



February 19, 2017

**Are you familiar with the happenings in the
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference?
Would you like to volunteer?**

Here at the Conference Office, we often ask ourselves, are our members hearing about the opportunities we are sharing? Are our members aware of training sessions, conference meetings and special events?

Do members know where to turn to if they would like to get involved with a conference committee?

Please allow me to share a few tips.

1. Visit our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Website at psec.org.
2. While there, click on the button, towards the top of the home page, to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter. The link looks like this:

[Sign Up for eNews](#)

E-News, our e-newsletter comes out weekly and is filled with continuing education opportunities, special services, church events, Conference news, and more!

3. Lastly, if you are interested in becoming more involved with the workings of our conference or perhaps sitting on a committee, please contact Susan at the Conference office at 484-949-8774 x 312 or susan@psec.org and she will connect you with the group that best suits your interests.

Remember, the PSEC Conference is YOUR conference and we are here to support and serve you. Many hands, make for light work!

Getting to Know :

First UCC

110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



In its long history in Schuylkill County, the First United Church of Christ has been part of the on-going transformation of Protestantism, particularly in the Reformed church. While the "United Lutheran and Reformed Congregations in Manheim Township" first met in the Union School House in 1820, the official birth of the church, known as "Gotte's Haus,"

dates to the record of the first communion on May 26, 1822. The church split in 1851 over introducing English to worship, leading to the formation of St. John's UCC in Schuylkill Haven. Due to the failure of a local bank and resulting financial issues, members left the church to establish St. Mark's UCC in Cresona. The union between Lutheran and Reformed dissolved in 1905 creating the First Reformed Church, which became the First Evangelical and Reformed Church in the 1930s, and then the First United Church of Christ in the 1960s. In total, four buildings have sheltered the members of the congregation, including the present building which was constructed in 1964. Today the First United Church of Christ is involved actively in ecumenical ministry to help community members in need through the Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity. In the greater community, the church is known for its delicious potato filling and Meat BINGOs as well as the unique cross which sits on the sanctuary roof, created by church member Howard Shaup, who died in 2015 after a lifetime of service to the church. Members strive to live by the words used to close worship: "We go into the world to serve God through Christ and to serve others with love."



Prayers are requested for First UCC in Schuylkill Haven and Rev. Shawn D. Van Dyke.