



Church of the Redeemer UCC

A Monthly Update on the Life of our Church

Visiting three faiths in just three hours!

UCC, Buddhist and First Church of Christ, Scientist focus on love



Pastor Tom Caruso,
Interim Pastor

The Holy Spirit made me to it!
That's my excuse for visiting three
different faith communities in three

hours on Sunday, June 21.

It was Trinity UCC/Palmyra on live-stream at 9 AM;
First Church of Christ, Scientist at its Harrisburg river-
side sanctuary at 10:30 AM; the Kalpa Bhadra
Kadampa Buddhist Center in the city's Lakeside District
around noon.

Trinity was conveniently located on my dining room
computer; First Church was a mile walk; the Buddhist
Center was two blocks from my front door. Imagine
that!

Trinity was exuberant; First Church was subdued; the
Buddhist Center was reflective.

To be fair, I caught all of Trinity's 55-minute service;
most of First Church's and had just a drop-in visit to
the Buddhist center.

I have experienced Trinity's worship about half a
dozen times and always leave feeling blessed!
Open doors at First Church, where a dozen listened to
lessons on the spirituality of life, drew me inside.

The "We Are Open" sign at the Buddhist Center led
me inside for a 30-minute chat.

Wikipedia says First Church of Christ, Scientist was
incorporated by Mary Baker Eddy in
1879 in Boston after her claimed
1866 physical healing that she
attributed to reading the Bible. (It is
not related, nor has it ever been, to
The Church of Scientology)



Mary Baker Eddy

I left First Church with a message to
focus on the spiritual world and to realize how
temporal the physical world, including the body, is.
The hymns were simple – people murmured vs. sang –

and the live music was piano. As for the Buddhist
Center, I know too little to say more.

Is Pastor Tom suggesting you consider another
denomination or forgo Christian beliefs, doctrines or
worship? Of course not!

Nor is he suggesting you visit such places. I just
wanted to share the universal theme I found there:
Love!

Whether by prayer, music, song, meditation,
Scripture, rites, rituals, sermons or group practices, I
felt the Spirit calling me to compassion, peace and the
Golden Rule in all three visits.

The call was to love others! Any disagreement there?
The world surely needs more love. Are we sensing
much love in the news lately? (Is that even realistic in
normal times?)

How much love, compassion or even understanding do
you notice on your television, smart phone, laptop or
in the newspaper or on the radio?

Do all the speeches, protests, rallies, funerals,
requiems, news programs, radio broadcasts, news
releases, government hearings and new laws and blogs
seem to be promoting harmony, peace and love?

A better question is how are YOU promoting love,
compassion and understanding as Jesus defines them?

Where is God calling you, Redeemer and your family
in this movement toward racial, social, economic and
civil justice? Is the church part of, or set apart from,
these worldwide movements for a more just world?

Not all of us can fully work toward that goal; for
some, prayers for justice is the best we can offer.

And it has to be done in Kairos, or God's time, time
vs. Chronos, or human's time. **Let's pray into that!**

**The Rev. Thomas W. Caruso is the interim minister at Church of
the Redeemer**

Leadership Team Update..



The Leadership Team met on June 11, 2020. We continued to discuss Redeemer's building reopening plan. We created a reopening task force, who has met to begin developing a plan for building usage and cleaning. We are pleased to announce our target dates for reopening. Our Phase 1 opening, on July 5, will begin with Redeemer's worship in the sanctuary. Two weeks later, on July 19, we will begin Phase 2, which will allow all of our support groups to resume their meetings in the building. Then, some time in August, the Life Gospel Chinese Christian Church plans to resume their worship activities. We are working out details to make sure that surfaces and fixtures are cleaned after each group. We will have each group designate a person to organize and oversee the cleaning of their spaces. We will also provide guidelines on traffic flow in and out of the building. Details will be provided as they are available.

As part of our reopening effort, we have purchased cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer dispensers to be placed throughout the building, gloves to be used for cleaning and offering counting, and we have changed the air conditioning filters. We are working with our cleaning service to make sure that extra attention is paid to surfaces and higher traffic areas in the church. We also have masks that have been generously donated by Life Gospel Church to the Redeemer congregation, which will be available for folks who do not have a mask or forget to bring one to worship.

The installation of the floor in the downstairs mens' room is complete. It looks great, and seems to have really helped with the odor issue downstairs. The flooring company accidentally broke the toilet during the floor demo, and has given us a new toilet as a replacement. We will be placing mats under the urinals and splatter screens in the urinals to help maintain the new floor.

