

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...



Learning about our Mission, Vision, and Purpose and acting upon it...



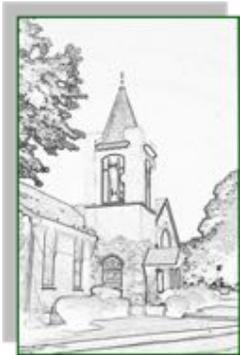
Rally Day picnic



Forks Community Days 2017



Overdose Awareness Luminary



A member of the congregation shared the following story with me: “At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony. ‘I’m a millionaire,’ he said, ‘and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday:

I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God’s work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today.’

As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man’s story. But, as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: ‘Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!’”

It has been suggested to me that the giving in our congregation is down because we have become too involved in mission projects, which is taking away from our general giving. I don’t particularly agree with this line of thinking for a few different reasons. First of all, serving others is what it means to be the church. If you read the banner, “Be The Church” that is hanging in our sanctuary, many of the descriptions of how to be the church need to take place outside of the four walls of our church building and outside of the one hour we spend there on Sunday mornings.

Secondly, as I have explained on multiple occasions, nobody in the congregation is reasonably expected to be able to participate in every single mission project. The reason we have a variety of outreach opportunities is so that folks can hopefully find something they are passionate about.

But, really what it boils down to is this- as the above story humorously depicts, Jesus calls us to give ourselves, our lives to Him. Of course, I don’t think that means we are supposed to give every dollar we have to the work of God. But, I believe it means that God and our faith in God and our participation in a faith community are meant to be priorities in our lives. So, if you believe that God and our faith in God and the particular expression of faith that we call Forks United Church of Christ are important, and if you believe that serving God by serving others is important as well, the only question remaining is, “How important?”

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s”-
Matthew 22:21

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!

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:

Richard "Rick" Taylor from Easton, PA is a retired United Church of Christ pastor and has been attending Forks UCC for almost 3 years:

★What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

Rather than citing an "accomplishment," I would say that I "hope" that my service as a pastor was a help to the people in the congregations and communities, that it under girded the Church, and was graciously accepted by God. (I served congregations in Kittanning, PA, Hinsdale and Middlefield, MA, Andover, CT, Benton Harbor, MI, and Providence, RI.)

★Where do you like to vacation?

For vacation I actually go to libraries and archives to learn more and to find good stories to share with others.

★What's on your bucket list?

My "bucket list" is actually to complete three more books on United Church history. One is designed to be a directory of all the German Reformed churches that existed in the United States.

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

If I could change something in the world, I would encourage all people to spend time with and listen carefully to all kinds of people. There is a part of God in all of them.

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

The last few years have been marked by a series of health issues that have restricted my travel and potential. That has been humbling and difficult.

★What will be your legacy?

My legacy: I have an adopted son, Julian Smith; I hope that some of the churches and people I have worked with, might be filled with the Holy Spirit for justice and peace; that's what I hope - though I guess my name will be most known by people who study minutia in church history.



Eleanore Hornbake from Easton, PA is a 3rd grade student at Forks Elementary School and has been attending Forks UCC for 3 years:

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

Challenging, funny, adventurous, hard working, and complainer

★Where do you like to vacation?

I like to vacation in Vermont.

★What's on your bucket list?

I would like to visit Germany with my Gramps.

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

I would like to change the violence.

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

I am most like my daddy because I complain. Also I am very slow and I cannot focus.

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

I recently got my hair cut.



Christian Education

Christian Education has a lot going on! CE and the confirmands will be supporting the October 14th Soup Kitchen at Trinity. Sunday School children also helped assemble 24 hygiene kits for hurricane victims. Thank you to our children!

We have also updated our bulletin board. Please check it out in the Social Hall.

Parish Life

Parish Life is planning a hayride on Oct. 14th at 3:30. There will also be a trip to the pumpkin patch. Come join us at Sue McCollin's farm for an afternoon of fun with hot dogs, apple cider, chips and s'mores. A sign up sheet will be posted in social hall.

Emergency Prayer Chain

An outreach for prayer when you or someone you know and love has an emergency, unexpected surgery, accident, etc. The place to call is:

- Church Office - (610) 759-5676
- Lois Steward - (610) 759-3519
- Rita Blossey - (484) 373-0614

One of us will start the chain. Anyone who would like to join our Emergency Prayer Chain, please call Lois Steward or Rita Blossey at the numbers listed above.

Call the Church Office When...

- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital so the proper people are notified.
- Your home phone, email address, or mailing address has changed.
- An addition to your family has occurred.
- You want your birthday and/or anniversary added to our newsletter list.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.

