

Greetings from First UCC!

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

Big Hallelujah News!

We are now gathering together, in person, for
worship at the Church

Every Sunday at our usual 10:00 a.m. time!

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



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

Rev. Mike would like to share this Sunday's 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...

[August 9th 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

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

~ Sunday, August 9th, 2020 ~

~ The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost ~



Opening Hymn: #22~ "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

Call to Worship: (Please read responsively)

L: Friends, let us approach worship today with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

P: With our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

L: Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,

P: For he who has promised is faithful.

L: Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

P: Let us encourage one another as we meet together today.

All: Praise the Lord! Amen.

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.

Gloria Patri: (Spoken together, in Unison)

Glory be to the Father, and

To the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And ever shall be;

World with out end. Amen

Prayer for Illumination: (Spoken together, in Unison)

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

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Our Old Testament Lesson for Sunday, Aug. 9th is: Genesis 37:1-4 & 12-28 (NIV)

Verses 1-4

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

²This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Verses 12-28

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

¹² Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, ¹³ and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, ¹⁵ a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

¹⁷ "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. ²² "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels^[a] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Our Epistle Lesson for Sunday, Aug. 8th is: Romans 10:5-15 (NIV)

⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.”^[a] ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’”^[b] (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’”^[c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”^[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”^[e] ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Our Gospel Lesson for Sunday, Aug. 8th is: Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Meditation ~ “Changing History” ~

I love the time-travel movies they’re entertaining and a bit mind-bending. They ask the question what would happen if you could go back in time and change history.

Back to the Future tells the story of Marty McFly, escaping to 1955 in a car-shaped time machine and entering the world of his parents when they were teenagers.

The Terminator is a classic piece of science fiction, in which Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a robot sent from the future to 1984 Los Angeles. His mission is to kill the mother of the man who would go on to be a hero.

Steven King’s *11/22/63* portrays Jake Epping’s quest, to travel back in time, to prevent the assassination of JFK.

Even the *Harry Potter* series dabbled in time travel. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry and Hermione use a “time turner” to try to save Hogwarts.

More recently, the superheroes of *Avengers: Endgame* use time travel to save the universe from a big, purple monster man.

Time-travel movies. They raise an intriguing question: If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be?

The Atlantic magazine (November 2019) recently asked this question of some university professors. Duke professor Sandy Darity says, “I wish that Radical Reconstruction had been made a reality after the end of the Civil War.” If this had happened, former slaves would have enjoyed full political participation, along with control over the schooling of their children, protection by the Union Army, and land grants of 40 acres for farming.

Marina Warner of the University of London wishes that Ferdinand and Isabella had torn up the Alhambra Decree, which drove all the Jews out of Spanish territories. “History would look very different,” she says, “if the coexistence of Jews, Muslims, and Christians had continued in 1492.”

Rutgers professor Samantha Kelly has a suggestion that will surprise you. She wishes that agriculture had never been invented. Yes, *agriculture*. There would be “far less environmental degradation and income inequality,” she says. “A world without industrial agriculture would pretty much be the Eden of the Bible.”

Kelly wants to go back in time: To the garden of Eden.

How about you? What change would you make? Would you prevent the assassination of Abraham Lincoln? Overthrow Adolf Hitler before the Second World War? Save Jesus from the agony of the cross?

In the book of Genesis, a man named Jacob settled in the land of Canaan. He had 12 sons, and one of them was named Joseph. Jacob “loved Joseph more than any other of his children,” says Genesis, “because he was the son of his old age; and made him a long robe with sleeves” — sometimes called “a coat of many colors”. You can just imagine how his brothers responded to this: “they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him”.

In addition, Joseph was a dreamer, and one of his dreams contained the message that his brothers would bow down to him. When they heard this, “they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words”.

If you could go back in time and change history, you might say to Jacob the father: “Don’t play favorites with Joseph! His brothers hate him!”

At age 17, Joseph was shepherding the flock with his brothers, acting as a helper. Four of them were misbehaving in the field, so “Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father”. Joseph ratted out Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher – threw them under the bus.

If you could travel back in time, you might say to Joseph: “Don’t be a snitch! Your brothers are going to terminate you!”

Sure enough, the situation went from bad to worse when Joseph was sent to check on his brothers as they pastured their father’s flock. Joseph went after them and found them at a place called Dothan. His brothers “saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him”.

One clever definition of the word “siblings” is this: “people you either plan to murder or plan a murder with. There’s no middle ground.”

The brothers said to one another, ‘Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams’.

If you could employ a Harry Potter “time turner,” you might say to the brothers: “Don’t do it! You’ll never get away with murder!”

Fortunately, the eldest brother Reuben talked some sense into his younger siblings. “Let us not take his life,” he said. “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him.” Reuben’s plan was to rescue Joseph later and return him to his father.

Give the eldest brother credit. He made a good decision, right in the middle of this tragic tale of favoritism, hatred, snitching and blood-lust.

When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe and threw him in an empty pit. Feeling hungry after their exertions, they sat down to eat. But as they were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, carrying precious cargo to Egypt.

Between bites, middle brother Judah said to his siblings, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. So they drew Joseph up and sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. And the traveling traders took Joseph to Egypt.

If you could be an Avenger and do time travel, you might say to the brothers: “Glad you didn’t kill him. But selling him into slavery? Is that a good Endgame?”

The story of Joseph and his brothers makes us want to go back in time and make changes. And why not? Most of us can think of positive choices that would have changed history and improved the world. Protecting Jews in 15th-century Spain. Saving Lincoln from assassination. Supporting Reconstruction after the Civil War. All would have been good for God’s people in some terribly tumultuous times.

But we should never forget that God is always working toward a surprising conclusion, even when humans are acting in horrible ways.

In the book of Genesis, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials. *That’s bad.*

Joseph found favor in Potiphar’s sight, and was put in charge of his house. *That’s good.*

Then Potiphar’s wife saw how handsome Joseph was, and she said, “Lie with me”. *That’s bad.*

Joseph refused. *That’s good.*

But Potiphar’s wife accused Joseph of misconduct, and he was thrown into prison. *That’s bad.*

Then God showed him love, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. *That’s good.*

Bad, good, bad, good, bad, good. Clearly, God is always working toward a surprising conclusion, even when humans are misbehaving. If we were to go back in time and change history, we might disrupt the work that God is doing in the world.

While in prison, Joseph became an interpreter of dreams, and eventually he offered insight into the dreams of Pharaoh. He was released from prison and rose to power in Egypt, becoming second-in-command to Pharaoh himself. Eventually, famine struck the entire region, and people from many countries came to buy bread in Egypt.

Among the hungry people were Joseph’s brothers. At first, Joseph did not reveal his identity, and treated them harshly. But eventually, he agreed to help them and said, “Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people”. At the end of the story, Joseph forgave his brothers and provided for them, as God wanted him to do.

“You intended to do harm to me,” said Joseph, naming clearly that his brothers did a great evil to him. But knowing that God is always working toward a surprising conclusion, he also said, “God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people.”

In every time and place and situation, God is working God’s purposes out. Sometimes we humans cooperate with these purposes, and sometimes we don’t. But nothing deters God in the work of saving people from destruction. Even the bad things that we would like to change — in world history and in our own personal histories — can be transformed into good.

God is not responsible for the evil that people do, but history shows that God can turn bad into good. God did it with Joseph and his brothers. God did it with Jesus on the cross. God did it with Paul, who moved from a persecutor of the church to an apostle to the Gentiles.

Nothing is wasted with God. When Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery, they set the stage for his rise in Egypt. When Jesus died and was buried, he was put in the right place for resurrection. The zeal of Saul the persecutor changed into the passion of Paul the apostle.

Each of us has committed sins, suffered defeats, made terrible mistakes and been treated terribly. We might want to jump in a time machine and change the past. But remember: God is always at work in your life, turning evil into good.

Since nothing is wasted with God, there is no point in trying to change history. Instead, we must trust God to transform our futures.



Affirmation of Faith: (Please read responsively)

L: Let us affirm our faith.

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

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

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

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

Pastoral Prayer:

L: As we enter into this time of prayer, O God, we offer our gratitude that you are always present to us. Instill in us a desire to so listen to others. Help us to listen with open hearts and open minds, that others might feel safe in our presence. Instill in us a spirit of serenity that others might feel accepted in your nonjudgmental grace. Free us from the tendency to label people and ideas and allow us instead to lean into mercy and kindness.