We are very thankful to all the "garden fairies" that have helped out with weeding around the church. This has been a big help. Thanks to George Kapp and Dave Stong who will begin mulching soon. And thanks to Dick Conrad and Tim Conrad for helping out with some maintenance needs around the church. With their help, we've had the outside air conditioning units cleaned, inside filters changed, and the mens' room toilet installed.

The Leadership Team would like to say a huge thank you to our office administrator, Jorja Barton, for her tireless effort and dedication to our church community. Without her, we would not be able to juggle the million and one activities required of our church and wider community. She has been invaluable in coordinating communication with all of our building users and helping us work out many details to keep things running smoothly.

Our completed Profile was submitted to the conference on June 23rd. They can now begin their work of reviewing the document. **We have rescheduled our meeting to present the Profile to the congregation on Sunday,**

July 26 after worship. Copies of the Profile will be available to review prior to the meeting, along with a readers' guide that highlights the important points. We are so pleased to get this important work underway again.

Mike will contact the organ repair company to see how long their estimate is valid, since we had the Covid interruption. The original estimate was good through the summer. The organ repairs will total \$15,482. With the generous donation from an anonymous donor, Redeemer's portion will be \$5,482. We are planning to discuss this with the congregation and determine a financing plan for how we can move forward with these repairs.

Thank you very much to Pastor Tom for continuing to provide pastoral care and outreach to the congregation. Our church continues to stay connected through phone conversations, daily devotionals, and weekly worship videos. We look forward to returning to the sanctuary for worship. We know that not everyone will feel comfortable returning right away, so we are working on a plan to continue with the video worship as well.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on July 9 at 7pm. As always, please reach out to the Leadership Team if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully
Submitted,
Kim Merkert, Chair



Redeemer Reopening Procedures and Guidelines

Though we are still faced with the threat of the Corona Virus, Redeemer is anxious to begin to establish a new norm in both its ministry to our members and to our community. Recently, our Leadership Team established a Reopening Task Force to identify and adopt new building use guidelines and procedures keeping in mind the utmost safety and well-being of all who enter our doors.

Measures are in place to fully prepare the building for reopening on Sunday, July 5. The building will reopen in phases beginning with Phase I and our first worship service in the sanctuary on July 5. Phase II will begin June 19 which will begin the reentry of our Support Group Partners. Phase III is slated for some time in August when the Life Gospel Chinese Christian Church tentatively plans to resume worship activities in the building. **Please note that, in the event of reclassification of Dauphin County by the PA Department of Health and Human Services relative to the virus, this schedule and guidelines are subject to change.**

The following steps were approved by the Leadership Team and are effective immediately.

Redeemer will:

- Provide a “Covenant of Care” doctrine to both church members and building use partners.
- Display signs throughout the church that describe safety and cleaning procedures
- Contract with professional cleaning services to thoroughly clean the building twice per week
- Provide three (3) hand sanitizer stations including: one (1) in the lobby area, one (1) in the hallway just outside of Fellowship Hall(lower level), and one (1) in the East hallway on the first floor.
- Secure cleaning supplies for use in meeting rooms

General Building Use Guidelines

- All are asked to be diligent about establishing protocol related to making sure members **DO NOT ATTEND** services or meetings if they are ill. Allowing someone to attend who may be ill compromises everyone who meets in the building.
- **Masks must be worn while in the building.** They may not be disposed in the building following use.
- Entrance and exit to the church must be through the main narthex doors. Only in case of an emergency are other doors to be used. Entrance doors are to be wiped down before and after worship and meetings.
- There will be no congregating in the building before or after a worship service or group meeting. Socially distanced parking lot conversations are permissible.
- **Hand sanitizer MUST be used when entering the building and prior to entering a restroom. Per CDC guidelines, hands MUST be washed with soap after restroom use and hand sanitizer MUST be re-applied.**
- Each meeting room will be paired with an adjacent restroom. Individuals meeting in certain rooms may only use the restroom assigned to their meeting room.
- The kitchen is closed for the foreseeable future and may not be used for any reason.
- **No food** will be permitted in the building.
- Water fountains will be disabled and covered with plastic; however, individuals are permitted to bring in their own beverages if need be. All cups or bottles must be disposed of following use.

Sanctuary Guidelines

- All hymnals, bibles, offering envelopes, and pencils will be removed from the sanctuary.
- All tables and folding chairs will be removed from the sanctuary except for one that will hold items such as Sunday bulletins and/or an offering box.
- Worshipers are required to remove their bulletins at the close of each service and take them with them.
- The center aisle of the sanctuary will be closed.
- Pews must be entered/exited through the side aisles to help keep social distance and one-directional traffic flow.
- A designated person will help people determine seating areas and will dismiss each row following worship.
- A rotating list of volunteers will assist with seating and offering collection. Job descriptions for these services will be provided.
- Volunteers will be assigned to wiping down pew areas and doors following worship.

Building Use Partner Meeting Room Information and Guidelines

- Due to the uncertainty related to virus vitality on fabric surfaces, all meetings must be held in rooms where surfaces can be easily wiped down and sanitized. For the foreseeable future, only the first-floor classroom and fellowship hall may be used for group meetings.
- Each group will designate a contact person who will organize and oversee that the areas occupied by the group are cleaned following each the meeting.
- Groups will provide Redeemer with the name and contact information for this individual so that periodic updates can be shared with them.

This information is due to the church office by July 15 at info@redeemchurchucc.org or calling 717-533-7300 M/T/W 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

- All porous surfaced tables will be removed from meeting rooms. One plastic topped table will remain and available for group leaders' use during the meeting, or for literature display.
- Chairs will be placed (and maintained) recognizing CDC social distancing guidelines.
- Meeting materials must be packed up and stored or removed following each meeting.
- Redeemer will supply disinfectant, cleaning bottles and plastic gloves for cleaning meeting rooms.
- A cleaning checklist will be provided to each group contact person and posted in each meeting room.
- After **EACH** meeting, groups will wipe down all touchpoints used by attendees during the meeting. This will include light switches, stair railings, doorknobs and/or door push plates, main entrance doors, etc.
- After **EACH** meeting, groups will spray chairs, tables, and restroom doors and fixtures (toilets, urinals, sinks) with the disinfectant spray provided.
- Groups are asked to help to provide paper towels to be used for cleaning purposes.
- All trash (coffee cups, water bottles, towels used for cleaning, etc.) must be deposited in the dumpster following each meeting.

This document was developed by the Reopening Task Force members Kim Merket, Mike Wojdylak, and Lorna Davis and approved by the Leadership Team.

SAFETY FIRST





Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ *Covenant of Care*

As an individual who attends Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ, I covenant to work with my fellow church members, family and friends to keep our community safe and healthy.

I covenant to...

- *Wear a face mask, covering my nose and mouth, as a symbol of love and care for others.*
- *Observe guidelines for traffic flow in and out of the sanctuary when arriving to worship and when leaving after the service.*
- *Sit six feet apart from others, leaving room for God to work in the in-between spaces.*
- *Clean up after myself in the spaces I use, because like Jesus, germs are everywhere I go, too!*
- *Honor and respect the sacredness of each person in this space, and to stay home if I don't feel well, knowing God is with us wherever we are, whether inside or outside the walls of the church.*
- *Work together with my church family in creating a safe and healthy space to worship as one body, united in God's love.*
- *Acknowledge the hard work ahead, and the commitment to care for one another.*

Together, we as the church, covenant to care and love one another in new and different ways, embracing God's still-speaking voice.

July

2020

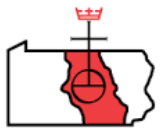


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info@redeemerchurhucc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	2 12:00 PM Nooner 12:00 PM Focused Prayer	3 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	HAPPY 4 th of JULY! 
5 REDEEMER REOPENS FOR WORSHIP! 9:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM KISS	6 12:00 PM Nooner 7:30 OA	7 9:30 AM FARA 12:00 PM Nooner	8 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	9 12:00 PM Nooner 12:00 PM Focused Prayer 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting	10 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	11 7:00 AM Sunrise AA 12:00 PM KISS
12 9:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM KISS	13 12:00 PM Nooner 7:30 OA	14 9:30 AM FARA 12:00 PM Nooner	15 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA <i>SCRIP ORDER/\$\$ DEADLINE!</i>	16 12:00 PM Nooner 12:00 PM Focused Prayer	17 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	18 7:00 AM Sunrise AA 12:00 PM KISS
19 9:15 AM Worship REDEEMER REOPENS FOR SUPPORT MEETINGS! 3:00 PM KISS	20 12:00 PM Nooner 7:30 OA	21 9:30 AM FARA 12:00 PM Nooner	22 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA <i>Scrip Card Pickup</i>	23 12:00 PM Nooner 12:00 PM Focused Prayer	24 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	25 7:00 AM Sunrise AA 12:00 PM KISS
26 9:15 AM Worship 10:45 AM Congregational Meeting 3:00 PM KISS	27 12:00 PM Nooner 7:30 OA	28 9:30 AM FARA 12:00 PM Nooner	29 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	30 12:00 PM Nooner 12:00 PM Focused Prayer	31 12:00 PM Nooner 6:30 PM KISS AA	

Redeemer reopens for Sunday worship services beginning July 5th. Support Groups will continue to hold outdoor meetings until July 19th when they will be transitioning back inside of the building.



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Report to Penn Central Conference from the Board of Directors

Greetings, Penn Central Conference,

This past Saturday the PCC Board of Directors met for its quarterly meeting. We were scheduled to meet at our Annual Meeting in Selinsgrove but were unable to gather there this year. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted and changed all our lives in ways that we could never have anticipated. We are adapting and learning new ways of connecting and being the church, even as we miss the ways that gathering at past Annual Meetings has enriched and strengthened our life together as Penn Central Conference. We missed seeing all of you this past weekend and pray that you are also learning and adapting to life as we now experience it.

I am sure it will not surprise many of you that the Board of Directors has had to make some heart-wrenching decisions about our beloved camp, Hartman Center. Over the years, we have watched our use of the camp and its financial support gradually decline and have now reached the point where the conference can no longer continue to maintain Hartman Center without further jeopardizing the finances of Penn Central Conference. The pandemic has not helped, but this reality only pushed these decisions to be made a bit sooner. Even before this transpired, it was becoming evident that the benchmarks we had set would not be met and delaying this decision another year would not make a difference while our expenses would continue to grow. We will still have to continue to maintain and secure the property as long as we are the owners.

The decisions we made were not taken lightly, nor were they made without the input and involvement of the individuals related to the oversight of Hartman Center. Members of the Hartman Center Committee of the Board of Directors were involved in many anguishing discussions and finally arrived at the recommendations that were approved by the Board on Saturday. The committee recommendations and the final votes taken by the Board were unanimous. We are deeply saddened that we had to arrive at this point, as we fully recognize the value of the outdoor camping experience for youth and adults, the call to ministry that many have experienced in this setting, and the great love felt by many who have devoted their time and energies to Hartman Center over the years. It is our prayer and great hope that as we move into a new time, we will be able to create and develop new programs for our youth and adults to experience God in the outdoors. We are especially grateful to Zoe D'heedene for her leadership and ministry at this time and to all those who have given devoted leadership to this ministry over the years at Hartman Center. Thank you.

The following motions were approved by the Board in relationship to Hartman Center:

1. **UCCR - our camp management company - will be notified of our intent to terminate our contract with them on December 31, 2020.** Our contract specifies that we give them 6 months' notice prior to termination. All events planned for this fall will be held, if possible.

2. **Hartman Center will be closed on January 1, 2021.**

3. **There is an anticipated loss of \$93,000 this year that must be covered by Penn Central Conference.** UCCR has created a payment schedule that will cover these anticipated losses for about \$5,280 per month **This payment schedule was approved by the Board.** This amount may go up or down, depending on whether scheduled events happen or not.

4. **A committee will be appointed to address the sale of the camp and put it on the market as soon as July 1, 2020.** Sale of the property is expected to take time as there are many issue and concerns involved, and the sale may or may not be easy to accomplish.

A day of celebration will be planned at Hartman Center on **October 10, 2020.** Put this date on your calendar and plan to come and help us celebrate and say good-by. More information will be coming.

The Board will meet again in several weeks to affirm the make-up of the sale committee and also to recommend a 2021 proposed budget for the Conference for approval at our August 29 Annual Meeting.

I wish I had better news, but please know that we want to hear from you, we care about your concerns and feelings, and want you to be involved in the planning as we move ahead. We hope that you will engage with your local association board members, as they represent you on the Conference Board. **I will reiterate that the Board was unanimous in making these decisions and we will take full responsibility for them.** The Conference by-laws clearly charge the Board with the oversight, management, and decisions regarding all the assets and properties of the Conference.

Rev. Ann Graves, Moderator
Penn Central Conference Board of Directors



This month's issue of CONTACT is sponsored by:
The Gary and Annette Mastrangelo
in honor of their Family
Thank you!

