

# 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...

Christmas



Contemporary Service

Forks UCC Art Series



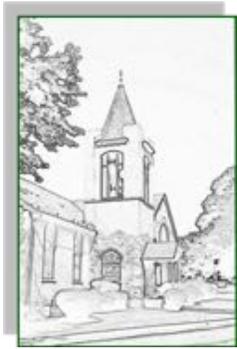
Ordination  
Congratulations



God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST



February 2019



It is famously said that “people don’t speak of religion or politics in polite company.” Also, that “religion and politics don’t mix.” In the church, it’s kind of hard to avoid speaking about religion...it’s kind of what we do. But what about politics? I should begin by saying that I believe it is inappropriate for a preacher to use the pulpit to advocate for a particular candidate or stump for one political party over another, or support a political party’s agenda. But, it’s kind of hard to imagine avoiding the subject altogether.

One dictionary definition of the word, “politics” is, “the aggregate of relationships of people in society, especially those relationships involving power or authority.” That, to me, sounds like something the church should be concerned with. Although, perhaps, Jesus was not overtly political in his speech, there is no doubt that, in his speaking of and witnessing to God’s realm or God’s rule, his life and message and ministry was contrary to and subversive to and resistant against the religious and political powers of his day. The gospel message has political implications. The church, in its life and mission, is always, at least, somewhat political.

I read an article in *Christian Century* magazine, entitled, “Do Politics Belong in Church?” The article offered several responses to the question. One pastor answered, “Our prayers, songs, sermons, and testimonies are acts of political speech. Our speech is political because it is the speech of God’s new creation. The church’s language has the ambitious agenda of making all things new. And that is political.” Another responder to the question said, “It’s hard to call ourselves followers of the Prince of Peace, and not speak about the violence perpetrated by white nationalists in Charlottesville. It’s hard to read the story of Jesus welcoming the children without having something to say about migrant children being separated from their parents.” The challenge is, how can and should we talk about these things in the incredibly partisan and polarizing and divisive political climate in which we live nowadays?

Well, in the United Church of Christ, we are given the right and freedom to disagree with one another. We can disagree about theological matters. We can disagree about our religious convictions. We can disagree about the best practices the church can undertake to achieve its mission and vision. We can disagree about these things and still worship and work together, enjoy fellowship together, and love one another. This is what we believe. If we can disagree about all of these things, isn’t it possible to have differing political opinions and still love one another?

In the times that we live in, it’s easy to attack and ridicule and vilify one another. But regardless of your stand on gun control, I think it’s safe to say that no one wants to see children murdered in schools. Regardless of your opinion about universal healthcare, I think it’s safe to say that no one wants to see people having to choose between purchasing prescriptions and buying groceries. There is always common ground. And while the politicians and news pundits and talking heads might discourage us from seeking it, the church should always provide a safe place for us to explore it.

Do politics belong in church? Yes. God’s politics.

Blessings,

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. Consider donating spices. Spices allow cooks to add flavor to food without additional salt. Think about buying cumin, cinnamon, coriander, onion powder, garlic powder, cloves, oregano, basil, parsley, cayenne pepper, rosemary, thyme, bay leaves, or any other spices you commonly cook with.

**Please keep your cans coming and place them in the pantry shelf. February's food of the month is breakfast items.**

### Year In Review

Many thanks to all of those who have participated in the numerous outreach and mission events last year. Just some of the things we did for others:

- Holiday Hope Chests
- Gift card donations
- Thanksgiving meals
- Giving tree
- Backpack donations
- Chemo care bags
- Christmas caroling

## 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.

## Stewardship and Finance

You can always give your special offerings (envelopes) online at:

<https://forksucc.breezechms.com/give/online>

The special offerings this month are as follows:

2/3 - maintenance and repair fund

2/10 - heat special offering

Please note those words in the "comment" box while completing your online gift to allow your gift to be moved into the correct account.

## Stained Glass Window

Have you taken notice that the stained glass window in the Social Hall is missing? It will be out for the next couple of months as it is being refurbished. This is just the third window being refurbished out of our 14 windows that need to be refurbished over the next few years. This is a very expensive process. How is it being paid for? Our fundraisers over the past couple of years have been designated for this expense, as well as portions of our Rummage Sale profit will be donated by the Adult Fellowship. We also have families who have donated their loved ones memorials to this project. If at anytime you wish to contribute to the window refurbishing projects please let the church office or Jacob Allen know or simply put your donation in the offering plate marked "Stained Glass". Thank you for your continued support.

