



June 2020

Parish News

First United Church of Christ

Hope

On a rainy Sunday morning, there isn't much you can do. Yesterday we made our weekly pilgrimage to the grocery store, and for me the hardware store. I did notice all of those help wanted and now hiring signs have been replaced by either closed, please enter here, or even 20 customers at a time, and please observe the red floor markings to maintain social distances.

As we finally start to see some modest easing of restrictions let us think of new signs we yearn for. Like **HOPE**. Yes hope is open again, as a matter of fact it was never closed. Another sign that should start to appear is **BELIEVE**. As I grow older, the bell still rings for me as it does for all who truly believe.

This past week has had its moments of great concern as we learned of the hospitalization of our pastor. When I first received this message I could only conjure up very bad scenarios. Through all of the prayers of our church family we were rewarded when our Heavenly Father posted those two new signs of **BELIEVE** and **HOPE**.

I guess I'm just hopelessly hooked on the powerful word signs. It reminds me of the scripture 1st Corinthians 13:13, But now abide faith, hope and love, the greatest of these is love. There are times when I question the order in which these signs are listed.

When we turn on our television, and that's about all there is to do, we get hit with an absolute barrage of alphabet soup of terms and acronyms that leave us not only bewildered but for sure confused. Some examples are mitigation, immunity, epidemic, pandemic, vaccine, infections, innovation, COVID 19, triage, CDC, FDA, WHO, antibodies. There is no end and the news comes at us rapid fire with this technical data.

Now there is another side of the coin. There are those who claim all of these stay-at-home/social distance directives are infringing on our constitution rights of life, liberty & pursuit of happiness. In reality, life as we remember it may never fully return. We have, as a society, changed from a eat out community to a eat at home one. Movies, concerts and sporting events may be via television only. Have you noticed how everything is done on the internet now? No phone numbers. This may be our new SOP (standard operating procedure).

Keep HOPE open, continue to believe and pray for our world and country.

God speed..... Bill Paxson



A Note from Your Pastor

Even in these trying times, the year seems to be passing quickly. Spring is giving way to summer and warmer weather is starting to appear. There remains a great deal of uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, but things are slowly and cautiously returning to what was. The return to the Sanctuary remains uncertain and will be approached with the greatest of caution and much preparation.

One thing that has not changed, is the love of our gracious God. He remains steadfast in His commitment to us all. He continues to love us and protect us. His love is greater than any virus or other harmful thing. Even if our bodies succumb to age, sickness, or earthly death, our souls, our essence remains in Him. God is everlasting. He has no beginning and no end, and so goes His love.

Because of His grace things continue. The church has not been at a standstill just because we have not been able to physically worship together. We remain in strength through our loving contact with one another. We worship together even when we are apart. The business of the church continues, bills are being paid and gifts are being received. We too often think of our beautiful building as being the church. The reality is that we are the church. We are commanded to “go forth and make believers of all the nations” and we are doing so. Not because of a beautiful building, but because of the beautiful people who inhabit it.

It is true that we have missed the camaraderie of Sunday morning worship services for some time now, but it is also true that we have remained strong in our belief and our love for our God and for each other. We are the church! Together we remain strong and vibrant! We are capable of great things, even in solitude. We are the Body of Christ. Through Him all things are possible. We mustn't let ourselves forget that we are so much more than just a people who attend Sunday services in a gorgeous building, we are the reason for the building, not the other way around.

Let us renew our commitment to the cause of Jesus and to one another. Let us gain strength from the knowledge that we are loved beyond measure. Let us celebrate life knowing we share it with the people in our church and that we can count on their love and support no matter what society may throw at us.

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Church People

H V W F W U
 S C M F B X
 T H U F M D
 S O S R M M
 E I I I E B
 U R C E M V
 G D D N B M
 X A W Y S O O C C I D E C H I L D R E N
 A C O L Y T E S C R S R B S R E N N I S
 E S T L U D A M F E L S H U S H E R S S
 R O T S A P H S D C U S T O D I A N K B
 N K S J N J I H R T E W M P Y R J I R B
 N U S X L M D S C O N G R E G A T I O N
 E O R C H K
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 I D I T I A
 M L A E O C
 A E N R L H
 F Z S S O E
 H D A T S R
 J K Q T O S
 T F W P H F





