

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...

Contemporary Service



Palm Sunday

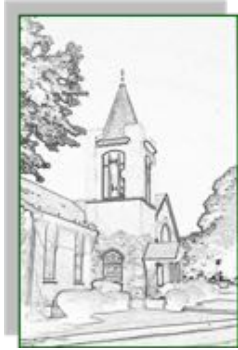


Easter Fun



New Member Sunday





As we approach the end of another program year at Forks U.C.C., I thought it might be a good opportunity to talk to you a little bit about a series of workshops our faith community has been participating in called, “Vitality Days”. The workshops have been organized by the Penn Northeast Conference, and are aimed at helping local congregations bring some vitality, enthusiasm, new ideas and new ways of doing and being “the church” in the midst of the rapidly changing culture around us. Our presenter for these workshops is Michael Piazza; a pastor, author, and speaker, who has experience and expertise in bringing vitality to congregational life.

Our first workshop, in September of 2018, dealt primarily with “Worship”. We talked about the varieties of ways that people are reached in worship- auditory, visual, sensory, etc.- and so talked about trying to do that, and how technology might help in that regard. We talked about making worship more incarnational and participatory. We talked about themed services, like, for example, the Cancer Awareness/Healing Service, All Saints Day, the Moravian Lovefeast, Mother’s Day, World Communion Sunday, Children’s Sabbath Sunday, and trying to craft 52 special, meaningful, transformative worship experiences a year. We also talked about our traditions, and how traditional church music, and times of silence, and some more formal liturgical components can be as transformative as some of the new, creative ideas. The bottom line is figuring out how to make our worship as spiritually significant as we can, and trying to offer the opportunity to encounter God in worship, and we are working on doing that the best we can.

Our second workshop, held in November, was concerned with “Stewardship and Structure.” One of the major takeaways from that gathering was the need to promote and encourage recurring giving. We are trying to educate and encourage folks to sign up for “Electronic Giving”, and letting people in the congregation know that you can also donate by texting or using your credit or debit card at our “Electronic Giving Station.” Another takeaway from that time together was the importance of using a church database. We are using the database, “Breeze”, which manages our recurring giving and allows congregation members to connect with each other. We are hoping to continue implementing the database to keep track of worship attendance, to be able to reach out to people in need, and to monitor all of our outreach activities.

Our most recent gathering was in March of this year, and focused on “Evangelism”, which is really a more religious way of saying what the workshop was really about- “Marketing”. We talked about using technology and social media to communicate our message and identity to the larger community, and we were introduced to some marketing resources we might make use of, but, I think, the most important consequence of this particular subject matter was our discussion around the questions, “What is your church known for?” and “What do you want your church to be known for?” The answer we came up with, and that I have also received from many other congregation members is “Welcome”. That is what we are known for, and what we want to be known for. So we have endeavored to embrace that and lift it up as our brand- “Welcome”- and try the best we can to live that out in our community life.

These are just some of the things we have been talking about in our yearlong participation in the “Vitality Days” program. Our last workshop, later this month will, hopefully, tie all of the topics together and perhaps, give us some more tangible, concrete initiatives we can try. That is my hope. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can certainly speak to me, or one of our “Vitality Days” team members. They are: Gary Barraco, Brenda Delong, Carolyn Mitch, Margaret Zabe, Alice Hornbake, Glenn Borger, Sandy Borger, Rocky Starner, Kim Starner and Lois Steward. I thank them for their efforts, and I thank you for being a part of this special community we call Forks United Church of Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

May 2019

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. May's food of the month is personal hygiene items and healthy cereal.

Tortoise & Hare 5K Run and Walk

The 20th annual Tortoise & Hare Race is now underway for **Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019** at Wind Gap Memorial Park! This event supports Project Child, the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition of the Lehigh Valley and is a program of Valley Youth House. Please run or WALK with us on Memorial Day! Register online at <https://tortoiseandhare5krun.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=10656>

Relay for Life

Relay For Life is coming up on Friday, June 7th at 12PM through Saturday, June 8th at 12PM.

We hope you will mark your calendar with the dates and come over to walk a lap with us, spend time getting to know us or catching up in the tent, or just connecting with God and those loved ones in your life who have suffered from cancer.

Nazareth Middle School, 94 Friedenstahl Ave., Nazareth, PA

Christian Education

Sunday School

Sunday School continues through May and will come to a close on June 2nd. Please join the children in the Fellowship Hall for a talent show after Worship.

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!

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!

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:

5/5 - Strengthen the Church

5/12 - heat special offering

5/19 - maintenance and repair fund

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!

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.

Creative Worship

Thank you to those who participated in the Palm/Passion Sunday presentation and Easter morning breakfast.

Support Ready, Set, Go

Start your Christmas shopping early. A wonderful opportunity: SERVV is back. Fundraiser sponsored by Ready Set Go Preschool. Many of us remember the items and gifts from 10,000 Villages – jewelry, pottery, leather items, etc. Display will be here at the church May 5, May 6 from 10 am – 1:30 pm, and May 7 from 10 am – 12:50 pm.

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 May

May 5 - Carolyn Mitch
May 12 - Tracey and Gregg Cressman
May 19 - Kelly and Todd Gulick
May 26 - Will, Alice, and Eleanore Hornbake

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

May 5 - Steve Dewalt
May 12 - Jim Milham
May 19 - Burt Ackerman
May 26 - Sam Kemmerer

Greeters/Offering Collectors

May 5 - Lori Rowlands and Mike Brueningsen/Vic and Anna Zeeman
May 12 - Lorna and Bill Dreisbach/Jane and Sam Kemmerer
May 19 - Carla & Alice Bartholomew/Debbie Hartzell & Cindy Aicher
May 26 - Sandy and Glenn Borger/Kim Starner & Rocky Starner

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy May Birthdays

02 Donna Bolling	19 Karlee Flyte
02 Shirley Thatcher	19 Nina Sales
08 Alyson Beers	20 Anna Laudenslager
08 Nicholas Williams Jr.	20 Walt Francis
10 Keith Kresge	20 Wayne Hochwarter
10 Ian Wagner	21 Derick Whitmore
11 Ryan Fry	25 Randy Dewalt
13 Barry Durie	25 Nancy Fry
13 Erika Negrin	25 Chris Happel
14 Dorothea Setzler	27 Jerry Kinsey
15 Amy Knitter	28 Alison Fleming
17 Gregg Cressman	29 Charise Jones
19 Margaret Zabe	29 Josh Hahn
	30 Eleanore Hornbake



May Anniversaries

Kris & Jack Sales	5/03/1997
Nancy & Randy Fry	5/05/1979
Vilma & Jim Milham	5/11/1996
Kalyn & Charles Kolb	5/12/2012
Tracey & Gregg Cressman	5/14/1994
Salome & Matthew Audenried	5/19/2007
Cindy & Steve Aicher	5/23/1987

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



May 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Car Wash 10AM-2PM
5 3rd Sunday of Easter Youth Group meeting Spring Congregational Meeting Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 4th Sunday of Easter <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	13 7PM Stewardship/ Finance	14 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 5th Sunday of Easter Parish Life Mother's Day Tea	20 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	21 7PM Evangelism & Outreach	22	23	24	25
26 6th Sunday of Easter <i>Memorial Day Worship</i>	27 Memorial Day Tortoise & Hare 5K	28 6:30PM Parish Life	29	30 Ascension Day Luke 24:44-53	31	

Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship

