

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!

Learning Together



Vacation Bible School

What We've Been Up To...



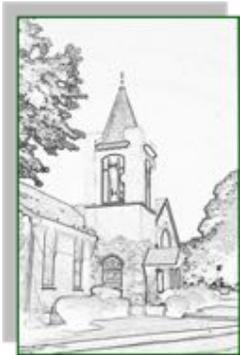
Feeding the Hungry



Supporting the Greater Need

Back to School donations





I saw an interview with writer and speaker, Parker Palmer, in which he talked about something he called, “The work before the work”. He got the idea from the Taoist tradition, and other Eastern wisdom teaching stories that talk about the notion of “preparation.” For example, before the potter can create something, he or she must prepare to create a work of beauty. He goes on to say that, in our culture, we often skip the “readiness stuff.” Of course, our culture focuses on college and graduate school, modes of preparation that prepare us for externalities...ways to manipulate the external world. But, we don’t spend much time on ‘inner work’, work that cultivates a root of inner wisdom.

Palmer says that this agenda of doing the “work before the work” is something that couldn’t be more natural for the church to be engaged in, but, even in the church, it’s something we often ignore. Of course, we want to send people out into the world to do good, but we spend little time in the work of preparation...the work of sifting soul from ego, of separating our desire to serve from our desire for recognition.

Author Rod Dreher wrote a book called, “The Benedict Option”, which talks about creating “thick, resilient Christian communities, modeling the communities of St. Benedict, that will serve the world by their very existence- by the way they form their members as Christians and as humans.” To be honest, I don’t really agree with much of Dreher’s theology- he is much more conservative and less accepting and tolerant than those of us who consider ourselves to be “progressive Christians.” But, I think the practical applications of his book can apply to all Christians.

He says, “Anxious people are looking for that killer app that will make everything right again. St. Benedict modeled a different way of life. Develop a discipline of prayer. Let your approach to work flow out of that prayer. Grow roots in a place, among a people. Go to church, and linger afterward- be a pilgrim, not a tourist. Our lives are inevitably centered on something, and it requires daily practice to ensure that something is Christ. So, the most pressing task for Christians is to embed themselves in the day-to-day life of Christian community.”

Of course, that doesn’t mean that we ignore public life, or the needs of our communities. But, the natural consequence of a community that forms “thick Christians” is that the community will, by the very nature of its existence, do good in the world. Here at Forks, we offer small groups whose purpose is faith formation. We meet in the afternoons, but I would love to start a group in the evenings, if there is enough interest. We have a visitation team, who goes out and spends time with members of our community, sharing and learning and growing from one another. We offer an early worship time on Sunday mornings, the sole purpose of which is to spend time experiencing prayer and sacrament. And we always need more people to spend time with our youth. All of these opportunities, I believe, help us to form a more “thick” Christian way of life. I would encourage you, as we begin another program year here in our congregation, to participate in some of these opportunities for faith formation. And if you have other suggestions for spiritual practices we might offer, please let me know.

Of course, we want people to continue to participate in our many outreach programs and ministry teams. That work is vitally important. But, in my opinion, the “work before the work” is just as important, and is something we all need to consider.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

September 2017

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. We are collecting the following items for Thanksgiving baskets: canned corn, peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, canned or jarred gravy and turkey broth. Thank you!

Donations!

Slater Family Network was eager to accept 35 backpacks and school supply donations at the August 20th Worship service. Pastor Bob blessed the backpacks. We are now focusing on collecting for our 24 Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you!

Making ConneXions

We are eager to know more about the people who worship with us. If you would like to share yourself and “make a connection”, please email Alice Hornbake (wmhornbake@yahoo.com) for the form. Thank you!

Featuring:

Verna J. Bolte from Easton, PA is an administrative assistant in real estate and has been attending Forks UCC for more than 15 years:

★If you had to describe yourself in five words, what would they be?

Creative, friendly, caring, grandmother, Christian

★What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

Using my education and work skills to continue to support myself and my church

★Where do you like to vacation?

The beach

★What’s on your bucket list?

I want to see the Grand Canyon and Ireland.

★If you could change something in the world, what would it be?

Greed

★What makes you wildly happy?

My grandchildren

★Which of your parents are you most like and why?

Father, strong work ethics!

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

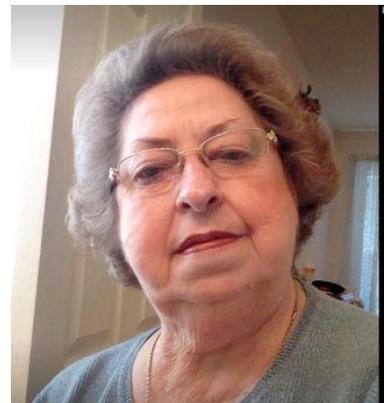
Personally, not being able to do the things I used to enjoy most, gardening, yard work, health issues.

