  
by clicking this link...**

### [June 7 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 Sound Engineer &  
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**

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Trinity Sunday



**~ Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~ Trinity Sunday ~**



### **Call to Worship:**

To God be all glory, the One who visits us in three persons, the Holy Trinity of hope and love.  
For there is no place which is without you, O God, and no time when you are not there.  
For you are the beginning and the end, the source of all that is in the wonder of universal life.  
And yet, you take us by the hand and lead us, as the life of Christ walks our human way and  
shows us that life is stronger than death.

In the Holy Spirit, we are gifted, again and again, and are called onward toward a future in  
which we are surrounded with love and grace.

We praise and worship you, O God, for there is no other God like you.

**Call to Confession:** (Please read responsively ~ L=LEADER, P=People of the Congregation)

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

P: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

**Prayer of Confession:**

We confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people, who will always be made new in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer for Illumination:** (Please read together in unison)

**God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened.**

**Amen**

## **HOLY SCRIPTURES**

**Our Old Testament Lesson for Trinity Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is: Genesis 1:1-2:4a** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. <sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup> So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. <sup>9</sup> And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. <sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made

the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. <sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. <sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

#### **Genesis 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. <sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

#### **Our Epistle Lesson for Trinity Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

<sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss.

<sup>13</sup> All God’s people here send their greetings.

## **Our Gospel Lesson for Trinity Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is: Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **Meditation ~ "The Fourth Person in the Trinity" (Matthew 28:16-20)**

A man named Kenneth Gible tells of spending his after-school hours as a child in the feed mill where his dad worked. He enjoyed playing in the section of the warehouse where the bags of feed were stacked in deep rows.

"I loved playing games of pretend," he says, "with the feed bags becoming in my imagination hills and valleys, boulders to hide behind, dark caves to hide inside."

Sometimes one of the workers would come into the warehouse where Kenneth was playing. He would delight in spying on the worker without being seen.

"I was an Indian waiting in ambush," he fondly recalls, "I was the sheriff waiting to spring out and arrest the outlaw."

Kenneth spent many fun and imaginative afternoons in the feed mill waiting for his father to finish working. As Kenneth got older he began to realize that his pretend game of hiding in the feed mill represented his understanding of God. His thinking went like this: God is the one who stays hidden, spying on children, watching them from a safe distance.

"You had to be at least a little bit of afraid of this God," Kenneth says, "because you could never get away from such a One. God could look inside your head and read every thought."

Many parents through the years have used similar tactics on their children.

"God is watching you. He sees when you do something wrong."

A popular song from a couple of years ago declares, "God is watching us from a distance."

It is comforting to realize that God is watching over us. Sometimes, though, I think we like keeping Him off in the distance instead of being an active influence in our lives.

Today is Trinity Sunday. The Trinity is a confusing doctrine that helps us see that God is not off in the distance somewhere leaving us to our own devices but is an active participant in our world and in our lives.

There is a mystery surrounding the Trinity which makes it hard for some people to understand: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We hear but still wonder what this means.

It reminds me of a first-grade teacher who was overseeing her students as they experimented with their new desktop computers. One young fellow sat staring at the screen, unsure how to get the computer going.

The teacher walked over and read what was on his screen. In her most reassuring voice, she said to him, "The computer wants to know your name."

She moved on to the next student expecting that the boy would understand to type in his name on the computer keyboard.

Instead, the boy leaned toward the screen and whispered, "My name is David."

Some of us may approach the Trinity with the same sense of mystery. Perhaps we've spent too much time trying to explain this ancient doctrine and not enough time standing back in worship and awe.

Through the Trinity God is no longer hidden from us. He is no longer inaccessible. We can see Him as Creator. We can see Him in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. We can experience Him through the power of His indwelling Spirit. God who was at a distance is now available to us all.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO YOU THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A FOURTH PERSON IN THE TRINITY. AND THAT FOURTH PERSON IS ESSENTIAL TO GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS WORLD.

