

TIDINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Forks United Church of Christ
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...

you are welcome here!

What We've Been Up To...

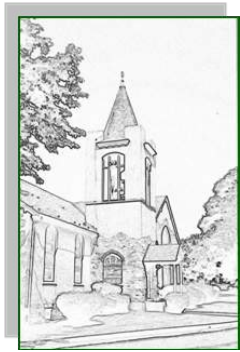


Serving others...



.....and having fun!





I am on a planning team that is helping facilitate a youth retreat for the Conference for the third weekend in May, and one of the activities that we are planning is a mock debate. We are going to ask the kids to debate several of the hot-button issues that are facing our country and our world today. A review of recent news stories- from ongoing violence in Syria and Iraq, to assassination in North Korea, from immigrants and women's rights protests, to the pervasive threat of terrorism and gun violence, from building oil pipelines through sacred Native American land, to political partisan fighting to all of the craziness surrounding Russia, to issues of race, and global warming and on and on- reveals that we will have no shortage of topics for the teenagers to debate about. However, unlike all of the opinions, pro and con, that are expressed by various talking heads on news outlets like CNN and Fox News, we are going to ask our young participants to examine all of the issues facing us today and ask, "Where is God in all of this?" "What would God think?" "What would God have us do?" In a country in which the political theme of the season is "America First", the theme of our youth retreat is "God First."

This is the great thing about Lent. I know that, compared to some of the other seasons on the church calendar, like Christmas, and Easter, and Advent, and maybe even Ordinary Time, the season of Lent may not stand out as something to look forward to. But, in the spiritual disciplines we are called to engage in during this season- fasting and sacrifice, worship and devotion, prayer and reflection- we are meant to be intentional in turning our lives in the direction of God. That is something we all need, of course, and something that might actually serve, not as a chore, but as a respite from the news of the day, that can frighten and stress and exhaust us.

A friend of mine, who is an atheist, and who likes to get under my skin, is fond of asking me, "Why should I come to church?" I could answer, "Well, we do a lot of good things in the community, we are involved in a lot of outreach." "I donate to the American Cancer Society and SPCA...I don't need the church for that." "Well, we really love being together and experiencing the love of Christian fellowship." "I belong to the local Lion's Club and Fire Company...I don't need the church for that." "Well, we offer spiritual and faith formation." "I can learn anything I want to know online."

The UCC pastor, Richard Floyd, says this, "There are many groups that do many of the things the church does, and some of them do it better. I think Twelve-Step programs often foster better community and personal transformation than church do. I think many organizations working for peace and justice, and for protecting the environment, are better organized and more efficient than the church in doing this vital work. And I admit that the church can be a maddening place, slow-footed for needed change, too often liberal on matters that should be conserved, and conservative about things that should be shaken up. My love for the church is not blind. But my best answer to the question, "Why the church?" is simply, "Jesus Christ."

The church has the one thing the rest of the world can't offer, which is the experience of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Lent is a great time to remember that once again.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

Evangelism and Outreach

Food Bank

Thank you for continuing to remember the urgent needs which our food banks seek to address. Canned goods and other non-perishables are always in demand. Please bring **anything** you think would be appreciated. Consider donating spices. Spices allow cooks to add flavor to food without additional salt. Think about buying cumin, cinnamon, coriander, onion powder, garlic powder, cloves, oregano, basil, parsley, cayenne pepper, rosemary, thyme, bay leaves, or any other spices you commonly cook with.

Please keep your cans coming and place them in the pantry shelf. March's food of the month is Easter items.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will be taking part in this special collection on Sunday, March 26th.

Content taken from UCC.org

Teen Prayer List

Abbie Buck, Tyler Avery, Larissa Bernecker, Sakura Bolte, Takumi Bolte, Masaki Bolte, Abbey Chesney, Brandon Cressman, Olivia DiPierdomenico, Sophia DiPierdomenico, Makayla Fleming, Christopher Flyte, Karlee Flyte, Ashleigh Gaul, Emily Gutekunst, Julia Gutekunst, Tommy Gutekunst, Derek Hammerstone, Diana Hammerstone, Emilee Hendricks, Abbi Hoke, Kyle Hoke, Michael Lopresti, Jayson Mitch, Rebecca Mitch, Tyler Mitch, Julia Ortiz, Georgia Pump, Hailey Quier, Ethan Riehl, Breanna Schneebeli, Cayden Shook, Alexandria Wood, Emma Wood

Confirmands

Abbie Buck, Evan Dugan, Derek Hammerstone, Kyle Hoke, Shanon McCollian, Tyler Mitch, Katelyn Raymond, Tanner Riehl, Cayden Shook, Tagan Steward, Landon Uhler

Visitation List

Please see the Church Directory or contact the Church office or a member of the visitation team for addresses. Earl & Dolly Abel, Fred Bolling, Mary Correll, Corinne Eberts, Tony Jiorle, Charles Kessler, Dorothy Kortz, Marge Markley, Winnie Mengle, Patti O'Donnell, Jane Rader, Florence Saylor, Irene Tenges, Marge (Koch) Ziegenfuss

Altar Flowers

There are a few Sundays remaining in 2017 to sponsor altar flowers. Please check the flower chart on the tripod in the Social Room adjacent the Sanctuary. Select your Sunday and affix your name and intention ("In honor of" or "In memory of" or "To the Glory of God"). The arrangements are \$30. Please make checks payable to "Forks UCC" with the notation "Altar Flowers". Simply drop your payment in the offering plate. Thank you.

