

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...



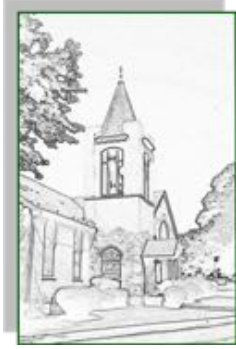
Earth Day Clean Up



Relay for Life

Youth Retreat





A few weeks ago, a friend of mine, who also happens to be a pastor, showed me an “Internet meme” that she saw on Instagram. Now, for those of you who don’t know, an “Internet meme” is usually a picture, with a caption underneath, that people consider to be funny, or clever, or meaningful, so it gets spread across social media sites, like Facebook and Instagram. The “Internet meme” that my friend showed me might be considered offensive to some Christians, so fair warning...I thought it was relatively harmless, and kind of funny, and it has stuck with me. It was a picture of Jesus, standing in line at a department store, waiting to redeem a coupon, with the caption underneath, “Christ the Redeemer.”

The reason that picture has stuck with me is that I know a lot of people who spend a lot of time cutting coupons (not that there’s anything wrong with that!), but it’s just not my thing. I suppose I would rather spend the extra money than spend the extra time it takes to cut coupons, but that’s just a personal choice. Lots of people would disagree with me!

On the UCC website, pastor, Lillian Daniel, offers the following reflection: “I got a coupon to my local movie theater for 50% off the cost of a movie ticket with popcorn too. But when I tried to use my coupon at the theater, I got some surprising news. The movie was being sponsored by a community group and therefore my coupon did not apply. Why? Because the movie was going to be free. Free of charge. And can you guess what my reaction was? Disappointment. I kid you not, I actually had a pang of disappointment that I was not going to be able to use my coupon, like I was being cheated out of my deal somehow. Never mind that the movie was free, as in FREE. My coupon-craving creativity was crushed and I was actually disappointed. By getting a free ticket, I was being robbed of my chance to be the smartest coupon cutter in the room.”

I think that our lives of faith are like this, too. We Christians can work harder than other people, we can give more than other people, we can show up more often than other people, we can be the smartest, most knowledgeable, most accomplished, most cleverest, most righteous people in the room. And, at the end of the day, the gifts that God offers to us are FREE! Free of charge. And the really disturbing thing is that God offers these gifts free of charge to all of those people who don’t work as hard as us, or are as accomplished as us, or are as knowledgeable or clever or righteous as us.

No matter how many coupons we cut, I think that the best things in life- loving relationships, the smile of a child, the beauty of nature- are always free. So is our salvation. No matter how many coupons we cut, Christ is truly the only Redeemer.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” - Ephesians 2:8

Christian Education

Sunday School Picnic

Please join us in celebrating the end of the Sunday School year at our picnic after worship on Sunday, June 11th in the grove. We will have games and fun while sharing fellowship. There will be a food sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Confirmation

Please join us on Sunday, June 4, 2017, as our five confirmands complete their studies with Pastor Bob and are confirmed. We will wish them the very best in their continued spiritual journey.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this year: July 17th-21st. Please see Pam Davis if you'd like to volunteer!

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.

Please keep your cans coming and place them in the pantry shelf. June's food of the month is picnic items and healthy cereal. We are also in need of goodies for kids such as shelf stable jello, pudding snack packs, fruit roll ups, and packs of cookies.

Stand Up for Homelessness

The next Stand Up is **June 10th** from 9AM-2PM. If you would like to volunteer or are willing to cut hair, please let Gary Barraco know.

Trinity Soup Kitchen

Our next date to serve lunch is June 24th from 10:30-1:30. Please see Gary Barraco with questions. **We need about 5 more volunteers to help serve that day.** We'd love to have you!

Consistory

The reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at 7PM. If you are on a committee, please plan to attend.

Creative Worship

We encourage you to wear **RED** on Sunday, June 4th for Pentecost. Also....mark your calendar for Sunday, July 16th as our outdoor worship service in the grove.

Stewardship and Finance

We will be collecting our special ***Strengthen the Church*** offering on Sunday, June 11th. This offering is collected to invest in the future of Christianity. With these gifts, the UCC is able to fund new ministries that experiment with church beyond the walls of our buildings. Money could go toward establishing new church projects working with refugees and immigrants or to fund creative ideas experimenting with new ways Christian millennials are gathering. Please help us grow the church outside of the church! Envelopes can be found in the pew racks or your boxed set.

Making ConneXions

We are eager to know more about the people who worship with us, therefore we are starting a new column in the next *Tidings*. We've developed a list of questions that share with others who you are. Some questions are simple, such as where you live, while others are deeper. If you would like to share yourself and "make a connection", please email Alice Hornbake (wmbornbake@yahoo.com) for the form. If you have questions, you can see Gary Barraco.