Let me begin with a story. A pastor named Ron Delbene tells about the early days of his ministry when he was responsible for the Sunday School program of his church.

Each Sunday morning he would stop in each class to read the Bible lesson for the day and talk with the children. Sometimes he would tell the children a story from the Bible. He would only stay five or ten minutes in each class and then leave for the next classroom. The teacher would continue with the lesson.

It seemed that the children really enjoyed the time he spent with them each week. In fact they would be on the lookout for him.

The church Ron Delbene served was in the South, so typically the classrooms opened to the outside with large windows lining the walls. The children could see him coming. One particular Sunday as he walked past one of the windows of the preschool room, a little boy cried out, "Get ready. Here comes Jesus!" "

At the time, " Ron recalls, "I found the remark amusing." But there was something unsettling about it, as well. At the time Ron had a full beard and a white robe.

"I probably did look like pictures of Jesus that the child had seen," he says.

As he thought more about the incident, he felt more and more uncomfortable about being mistaken for Jesus.

Meeting with a colleague a few days later Ron shared the experience. His friend asked what his routine was with the children each Sunday. "I give them each a hug," he answered. "Usually two of them share my lap while I'm telling the story to the group." The colleague immediately thought of Jesus blessing the little children on his lap. He said, "I wouldn't be surprised if some of these kids look back one day and wonder if they really did meet [Jesus]" in those special moments. This remark surprised Ron, and, in a sense, changed his way of thinking of his role with the children. From that moment on Ron would ask himself, "What am I doing each day to be more like Jesus?"

Have you guessed by now who the fourth person is in the Trinity?

I don't want to sound too heretical. But the fourth person in the Trinity is the believer. All evangelism is incarnational. That is, when we witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, the Word becomes flesh all over again and the flesh is our flesh. Many people will never experience Christ until they experience him in us.

#### THAT'S WHY JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS DISCIPLES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL IN EVERY LAND.

That was the plan God chose to reveal himself to human creatures. He could have written His message in the sky. Instead He chose to write His message on believers' hearts. And He calls us to share with others what Christ has meant in our lives.

At church one evening in her hometown in Sweden, Ingrid Widdell heard a voice. At first she tried to ignore the voice by concentrating harder on the worship service, but the voice kept speaking to her, "Go down to the harbor!"

She tried to dismiss this notion by telling herself that the harbor was in the roughest part of town. She would not be safe going there by herself late at night. She imagined the drunks and prostitutes who roamed the deserted docks in the evening hours. There was no way she wanted to go down to the dock.

"I squirmed in my pew," she says, "until the service ended, then hurried home as fast as I could to put as much distance as possible between myself and this alarming idea. I actually slammed my door when I got inside, and at last the mysterious voice was silent."

A month later the voice was back, "Go down to the harbor tonight."

She was beginning to wonder if this voice was the voice of God. An elderly couple lived next to her who attended the same church. She thought maybe they could help her, so she went and told them about the voice. The elderly gentleman agreed to go with her to the dock that night. They found themselves on one of the ships among crewmen in various degrees of intoxication.

"Soon I found myself talking as rapidly about God as my English permitted, and how I had found a new life when I turned to Him for forgiveness," Ingrid recounts.

A sound startled her from behind. In the doorway stood a tall middle-aged man, holding an empty bottle in his hand and wearing the filthiest clothes she had ever seen. He had been listening to her.

"Ten dirty years have gone since I ran away from God," he told her.

Suddenly everyone was silent as this man told about how his life fell apart as a result of his drinking. He once attended church and had a family but lost everything due to alcohol.

Ingrid started praying for guidance and then invited this stranger to church with her. "Will you come with me?" she asked him, "I will pick you up at eight o'clock."

She didn't know if she did the right thing or not inviting this man to go to church with her. When she went to the dock, though, he was waiting. This time he was clean-shaven and wearing clean clothes. Together they went to church. After the service she asked if he would like to pray with her and some of the others in another part of the church. The man said he did. When this stranger got up from kneeling, "you could almost sense the inner light radiating from him and you could sense his new peace of soul."