Word Search

ACOLYTES	DEACONS	MINISTERS	SOLOISTS
ADULTS	ELDERS	MUSIC DIRECTOR	STUDENTS
CHILDREN	FAMILY	MUSICIANS	TEACHERS
CHOIR	FRIEND	ORGANIST	USHERS
CHRISTIANS	GUEST	PASTOR	
CONGREGATION	LITURGIEST	SECRETARY	
CUSTODIAN	MEMBERS	SINNERS	

Father's Day

Dear Dad,
Hi Dad! It's me, I know it has been a while,
But today I thought of you and it made me smile.
I recalled a time years ago, when I was just a little tike,
When I surprised you when you came home from work, that I had learned to ride a bike.
You seemed so shocked to see me pedaling on my own accord,
You actually seemed proud of me, though you spoke no such word.
Thinking back, I guess that sums up our relationship,
I knew you loved me, even though the words never left you lip.
You were always my first hero, the one who could do it all,
Except maybe have patience when I couldn't play ball.
But that's ok, because I knew some day, I do something to make you proud,
Though you may never express it with words or out loud.
So, I'm writing to you just to let you know,
I understand you're the type of man not to let emotions show.
I've learned that I want to be like you although I let my emotions show,
I made sure my kids understood how I felt as I have watched them grow.
Forgive me for the times I fell short, and know that I love you still,
You've always been my hero, and forever you always will.
There I've gone and said it clearly and out loud,
My dear father I hope I've made you proud.
I'm proud to be your son, and prouder yet to say,
I love you Dad, Happy Father's Day.





Prayer List

Donna Beaver
Don Howren

Betty Jamison
Betty Mark

Sue Torno
Gayle Vidovich

Update from Ernest Johnson

As a former member, I wanted to pass along the sad news that my mother, June Johnson, passed away yesterday, April 19 at the age of 93. She spent many, many years attending UCC, playing organ, volunteering, and was secretary in the church office. Her friendship circle was within the church, it was her second home, especially after the passing of my dad in 1999.

I grew up in first UCC, and my parents were devoted members for many years. My mom, June, worked closely with Karen Fumerola. Her life's passion was playing organ and collaborating with the choir under Karen's direction. I have many fond memories of attending UCC- I was confirmed there, went to Dunkirk summer camp as part of the church youth program and looked forward to attending every Sunday; loved the church suppers and many other Church activities which we always attended as a family.

Since 2012, she has been residing in a senior center in Arlington Texas close to where my brother Terry lives. He is taking care of the funeral arrangements. She will be cremated In Arlington, and when it becomes safe to travel we will return to Warren so that her remains may be buried beside my dad in the cemetery there.

I'm a retired high school choral director now, and work as Music minister at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria Virginia.

Finally, I'll say again how much mom loved Warren UCC. I don't know if there are others that may remember her, but please pass on this information to your congregation.

Blessings
Ernest Johnson
Director, Choral Music Ministries
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd
Alexandria VA 22308
Cell 703-201-1223





A Test for Us “Older Kids”

The answers will be printed next month.

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, “Who as that masked man?” Invariably, someone would answer, “I don’t know, but he left this behind.” What did he leave behind? _____
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on the _____ Show.
3. “Get your kicks, _____.”
4. “The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.”
5. “In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.”
6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we “danced” under a stick that was lowered as low as we could dance called the “_____.”
7. Nestle’s makes the very best...._____.
8. Satchmo was America’s “Ambassador of Goodwill.” Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____
- 10.Red Skelton’s hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying “Good Night, and _____.”
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.
- 12.The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW.
- 13.What other names did it go by? _____ and _____.
14. In 1971, a singer Don MacLean sang a song about the day the music died. This was a tribute to _____.
15. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____.
16. One of the fads of the late 50’s and 60’s was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called a _____.
17. Remember LS/MFT _____/_____ _____?
18. Hey Kids! What time is it? It’s _____!
19. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only the _____ knows!
20. There was a song that came out in the 60’s that was a “grave yard smash.” It’s name was _____!
21. Alka Seltzer used a “boy with a tablet on his head” as it’s Logo/Representative. What was the boy’s name? _____.



First United Church of Christ

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The church with the “golden dome”

website
www.firstuccwarren.org

Pastor:

Rev. Gerald Gammon

Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran
Everett Gould

Elder Emeritus:

Al Conklin
Nick Fabian
Don Howren
Ed Gilbert
Glenn Mark
Sylvia Moyes
Bill Paxson
George Schneider
Bill Schoch
Charles Weller
Ken Wright

Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Leiby

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			Ron Schoch	12/31/21
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