

# 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...

Ordination of Reverend Robert Gutekunst



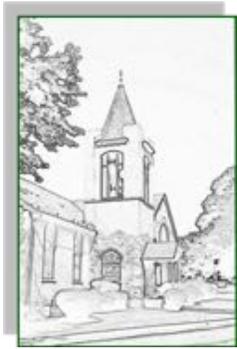
Youth Retreat



Ash  
Wednesday

New Member Sunday





I have to admit that, as I sit down to write this, I am a bit frustrated. I have been trying to coordinate some youth to take part in a drama for one of the Holy Week services. It is nearly impossible to coordinate the schedules of a group of teenagers nowadays. Some of them won't participate for reasons that I find trivial- "I can't practice that day...I have plans to go to the Mall shopping."

I can't be too judgmental about teenagers, though, because it is just as hard to get most adults interested in participating in the life of the congregation. Our Nomination Committee has been trying to fill some spaces on our various Ministry Teams, and, at times, it feels like we are trying to extract blood from a stone. I attended several meetings in which more than a few of the participants complained throughout that there were countless more productive things they could be doing than being at the meeting. As I said, from my perspective, it is a bit frustrating.

I recently read an article by a man who, after many years of being a church musician and church volunteer, found himself without a church. He realized that, after so many years, he had no more responsibilities on Sunday mornings! No obligations! After so many years of *having* to go to church, now he wondered, "Do I want to go to church?" The answer was an emphatic, "No!" He discovered that there were so many other ways he could spend his time that, in his opinion, would offer him more benefits than going to church.

As we journey through the season of Lent, we are reading through some of the Gospel of Luke. In Luke's Gospel, there's a long stretch (10 chapters, to be exact) in which Jesus journeys to Jerusalem. During this stretch, he stops along the way to, among other things, teach. As he often does, he uses a series of parables to illustrate the contrast between the ways of death and the ways of life, and he urges his hearers to repent and turn to God (the ways of life). In the category of "What Not To Do", he speaks about Pontius Pilate, a rich, young fool, a lazy servant, and crowd of people who think they are winners while others are losers. These characters represent the "ways of death" in Jesus' teaching. But, they also have something else in common. They are all self-serving, self-absorbed, self-centered characters. And, in that, they have a lot in common with many people nowadays (which includes all of us, at least some of the time).

Maybe that's why participating in the life of the church is such a pain in the neck for so many people. It calls us to care about something others than ourselves. It calls us to be a part of something greater than ourselves. It calls us to live in community with others. That can be a very unproductive use of our time. The flip side of that, of course, is that living in community means that, in those times when we need some help (and we all live through those times) we have (at least ideally speaking) a group of people who are willing to help us, to bring us a meal, to give us a ride, to help run some errands, to pray for us, to hold our hand, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to talk with us, to listen to us.

Yes, time in the church is a very unproductive use of time; until we need the church.

As we move toward our celebration of Easter, we are reminded of new life, the new life we are offered through Christ, the new life we are invited into. We are also reminded that this new life is offered to us because Jesus was willing to give his life for *others*.

Easter 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. April's food of the month is baby items.**

### 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.

### Forks UCC Art Series

Our next presentation will be held in the Grove on June 1st at 7PM and feature singer-songwriter, Dan May, as well as our own, Anthony Newett. We hope you can make it!

## Christian Education

### Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this year: July 22nd-26th. Please see Amanda Knitter Williams if you'd like to volunteer!

## Music & Worship

### Lenten Gatherings

Again this year we will be joining with area churches to celebrate and worship together on Wednesday evenings. Look at the calendar or in Weekly Happenings for details.

## 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.

## 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:

4/7 - maintenance and repair fund

4/14 - O.C.W.M. special offering

4/18 - Maundy Thursday

4/21 - Easter 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.

## 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!

## Forks Cemetery Board

Forks Cemetery Board requests the removal of any/or all Christmas flowers / decorations prior to April 7 if you wish to keep any for future use. If not, the Board will be happy to remove them as they prepare placement for Easter flowers / decorations beginning Monday, April 8. Thank you.



## 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 Flower Sponsors for April

April 7 - Brenda DeLong  
April 14 - Ruth Hartzell  
April 21 - Carol Young  
April 28 - Sarah Happel

## Those Serving

### Ushers/Coin Collectors

April 7 - Ron Mumaw  
April 14 - Glenn Borger  
April 21 - Bob Zabe  
April 28 - Mel Kresge

### Greeters/Offering Collectors

April 7 - Lori Avery & Amy Knitter/Joan Jud & Sarah Happel  
April 14 - Brenda DeLong & Alice Bartholomew/Joan and Ron Mumaw  
April 21 - Debbie Hartzell & Cindy Aicher/Bob and Dawn Trimble  
April 28 - Sharon Merluzzi & Bobbi Ricci/Cathy and Mike Tirell

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Rev. Richard Tayler who celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination in April.

## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy April Birthdays

01 Amanda Starner	16 Dale Bernecker
02 Matthew Audenried	16 Tracey Cressman
02 Evan Whitmore	18 Joan Mumaw
03 Dawn Dewalt	19 Cindy Mohn
04 Lois Steward	20 Dave Young
04 Steve Aicher	20 Michael Correll
04 Brooks Kolb	20 Wil Knitter Jr.
04 Tanner Riehl	22 Jason Schaadt
05 Rosemarie Dewalt	23 Rita Blosssey
06 Terry Kresge	24 Jennifer Warren
08 Stephanie Riehl	24 Landon Uhler
09 Mike Boushell	25 Jim Barrick
09 Matthew Silfies	26 Sue McCollian
10 Betsy Warner	28 Glenn Kromer
11 Gary Gardner	29 Emilee Hendricks
14 Ayvah Fry	
15 Ronda Gutekunst	

### April Anniversaries

Kim & Duane Edelheiser	04/02/1983
Donna & Fred Bolling	04/11/1970
Stephanie & Donald Riehl	04/17/1999

### 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, Dorothy Kortz, Florence Saylor, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

### Books of the Bible Quiz

There are names of 16 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below. See how many you can find!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation.

Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers.

To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.



## April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 5th Sunday of Lent Communion 8:30AM Sacred Choir Youth Group	<b>8</b> 7PM Stewardship and Finance	<b>9</b> 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Parish Life Breakfast/ Easter Egg Hunt 9AM
<b>14</b> Palm/Passion Sunday No Sunday School	<b>15</b> 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	<b>16</b> 7PM Evangelism and Outreach	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday 6PM Covered Dish 7PM Service	<b>19</b> Good Friday 3PM Service 7PM Service	<b>20</b> Holy Saturday Readings Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
<b>21</b> Easter Sunday 5:30AM Sunrise Service Breakfast between services 10AM Worship No Sunday School	<b>22</b> 7PM Christian Education	<b>23</b> 6:30PM Parish Life	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Earth Day Clean-Up 9AM-12PM
<b>28</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Lenten gatherings with area churches</b> Soup and Fellowship 5:30PM Worship 6PM  4/3 - Forks UCC 4/10 - Forks UCC			

Sundays  
8AM - Meditative Worship  
10AM - Worship