★What is the most valuable life lesson you’ve ever learned?

To share my knowledge

★What will be your legacy?

Hopefully my love for my family



Karen Bernecker from Plainfield Township, PA is a cook/food service at Wind Gap Middle School and has been attending Forks UCC for 22 years:

★If you had to describe yourself in five words, what would they be?

Creative, empathetic, dedicated, kind, and sensitive

★What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

Raising my girls. How they both are compassionate towards others. Always told how polite, kind, and hard working they are.

★Where do you like to vacation?

Do not get many vacations, but usually a beach. My ideal vacation would be a cabin on a lake with a book or paintbrush in hand.

★What's on your bucket list?

Illustrate/Write a children's book

★If you could change something in the world, what would it be?

That everyone, including me, would be less judgmental towards others.

★What makes you wildly happy?

Family! Viewing and listening to nature...especially morning birds, rainbows, and a clear night of stars.

★Which of your parents are you most like and why?

Got a little bit of both in there but if I needed to choose I would say my mom. Both good cooks and get impatient with others too quickly.

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

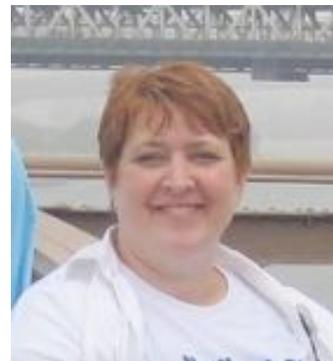
Being a mom to grown girls. Now what do I want to do, be, and accomplish?

★What is the most valuable life lesson you've ever learned?

That not everything is black and white! That as much as people may not have walked in your shoes, you haven't walked in theirs either.

★What will be your legacy?

My hope is that I will be viewed as a compassionate, giving person who was a great daughter, sister, mom and hopefully a grandma one day!



Christian Education

Members of our Christian Education committee have spent numerous hours refreshing our Sunday School rooms this summer. The children are going to love the changes! Please join us on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10th for the start of Sunday School. Arrive a few minutes early to register your children for the class. We will have a picnic in the grove afterward. Look for a sign up sheet to bring a dish to share.

Fundraising

Festivals

Thank you to all who helped and supported our summer festivals this year. Our profit for the June Strawberry Festival was \$1,695. Our Ice Cream Festival had a profit of approximately \$2,086.54. A portion of both festivals will be directly helping our outreach programs.

The raffle winners for the Ice Cream Festival were:

- 1st - M. Scheirer
- 2nd - Carol Eberts
- 3rd - Gloria Fitch
- 4th - Sherry Prutzman
- 5th - Jane Follweiler
- 6th - William Emanu

Thank you to our sponsors for the festivals: Schmidt Funeral Home, Ready Set Go Preschool, Scotts Collision Center and The Adult Fellowship. The profits from the festivals will be designated for the stain glass window restoration project. The 2018 dates for the festivals are tentatively: Strawberry Festival Wednesday, 6/20 and Ice Cream Festival Wednesday, 8/1.

Forks Community Days

Forks Community Days are September 15th, 16th and 17th. This year we will be evangelizing with the community giving away our free stuff and then we also will be selling walking tacos. We need volunteers to help set up on Friday and staff the booth over all three days. Please see Char Lehman for information.

Rummage and Bake Sale

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be October 20-21. You can begin dropping off your items on Sunday, 10/1 in the hallway downstairs. The last day to donate is 10/18. Please note that we do not accept stuffed furniture or large, heavy TVs. Please contact Sandy Schaadt, Joan Mumaw, Barb Huff or Jacob Allen for details.

Stewardship and Finance

During the months of July and August our church has suffered a financial situation where we did not have enough offerings to cover the expenses causing us to borrow to continue to operate as normal and pay our staff. While we expect this shortage to be a temporary bump in the road, it is important for all of us to look at our personal financial situations and prayerfully decide if there is any way that you can help our future financial status. Perhaps you have the ability to increase your offerings or maybe you have the need to look at electronic giving to better stabilize how often you donate. Next month we will provide a further update on how we have managed through the upcoming month. Thank you for your continued support!

Electronic Giving

Enrolling in electronic giving for your tithe goes to the Church's General Budget. This is the account used to support the everyday operations of the church such as salaries and office supplies as well as our essential and ever increasing mission work. These expenses are, for the most part, consistent on a month to month basis just as many of your recurring expenses are.

A survey conducted in 2015 says that more than 40% of the population uses automated electronic payment methods and this has likely grown over the years since. The benefits you get from automated payment methods in your own lives, like avoiding late fees, are closely related to the benefits seen by the person or company you are making payments to. They don't have to spend extra time and energy asking you for your payment multiple times, and more importantly they can count on your payment coming on a certain day each month. This consistency helps them to better plan their cash flow, so they sometimes even give you discounts for signing up for their automated payment service.

