

Greetings from First UCC!  
We pray that God's blessings continue to fill your home  
and touch your life!

**Big Hallelujah News!**

We are planning to gather together, in person, for  
worship at the Church  
**Beginning on SUN., JULY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**at our usual 10:00 a.m. time!**

Naturally, we will be following proper distancing & safety protocols  
but it will be a beautiful blessing to gather as a Church Family again!  
More details will follow soon!



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 28th 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 ~**

229 Church St. • Easton • Pennsylvania 18042

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

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**~ Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~**

**~ The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost ~**



## Opening Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

### Call to Worship: (Please read responsively)

Leader: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him" — lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

**People: We come to you, O Lord, seeking answers to our questions. We come to you, O God, because you are the Creator.**

Leader: But I have trusted your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**People: We come looking for a song to sing. We wait for your voice to call us from beyond our fear.**

### 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:

Our God, forgive us for failing to understand and accept the great demands placed upon us by your love. We enlist in your causes, but find ourselves losing interest. We promise to be courageous, but find ourselves afraid. We want to be sensitive, but find ourselves hard and callous. Forgive us; take our limitations and turn them into possibilities for service. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon: (Please read responsively)

Leader: Listen! Here is good news: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." - to forgive you in your follies and foibles

-to accept you as you are

-to set you free from evil's power and make you what you were meant to be.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer for Illumination: (Please read responsively)

~ Psalm 119:33-35

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

**People: and I will observe it to the end.**

Leader: Give me understanding of your law,

**People: that I may observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments,

**People: for I delight in it.**

## HOLY SCRIPTURES

### Our Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> is: Psalm 13 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

- <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,  
<sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall.  
<sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.  
<sup>6</sup> I will sing the LORD’s praise, for he has been good to me.

### **Our Epistle Lesson for Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> is: Romans 12:16-23 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.<sup>[a]</sup> Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”<sup>[b]</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### **Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> is: Matthew 10:40-42 (NIV)**

<sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

### **Meditation ~ “The Forgetting God” ~ Psalm 13**

Like most teenagers, Jill Price had her share of difficulties — the usual highs and lows.

But Price’s world was changing in ways that she didn’t understand. No one else seemed to get it either. Since she was 8 years old, she could remember just about everything that happened to her. And then, when she was 14, she had the intuitive knowledge that she could, in fact, remember everything that happened to her.

Her grades in school were average. She could not remember lists, names and dates — that sort of thing. But she had total recall about events she’d experienced. For example, she could remember the dates she saw the dentist from five years before. She knew what she was doing on any Christmas Day of years gone by.

She was blessed — or was she cursed? — with a memory that would not allow her to forget anything.

She couldn’t forget!

Later, in the early 2000s, she would be the first person to be diagnosed with “Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory” (HSAM). After spending years working with Dr. James McGaugh,

a neuroscientist and memory researcher with the University of California, Irvine, she co-authored a book about her life living with this syndrome: *The Woman Who Can't Forget*.

The claim for what the media would describe as “total recall” is admittedly weird. This is “twilight zone” stuff that’s right up there with a sighting of a pizza-shaped flying saucer, or the face of Jesus on a piece of toast.

Fortunately, as McGaugh and others began to work with Price, the truth of her claims became apparent. She had kept a diary, and this allowed researchers to verify her claims.

If you were asked to “name the dates of every single time you’ve visited” a doctor in the past five years, could you do it? Price could.

Since the media has caught wind of Price’s amazing memory and the HSAM phenomenon, others have come forward, including artist Nima Veisheh. Once, he corrected scientists when they erroneously cited a certain date on which Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Researchers believe that as few as 50 people in the world have HSAM.

And then there’s God.

God doesn’t just have “highly superior” memory.

God has the highest form of memory.

God has the memory of an elephant.

God has the memory of a mother.

God has a memory like no one else.

God *is* memory.

And yet, curiously, God can also forget.

So, let’s discuss *what God cannot and can forget*.

## **What God cannot forget**

To the psalmist, it seems apparent that God has indeed forgotten something — or *someone*. The writer — let’s assume it is David, as the heading of the psalm suggests — says that God has forgotten him! “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”. To paraphrase the first sentence, we might put it this way: “Really? You’re still ignoring me, God?”

