



# THE VISITOR

March 2020



## How Sweet It Is! Daughters Dinner

**2**umdrops and lollipops and so much more, we have a sweet celebration in store for the 2020 Daughters Event! This year's celebration will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. Tickets are on sale Sundays, before and after church, or you can purchase them during the week from the office. Come skip down candy cane lane, climb the big rock candy mountain, and travel through the gumdrop forest to join us for this sweet celebration!



### PUERTO RICAN DISASTER RELIEF

Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898 under the Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American War. In 1917, all Puerto Ricans were declared to be U.S. citizens. Despite decades of institutional racism from the Federal Government, Puerto Ricans have served the United States in every military conflict since becoming a territory. And now our three and one-half million American citizen Caribbean neighbors are struggling with devastating natural disasters.

In September 2017, hurricanes Irma and Maria caused extensive damage to the island. The back-to-back hurricanes crippled the island's health care structure, power grid, water systems, and critical transportation infrastructure. U.C.C. resources poured into the territory for construction, new roofs for houses, and the Ryder Memorial Hospital. And the U.C.C. partnered to assist and grow the Santurce Mission Center in San Juan for disaster planning, preparedness and volunteer service groups. As of December 2019, 111 houses on the U.C.C. critical rehab list were still waiting for assistance. Thirty thousand homes still have blue tarp roofs.

On January 7, 2020 a series of powerful earthquakes hit Puerto Rico. The largest registered at a 6.4 magnitude. The quakes caused landslides, damaged homes and buildings, again shut-off power across the island, and left hundreds of thousands without water. The U.C.C. immediately sent \$20,000 for emergency food, shelter, and hygiene.

Our national church has launched an emergency campaign to raise an additional \$250,000 for Puerto Rican disaster relief. Our local congregation has been a bulwark of disaster relief ministries for several decades. We are called to continue this important ministry for God's people in need with a donation of several thousand dollars.

Our consistory will be considering a donation from the disaster relief budget account funded by Brat Sale proceeds. **An individual giving campaign will culminate on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. A "noisy offering" of coins will be collected during worship by the youth (see pg. 3). And rather than having the potluck carry-in for lunch, the Seekers class and other volunteers will prepare a lunch for all to enjoy. A free-will offering for Puerto Rico will be collected at the lunch (see pg. 3).** Disaster relief giving dedicated to our fellow-citizens on offering envelopes can begin immediately.

## March Sundays

### Sermon Series

#### “God Is Holding Your Life”

*The Psalms are the prayers of the Hebrew people and run the gamut from praise to gut-wrenching pleas for help. Throughout this poetry runs a thread – we can trust God to hold our lives. In this Lenten series, we take a break from the worry, anxiety and distress that life can bring and let holy assurance hold us fast. This series features the work of the psalm theologian, composer and musician, Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan.*

#### March 1

Psalm 121

Sacrament of Communion  
Bell, Carol, Chancel Choirs  
Coffee Hour

#### March 8

Psalm 23

Daylight Saving Time begins  
Chancel Choir  
Coffee Hour

#### March 15

Psalm 63

Carol and Chancel Choirs  
“Make a Joyful Noise” Offering  
Disaster Relief Dinner

#### March 22

Psalm 31

Chancel Choir  
Coffee Hour

#### March 29

Psalm 46

Bell and Chancel Choirs  
Coffee Hour



Camp Night Fun

## From the Pastor's Pen

In his book, *The Case for the Psalms*, Tom Wright shares a number of instances where this ancient collection of Hebrew poetry touched his life in a profound way. When he was a young man, Psalm 84:11 came home to him with peculiar force:

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does the Lord withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.*

“I can still recall,” he says, “the calming effect of that verse in the psalm on me, a young man with the rich and bewildering possibilities of life stretching out before me. No good thing will he withhold. Now, years later, I can say it has been true. Out of the thousand possible things one might do with one’s life, God wants maybe half a dozen to flourish; and for those who walk uprightly, he will not withhold all that is necessary for that rich flourishing to take place.”

Psalm 84 has also been a touchstone in my life. I can remember sitting on my cot at the end of a long day of basic training, and reading: *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!* That spoke to me of a beauty and a presence I had not been able to appreciate before, even though we had hiked all day through forests and mountain meadows. Wherever God is is a beautiful place, even if we are too tired or harried or burdened to see it. It took the Psalmist’s words to open my eyes.

This is what the Psalms do for us when we let them. They open our eyes and our hearts to the presence of God in places we thought were God-forsaken. They even help us to articulate that sense of abandonment: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* They remind us that we are cared for: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.* And they give voice to our physical longing to praise: *my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

How wonderful that God has given us this gift called the Psalms. In honor of this gift, I ask you to join me in reading a Psalm a day throughout the season of Lent. **I also ask you to join me on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:15 in the parlor for a Lenten study focused on the Psalms.**

Singing/praying/psalming together with you,

Pastor Mike

N.T. Wright, *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential* (NY:HarperCollins Publishers, 2013), 177-178.

## Youth News

### Kids Club (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

The month of March is "March Madness" at Kids Club! Each week will have a different, fun theme.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** : Disney Night. Kids can dress up as their favorite Disney Character or wear their favorite Disney shirt.



**March 11<sup>th</sup>**: Hero Night. Kids can dress up as someone they look up to.



**March 18<sup>th</sup>**: Talent Night. Any child who would like to share their special talent with their peers can take center stage and show everyone their talent.



**March 25<sup>th</sup>** : Family Night—Shades and Service: Wear your favorite sunglasses or fun glasses (adults too) as we prepare a service project together.



### Youth Fellowship (6-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** : 6:00-8:00 pm at the church.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**: 6:00-8:00 pm at the church.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**: 1:00 pm bowling. We'll be heading to Wayne Lanes for some bowling fun .

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**: 11:30 am Youth mission trip meeting.  
6:00-8:00 pm at the church.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**: 6:00-8:00 pm at the church.

### Youth Mission Trip Meeting:

There will be a brief meeting for anyone interested in attending the 2020 Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia, PA after worship on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting is for any youth interested in attending and at least 1 parent or guardian. We will meet downstairs in the Conference Room.

### Youth & Mentor pairs, Save the Date:

On Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 5:00pm our youth & mentor pairs are invited to attend a fun progressive dinner. More details will be in the April Newsletter.

## Preschool Program

What's Hatching? Toddlers and preschoolers (ages 3-6 not in kindergarten) are invited to attend a fun egg themed program here at Christ Church on Wednesday, March 18, from 6:00-6:30pm. The program will take place in the Gathering area and will feature a story, snack, and a fun activity.

Parents, there will be refreshments offered for you during the program so come hang out with your friends, and make some new ones while your children learn about some of God's magnificent creatures.

## Noisy Offering

Plan to bring lots of coins to church on March 15. The children of the church will help with the offering that day as we gather coins in tin containers and "Make a Joyful Noise!" Coin offerings that day will go as a special offering to support Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico.

Start stockpiling your coins now so the children will be able to fill their buckets and bowls to help our neighbors in need in Puerto Rico.

## Disaster Relief Dinner

Bring your appetite for the Support Puerto Rico dinner on Sunday, March 15 after church. You won't need to bring a dish on the third Sunday in March, just join us for this fund raiser for Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico.

Come enjoy a pulled pork sandwich with all the trimmings, Mac and cheese, and a fruit cup, all topped off by a sweet treat.

The Seekers Sunday School class will be serving this meal on a donation basis. Please be generous in your donation for this meal. All proceeds will go to the United Church of Christ support for Puerto Rico.

## Camp Registration Open!

Summer camp registration is now open! To register for camp and see a full catalogue of the summer camps being offered log onto [journeythehills.org](http://journeythehills.org). The church will pay for half of your camp tuition. Early bird registration ends April 15<sup>th</sup>, but please plan to register no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please see Kaylene Holderman.

## Maundy Thursday

This year for Maundy Thursday, the Worship Committee is offering a new opportunity for us to experience the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples. We are making plans now to host a symbolic Seder, the traditional Passover meal, on April 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 pm, for the families and friends of Christ Church. We're asking that you sign up your family (and a friend!) if you would like to participate, since hosting a Seder requires quite a bit of preparation.

## Candyland Clean-Up Crew

The fellowship committee is *Starburst*-ing with excitement about the upcoming Daughter's event on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and is looking for a some "sweet" gentlemen from the congregation to be on the clean-up crew. The crew will need to arrive at the fellowship hall at 5:45 and should be done by 8:00 at the latest. There shouldn't be *Mounds* of work to do, but the committee would love you to *Reece's Pieces* if you can help. *Jolly Ranchers*, *Three Musketeers*, and those with *Butterfinger's* welcome! There won't be a *Payday*, but dinner will be provided for all crew members. So if you are willing to come and help out, the committee would appreciate you to the *Milky Way* and back for being our *Lifesavers*! A sign up is available on bulletin board outside the office. Questions? See Jennifer Howell.

## Easter Flowers

It is time to order your Easter flowers! We will be using spring flowers again. Below are the ones available with prices. Put your order in the offering plate or drop it off in the office by **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

|                    | <u># of plants</u> |              | <u># of plants</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Daffodils \$9.25   | _____              | Tulip \$9.25 | _____              |
| Easter Lily \$9.25 | _____              |              |                    |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_

## Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2020

|                        | Month of        | YTD              | Last Year        |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Current Fund</b>    | Jan. '20        |                  |                  |
| Income                 | \$18,662        | \$ 18,662        | \$ 17,134        |
| Expenses               | <u>\$24,911</u> | <u>\$ 24,911</u> | <u>\$ 24,341</u> |
| Net Surplus (Deficit)  | \$ (6,249)      | \$ (6,249)       | \$ (7,207)       |
| <b>Benevolent Fund</b> | \$ 3,197        | \$ 3,197         | \$ 1,756         |
| Blanket Fund           | \$ 778          | \$ 778           | \$ 574           |
| Pastor's Emerg. Fund   | \$ 1,052        | \$ 1,052         | \$ 342           |

Brian Amstutz, Treasurer

## One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Church of Christ to reach people affected by disaster, displacement or poverty.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we provide assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address the hardships and catastrophes.

When we give, as the United Church of Christ – individuals, groups and congregations – it means that the church can stand strong, in the midst of need whether it is nearby or far away. When God's love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God's family. **Thank you for your support on March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## Thank You

From all of the Gary L. Burkey family:

Gary loved his church family and rarely missed a Sunday worship service. We thank **all** of you for being an important part of his life! He so enjoyed repairing/redoing many of the Christ Church stained glass windows. Many of you reminded us about the crosses he made from the unused green stained glass and how much each of you appreciate them. He really enjoyed his time as Treasurer for the church and the church's nursery/preschool. He was always willing to help the church in many ways.

The family thanks all for your words of sympathy, cards, and monetary gifts to Christ Church in memory of Gary. Our thanks to Pastor Mike for being with us through this most difficult time and for doing the final worship service and burial service for Gary. We thank the Merry Martha Bible Study group for serving the fellowship meal following the worship service. We thank Elizabeth Wallace for her help with many of the service preparations. And we, all of Gary's family, **thank all** for your love and caring friendship.

A big "Shout Out" and Thank You to my sister, Shirley Miller, for making such a beautiful Valentine themed table for all the church to enjoy.

She worked steady from the day she signed up, from decorations, doing all the baking, and **all** the food. Anything she takes on she is totally devoted to. Exceptional talent!

We are all so Blessed to have her. Carol Leiendecker

Dear Habitat Friends,

Thank you so very much for your continued support of our ministry and for the very generous donation!

We are so blessed to have Churches on board to help us with providing affordable housing and we're hopeful we will see your members at our 2020 Faith Build this summer!

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart! It's been such a pleasure meeting so many wonderful and caring people!

Blessings, Renee Collins – Habitat

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

|                        |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/01 David Bachman     | 3/11 Hadyn Hostetler   | 3/21 Logan Lehman      |
| Vicki Anderson         | 3/12 Craig Schmid      | 3/22 Ryan Findley      |
| Jennifer Brown         | Ruth Rock              | Laura Scott            |
| Erin Baer              | David Stoll            | Melanie Wellert        |
| 3/02 John Johnson, Jr. | Alex Bates             | 3/24 Bruce Smucker     |
| 3/03 Bonnie Slicker    | 3/13 Pat Keirstead     | 3/25 Elizabeth Wallace |
| 3/04 Jim Bates         | Jim Marr               | Nick Yeagley           |
| 3/05 Kiley Thompson    | Avery Louanglath       | Jeremy Hofstetter      |
| Kyla Hemphill          | 3/14 Barb Stoll        | 3/26 Anderson Weyrauch |
| 3/07 Dan Flory         | Rachael LeFever        | 3/27 Scott Musser      |
| Shirley Weyrauch       | Bruce Sigler           | 3/28 Steve Malcuit     |
| Connie Duffy           | 3/16 Evelyn Lorson     | Emelie Schmid          |
| Denise Berkey          | 3/18 Lisa Yeagley      | Ryan Abel              |
| Felicia Luangraj       | Claudia Landis         | Norah Blasingame       |
| Beckett Kropf          | 3/19 Lauren Hostetler  | 3/29 Pat LeFever       |
| 3/08 Bruce Weeman      | Connor Bupp            | 3/30 Marv Kragt        |
| Landon Wellert         | 3/20 Janice Wisniewski | Angela Smith           |
| 3/09 Roger Williams    | Hank Bowen             | Richard Moser          |
| Michael Holderman      | Carter Orosz           |                        |
| 3/10 Kent Smith        | Greyson Savchuk        |                        |
| Doug Huffman           |                        |                        |
| Brandon Bupp           |                        |                        |
| Mike Bone              |                        |                        |

### Anniversaries

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 3/05 Bill and Connie Duffy    |
| 3/08 Erik and Sheri McGrew    |
| 3/10 Dean and Sally Perry     |
| James and Linda Madigan       |
| 3/16 Bruce and Linda Smucker  |
| 3/18 Charles and Marian Craft |
| Bruce & Rebecca Sigler        |
| 3/19 Steve and Carole Hahn    |
| 3/22 Russ and Anna Davidson   |
| 3/27 Michael and Karen Donley |
| 3/30 Gary and Jodi Cassidy    |



# March 2020

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1</i></p> 9:00a Sunday School<br>10:15a Worship; Communion<br>11:30a Parish Nurses—BP's<br>11:30a Coffee Hour<br>6:00p Youth Fellowship | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>2</i></p> 7:00p Spiritual Council | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3</i></p> 7:00p Worship Com. | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>4</i></p> 5:15p Kids Club<br>6:30p Carol Choir<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>6:30p Lenten Study<br>7:30p Chancel Choir                             | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>5</i></p>  | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>6</i></p>  | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>7</i></p>                         |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8</i></p> 9:00a Sunday School<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:30a Coffee Hour<br>6:00p Youth Fellowship   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>9</i></p> 7:00p Consistory        | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>10</i></p>                   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>11</i></p> 5:15p Kids Club<br>6:30p Carol Choir<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>6:30p Lenten Study<br>7:30p Chancel Choir                            | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>12</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>13</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>14</i></p> 5:00p Daughters Dinner |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>15</i></p> 9:00a Sunday School<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:30a Disaster Relief Dinner<br>1:00p YF—Bowling                                   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>16</i></p> 7:00p Christian Ed.    | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>17</i></p>                   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>18</i></p> 5:15p Kids Club<br>6:00p Preschool Program<br>6:30p Carol Choir<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>6:30p Lenten Study<br>7:30p Chancel Choir | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>19</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>20</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>21</i></p>                        |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>22</i></p> 9:00a Sunday School<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:30a Youth Mission Trip Meeting<br>11:30a Coffee Hour<br>6:00p Youth Fellowship   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>23</i></p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>24</i></p>                   | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>25</i></p> 5:15p Kids Club—Family Night<br>6:30p Carol Choir<br>6:30p Bell Choir<br>6:30p Lenten Study<br>7:30p Chancel Choir               | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>26</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>27</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>28</i></p>                        |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>29</i></p> 9:00a Sunday School<br>10:15a Worship<br>11:30a Coffee hour<br>6:00p Youth Fellowship  | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>30</i></p>                        | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>31</i></p>                   |  |   |   |  |