

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...

Confirmation



Memorial Day Service



Tortoise & Hare 5K

Relay for Life

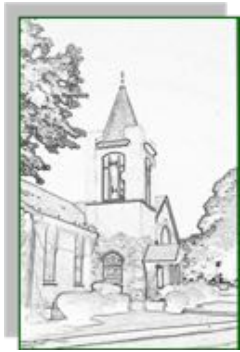
Youth retreat



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



July/August 2018



I just returned from a camping trip, and I'm reminded of a relative who used to love going camping. Whereas our camping trips are usually filled with activity- when we go camping to Knoebel's, we spend our days going to the Amusement Park or the pool, and when we go camping to Pettecote Junction in upstate Pennsylvania, our days are filled with swimming and bike riding and tubing down the river- my relative used to love just parking his trailer, setting up a lawn chair, and watching the day go by. "I love being bored," he used to say, "because when I'm bored the days are longer."

I've always remembered the hot, hazy, humid days of Summer taking longer than the rest of the year. That's because I was never as busy as the rest of the year. Life in the church supposedly settles down to a crawl during the Summer months as well. Sunday school, small groups, choirs, and the newsletter take a vacation during the Summer months.

But, nowadays, it seems like we are more and more busy, all of the time. Even during the Summer, here at Forks, we still have a lot going on- the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festivals, Vacation Bible School, the "Blessing of the Animals" Outdoor Worship, singing the National Anthem at an Iron Pigs game, and an Easton Municipal Band concert.

One of the reasons, it seems to me, that we are more busy, is that business, in our day and age, is viewed as a sign of success. Whenever I attend a gathering of colleagues, and one of them asks me, "How are things going at Forks?" I always feel pressured to compete with every other church, as if we are not as worthy as they are if we don't have as much going on. I feel the need to let all of you know how much we have going on, even in the Summer, so that you don't think I'm slacking on the job, which is kind of pathetic, I admit.

It's pathetic because, in the church, we should be learning to slow down. The church teaches us the importance of Sabbath, of taking the time to rest. In the church, hopefully, we learn how important it is to take time to pray...that we need some time to be alone, to be quiet, to reflect and contemplate. The church also teaches us that, no matter how busy we may or may not be, and how successful we may or may not be, the direction and fulfillment of our lives is not just up to us, because we trust in a God who we know is always in control. And, in the church we learn that the fear and anxiety, and stress and worry that is the byproduct of the need for constant busyness is a contradiction to the love and peace, and hope and joy that we find in our Christian faith.

As I sat down to write this article, I had to wait for my computer to download some updates to the software, and I was annoyed, because I have SO MUCH TO DO!!! No, I don't. Regardless of how busy I am, Forks UCC will go on, and regardless of how busy Forks UCC is, the church at large will go on, and whether the church at large survives or not, God's reign will come.

A colleague of mine retired recently, and someone asked him, "What will you do now?" He answered, "Why do I have to DO anything? Why can't I just BE?" The Summer months are a good time to JUST BE...to take stock...to be grateful...to remember that we are children of a God who is in control... and who loves us no matter what we are doing...or not doing.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

"Be still and know that I am God"- Psalm 46



July/August 2018

Evangelism and Outreach

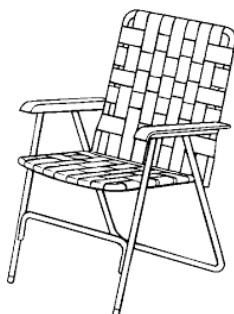
Food Bank

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. July's food of the month is picnic items/condiments and August's item is non-perishable lunchbox items.

Creative Worship

Our annual outdoor worship service will be held on Sunday, July 15th in the grove. We will also be blessing pets on this day. Please bring your lawn chairs and your beloved pet!



Stewardship and Finance

Text to Give is now set up. You can text the amount you'd like to donate to the church at any time. Text it to 610-981-1921. Then you will receive a link to register where you can verify the amount you'd like donated. You can receive an email receipt. You will then be set up for future text to give donations. We hope this is an option for some of our visitors and current members.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Kingdom of the Son will take place from 6-8PM on July 16-20 this year. Dinner will be served at 5:15 each evening. We will close VBS during worship on 7/22. We hope you will join us!