And then David says, “Can you really forget me forever?” And he doesn’t let up: “How long will you hide your face from me?”. This latter expression is no doubt a reference to a more powerful person looking away from a less powerful subject or supplicant (we saw that somewhat comically, in the throne room scenes in the *The Wizard of Oz*, and, if you are a fan of *Downton Abby*, in the 2019 film).

This evokes the image of the “hidden God,” or *Deus absconditus*, or *Deus otiosus* — the “idle God” who has withdrawn from the world to let creation and its inhabitants fend for themselves. In God’s absence, God forgets us — or so David believed.

He continues in this way for the entire psalm. Four times, his complaint begins with “How long ...?”

This lament sounds very much like those relationship breakups you read about on Facebook or reality TV. The jilted party has phoned and left messages or texted a jillion times.

“Hey! How long are you going to ignore me, you jerk? How long are you going to keep running away from me?

Do you think you can forget me forever? Could you please have the decency to tell me how long you are going to keep me hangin’ here, ’cause I’m in some pain — as if you cared. But, of course, you’re not likely to care about my pain and the sorrow in my heart, now are you? It doesn’t seem to bother you that *you’ve publicly humiliated me after I made such a show of declaring my undying and steadfast belief and trust in you!* So how long am I supposed to put up with this stuff?”

That’s the tone here. Raw. Bitter. Harsh.

This is pretty much Psalm 13.

Unfortunately for David, no answer comes from God.

David doesn’t get closure, response or relief. He’s left with doubts and despair.

Honestly now. Have we not had moments like this? Haven’t we all had the experience like the one David is feeling.

The gates of heaven are like brass. God’s away from the phone. God is not picking up. And so, God clearly doesn’t care. It appears that God has run out on us, abandoned us and left no forwarding address.

And after all we’d gone through together.

In fact, you think that God has forgotten you. God is — shockingly — the forgetting God!

But, here’s the thing. *There are some things that God cannot forget.*

And *you* are one of them.

God may be omnipotent, but this is one thing that God cannot do. God cannot forget you.

There’s a remarkable passage in Isaiah — 49:14-16. It begins by noting that “Zion” complains that “the Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.” But then, a rhetorical question on the order of “Is the pope Catholic?” is posed: “Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?”

Uh, well, no she cannot.

The text continues by asserting that *it is more likely that a mother will forget her child than God will forget us.*

Not gonna happen.

And then, there’s this addendum in verse 16: “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands ...”

Old Testament scholars don’t agree on some of the specifics, but all agree that this is an allusion to the practice of what we might call religious tat work.

God says that we are tattooed on his palm!

It was common in the culture of those days for a slave to bear a brand mark of his or her master on the arm or palm. Or, a soldier might want to write the name of his commanding

officer on his hand. A religious acolyte might do the same thing with the name of her God. Sometimes this was accomplished with needle punctures or staining the skin in some way.

Here, God is saying that the Divine, ineffable Creator and God of the universe has inscribed us in the palm of his hand. God cannot forget us. We're right there in his palm!

Of course, this is an anthropomorphic representation. Still, it represents in a puny, symbolic way a reality which must be much more fabulous, because a sign always signifies something greater than itself.

Tattooed in the hollow of the hand of God! That's beyond amazing!

God cannot forget us.

And yet ... the David clearly believes otherwise.

What can we do when our mind is telling us lies that the heart does not want to believe?

We think that God has abandoned us, but our heart does not quite believe it.

Isn't this what we call the trial or testing of our faith? It is the refiner's fire; it is, as we read in James 1: 3-4 how the "testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing". It is that "fiery ordeal" about which the apostle Peter writes (4:12), and about which we should not be surprised.

So then, we should not be surprised when confronted with moments of divine silence, according to the apostle Peter.

We should remember that, according to the apostle James, the testing of our faith has several positive outcomes.

We should have a conversation with God as David did in this text. Conversation is good. When we lift up our doubts and fears, our prayers become more authentic than ever! God doesn't mind, and perhaps welcomes, those moments when we get real.