Fundraising

Craft/Vendor Show

The annual *Ready, Set, Go* craft/vendor show will be held at the church on Saturday, October 28th from 9AM-2PM. There will be door prizes, a tricky tray (baskets), and the kitchen will be open. To request information, please contact Verna Bolte at wildoak2@rcn.com or 610-730-2862. Set up will occur on 10/27 from 5-7PM and 10/28 from 7-9AM.

Stewardship and Finance

Thank you to Ed Gable for sharing a stewardship moment with the Congregation on 9/10/17. He retold the Aesop fable of The Ant and the Grasshopper. The moral of the story is to be proactive and save. This is an especially important tale at this time in our church. Please consider signing up for electronic giving, which allows the church to better plan and forecast. If you miss a week of service, your tithes are still put toward our needs. Forms can be found on our website or with our office manager.

Special Offering

NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED (NIN) Offering which we will receive on October 1, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion through the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The UCC continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as healthcare, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. NIN also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED helps make another world possible. It needs your support. There are NIN offering envelopes in your boxed set and there will be NIN envelopes in the pew racks on October 1. Thank you.

Creative Worship

We have some exciting Worship services coming up. Please mark your calendar and join us:

October 1st - World Communion Sunday (variety of different breads for Communion!)

October 15th - Children and Youth Sunday (our children will lead us)

October 22nd - Cancer Awareness Sunday (pray with us for a cure)

October 29th - All Saints Day (wear white)

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 October

October 1 - Cheryl Hahn
October 8 - Sue & Sean McCollian
October 15 - Jeff & Brenda Stoudt
October 22 - Carol & Dave Young
October 29 - Dawn & Bob Trimble

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

October 1 - Sam Kemmerer
October 8 - Steve Dewalt
October 15 - Jean Cooper
October 22 - Kim Starner
October 29 - Jean Cooper

Greeters/Offering Collectors

October 1 - Linda and Dick Armbrust/Carol Steckel & Lori Avery
October 8 - Barbara Huff & Jean Cooper/Alice Bartholomew & Sally Dewalt
October 15 - Joan and Dave Phillips/Dawn and Bob Trimble
October 22 - Margaret and Bob Zabe/Joan Jud & Brenda Delong
October 29 - Sandy and Glenn Borger/Carol and Dave Young

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy October Birthdays

02 Sheri Burda	13 Tom Gutekunst
03 Brian Schneebeli	14 Tammy Angstadt
04 Scott Kresge	14 Matthew Ackerman
05 Ruth Rinaldi	16 Christopher Dewalt
05 Samuel Jones	17 Audrey Berger*
06 Makayla Fleming	18 Madysen Hughes
07 Ray Kromer*	20 Steve Dewalt
07 Linda Fleming	22 Leigh Ann Lively
09 Sarah Happel	22 Ashleigh Gaul
09 Cheryl Hahn	23 Angela McGraw
10 Shelly Flyte	23 Christopher Flyte
10 Hunter Gares	24 Isabel Ringhoff
11 Glenn Borger	26 J.R. Mitch
12 Bill Dreisbach	28 Deb Ackerman
13 Laraine Kresge	29 David Phillips
13 Bob Gutekunst	31 Alexandria Wood

Happy Birthday to Ray Kromer and Audrey Berger who celebrate their 90th birthdays this month!

October Anniversaries

Carol & Dallas Labar	10/06/1972
Sue & Sean McCollian	10/10/1992
Gary Barraco & Eric Hanlein	10/16/2011
Diane & Steve Dewalt	10/22/1983
Linda & Gary Fleming	10/23/1982
Rhonda & Joe Herres	10/28/1995
Dawn & Bob Trimble	10/30/1965



Confirmands

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

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost Communion <i>World Communion Sunday</i> Neighbors in Need offering Girl Scout breakfast 7:30-10AM	2	3	4 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6:30-8PM Open Support Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	5	6	7
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	9 7PM Stewardship and Finance	10 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	11 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	12	13	14 9AM-2PM Stand Up for Homelessness 10:30-1PM Trinity Soup Kitchen Parish Life Hayride 3:30
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Children and Youth Sunday</i>	16 6:00PM Adult Fellowship <i>New time!!</i>	17 7PM Evangelism and Outreach	18 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6:30-8PM Open Support Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	19	20 9AM-3PM Rummage/ Bake Sale	21 9AM-2PM Rummage/ Bake Sale Stuff a Bag at NOON
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Cancer Awareness Sunday</i>	23 7PM Christian Ed.	24 6:30PM Parish Life	25 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	26	27	28 9AM-2PM Craft/Vendor Show
29 21st Sunday after Pentecost <i>All Saints Day</i>	30	31 Reformation Day				

Sundays

8AM - Meditative Worship

10AM - Worship



UNITED CHURCH
 OF CHRIST
 God is still speaking.

October 2017

