



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY

God is still speaking

Dear Friends and family of faith,

Grace and peace to one and all as we continue our journey in this season of Lent and lengthening days of preparation! Many of us were raised to 'give up' things for Lent each year. This year, I am encouraging all of us to 'pick up/take up' things for Lent. This year, my prayer is that each of us will commit to intentional actions that will lead us to grow in our relationships with one another, to the larger church, our community, and with God. This year, I'm encouraging us to enter into this time of preparation as a time of action; as a time of growth; as a time of dedication and faithfulness; into a new season of LIFE!

Ash Wednesday was February 10th and while it caught us a bit 'off guard' with its earliness this year, we still gathered to hear God's word, beautiful music, to share Holy Communion serving one another and we were reminded that 'from ashes and dust we have come; to ashes and dust we will return; but for now, we will choose LIFE.'

During Lent, we recall again the stories of Jesus' teachings and his journey to Jerusalem. We are invited, once again, to walk with him through temptation, suffering and persecution. As we share in Holy Communion, in the reception of new members and the installation of our church officers and ministries and in prayers for healing and hope, we discover the real meaning of 'community' and God's love. As we open our hearts and listen to each other's dreams, we will experience the privilege of everyday miracles 'right in front of our eyes.'

So, come. Come and worship. Come to sing and to pray and to be in relationship with God and with one another. Come to give birth to a new day and a new hope. Come to choose positive over negative. Come not to 'play church' and go through the motions; come to give your best, your enthusiasm and your energy. Come to receive so that you can give. Come to walk through difficult times with the support and encouragement of brothers and sisters at your side. Come to bring about 'justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.'

I look forward with anticipation and confidence that our God travels with us and I can't wait to see what plans God has in store for us.

With love and in faith,

Rev Lauri

Special Moment of Prayer During The Season of Lent

All are welcome to gather at the alcove in the sanctuary following the Postlude, for a special time of prayer. You can request prayers for yourself or for anyone or any situation.

Liz Marcus will meet you there to support you and pray with you.

We will be offering this special moment of prayer during the rest of the Season of Lent.

Moderator's Vision

Al MacPherson

“Don't dig up in doubt what you planted in faith.”
 Elisabeth Elliot, South American Missionary and Biblical Scholar

The very last thing I ever thought I would be doing is taking on the Moderator position. After just over two years on the search committee, which was both very rewarding and at times somewhat frustrating, I didn't think any positions of responsibility with our church was in my future. I was asked if I was interested and after a few jokes and some laughter, I said I would consider it but thinking to myself that there's no way. A few days went by and Rita (Maslanek) called saying that *If* I would accept the nomination for Moderator, she and Christine (Bischoff) would accept the positions of co-assistant moderators. Again I said I would think about it. I went to bed that evening and had a restless sleep. By 2am I was wide awake. Of course you know what was keeping me up. I was wrestling with the possibility of accepting the nomination for Moderator. I prayed and then fell soundly to sleep. I'm not sure what happened but the next morning I knew that it felt right to do this. Having been laid off nearly a year ago placed me into a slightly early retirement so it felt like the perfect situation. I have had two weeks to consider what my vision for the church would be over the next two years.

- I. Continued very positive relationship with our new pastor, Rev. Lauri Craig
- II. Children and Youth
 - a. The most vital aspect of the future of our church and all churches
- III. Social Action and Justice Issues
 - Local issues, ie: migrant workers, homeless, food shortages
 - Moral support and Letters to our Legislators
 - Shelter Supply Support
 - Center for Food Action
 - World issues
 - Churches wider mission (UCWM)
 - Consider issues we can support through special offerings
- IV. All Church Retreat with emphasis on:
 - Prayer
 - Respect
 - Forgiveness
- V. Continued progress toward financial stability
- VI. A Stewardship Program that will be more than a pastoral letter with hopes of maintaining the current pledge levels.
- VII. All Church Planning Session
- VIII. Adult bible study

I am a firm believer in the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe the Spirit is behind all the reasoning and decisions that we don't quite understand but we know are right.

Like all visions this is nothing more than a wish list but wish lists are an essential tool that can help steer us in a positive direction. If we allow the Spirit to work within us, we can change this from a list of wishes to a list of accomplishments.

Church Officers and Committee Members for 2016

Membership of Church Ministries

Moderator Al MacPherson
Co-Vice Moderators:
 Christine Bischoff
 Rita Negron Maslanek
Clerk Mary Lou Boyd
Treasurer Jen Chin

Ministry of Deacons

2017 Sowon Kim
2019 Jeanne Martin
 Frank Osmers
 Susan Renaud
 Greg Gilpatrick

Ministry for Children and Youth (MCY)

2017 Alexandra Fitzsimons
 Kelly Braun-Montello
2018 Darlene Wilson
2019 Nancy Sierra

Ministry for Church Development

2017 Jen Chin
 Ann Fay
 Tania Gilpatrick

Ministry for Mission Outreach & Social Action

2017 Doris Danielson
 Susan Gordon
2018 Darlene Wilson
 Liz Marcus
2019 Tammy Shaw-Rodano
 Nancy Sierra

Property Stewards

2017 Jan Farrington
 Frank Osmers
 Joe Baldacci
2018 Rose Pero
 Ann Fay
 Dean Pavlos
 Matt Quayle

Leadership Team Members-at-Large

2018 Carol Stegall
 Rose Pero

Your Continued Prayers are Requested for...

- ✠ Mike Maslanek and his family as he begins new treatments.
- ✠ Tom Haschmann and Traci Reynolds, life-time friends of Rev. Lauri.
- ✠ Gregory Delgado, Deborah Mancini (Rose Pero's cousin), Lauren Babroski, Sandra DeLorenzo, Marcy Baumbach, Bob Robertson, Rita & AnnMarie Jenneck, John Castellucci, Tom Meyer, Robert Kanwisher's Family, Anita's cousin, Dominic, Ann Arrigo, Bob Duchacek, Dan Taylor.
- ✠ For all life affected by severe, damaging weather and pain of any type.
- ✠ For peace in our country and around the world, our military and leaders.
- ✠ Everyone devastated by unemployment or under-employment.

*Please feel free to call the office (201-384-1063)
24/7 with any request.*

A Revised and Updated Directory!

Please update the personal information you would like included in the Church Directory. If your address, phone number(s), email address(es) or anyother family information has changed, please phone the church office at 201-384-1063 24/7 or email either ucchaworth@hotmail.com or ucchaworth@verizon.net.

Thank you very much.

**Announcements from Emma Nathanson
Director of Ministry
for Children and Youth**

Exciting news- Three of our youth, along with Jeanne Martin, will attend the UCC New York State Youth Event. The theme this year is "Heart Over Hype". They are going to have a blast!

Sunday School students will get their Heifer banks and calendars on Sunday, February 21st. They will also vote on which animal they hope to purchase! If anyone else would like a bank and calendar, please see Emma or Darlene.

365 Penny Challenge in this spot

Because we care...

REMINDER - HOSPITAL STAYS:

Federal law restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals. As a result, the pastor and church office may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized and would like to notify the pastor, it is important that you (or a family member or friend) inform the church office as soon as possible at 201-384-1063. Hospitals can no longer provide this information to us.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN...

- You or a family member is sick or in the hospital
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event, so it can be placed on the Church calendar
- You want to arrange for a Baptism or Wedding
- When a family member has passed away
- Your telephone number or address is changed or you are planning to move, locally or out of town
- You feel the Church can help you in any way.

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Thank you very much.

Good Habits, GRACE for the Moment
Max Lucado (condensed)

I like the story of the little boy who fell out of bed. When his Mom asked him what happened, he answered, "I don't know. I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

It's easy to the same with our faith. How does your prayer life today compare with a year or two ago? Church loyalty? And Bible study? Don't stay too close to where you got in.

Spring Concert!
Sunday, March 20th, 4:30pm

Everyone is invited to attend our Spring Concert which is going to take place on **Sunday, March 20th at 4:30pm.**

There will be the diversity of music: classical, sacred, and contemporary. Our wonderful performers will include Joe Baldacci, Jen Chin, Rev. Lauri Craig, Jan Farrington, Jane Keitel, Leslie and Al MacPherson, Alice Marcus, Liz Marcus, Rich Philippi, Suzanne Renaud, Peggy Reynolds, Rev. Paul Seong and Olga Stepanova (our Director of Music).

Please, **save the date...**

and

**bring your families
and friends!**

Admission is \$20 and
free for children.



Women's Fellowship Meeting...
NOTE Day, Date & Time!!!

Friday, March 4th at 11am



President of the Month: Mary Lou Boyd
 Program: The History of Your Church in pictures
 and memorabilia.

Devotional: Sadie Agan remembered
 Bring a sandwich, dessert and coffee/tea will be
 provided.

All are welcome. Please join us!

The Friday Lunch Bunch...

If you would like to take a break, and share fellowship, conversation and dessert, come to the Friday Lunch Bunch get-togethers from 11am-1pm! The ladies meet in Fellowship Hall weekly. Come as often as you like. Bring a sandwich, dessert is provided on a rotating basis.

A TREMENDOUS THANK-YOU to the entire congregation for their love, support, service and commitment to the church and Leadership.

Looking forward to
 bigger and better things to come in 2016!

Blessings to All,

Greg and Tania Gilpatrick

Our Way...

And now, our term is done
 And so we face our final curtain
 My friends, we'll say it clear
 We've done our best, and that is certain
 We've lived a term that's full
 And traveled on God's Highway
 We are Blessed to have you All
 We did it OUR Way

Regrets, we've had a few
 But then again, too few to mention
 We did what we had to do
 And saw it though without exemption
 God Planned our charted course
 Step by Step up Jacob's Ladder
 We are Blessed to have you All
 We did it OUR Way

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
 When we bit off more than we could chew
 But through it all, when there was doubt
 God gave us strength to push throughout
 We faced it all and we stood tall
 We did it OUR Way

We've loved, We've laughed and cried
 And, we've stumbled a few times over
 But Faith and Love our survived
 With Rev. Craig to be our Guide
 To think we did all that
 And might I add – we're in the BLACK
 Our church is strong, we'll carry on
 We did it OUR Way

For what is church, what have we got
 If not our Faith, then we have naught,
 We're in the Light, no Darkness here,
 No looking back, or living in fear,
 We conquered all, And did not fall
 We did it OUR Way

Lyrics written by Tania Gilpatrick

At a Glance...*Sundays:* Choir rehearsal, 9:15am*Wednesdays:* Playgroup, 9:30-11:00am, FH*Fridays:* Lunch Bunch, 11:00am, FH

✠ Wednesday, 2/24: Soup Supper and Conversation, 6:30pm FH
(Bring a friend/neighbor!!)

✠ **Sunday, 2/28:** **New Member Orientation, 12-1pm**

✠ Friday, 3/4 – Sunday, 3/6: N.Y. Conference UCC Youth Event

✠ **Sunday, 3/6:** **10:30am worship, Reception of New Members and
Installation of Church Officers (luncheon in FH)**

✠ Wednesday, 3/9: Soup Supper and Conversation, 6:30pm FH
(Bring a friend/neighbor!!)

✠ Sunday, 3/20: Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30am

Spring Into Spring Concert, 4:30pm, Invite a Friend/Neighbor!

✠ Thursday, 3/24: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7:30pm in Sanctuary

✠ Friday, 3/25: Good Friday – service at 12 noon in Sanctuary

✠ Sunday, 3/27: Easter Sunday – Celebration of the Resurrection, 10:30am Worship

****Please don't forget to let Rev Lauri know if someone is shut in or in hospital or rehab
and would appreciate a visit and home communion during Lent.****

Mailer page