While you won't get a discount from the Church, your automated tithe will greatly help us to predict the incoming money to the General Fund. This will in turn allow the Stewardship and Finance committee to better budget on a monthly and yearly basis. In addition, enrolling in electronic giving will reduce the amount of envelopes to be opened and money to be counted on a weekly basis, though your e-giving will always be reported on your statement. If you are interested in being a part of this forward movement and have any questions or need help please feel free to ask any members of the stewardship and finance committee: Amy Richard, Glenn Borger, Brenda DeLong, Ed Gable, and Will Hornbake

You can also ask Cheryl Hahn in the business office, find the form on our new website, or in this newsletter. Thank you.

Submitted by Will Hornbake

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 September

September 3 - Shirley Letson
September 10 - Doug & Carole Steckel
September 17 - Carol & Dave Young
September 24 - Karen & Dale Bernecker

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

September 3 - Glenn Borger
September 10 - Sam Kemmerer
September 17 - Steve Dewalt
September 24 - Jean Cooper

Greeters/Offering Collectors

September 3 - Ron and Joan Mumaw/Carol and Dave Young
September 10 - Mel Kresge & Jean Cooper/Joan Jud & Marguerite Obulaney
September 17 - Kim Starnner & Rocky Starnner/Debbie and Steve Chesney
September 24 - Louise Bruch & Betty Stocker/Donna Lee Crescina & Sandy Perrine

Creative Worship

Join a Choir!

Sanctuary choir begins rehearsals again in September and we would love to have some new voices join us. If singing isn't your thing...how about handbell choir?! Please contact Tony Moore for more information.



September 2017

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy September Birthdays

02 Larry Lopresti	20 Zack Shook
03 Danielle Margelot	21 Diane Nicholas
04 Scott Wetmore	22 Irene Tenges
10 Donna Lee Cresina	22 Tammy Gerstenberg
10 Bonnie Warren	23 Jacob Allen
11 Mark Hendricks	25 Anna Zeeman
12 Ben Audenried	25 Jayson Mitch
12 Addalai Sales	26 Jane Kemmerer
14 Riley Williams	26 Gary Barraco
15 Aidan Fleming	26 Jack Sales
16 Tom Smith	26 Brittany Hughes
16 Tayler Ostrander	28 Carol Dewalt
17 Alex Borger	28 Kyle Zehnbauer
18 Elliana Margelot	30 Larissa Bernecker



September Anniversaries

Jennifer & Brian Lively	9/02/2002
Cathy & Jim Clark	9/04/1970
Deb & Burton Ackerman	9/07/1974
Ronda & Bob Gutekunst	9/13/2014
Carol & Glenn Dewalt	9/15/1962
Char & Dale Lehman	9/15/2007
Carol & David Young	9/17/1960
Jane & Sam Kemmerer	9/19/1953
Sandy & Jim Schaadt	9/19/1970
Betsy & Craig Warner	9/19/1987
Dawn & Henry Pump Jr.	9/21/1985
Dotothea & Bill Setzler	9/23/1995
Kim & Tom Gutekunst	9/24/1994
Debbie & Alan Hartzell	9/26/1986
Tracey & Dathan Silfies	9/30/2000

Merryn Elizabeth Edelheiser was baptized on July 30, 2017. She is the daughter of Danielle and Dane Edelheiser. We happily welcome Merryn into the Forks Church family!

Confirmands

Evan Dugan, Gavin Gaul, Shanon McCollian, Tanner Riehl, 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, Dorothy Kortz, Marge Markley, Winnie Mengle, Patti O'Donnell, Jane Rader, Florence Saylor, Irene Tenges, Marge (Koch) Ziegenfuss

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 13th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	4 Labor Day - Office Closed	5 8:30-12 Slater Family Network Back to School	6 6PM Handbell Choir 7:15PM Sanctuary Choir	7	8	9 10:30-1PM Trinity Soup Kitchen
10 14th Sunday after Pentecost Faith Formation Sunday <i>Rally Day</i>	11 7PM Stewardship and Finance	12 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	13 6PM Handbell Choir 7:15PM Sanctuary Choir	14	15 Forks Community Days	16 Forks Community Days
17 15th Sunday after Pentecost Forks Community Days	18 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	19 6:30PM Property 7PM Evangelism and Outreach	20 6PM Handbell Choir 7:15PM Sanctuary Choir	21	22 <i>Fall begins</i>	23
24 16th Sunday after Pentecost	25 7PM Christian Ed.	26 6:30PM Parish Life	27 6PM Handbell Choir 7:15PM Sanctuary Choir	28	29	30

Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship



