

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....



Homelessness
Youth Retreat



World Communion Sunday



Children's Message Experiments



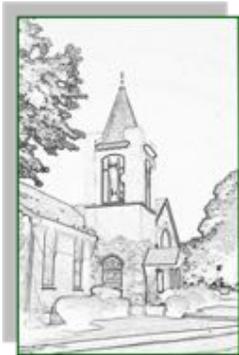
Adult Fellowship supports a mission trip



Cooking for
VBS for 26
years!



Children's Sabbath Sunday



The other day, I was driving up to Palmerton, and noticed, on the surrounding mountains, that, due to the unseasonably warm weather, many of the trees on the mountains were still pretty green- they had yet to turn color. Autumn is my favorite time of the year, and one of the reasons is that this time is usually filled with so many bright and vibrant colors- the reds and yellows and oranges that surround us at this time of the year. But color, aside from being beautiful, can also hold some deeper meaning.

One of the kids in my Confirmation class told me, a few weeks ago, that many fast food restaurants use the color red in their logos because it makes people feel hungry. It's good to know that I have something to blame for my problem with fast food- the color red! Who knew? Lord knows there have been many Consistory arguments over the color of the carpet in the sanctuary. I've always assumed that our color is a deep burgundy in case there is any Communion wine spilled on a Sunday morning, although perhaps there is some deeper religious significance to the selection of the color that I'm not aware of.

All of this is preface to introduce a video I saw on the Internet the other day. The person speaking on the video was a woman named Naliba Alibhai. She talked about the current state of the world in which we live, what she referred to as "the time of terrorism." We can respond to this time in which we live with fear- by contracting ourselves inward and guarding against threats from the outside- or by extending ourselves outward, joining hands with people and facing threats together. Most people choose to respond with fear, causing isolation, division, and a breakdown in empathy, and conversation and trust with the "other." Alibhai, who works in conflict resolution, says that, "we are in a pivotal time to restore confidence in humanity."

In her home city of Nairobi, Kenya, Alibhai joined forces with an artist named Yazmany Arboleda, who came up with an idea: in the hopes of creating solidarity with strangers, they would ask every religious community in Nairobi- churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, over 60 of them- to paint their sanctuaries the color yellow, because, as the imam of one mosque said, "Yellow is the color of the sun, and the sun shines on all of us equally." Alibhai and Arboleda ran into some roadblocks- some churches said that they would need to get Consistory approval to select a color (sound familiar?), some synagogues and mosques were understandably afraid that the color would make them stand out as a target, the local Roman Catholic archbishop told them they would have to write a letter to the Vatican (they're still waiting to hear back). But, they got 25 faith communities to agree, and, in a wonderful show of solidarity, and community, and togetherness, they painted each other's places of worship yellow. They called the project, "Color of Faith."

I'm not suggesting that we follow suit. It was hard enough getting the narthex painted green. But, in a world of increasing isolation, and separation and division, perhaps there are some more subtle, under-the-radar ways we might welcome and engage "the other." I have reached out to some neighboring congregations to see if we might do some things together. In our faith community, perhaps you might simply make it a practice to engage someone new on a Sunday morning, to participate in something you haven't tried before. If you have been involved in something and in charge of something for a very long time, you might consider letting others in and welcoming new people to your endeavor, even if it means letting go of some control. All of these are small ways we might begin to build empathy, and conversation, and trust with one another.

As Alibhai says in her video, "Fear is infectious; but hope is infectious too."

Blessings on a colorful (hopefully) and joy-filled Autumn season,

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.

Please keep your cans coming and place them in the pantry shelf. We are collecting baking items and pastry goods.

Holiday Meals

We will be feeding twelve local families this Thanksgiving with a holiday basket. Thank you to those who donated the various items requested including the turkeys fulfilled by the Wilson Boro Republican Club.

Holiday Hope Chests

We will be participating in the Shoe Box collection again this year. Please take a tag, grab an information sheet and fill a regular sized shoebox. Don't have any shoeboxes? We have some available for you to use. We hope you choose to participate! See Vic or Anna Zeeman with questions.

Giving Tree

Our faith community will continue to support the Northampton County Children, Youth, and Families division this holiday season by participating in a giving tree. Beginning on 11/12, please take a tag from the tree in the fellowship hall to buy a particular gift for a child who is less fortunate. See Kim Starner with questions.

Creative Worship

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

November 12th - Veterans Day Reflection

November 19th - Harvest Home

November 26th - First Sunday in Advent

Choir Corner - "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord"

Hello from the Choir Corner. We're singing and ringing every Wednesday night getting anthems prepared for Sunday mornings, Advent, and Christmas Eve. What a great bunch they are; it's such a pleasure rehearsing with them.

A big thank you to Hannah, Cayden, Tommy, Samantha, and Gavin for the clarinet and ringing handchimes on Youth Sabbath Sunday.

"Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals!" ~Psalm 150:3-5~ Blessings. Cheryl

Christmas Services

Please join us at **4PM** on Christmas Eve for our Children's service. It will include the play and hymns. At **8PM**, we will have our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service. Come early for parking!

Parish Life

Parish Life is planning a chili cook off after Worship on November 19th.

Christian Education

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped with Children's Sabbath Sunday in October. We are proud of our youth!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday School continues at 10AM each Sunday throughout the program year. During the months of November and December we continue to work on our Christmas Eve play, A Christmas Carol for the 4:00 service. There will also be a performance on Saturday, December 23rd. Thank you to Pastor Bob for adapting this play for our children.