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:

Rocky Starnor from Bangor, PA is a Quality Control Inspector and has been attending Forks UCC for 37 years:

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

funny, friendly, caring, helpful, falling apart (lol!)

★Where do you like to vacation?

love Florida with Kim and Dale and anywhere I can get away

★What’s on your bucket list?

wanted to ride horses on the beach, but I got to do that 2 years ago - actually swam in Tampa Bay on a beautiful horse

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

would love to have morals and respect for all - I think it would make a better world

★What makes you wildly happy?

spending time with my sons, my sisters and my best friend Carol

★What big life changes have you recently experienced?

It’s been almost 4 years since I lost my husband but I find that with family and friends and a lot of praying, I will survive.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, 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 Guild for July - Kim Starner

Altar Guild for August - Barb Huff

Altar Flower Sponsors for July and August

July 1 - Barbara Huff	August 5 - Lois Steward
July 8 - Will, Alice, & Eleanore Hornbake	August 12 - Lorna & Bill Dreisbach
July 15 - Tammy Uhler	August 19 - Tammy Uhler
July 22 - Rocky Starner	August 26 - Barbara Huff
July 29 - Floyd and Cindy Mohn	

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

Volunteers Please

July 1 -	August 6 -
July 8 -	August 12 -
July 15 -	August 19 -
July 22 -	August 26 -
July 29 -	

Greeters/Offering Collectors

July 1 - Louise Bruch & Lori Avery/Sandy Fehnel
July 8 - Sandy Perrine & Kim Starner/Tammy Uhler & Landon Uhler
July 15 - Linda and Dick Armbrust/Cathy and Mike Tirrell
July 22 - Polkowski Family/Vic and Anna Zeeman
July 29 - Joan Jud & Sarah Happel/Carolyn Mitch & Brenda DeLong

August 5 - Sandy Perrine & Joan Jud/Sam and Jane Kemmerer
August 12 - Bill and Lorna Dreisbach/Kim Starner & Rocky Starner
August 19 - Carol and David Kleinle/Barbara Huff & Kerrie Schneebeli
August 26 - Sandy and Glenn Borger/Julie and Rob Grogg



Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy July Birthdays

01 Debra Roth	14 Sean McCollian
01 Debbie Chesney	17 Emma Dugan
02 Casey Polkowski	20 Louise Hoy
02 Zachariah Wagner	21 Lew Parker
03 Kayla Flyte	21 Bill Setzler
04 Jim Martin	21 Alicia Fehnel
04 Barbara Huff	21 Abbey Fehnel
08 Sandy Borger	22 Emalie Hughes
09 Fred Bolling	23 Betty Stocker *
09 Melvin Kresge	27 Floyce Metzgar
09 Dallas Labar	27 Amanda Hendricks
11 Brenda Egolf	27 Austin Whitmore
11 Cheryl Johnson	28 Marge Markley
12 Frank Mengel Jr.	28 Kelly Berger
13 Rocky Starner	28 Jon Herres
13 Mary Jo Audenried	

* Betty Stocker celebrates her 94th birthday.
Happy, Happy Birthday to you!
Contact the church office for addresses.

July Anniversaries

Brenda & Bob Egolf	7/01/1961
Laraine & Melvin Kresge	7/02/1960
Diane & Lew Parker	7/15/1967
Amy & Will Knitter Jr.	7/15/1989
Sandy & Bob Perrine	7/21/1973
Denise & Paul Polkowski	7/23/1983
Dawn & Chad Wagner	7/24/2004
Brian & Kate McKelvey-Jones	7/25/2003
Bobbi & Ritchey Ricci	7/30/1966

