

Greetings from First UCC!
Happy Father's Day to all the Dad's out there!
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 Sunday's message
by clicking this link...

[June 21 Worship 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 ~

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~ Sunday, June 21st, 2020 ~ The Third Sunday After Pentecost ~

~ Father's Day ~



Call to Worship:

What a joy it is to be together in this place! We find such encouragement from gathering as one body in the presence of our God. As you enter into worship, look around you. See your brothers and sisters; recognize their place in your life. Worship God together today. Let us celebrate God's beauty, majesty and power. Let us worship with one voice, one heart and one spirit. We are the people of God. Let our worship today bring glory to God.

Call to Confession:

It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Confession of Sin:

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saint-like — holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners — full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps you see us simply as human — as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

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 Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, June 21st is: Genesis 21:8-21 (NIV)

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring^[a] will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she^[b] began to sob.

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Our Epistle Lesson for Sunday, June 21st is: Romans 6:1-11 (NIV)

⁶ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus

Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, June 21st is: Matthew 10:24-39 (NIV)

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.^[a] ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

"a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'^[b]

³⁷ "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Meditation ~ "Jesus Sends Out the Twelve"

It is not easy being a father. One cynic, speaking from his own experience, noted that children go through four fascinating stages. First, they call you DaDa. Then they call you Daddy. As they mature, they call you Dad. Finally, they call you collect to borrow money.

I saw a Father's Day Card that read: "Being a father can be expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, confusing and emotionally draining, actually it's a lot like golf." I think that's an apt description of parenthood.

Today is Father's Day, a day we salute fathers. It's also a time for us to salute all parents and grandparents. Now, I know every Father isn't a great Father. I'm lucky, mine was, as mentioned last week I sometimes think I've lived a charmed life, and while many Fathers simply aren't very good at all. But let me tell you, my Dad was one of those who did everything he could to be a great Dad and there are many others like him in our congregation and our community. That's important because the world needs good role models. And the role of a Christian Parent and Grandparent and is more important today than ever before.

Our passage today talks a little bit about what it takes to be a good Christian, a good follower of Jesus. And it implies some things about being a faithful Christian parent.

Matthew 10:24-39

^[24] "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;

^[25] it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

^[26] "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.

^[27] What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

^[28] Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

^[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

^[30] And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

^[31] So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

^[32] "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;

^[33] but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

^[34] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

[35] For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
[36] and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
[37] Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
[38] and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
[39] Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

At first glance, that passage doesn't seem to support the Christian family at all does it? But it really does. You see, what it boils down to is that we can't put family or any other relationship above our relationship with God through Christ. It doesn't disparage family; it just puts them in their proper place which is Second Place. God is in First Place in our lives. Individually, we come in Third. God, Family, Us. Or another way to remember is with the word JOY. Jesus, Others, You.

We Are Loved

One of the first things this passage reminds us, is that we are loved. Look at verses 29-31 and what they say. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without God knowing. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So, do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

That's a special kind of love. A love that will not let us be lost. A love that searches for us, seeks us out and cares for the most intimate details of our lives. You and I are loved by a God of redemption.

In Southern Africa, The Bebemba tribe has a fascinating ritual for combating feelings of rejection. Each person in the tribe who acts irresponsibly or unjustly is taken alone to the center of the village. Everyone in the village stops work and gathers in a large circle around the accused.

In turn, each person in the tribe, regardless of their age, speaks to the individual. They recount, aloud the good things he/she has done in their lifetime. All the positive incidents in the person's life, plus their good attributes, strengths, and kindnesses, are recalled with accurate detail. Not one word about their irresponsible or antisocial behavior is shared.

The ceremony and ritual, which sometimes lasts for several days, isn't complete until every positive expression has been given by those assembled. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the person is welcomed back into the tribe.

Talk about positive reinforcement. Can you imagine the flood of feelings during the tribe's welcome? Can you imagine the extent of acceptance that people feel? Can you imagine how you would feel if a group of people affirmed you in this way?