United Scrip Gift Cards AVAILABLE!

Scrip gift card orders are collected and delivered once a month. The schedule through the summer is listed below. Orders are due to the church office on **Wednesdays between 2 and 3PM**. Orders may be picked up or will be mailed the **following Wednesday between 2 and 3PM**. **ALL ORDERS MUST INCLUDE \$2.00 FOR HANDLING TO DEFRAY OUR POSTAGES COSTS.**

Contact the church office at 717-533-7300 or info@redeemerchurchucc.org to receive an order form, or pick one up at the church (found in the labyrinth info box by the side sanctuary door).

Due Dates (Wednesdays) Pickup Dates (Wednesdays)

July 15 ----- July 22
August 12 ----- August 19

REMEMBER: ORDERS ARE DUE BY DATES LISTED!

A special **THANK YOU** to Jenny, a member of the Nooner Support Group who has volunteered to help maintain our flower beds once a week! Jenny shared that she worked for the Hershey Nursery for years, working at the Hotel, the Lodge, and Hershey Park. Jenny thanks Redeemer for allowing the group to meet outside over these last few months, saying "the labyrinth setting has been a spiritual experience" for her.
God works in wondrous ways!
Thank you, Jenny, for reaching out to us!



Congregational Meeting called after worship on July 26th



Dear Members of Church of the Redeemer:

This letter is sent to give official notice that there will be a congregational meeting immediately following the church service on July 26, 2020. The following will be discussed at this meeting:

- 1.) Final Vote of Completed Profile for the settled pastor*
- 2.) Organ Repair discussion*

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and we hope that you will stay for the congregational meeting.

*Sincerely,
The Leadership Team of Church of the Redeemer*

(Official notice will be sent via email or US Post on 7/10/20)

A Special Thank You

Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Hershey sends its sincere thanks to you for your recent donation in the amount of \$221. Your gift enables us to continue to serve those in need in our own backyard.

Love INC's mission is to match community and church resources with the needs of community members, doing so all in the name of Christ.

Because of your church's generous support, Love INC is able to provide services such as the Personal Care Closet outreach, Homes of Hope Transitional Housing Program, Faith and Finances classes, the mentoring Ministry and the Parsonage Ministry to the Hershey and Hummelstown Communities.

Thank you again for your generous support.

May God continue to bless your church family,

*Sincerely,
Pastricia TenHuisen
Executive Director*



Prayers of Concern and Healing for:

Kathie G. who has been diagnosed with cancer
Joe Lawruk for total healing of bladder cancer

Prayers of Support for:

Our health care heroes who continue seek a vaccine for the virus and who selflessly care for the sick and dying

Prayers of Comfort and Peace for:

The Family of Mary Ann Bailey a former member, who passed away on Wednesday, June 10th. Services honoring Mary Ann were held at Indiantown Gap on June 15th.

Prayers for the Larger Community:

For those who serve and protect; for those in government who make decisions that affect our world, our country, our commonwealth, and our communities

July Celebrations

Happy Birthday!

Eric Juhala
Virginia Fleck
Tim Conrad
Jane Gallozzi
Kemmy Himmelberger
Shirley Conrad
Pastor Tom
Richard Conrad, Jr.
Nancy Kapp
Susana McLin

Happy Anniversary!

Dwight and Lorna Davis

Congratulations Everyone!



Thank You to our Secret Landscaping Elves (hummm, who might they be??) who cleaned up around the church property recently, complete with new tan bark! The pond looks great and the birds are enjoying it too!

Community Resource Corner

A discussion on racism and mental health



Please tune in Thursday night, July 2nd, as WITF-FM radio in Harrisburg hosts a live-panelist forum on racism and mental health. The link below allows you to register and tune in.

Hosted by Charles Ellison, it addresses systemic racism and injustice in central PA and beyond. It runs from 7 PM-8:30 PM on the station's YouTube channel.

This month's topic is "black trauma and mental health." It explains the dynamic and the toll that discrimination, racial profiling and police brutality take on the community.

You can comment, share experiences and ask questions via text, twitter or email. The link below provides more info, program access and registration.

The conference is working on programs to promote racial sensitivity, combat racism and navigate these crucial, but sensitive, topics by August.

<https://www.witf.org/2020/06/18/toward-racial-justice-conservation-series-continues-with-a-look-at-racial-trauma/>



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Be sure to visit us on Facebook page and our website at www.redeemerchurhucc.org!