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 Schneebeil, 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. Another way of showing your love is to opt out of having flowers, rather choosing to have a single candle on the altar and your flower money will be donated to a charity of your choice. This is a powerful way to honor the day but make a difference in our world. 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 June

June 4 - Karen & Dale Bernecker
June 11 - Betsy & Craig Warner
June 18 - Jean & Bill Cooper
June 25 - Dolly & Earl Abel



Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

June 4 - Sam Kemmerer
June 11 - Jean Cooper
June 18 - Mike Boushell
June 25 - Jean Cooper

Greeters/Offering Collectors

June 4 - Brenda DeLong and Carole Steckel/Bill & Lorna Dreisbach
June 11 - Sally Dewalt and Alice Bartholomew/Dave & Joan Phillips
June 18 - Rocky Starner and Joan Jud/Bob & Dawn Trimble
June 25 - Barbara Huff and Sandy Perrine/Vic & Anna Zeeman

Sacrament of Baptism

Norah Marie Schleppey was baptized on May 7, 2017, during morning worship. Her parents are Sarah and Nicholas Schleppey. We happily welcome Norah into Christ's church and the Forks United Church of Christ Community.

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy June Birthdays

01 Ruth Smith	15 Jennifer Lively
01 Talon Fry	15 Sandy Fehnel
04 Benjamin Machado	16 Louise Bruch
04 Benjamin Gleason	16 Alicia Hancik
05 Lori Avery	16 Alice Hornbake
06 Dale Starner	16 Abigail Chesney
07 Shawna Bernecker	17 Gloria Francis
08 Bill Cooper Jr.	19 Colleen Altieri
09 Amy Richard	21 Rhonda Herres
09 Richard Allen	23 Porter Ringhoff
09 Chad Wagner	24 Diana Mumaw
10 Charles Kolb	27 Cindy Aicher
11 Michael Correll	27 Alexandria Pump
12 Kara Hartzell	28 Henry Pump Jr.
13 Dennis Hahn	28 Ashley Cressman
14 Sandy Perrine	29 Alice Bartholomew
14 Gavin Gaul	29 Will Schneebeli



June Anniversaries

Kara & John Hartzell	6/02/2012
Paula & Michael Correll	6/03/1979
Dolly & Earl Abel	6/07/1947
Diane & Larry Lopresti	6/10/1967
Catherine & Michael Tirrell	6/11/1993
Alice & Richard Bartholomew	6/12/1956
Tammy & Jeff Uhler	6/12/1999
Brenda & Jeff Stoudt	6/16/1978
Alison & Brett Fleming	6/18/1994
Alice & Will Hornbake	6/18/2005
Terry & Keith Kresge	6/19/1993
Gloria & Walt Francis	6/20/1970
Jean & Bill Cooper	6/22/1968
Kay & Glenn Kromer	6/23/1962
Rose & Mike Smialkowski	6/26/1983
Ruth & Tom Smith	6/26/1971
Sarah & Lenny Ringhoff	6/26/2004
Anna & Jim Laudenslager	6/27/1970
Alicia & Jim Hancik	6/30/2001

June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Pentecost Sunday Communion Confirmation No Sunday School	5	6	7	8	9	10 Stand Up for Homelessness 9AM-2PM
11 Trinity Sunday <i>Strengthen the Church offering</i> End of Sunday School picnic	12 7PM Stewardship/ Finance	13 6PM Spiritual Council 6:30PM Consistory Meeting/ Reorganizatio n	14	15	16	17
18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Happy Father's Day!	19 6:30PM Adult Fellowship Doggie Roast/ Meeting 7PM Christian Ed.	20 6:30PM Evangelism & Outreach	21 Strawberry Festival 5-9:30PM	22	23	24 Trinity Soup Kitchen 10:30-1:30
25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 60th anniversary of the United Church of Christ Happy Birthday to us!	26	27 6:30PM Parish Life	28	29	30	Notes:

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



FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 4500 SULLIVAN TRAIL
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 STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083-0158

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PHONE:
 (610) 759-5676

WEBSITE:
www.forkschurch-ucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
 MON, TUES, WED, THURS
 8:15 AM TO 3:30 PM

Newsletter Editor:
 Alice Hornbake

Staff Members

MinistersEvery Member of the Church
 PastorBob Gutekunst
 Music Director Tony Moore
 Director of Outreach Ministry.....Gary M. Barraco
 Office Manager.....Cheryl Hahn
 Groundskeeper.....Frank Mengel, Jr.
 HousekeeperLoretta Seruga

Your Consistory Members

Consistory PresidentPam Davis
 Vice PresidentBetsy Warner
 Consistory Secretary.....Carol Young
 Spiritual CouncilMel Kresge
 Spiritual CouncilBrenda Stoudt
 Spiritual CouncilJim Milham
 Christian EdLois Steward
 Alice Hornbake
 Evangelism and Outreach.....Gary M. Barraco
 Rocky Starner
 Kim Starner
 Creative WorshipJean Cooper
 Parish LifeSue McCollian
 Sarah Ringhoff
 PropertySteve Dewalt
 Sandy Schaadt
 Stewardship & FinanceJacob E. Allen
 Amy Richard
 Margaret Zabe
 Personnel.....Bob Zabe
 Ruth Gable

About Forks UCC:

We carry on the traditions of the faithful who founded this church in 1812. A landmark along Sullivan Trail, the congregations have been proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ for over 200 years.

Our Mission Statement

God calls and empowers us to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of all people, through our gifts of love, support, and compassion revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



June 2017