That's exactly how God works. Jesus said God didn't send Him to condemn the world but to save and redeem it. And God does that with love. The unconditional love as expressed on the Cross.

We're in This Together

Not only are we loved, but we're in this together. One of the things modern families have found out is that we are in this thing together. We can't do it alone.

Being a parent and grandparent, especially, has taken on a whole new formula than in past generations. Today, in most households, both parents and in many cases grandparents play

essential nurturing roles in caring for the kids, particularly in the time of Covid 19 and home schooling.

The chief thing is to remember that we're in this together. Just as God reminded us through Christ, that we are not alone, that God loves us so much that God even knows the number of hairs on our head, so too, those moments when we bond with our children and grandchildren, remind them that they are not alone and never will be. We'll always be there because we're in this thing called life together.

There's a fascinating story that comes from the 1989 earthquake which almost flattened Armenia, it is favorite of mine and I tell it often. That earthquake killed over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. Amid all the confusion of the earthquake, a father rushed to his son's school. When he arrived, he discovered the building was flat as a pancake.

Standing there looking at what was left of the school, the father remembered a promise he'd made to his son, "No matter what, I'll always be there for you!" Tears began to fill his eyes. It looked like a hopeless situation, but he couldn't take his mind off his promise.

He remembered that his son's classroom was in the back-right corner of the building He rushed over there and started digging through the rubble. As he was digging other grieving parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying: "My son! My daughter!" They tried to pull him from what was left of the school saying: "It's too late!" "They're dead!" "You can't help!" "Go home!"

Even a police officer and a fire fighter told him he should go home. To everyone who tried to stop him he said, "Are you going to help me now?" They didn't answer him, but he continued digging for his son stone by stone. He needed to know for himself: "Is my son alive or is he dead?"

This man continued to dig for eight hours and then twelve and then twenty-four and then thirty-six. Finally, during the thirty-eighth hour, as he pulled back a boulder, he heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "ARMAND!" and a voice answered him, "Dad? It's me Dad!"

And then the boy added these priceless words, "I told the other kids not to worry. I told 'em that if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised that, Dad. 'No matter what,' you said, 'I'll always be there for you!' And here you are Dad. You kept your promise!"

God's love for us is just like that. When we go astray, when we wander off, when we're overcome by some tragedy, God comes looking for us. That's how much God loves us. And that's how much God wants us to love each other as well.

That's part of what Jesus meant when he said, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." If we're only worried about ourselves then we'll lose everything that matters. But if we lose ourselves and put ourselves in Third place, then we will find the greatest treasure of all; God's love and we'll share it with our family because we're in this together.

Getting It, Together

And because we're in this together it's better when we get it, together Let me tell you what I mean by that.

Let me tell you about a remarkable young man named Rick Hoyt and his Dad. Rick was born with cerebral palsy. Rick's condition was so severe that doctors suggested his parents send

him to an institution. But the Hoyt family wanted Rick to live up to his potential, whatever that potential might be.

For ten years they searched for a way for Rick to communicate with them. Can you imagine that? Waiting ten years to hear your child say something, anything, to you? When he was ten years old, Rick was finally able to communicate with his family with the help of a new computer device. They soon discovered that Rick was an intelligent kid with a passion for sports.

One day, Rick learned that his town was sponsoring a 5K race to raise money for children who are paralyzed in accidents. Rick wanted to find some way to run in that race, so he convinced his father, Dick Hoyt, to run the race while pushing Rick's wheelchair. At the time, Dick was out of shape. But he was willing to try anything to bond with his son. So Dick began running every day while pushing Rick's wheelchair. At the end of their first race, Rick typed into his computer, "Dad, I felt like I wasn't handicapped."

Since that day, Dick and Rick Hoyt have run 371 races together. But listen to this: This young man with severe cerebral palsy, Rick Hoyt, now works at Boston University designing computer programs for people with disabilities. Wow.

Together. Now, I'm certain Mom is just as much a part of that story as Dad, but can't you see Rick's father pushing that wheelchair in race after race, determined with all his might to watch his son succeed in life? What a beautiful and inspiring story.

We can get it, on our own. That's not a problem. We must accept Christ as Lord and Savior for ourselves and on our own. No one else can make that decision for us. But when the whole family gets it, together, what an awesome home that becomes. You see, we're stronger and accomplish more when we're together. So, getting it, together makes us stronger.

Conclusion

Not too long ago, the comic strip "For Better or For Worse" by Lynn Johnston's showed Dad changing all the clocks. When his daughter asked why, he explained carefully that putting the clocks ahead would give them an extra hour of daylight every evening. He also explained that the clocks would be changed back in the fall, and that it is called Daylight Saving Time.

The little girl replied, "Daddy, if it's called Daylight Saving Time, will you save some time for me?"

We are loved. Never forget that. And never forget to tell your family that they are loved by you and by God. You see, we're in this together. And getting it, together, together, the love and joy of Christ in our lives, makes us stronger and binds us closer together.



Affirmation of Faith:

—Based in part on 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

We believe these "foolish" mysteries of God's kingdom:
that those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for Christ's sake will save it;
that some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last;
that we should love our enemies
and pray for those who persecute us;
that Christ's power is made perfect in our weakness.

We believe that God has made foolish the wisdom of the world.

We believe and proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others,
but to those who believe, the power and wisdom of God.

We believe that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and that God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Pastoral Prayer:

God of all creation, we are ever thankful that you are near to us in prayer. Grace us with your presence that we might be still and know that you are God. In these moments of prayer, we offer our gratitude for our families and friends and friends who are family. Especially this day do we thank you for the men in our lives: our fathers, grandfathers and uncles. We thank you for teachers and mentors and youth leaders; for scout leaders and Sunday School teachers and choir directors. For all the men and women in our lives who have nurtured us and loved us, strengthened us and sustained us, for the men we name in our hearts, we thank you. Make us worthy of their faithful love and belief in us, we pray: and help us to so love others. Today we pray especially for Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Gregg D, Marjorie Harron, Helena Rapp, Evelyn Ritter, Phyllis Rush, Helen Litzenberger, George Beling, Wendy Wandersee and Danny K who is suffering from brain cancer. 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. Care for all those for whom we have prayed, and help us walk faithfully in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray in the name of the one who taught us what a life of love looks like, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to say when we pray

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:

As Christ forgives us, so let us forgive others. As Christ loves us, so let us love others. Therefore to the love, grace and peace of God we commend you and all those you love, wherever they may be. 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 Sunday, June 21st, 2020 ~ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

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.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! We wish all of the Dad's, Grandfathers, single Moms & all of our men who love & mentor others in the younger generation, a blessed day full of love & appreciation!!! We love you!!!

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.



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”.]



WE WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY & HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO THOSE CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

Our own Linda Wright has had her second book published **“55 (More) Journal Pages ~ Grace Upon Grace”**. It is also available as a paperback & e-book on Amazon, as well as her first book **“333 Journal Pages”**. AND... **You can e-mail Linda at lwindalouw@gmail.com to enter a contest to WIN A FREE COPY!!!!**



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 ~ **Beth** (Linda W. relative) & 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, Danny K., Debbie S. & Family, Deacon Anthony Koury, Doris S., Evelyn R., Fawn B., Ferne, George B., Gregg D., Helena, James R., Jeanette O. & Family, Jill R., Joe R., Kim Kilty, 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., Wendy W. & all those affected by the recent storms, fires & other natural disasters, and now disease & civil unrest, 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 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.

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 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!***



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
to ALL the Dad's and other men & women
who shine God's Light on their families & others,
And to those who guide and mentor the next generation.
THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU!