

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 19th
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...**

[July 5th 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

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

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~ Sunday, July 5th, 2020 ~

~ The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost ~

~ "Fourth of July Weekend" ~



Opening Hymn: “Faith of Our Fathers”

Invocation:

Gracious God, we thank you for your promise to be with us and among us today as we worship you in a spirit of humility and holiness. We invite you to be our “true mirror,” to hold up before us your Word in such a way that we see our true selves. Help us also to see in a new way the fullness of your ineffable glory and transcendent grace and mercy. We await in the next hour your word to us, that by it we may be empowered to live in the world, announcing your rule of justice, reconciliation and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

Call to Confession:

Let us in humility and contrition acknowledge and confess our sins toward God and one another.

Confession of Sin:

Righteous God, we confess with sorrow that we often forget who has given us light, who has made our garden grow with waters of love. We forget your living word and move off your paths to serve our own worldly desires. We leave your cultivated field to venture out into the wilderness on our own. We quarrel with one another trying to decide “who is the greatest.” We make our own faces the benchmark for all faces. Help us to remember Jesus, reconciling the whole variegated world in himself.

Assurance of Pardon:

Thank you for calling us back, for never giving up on us when we turn aside, for always loving us, even when we forget who we are and who you are. We know you, as the greatest Gardener of all, who has promised always to replant us in flourishing fields.

Prayer for Illumination:

Come and see! We have found the Messiah! He is present to us in the word read and the word proclaimed. Come and see! The living God awaits us here in these pages. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts bear witness to you, O God, and to the Anointed One, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Our Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, July 5th is: Psalm 45:10-17 (NIV)

Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:

Forget your people and your father’s house.

¹¹ Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;
honor him, for he is your lord.

¹² The city of Tyre will come with a gift,^[a]
people of wealth will seek your favor.

¹³ All glorious is the princess within her chamber;
her gown is interwoven with gold.

¹⁴ In embroidered garments she is led to the king;
her virgin companions follow her—
those brought to be with her.

- ¹⁵ Led in with joy and gladness,
they enter the palace of the king.
- ¹⁶ Your sons will take the place of your fathers;
you will make them princes throughout the land.
- ¹⁷ I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

Our Epistle Lesson for Sunday, July 5th is: Romans 7:15-25 (NIV)

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. ^[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature ^[b] a slave to the law of sin.

Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, July 5th is: Matthew 11:16-19 & 25-30 (NIV)

Verses 16-19

⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

Verses 11: 15-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Meditation ~ "Ultimate Freedom" ~ *Matthew 11:25-30*

The battle cry in our country for two hundred and fifty years has been freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom from discrimination, political freedom, economic freedom, sexual freedom. Freedom from quarantine. We want to be free!

This is that week in our life as a nation when we celebrate our freedom. For Christians, however, every Sunday morning worship service ought to be a celebration of freedom. Maybe we should replace our Call to Worship with a fireworks display, the Founding Fathers were fond of Illuminations, as they called them, although most of us would agree that we've had enough fireworks this summer. Perhaps our organ could include a brass band stop. There is no greater freedom in the world than the freedom that Christ gives. Our failure to recognize that truth is a great hindrance to our growth as disciples. The message of the Bible is one long saga of liberation. Consider our Scripture lessons for the day. In the Hebrew Bible we read of the birth of that great liberator Moses. The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt. But there stood Moses sent by Yahweh to declare to the Pharaoh, "Let my people go!"

Moving to the New Testament, we discover that no one wrestled more with the notion of slavery and freedom than did St. Paul. He writes, "I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord..." (Romans 7: 23-25a)

In our Gospel lesson we read those liberating words of Jesus himself: "Come unto me all who are weary and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Throughout history we've heard people speak often of liberation. The good news is that there has never been a liberator to compare with Jesus of Nazareth. It is impossible to improve on the freedom that Christ gives, for he frees not only the outer man but the inner man too.

FOR ONE THING, HE BESTOWS UPON THOSE WHO BELIEVE ON HIM A NEW DIGNITY ABOUT THEIR LIVES.

The lowly Samaritan was accorded this dignity, as was the woman who had lived with six different men. Jesus was a lover of people in the best sense. He believed in people. He saw their possibilities as well as their problems. He called the best out of them and gave them a new reason for being. He can do that for us as well.

I was reading recently about the legendary stock car driver, Richard Petty. When Petty ran his first race, he rushed home to tell his mother. "Mama!" he shouted, "There were thirty-five cars that started, and I came in second in the race!" His mother said simply, "You lost." Petty

pleaded, "But Mama, don't you think it's pretty good to come in second in my first race especially with so many starters?" His mother looked him in the eye and said, "Richard, you don't have to come in second to anybody!" Richard Petty went on to win more money in stock car racing than any driver in the history of the sport.

You may think his mother was putting too much pressure on her son. But she was also expressing her confidence in him. You can do it! I know you can do it! You don't have to take second place to anybody!

Much has been written about another legendary sports figure Coach Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers. Few coaches have demanded more out of their players than did Lombardi. Yet when Lombardi was seriously ill in a Washington, D.C. hospital one of his former players, Willie Davis, boarded a plane in Los Angeles and flew to Washington just to spend a few minutes with his coach. "I had to go," said Davis. "That man made me feel I was important." We will go to the end of the earth for someone who makes us feel important. There is something liberating about knowing that our lives really do matter. Somebody notices. Somebody cares.

Of course, nobody cares like Jesus. I like what Sam Levenson once said. He said, "I pay my psychiatrist sixty dollars an hour and all he does is ask me the same question my father used to ask me all the time: "Who do you think you are anyway?" Jesus Christ tells us who we are: "You are so precious to me that if you had been the only person left in the world, I would still have gladly laid down my life for you." He sets us free by giving us a new sense of dignity.

HE ALSO FREES US BY GIVING US A NEW SENSE OF DESTINY.

One of the great mothers of history was Susannah Wesley, mother of nineteen children, all of whom were recipients of her love and devotion. One night she awoke to find her house on fire. The family escaped safely except for five-year John. He was trapped on the second floor. His father Samuel, rebuffed in his efforts to go back for his son, knelt on the ground and commended John's soul to God. Some neighbors, however, made a human chain and rescued the frightened child. Forever after that his grateful mother reminded John that he was "her little brand plucked from the fire." That made John feel that there was some important purpose to his life. John Wesley, founder of the Methodists, became one of the most influential Christians who ever lived.

It does something for a child to say to him or to her, "God has a plan for your life." That does not mean that we must enter fulltime Christian service. That does not mean that we are not in control of our lives. But it does mean that God has created each of us for a special task and if we align our lives with His divine purpose we will discover an effectiveness and a contentment that does not come any other way.

There is nothing sadder to see than someone who feels no sense of purpose about life. I read about a large family in an old car with no air conditioning on a hot summer day, who was visiting one of our large cities, trying to find a parking place, driving around with the car like an oven, sweat pouring off of all of them. Finally, they spied a car pulling out. They pulled into the precious spot just ahead of another car. When they were finally parked, the father turned around in his seat and asked wearily, "Well, now that we are finally parked, does anybody remember why we came?" There is something tragic about that. And yet there are people who have lived half of a century who are still asking, "Who am I? Why am I here?"

In one of his books, Zig Ziglar tells about a little fellow named Clayton who was called "Clay" by his friends. Clay's uncle started him on the wrong foot by equating the name "clay" with dirt. Thus, Clay had some real attitude and self-image problems growing up. One day he met a man named John Hartsell who explained to Clayton that clay is not just dirt, but is an

important substance, a raw material that when placed in the potter's hands becomes a thing of beauty and usefulness. He was told that God compared his own special people to clay. Clayton then began to realize that he did have worth, he did have a purpose. With this new information about his name, he developed into a tremendous young man. He felt a sense of destiny about his life. He felt that in the Potter's hand his life could have beauty and purpose. We all need that. We need to know that God does have a plan for us. We are an important part of his eternal design.

CHRIST SETS US FREE BY GIVING US A NEW DIGNITY, A NEW DESTINY AND FINALLY, A NEW DIRECTION FOR OUR LIVES.

The reason many of us feel burdened and heavy laden is that we spend much of our time swimming against the current. We have our priorities out of whack, and because they are out of whack we unnecessarily complicate our lives.

William H. Hinson tells us why animal trainers carry a stool when they go into a cage of lions. They have their whip, of course, and a pistol by their side. But invariably they will also carry a stool. Hinson says that it is the most important tool of the trainer. He holds the stool by the back and thrusts the legs toward the face of the wild animal. Those who know maintain that the animal tries to focus on all four legs at once. In the attempt to focus on all four, a kind of paralysis overwhelms the animal and it becomes tame, weak and disabled because its attention is fragmented.

The secret of successful living is to seek after one thing. That one thing, of course, is the kingdom of God. Many of us have our lives too complicated, too fragmented. We need to yield ourselves to Christ and let him establish our priorities. That way we take care of the really important things in life and the less important matters are put in their proper place at the edges of our lives.

Christ offers us the ultimate freedom. Would you experience what it really means to be free? He does not promise us that we will never again have problems, but he does promise us that never again will we approach them in the same way not if we entrust them to him. The good news for the day is that we can have a new dignity as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. We can have a new destiny as we seek to discover his plan for our lives. And we can have a new direction. An old Gospel song says, "I am bound for the promised land. I am bound for the promised land. Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." So many burdens fall off when we focus on one thing, and that one thing is the kingdom of God. Ultimate freedom the freedom that only Christ can give.



Affirmation of Faith:

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:

Loving God, we come to you in gratitude for your love, which is always present to us. In the stillness of these moments, we remember with thanksgiving the times in our lives when your love has enabled us to rise to our better selves. We thank you for the gift of your Son, who came that we might know what perfect love looks like.

We remember, too, the times when we have acted in anger rather than in love; we recall with remorse when our patience has been less than perfect and our behavior has been childish and surly. Forgive us for the occasions when we have loved things and used people and when we have failed to make love a priority in our lives.

Breathe in us new life, instilling us with enthusiasm for the opportunities we have to begin again. Empowered by your love for us, O God, let us unite ourselves with all of life in the example of Jesus, the Lord of our lives. Help us to be intentional in the way we interact with one another, so that there can be no doubt as to whom we serve.

Today we pray especially for Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Gregg D, Linda Arnold's Father Harold Mims, 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. We remember Keith Berger's mother who passed away this week, and Gordon Lowe's mother who passed away in June, we ask that you hold them in the palm of your hand and give their families comfort. Care for all those for whom we have prayed. 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:

May the power and blessing of Almighty God go with each of you as you leave now to minister to a weary world — remembering to make good and holy choices that will channel love, compassion and the presence of God to those around us. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"



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, July 5th, 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.

As we move toward our planned July 19th re-opening, we will be meeting on an ongoing basis to discuss how this will work. We will share information on these decisions as they are made.

HOWEVER, we do plan to CONTINUE to offer a video Worship service for those who are unable or uncomfortable attending 'in person' worship or for anyone who would like to join us via the internet!

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.



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) 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”.]*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS...

Linda Arnold writes...“my dad is improving. My sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers...I truly think its making a difference.” ~ Linda A



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 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 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 Berger Family, The Lowe Family, the Flad/Orso family & All whose broken hearts endlessly grieve. LORD, send Your sweet, tender & restorative love to cover them all.

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

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

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”, and we have plans to reopen our beautiful Sanctuary for live worship on July 19th, 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 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!***