And finally, we must act and move forward in faith as though God has not forgotten us. Because ... God has not forgotten us. The David seems to have come to this place. He writes, "But I trusted in your steadfast love" (v. 5). Even when he felt ignored and forgotten, his trust in the steadfast love, loyalty of God brought him through the crisis.

## **What God can forget**

So, are we to conclude that God cannot forget anything? Does God have the same problem as Jill Price? Does God have a divine version of a Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory?"

God has a perfect memory, *except for the curious gaps or lapses*. When a child of God repents of sin, rebellion, disobedience, mistakes and wrongdoing, and when that same child asks for forgiveness, then God acts like most parents would. God forgives. What parent can resist a child who comes running and crying with remorse and regret? Of course, we forgive our kids and, in time, we forget about it.

How often has someone apologized to you, and you wave your hand and say, "Aw, forget about it. No worries"?

God has the ability to forget ... our sins.

The Bible says, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). According to Isaiah, "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" (43:26). *In the New Testament, we read, in Hebrews 8:12: "For I will be merciful towards their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more". And in the psalms, the same voice complaining about being forgotten by God, is now writing these words in 103:11-12: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us".*

Many people would say that Jill Price, the remarkable woman with the remarkable memory now called "Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory," is blessed. Her abilities certainly come in handy in her job as an administrative assistant at a law firm.

But often her memories arise unbidden, chaotic and unwelcome. "Imagine being able to remember every fight you ever had with a friend, every time someone let you down, all the stupid mistakes you've ever made."

And she remembers all this stuff.

God doesn't. God forgets this stuff.

And so should we.



### **Affirmation of Faith:**

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation.  
For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created:  
things visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers;  
all things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
And he is the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead,  
so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross..

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

As we come to you in prayer, O God, we offer our thanks that you are always present to us even though there are times when we are not present to you. We thank you that you call us by name, even though there are times when we take your name in vain. We are sorry for the times when we have not been present to you, and for all the times when we have looked for you in all the wrong places.

We ask that you would instill in us a sensitivity to your presence as we find your glory in the majesty of a sunset and in the smile of a child. We are thankful that when we find a human need and fill it, you are there. We offer gratitude for the courage of martyrs who confront conflict with nonviolence. Help us likewise to search for options for a better way.

Awaken us to the opportunities for ministry. Inspire us to pray for peace and for healing of our broken world and our broken relationships. Expand our horizons that we might know that wherever we are, you are there, for even as we seek you, you have already found us.

Today we pray especially for Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Harold Mims, 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, and Jill West. Care for all those for whom we have prayed.

Help us to so live that when we meet you face to face, we might hear you say, "You are my beloved child. With you, I am well pleased." Amen.

### 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:

Let us rejoice at being servants of God — summoned by the Spirit, called into community, led by faith, inspired for service, and in all things, consumed by joy. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

### Closing Hymn: "God Be With You Until We Meet Again"



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 Sunday, June 28<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.



**Rev. Mike is hosting a Virtual WED. EVENING BIBLE STUDY via Zoom, live at 7:30 p.m.!** You can join in on the computer or on the **PHONE!!!** This virtual, live, group Bible Study runs from 30 to 60 minutes, depending on what topics come into the conversation. You can join in on line or, you can **CALL IN** & be a part of the group on the phone! Please e-mail Rev. Mike or the Church Office ([firstucc2@verizon.net](mailto:firstucc2@verizon.net)) if you are interested, he will send you the link/info to join.

**“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”.]*



### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU...**

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls surrounding George’s recent hip surgery. Knowing that he had the force of our church family behind him in his surgery and recovery meant so much to BOTH of us!

*Blessings from the Belings!*



*“Church Family News” continues...*





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 **[lwlindalouw@gmail.com](mailto:lwlindalouw@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 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](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 ~ 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 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., 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.*



**Even though we have moved “Into the Green”, we all need to continue to be “Corona Warriors”  
We need to protect our loved ones, ourselves & those around us!**

- If you are sick **STAY HOME & CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR.**
- One way to do that is to **LIMIT CONTACT IN PUBLIC PLACES** and **WEAR MASKS.**
- 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!***