Fundraising

The annual **Pork & Sauerkraut** dinner will be on Saturday, November 11th from 4:30-7PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$11 at the door. Children ages 6-12 are \$5, while children under 5 are free. The menu will consist of delicious pork with homemade sauerkraut, fresh peeled mashed potatoes, homemade apple sauce, and desserts. Call (610) 533-9108 for tickets. Hope to see you there!

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.

Newsletter Submissions

If anyone wishes to submit any articles for the NEWSLETTER, please have all items emailed by the **20th of each month** to: wmhornbake@yahoo.com

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:

Bob Gutekunst from Plainfield Township, PA is a United Church of Christ pastor and has been attending Forks UCC for 6 years, 3 months, and 21 days (but who’s counting?!):

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

Goofy, fun, caring, creative and gorgeous.....just kidding.....genuine

★What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I’m most proud of raising kids who are respectful, courteous, caring, and just good people.

★Where do you like to vacation?

We like to do new things for vacation.....take road trips and see the country.

★What’s on your bucket list?

My bucket list would be to see Europe.....Austria/Germany (where my family comes from), Italy, Ireland, and Iceland (just looks so cool!).

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

If I could change something in the world, I would eradicate violence. People would have to talk with each other to solve problems.

★What makes you wildly happy?

The standard answer is spending time with family and friends, and of course that’s true, but I’ll give another answer, which is “music”.....I love music. It lifts my spirits and takes me places that nothing else can.

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

I am most like my mom. I’ve gotten all my greatest neuroses from her.

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

Well, in the last six years I’ve left a job of twenty years to become a full time pastor, I’ve moved four times, I’ve gotten divorced and remarried, and gained three step-kids. Other than that, nothing much has happened.

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

The biggest lesson I’ve learned, I think, is not to let others define who you are....do what feels right, do what makes you happy, even if it doesn’t measure up to society’s definition of “success”.

★What will be your legacy?

The legacy I want to leave is just to have made a positive difference in the world, even if it’s just one person.....and to have a bronze statue of myself mounted on the church steps.



Brenda DeLong from Palmer Township, PA is a retired local income tax administrator for Palmer Township and has been attending Forks UCC for all of her life:

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

Caring, conscientious, reliable, friendly & fun-loving.

★Where do you like to vacation?

My favorite place for many years was Hilton Head, however, it's become a long drive and I can't convince John to fly.

★What's on your bucket list?

I've never been on the West Coast and my choice will be San Francisco.

★What makes you wildly happy?

Simple things in nature like watching the birds, squirrels and chipmunks interact from my kitchen window.

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

I would have to say my Mother because she taught her children so much about how we should live our lives. She had so many "sayings" that will always be with me.

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

Things are not always the way they appear, in other words, "don't judge a book by its cover."



Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19th. This meeting is to approve the budget which you should receive in the mail soon. We hope to see you there!

Thank You

Many thanks to Bob and Dawn Trimble for their generous donation to our Carillon system. Please listen for the new music selections from the bell tower.

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 November

November 5 - Floyce Metzgar
November 12 - Adult Fellowship
November 19 - Amy Richard
November 26 - Rita Blosssey

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

November 5 - Sam Kemmerer
November 12 - Ron Mumaw
November 19 - Jean Cooper
November 26 - Joan Mumaw

Greeters/Offering Collectors

November 5 - Bob and Brenda Egolf/Mel Kresge & Jean Cooper
November 12 - Vic and Anna Zeeman/Burt and Debbie Ackerman
November 19 - Bill and Lorna Dreisbach/Dawn and Bob Trimble
November 26 - Steve and Debbie Chesney/Rocky Starner & Louise Bruch

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy November Birthdays

01 Georgia Pump	16 Edwin Frace Jr.
02 Larry Dewalt	16 Brenda Stoudt
03 Warren Eberts	18 Lenny Ringhoff
04 Laura Dewalt	20 Bob Perrine
04 Ivy Nuss	20 Paula Correll
05 Burton Ackerman	20 Matthew Gleason
05 Jesica Knitter-Weaver	20 Felicia Tashner
07 Michael Tirrell	21 Ethan Riehl
07 Kevin Keat	23 Kerrie Schneebeli
09 Dale Hendricks Jr.	24 Lyndsey Hartzell
10 Scott Dewalt	26 Carolyn Mitch
10 Taylor Negrin	26 Brian Jones
11 Anita Wallbillich	27 Brenda Butz
13 Carly Correll	27 Bradley Silfies
14 Brian Lively	28 Steve Chesney
14 Brandon Cressman	29 Jim Milham
15 Deborah Harden	29 Linda Saltern



November Anniversaries

Debbie & Steve Chesney	11/16/1991
Cheryl & Dennis Hahn	11/17/1973
Anna & Victor Zeeman	11/24/1985
Ruth & Michael Rinaldi	11/24/2001
Rita & Jerry Blossey	11/25/1967

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

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6:30-8PM Open Support Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir <i>All Saints Day</i>	2	3	4 <i>Daylight Savings - Turn your clocks back</i>
5 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Communion	6	7	8 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	9	10	11 4:30-7PM Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner
12 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	13 7PM Stewardship and Finance	14 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	15 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6:30-8PM Open Support Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	16	17	18
19 24th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Thanksgiving/ Harvest Sunday</i> Congregational Meeting after Worship	20 6:00PM Adult Fellowship	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 25th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Reign of Christ Sunday</i>	27 7PM Christian Ed.	28 6:30PM Parish Life	29 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	30		

Sundays
 8AM - Meditative Worship
 10AM - Worship



November 2017