Altar Flower Sponsors for March

March 5 - Ruth and Ed Gable

March 12 - Joan Jud

March 19 - Doug and Carole Steckel

March 26 - Betsy Warner



Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

March 5 - Jean Cooper

March 12 - Sam Kemmerer

March 19 - Steve Dewalt

March 26 - Bob Zabe

Greeters/Offering Collectors

March 5 - Louise Bruch and Char Lehman/Debbie & Burt Ackerman

March 12 - Ron & Joan Mumaw/Mel Kresge and Jean Cooper

March 19 - Debbie & Steve Chesney/Vic & Anna Zeeman

March 26 - Carol Hartway and Betty Stocker/Donne Lee Cresina and Rocky Starner

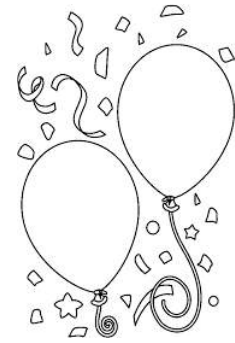
Coffee Fellowship

We share fellowship during coffee hour after worship each week. Please feel free to donate a baked good by leaving it on the table in the Social Hall before worship, any week that you choose. Thank you!

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy March Birthdays

01 Kate McKelvey-Jones	15 Kay Kromer
01 Deann Allen	16 Tammy Uhler
03 Carol Labar	18 Kendra Ehrich
04 Bonnie Starner	19 Justin Chesney
05 Debbie Hartzell	20 Dane Edelheiser
05 Kurtis Fleming	21 Sarah Ringhoff
05 Jordan Allen	23 Corinne Gold Eberts
07 Joan Guthrie	24 Brett Fleming
08 Kelvin Dewalt	24 Jenn Hughes
09 Janet Berger	24 Apryl Audenried
11 Winnie Mengel	26 Dustin Gable
11 Tagan Steward	27 Bob Egolf
12 Victor Zeeman	28 Janet Rush
12 Alyssa Knitter	28 Craig Warner
13 Jane Rader	29 Irv Angstadt
14 Charles Prutzman Sr.	30 Ryan Hartzell



March Anniversaries

Ruth & Ed Gable	3/06/1971
Jennifer & Brent Wood	3/11/1995
Sherry & Charles Pruntzman Sr.	3/12/1987
Carole & Doug Steckel	3/13/1954
Winnie & Frank Mengel Jr.	3/20/1965
Carol & Chuck Hartway	3/20/1983
Corinne & Warren Eberts	3/23/2004
Judy & Jerry Kinsey	3/25/1967

Is Church Canceled Today?

To find out this winter, or anytime, if Forks UCC services are canceled due to inclement weather, the Consistory has implemented procedures to notify the congregation.

The Forks UCC Congregation can find out if church is canceled the following ways:

- The cancellation notice will be sent out to members on the mass e-mail list
- The cancellation notice will be posted on the Church Webpage
- The cancellation notice will be posted on WFMZ.com & in extreme weather conditions on WFMZ TV
- Members who sign up will receive a phone call between 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM on the Sunday in question if services are cancelled. To sign up please let the Church office know or e-mail Jacob E. Allen at jacob.e.allen@gmail.com. Sign up using the yellow forms in each vestibule.

Please take advantage of these services to find out if church services are ever canceled.

Going Green

As of last month, our newsletter will be emailed. Please email or call Alice Hornbake (wmhornbake@yahoo.com or 610-703-3095) **if you would like to continue** having a hard copy sent to your home. Thank you!

March 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship	2	3	4 Zion's UCC Breakfast Outreach
5 1st Sunday in Lent Communion	6	7	8 6PM Handbell Choir 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:15PM Lenten Service	9	10	11 Daylight Savings Begins Spring Ahead
12 2nd Sunday in Lent	13 7PM Stewardship/ Finance	14 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory Meeting	15 6PM Handbell Choir 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:15PM Lenten Service	16	17	18
19 3rd Sunday in Lent	20 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	21 6:30PM Mission and Action	22 6PM Handbell Choir 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:15PM Lenten Service	23	24	25
26 4th Sunday in Lent <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering</i>	27 7PM Christian Ed.	28 6:30PM Parish Life	29 6PM Handbell Choir 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:15PM Lenten Service	30	31	Notes:

Sundays
 8AM - Meditative Worship
 10AM - Worship/Children's Sunday School