## Christian Education

### Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone involved in this year's production of Miracle on 34th St. Special thanks to Pastor Bob, Anthony Newett, and the cast. It was wonderful!

## 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.

## Forks UCC Art Series

Our fourth presentation will be a Broadway cabaret from Easton Theatre Co-op at 7:30PM on 3/23. Join us for the Pulled Pork dinner beforehand and make an evening of it!

## 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](mailto: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.**

## Offering Envelopes

Do you use your offering envelopes? If not, please contact Cheryl in the church office (610-759-5676) to cancel your order. These envelopes are purchased and if you are giving electronically, we'd rather not waste the paper and money. Thank you!

## Parish Life

Our annual dance this year will be at Jacobs' Farm on Saturday, February 9th from 7-10PM. It is a Valentine's Day dance and we ask that you bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The event is BYOB.

## Music & Worship

### Lovefeast

In February we will prepare for our Moravian Lovefeast held on Sunday, February 17th during 10AM worship. A Lovefeast service is a service dedicated to Christian love and is most famously practiced by the Moravians. It is also practiced by groups descending from the Schwarzenau Brethren. The term was used by the Primitive Methodists. A Lovefeast seeks to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another.

## 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 February -

### Altar Flower Sponsors for February

February 3 - Will, Alice, and Eleanore Hornbake

February 10 - OPEN

February 17 - OPEN

February 24 - Will and Kerrie Schneebeli

## Those Serving

### Ushers/Coin Collectors

February 3 - Steve Dewalt

February 10 - Ron Mumaw

February 17 - Jim Milham

February 24 - Burton Ackerman

### Greeters/Offering Collectors

February 3 - Lori Avery & Cindy Aicher/Sandy and Glenn Borger

February 10 - Rita Blossy & Bobbi Ricci/Bill and Lorna Dreisbach

February 17 - Lori Rowlands and Mike Brueningsen/Sam and Jane Kemmerer

February 24 - Margaret and Bob Zabe/Debbie Harzell & Barb Huff

## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy February Birthdays

01 Cathy Tirrell	16 Kim Edelheiser
03 Vilma Milham	16 David Warner
05 Cayden Shook	19 Pauline Frace
05 Samantha Shook	21 Gloria Burkos
05 Gabrielle Francis	21 Shelby McCollian
08 Bob Zabe	22 Will Hornbake
08 Diane Dewalt	23 Andrew Margelot
08 Alan Hartzell	23 Kim Starner
09 Nick Hendricks	23 Chris Mumaw
10 Shannon McCollian	24 Dolly Abel*
11 Tyler Mitch	25 Patti Starner
13 Jennifer Wood	26 Ron Mumaw
15 Roger Keat	26 Violet Ortiz
15 Lily Ringhoff	26 Abigail Audenried
15 Jakob Herres	26 Devon Clifton
15 Allison Silfies	27 Derek Hammerstone
16 Dale Wilson	28 Judy Kinsey



\*Best wishes to Dolly Abel who celebrates her 92nd birthday!

If your name does not appear in the birthday or anniversary section and you would like it listed, please contact the church office.

### February Anniversaries

Will & Kerrie Schneebeli 2/23/2002

### Confirmands

Ashley Cressman, Tyler Grogg, 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, Dorthy Kortz, Florence Saylor, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

February 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion <i>Pick up of Relay for Life hoagies after Worship</i>	4	5	6 1-3PM Small Group 7PM Sacred Choir	7	8	9 7PM Parish Life Valentine's Day Dance
10 5th Sunday after Epiphany	11 7PM Stewardship and Finance	12 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	13 1-3PM Small Group 7PM Sacred Choir	14	15	16
17 6th Sunday after Epiphany Lovefeast during 10AM Worship	18	19 7PM Evangelism & Outreach	20 1-3PM Small Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sacred Choir	21	22 Youth Retreat	23
24 7th Sunday after Epiphany	25 7PM Christian Ed.	26 7PM Parish Life	27 1-3PM Small Group 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sacred Choir	28		

Sundays  
8AM - Meditative Worship  
10AM - Worship