That inner light was the Spirit of the Living God. The Word had become flesh - "his flesh." What a tremendous privilege to help somebody experience that kind of transformation. And yet you and I have that privilege. We can be the incarnation of God's Spirit. Not in the same way that Christ incarnated that Spirit, of course. He was unique among all the people who ever lived. But in our own feeble way we can show the world God, too.

**AND HERE'S THE BEST PART: AS WE SEEK TO LIVE THE CHRIST LIFE WITH HIS SPIRIT DWELLING WITHIN US, HE GRANTS US HIS STRENGTH AND HIS POWER.**

David Jacobsen was a hostage in Beirut for seventeen months, as you may remember. He was head of the largest hospital in West Beirut, when, one day in 1985, three men in hoods and wielding machine guns took him captive. Bound and gagged, he was taken from one hideout to another. He spent most of his time on a cold, dirt floor, chained to the wall. Once a day he was fed a tepid, unpalatable mush of watery rice and lentils.

As an American, Jacobsen was hated by his captors. Instead of breaking his spirit, though, he became stronger. He wrote, "I discovered that no one's faith was weakened by the hell we found ourselves in... We hostages, with the guidance of Father Jenco, a captive Catholic priest, and Reverend Benjamin Weir, founded the Church of the Locked Door, a name we chose with some ruefulness."

Jacobsen found strength even when he was held against his will in horrible conditions. "Grasping hands, we'd quote Scripture and pray," he wrote. "Oddly, our guards seemed to respect this ritual. Our togetherness in prayer showed me that when the Holy Comforter is called, He answers."

Jacobsen was released in November 1986, but in his final forty-five days of captivity he was alone in a six-by-six-by-six cell. His muscles and joints were cramped by confinement and the damp aching cold. Yet he said, "The presence of God, the Great Comforter, was stronger than ever!"

This week we've seen horrifying news stories spreading across our televisions, newspapers and social media. A senseless killing of an African American man in Minneapolis, the additional killing of two other African Americans, the subsequent demonstrations, the riots in the streets of major cities, in some cases certainly hijacked by people with other motivations, the destruction of private property, battle lines drawn, innocent victims of added violence; the vituperative comments on social media all confront us, as witnessing Christians to be the peacemakers, to call out racism wherever we see it.

I call your attention to a very well written and insightful article written by one of our young members Lauren Skillenge; she recently graduated from PITT and is on the road to be a teacher who will mold young minds. She posted on Facebook. In her article she says, "I will never fully know the fears, challenges and struggles of a person of color living in America. With that being said, this is my pledge as a white person striving to be an ally. I will commit myself to non-racist ideals. This means I will actively oppose racism, express anti-racist ideas frequently and OPENLY, support anti-racist policy with my actions..." she goes on thoughtfully. It is a challenge to all of us. She quotes Desmond Tutu, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Jesus extends to us a higher calling. We ought to be proud of Lauren, she is one of our own.

To be sure we should celebrate what we saw in Easton and Bethlehem last Sunday, peaceful demonstrations, faithful Christians and those of other faiths witnessing to their commitment to overcome injustice, in many cases hand in hand with our police officers. We are heartened

by the countless acts of kindness among people that we see in the media each day. We should celebrate and then, realize that there is still more to do.

That's what the Trinity is all about. God is no longer at a distance. We see him as Creator, we see Him in the life of Christ, and we experience Him as the Holy Comforter. And who is the fourth person in the Trinity? It is people such as Lauren, who grew up in this household of faith, in a wonderful family, who stood up and made her statement of faith. She saw her family and her church in action and has carried that witness forward.

Who is the fourth person in the Trinity; SHE IS, WE ARE! For we carry the Spirit of the living God everywhere we go.



### **Affirmation of Faith:**

Let us affirm our faith.