Confirmands

Ashley Cressman, Hannah Gutekunst, Samantha Shook, Riley Williams

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, Corinne Eberts, Tony Jiorle, Dorothy Kortz, Marge Markley, Florence Saylor, Perma Seiple, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 6th Sunday after Pentecost VBS teacher orientation after Worship	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6	7
8 7th Sunday after Pentecost	9 7PM Stewardship & Finance	10 7PM Consistory	11	12	13	14
15 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Outdoor Worship <i>Bring your lawn chair</i>	16 Vacation Bible School 5:15PM Dinner 6PM VBS Program	17 Vacation Bible School 5:15PM Dinner 6PM VBS Program	18 Vacation Bible School 5:15PM Dinner 6PM VBS Program	19 Vacation Bible School 5:15PM Dinner 6PM VBS Program	20 Vacation Bible School 5:15PM Dinner 6PM VBS Program	21
22 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM Closing of VBS during Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10th Sunday after Pentecost 1:35 Iron Pigs Game	30	31	Please Note: The Chairperson from each committee should notify the church office of any scheduled meetings in July and/or August if you want them on the weekly INFO PAGES. Thank you.			

Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ice Cream Festival 5-9PM	2	3	4
5 <i>Communion</i> 11th Sunday after Pentecost Music & Worship meeting after Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 12th Sunday after Pentecost	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 13th Sunday after Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 14th Sunday after Pentecost 2PM Easton Municipal Band	27	28	29	30	31	

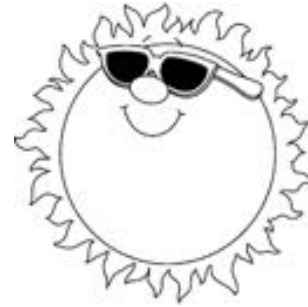
Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy August Birthdays

02 Kathy Boushell	16 Emma Wood
02 Adam Audenried	17 Vickie Frace
02 Alyvia Fry	19 Jim Schaadt
04 Elizabeth Durie	20 Breanna Schneebeli
04 Michael Smialkowski	20 Ian Nuss
04 Randy Fry	22 Lorna Dreisbach
05 Dorothy Kortz	23 Sandy Schaadt
05 Karen Werner	24 Adam Polkowski
05 Jean Cooper	25 Sally Dewalt
06 Darin Steward	25 Jeff Uhler
06 Donald Riehl	27 Carter Duarte
07 Emily Aicher	28 Bob Trimble
08 Florence Saylor*	28 Beth Butz
08 Travis Woolverton	29 Michael Prentice
11 Noelle Smialkowski	29 James Hancik
12 Rose Smialkowski	30 Mindy Hahn
12 Diane Flick	30 Cody Allen
12 Sariena Alfnito	31 Laura Butz
13 Dawn Pump	31 Michael Rinaldi
16 Kalyn Kolb	

* Florence will be celebrating her 97th birthday on August 8th.
Contact the church office for her address.
Happy birthday, Florence!



August Anniversaries

Joan & Dave Phillips	8/07/1956
Tammy & Irv Angstadt	8/09/1980
Margaret & Bob Zabe	8/14/1965
Joanne & J.R. Mitch	8/14/1992
Karen & Dale Bernecker	8/15/1987
Louise & Art Bruch	8/27/1994





FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4500 SULLIVAN TRAIL
P.O. BOX 158
STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083-0158

DATE MAILED:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Easton, PA 18045
PERMIT # 148

FORKS UCC
4500 Sullivan Trail
P.O. Box 158
Stockertown, PA 18083

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

Your Consistory Members

Consistory PresidentBetsy Warner
Vice President.....Jim Milham
Consistory Secretary.....Carol Young
Spiritual Council.....Mel Kresge
Spiritual Council.....Steve Dewalt
Spiritual Council.....Sue McCollian
Christian Ed.....Amanda Knitter
 Alice Hornbake
Evangelism and OutreachDick Armbrust
 Barbara Huff
 Rocky Starnier
Music & WorshipJoan Mumaw
 Lois Steward
Parish LifeJesica Knitter Weaver
 Kerrie Schneebeli
Property.....Sandy Schaadt
 Charles Kolb
Stewardship & FinanceAmy Richard
 Jacob Allen
 Brenda DeLong
Personnel.....

Staff Members

MinistersEvery Member of the Church
PastorBob Gutekunst
Music Director.....Anthony Newett
Office Manager.....Cheryl Hahn
Groundskeeper.....Frank Mengel, Jr.
HousekeeperLoretta Seruga

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**



July/August 2018