We keep Bob Arnold Wendy Wandersee, Jeanette Orso, Sal Giamoni, Danny K, Bonnie David, Janet Kobler's cousin Karen B, Harold Mims, Marjorie Harron, Helena Rapp, Evelyn Ritter, Phyllis Rush, Helen Litzenberger, Evelyn Ritter, Naomi Protyniak in our prayers.

In the stillness of these moments, we acknowledge the times when we have been less than kind, merciful and open. Thank you for never banning us from your presence, loving God; help us to so love and accept others. Amen.

Lord's Prayer: (Please read together in Unison)

**All: 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.**

Prayer of Dedication: (Please read together in Unison)

All: Thanks be to thee, O God, for all good gifts, and especially for thy inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to see wherein we have been blessed, and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

* **DOXOLOGY** (SPOKEN in Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #592 - "God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command"

Benediction:

Now, let us go out from this place and witness to the next generation of believers through our humility before God, our trust in God, our disciplined life because of God, our attentiveness to God, and our steadfast faithfulness in God's eternal grace and presence. 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, Aug. 9th, 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.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY! We will continue to meet on an ongoing basis to discuss how things are working. 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.



FINALLY! We will hold our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sun. AUGUST 23rd immediately following our worship service. We hope all of our members can attend! If you recall, our meetings was originally scheduled for March 22nd. A LOT has happened since then so we invite everyone to participate in planning our future!



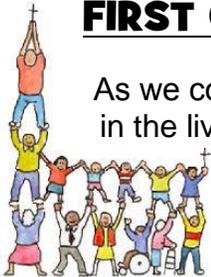
Rev. Mike is hosting a Virtual WED. EVENING BIBLE STUDY via Zoom, live at 7:00 p.m.! (NOT 7:30) can join in on the computer or on the PHONE!!! This virtual, live, group Bible Study runs from 30 to 60 minutes, depending on what topics come into the conversation. You can join in on line or, you can CALL 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”.]*

“Church Family News” continues...



KEEP IN PRAYER... Please keep Jeannette O. in prayer, for healing & peace after her surgery this past 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”**.



DID YOU RETURN YOUR 2020 CENSUS FORM? It's not too late! This is an important count because it affects government representation, funding & other things. So, if you haven't completed yours, please do. If you need assistance, please ask or visit <https://www.census.gov/en.html>



STEWARDSHIP NOTE ~



- While we have reopened, many are not able to join us yet. Even through this, 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 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.



'SAVE THE FIRST STEEPLE' project update ~ Work is in progress!

It's happening! A high lift is in the courtyard & will reach up to the Weathervane, where Gordon Bennett Painting technicians are working!

We are proud to report that we have just reached our \$90,000 fundraising mark, on our way to the \$125,000 goal! A few Final sponsorships are still available at \$2500 each, as well as, a new lighting sponsorship!

Let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in one of these sponsorships for your beautiful historic church!



We will be posting videos of how the project is progressing on our website FirstUCCEaston.org so please check it out!

~ Doreen Arnold, Steeple Project Chair



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.

Lord, we pray for the people of Beirut, for the families of those who were lost, for those who are injured, for the thousands of people who are now homeless in that already hurting land. Help the rest of us to see a way to help them.

Please keep these folks in your prayers... Baby Jackson Keith Arnold & family, Joseph & Melissa Dennis who were married here yesterday, Beverly F., Bob A., Bob G., Bob L., Chris, Danny K., Debbie S. & Family, Deacon Anthony Koury, Doris S., Evelyn R., Fawn B., Ferne, Gregg D., Helena, James R., Jeanette O. & Family, Jill R., Joe R., Kim Kelty, Lila, Marilyn Crozier Snuggs, Marjorie H., Mark, Marlene M., Michael R., Nancy M., Nancy & Ken A., Naomi, Nicole A., Ray U., Ruth F., "Sal: G., 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 Galante/Rapp Family, 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”, 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.**
- **We should still 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.**
- **IF YOU TRAVELED out of the area or into an area where covid cases are rising, please be extra cautious about your contacts when you return. You may need to quarantine for the recommended 14 days. Please consult current (& ever changing) PA directives.**

**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, wear your mask &
may God’s blessings cover you & those you love!***