**We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come.**

**We follow Christ, who comes to us from God and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all creation, and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.**

**We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the body of Christ, God's holy universal church.**

**We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of the resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things, it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen.**

### **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, the pain brought by racism, or the horrors that no child should ever experience? Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Gregg D, Marjorie Harron, Helena Rapp, Evelyn Ritter, Phyllis Rush, Helen Litzenberger, Beverly Flad, Doris and Henry Salinas, and George Beling. We share our prayers for the continued health of those who spend their lives in health care and essential jobs, Mark Cooke, Keith Berger, David Wandersee, Ross Forsythe, David Skillinge, Helen Corona, Jill West and Donna who cares for children in NYC. Today and every day we pray for our hospitalized Veterans and the dedicated staff that care for them and pray for the souls of our Veterans and staff who have lost their battle with COVID. 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. 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 Our Father ...

## 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:

My friends, go forth from this place in the love of God as you follow in the footsteps of God's son, Jesus the Christ. May the presence of God be real to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Go forth, therefore, in love and hope as you walk with the triune God of glory and strength. 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](mailto: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 Trinity Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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.**



## **FIRST CHURCH FAMILY NEWS! ...**

As we continue in this “state of limbo”, we would like to make note of some of the events in the lives of our First Church Family. IF YOU have family news to share, especially if we missed it, please e-mail or call the office to let us know & we will post it in our next “Mini-Bulletin”. *[Please note: Apologies for missing events that would normally have been shared in our monthly “Steeple News”.]*

### **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

We have 2 of our Church Family members graduating from Easton High School this year...



**Ashley Caka** – Ashley is the daughter of Scott & Rosie Caka, and the granddaughter of Janet Caka. In the fall, Ashley will be attending Marywood College, majoring in Interior Design.

**Teddy Protyniak** – Teddy is the son of Steve & Samantha Protyniak, and the grandson of Naomi Protyniak. Teddy will be attending Shippensburg University in the fall, majoring in Education.

*We pray that these two young people will be blessed as they make this next step in their lives.*



### **THIS WEEK’S BIRTHDAYS...**

**Evelyn Ritter** (will turn 99) June 9<sup>th</sup> ~ AND ~ **Eric Bedoya** June 11

*We wish you both an especially blessed day!*



### **LAST WEEK’S ANNIVERSARY** (Sorry we missed it!)



Richard & Shara Heller, married June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1989  
*We hope you had a beautiful anniversary celebration!*



## 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](mailto: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 ~ **SBeth** (Linda W. relative), **Doug D.** & others ~ we pray that Your healing love will wash over them, strengthen them & bring them to full & complete recovery.

Lord, we pray for our **hospitalized Veterans and the dedicated staff** that care for them and we **pray for the souls of our Veterans and staff who Shave lost their battle with COVID.**

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...*** Beverly F., Bob G., Bob L., Chris, Debbie S. & Family, Deacon Anthony Koury, Doris S., Evelyn R., Fawn B., Ferne, George B., Greg D., Helena, James R., Jeanette O. & Family, Jill R., Joe R., Kim Kelty, 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 Vu 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.*

*Lord, again we see more cases of severe racial inequality in our nation & the anger of a community that has had enough. 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 pray for peaceful but meaningful protests that are heard by the heart of this nation. We pray for a leader to step forward from that community, a person of character, peace & strength, to end the violent protests & to channel the anger into meaningful action & change rather than destruction.*

*Lord, we pray for healing of these communities around our nation that have been ravaged as protests morphed into riots, looting & violence. Lord, speak to the hearts of those perpetrators & show them that, that is not the way. We pray for those were injured or killed, for whose businesses, homes & possessions were destroyed. We pray that those responsible will step forward to bring restitution & restoration.*

*We thank you & pray for those who protest in peace, who seek justice & peace. We thank you & pray for the police & other law enforcement agents who act with restraint & compassion and we pray for those who don't,*

*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 that You will give our leaders the courage & compassion to make changes that will begin to heal our nation.*

*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](mailto: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!***