

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...

Stream Clean Up



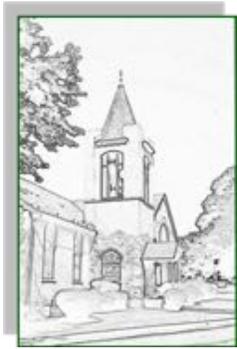
Kentucky Derby Fun



Sunday School

Mother's and Father's Day Tea





I sit down to write in the midst of the season of proms and graduations. Just a couple of weeks ago, my daughter Julia celebrated her Senior Prom and, in a couple of weeks, she will be graduating from High School. I'm sure that it feels like an ending for many of these students. But, it really is just the beginning. The word, *commencement*, in fact, means just that: a beginning. My daughter has been preparing, for over a year now, for the next phase of her journey- beginning college in the Fall.

I read about an amazing new beginning that was granted to some graduating seniors. Robert Smith, a billionaire technology investor, was scheduled to be the commencement speaker for the graduating class at Morehouse College, in Atlanta, GA. During his speech, he announced to the graduating seniors that he was going to pay off all of their student loans, a debt of around \$40 million dollars. Talk about a fresh start and a new beginning! Many of the students were moved to tears by the announcement. One of them said that he had calculated that it would have taken him 25 years to pay off his \$200 thousand dollars in loans. Smith said that the gesture was meant to give these students the freedom to pursue their passions in life, instead of just choosing the path that paid them the most money- they could become teachers, counselors, social workers- he wanted them to think about what they could contribute to the greater good, and he gave them the opportunity to do it.

That story reminds me of the biblical concept of "Jubilee." This is what Jesus speaks of when he says, in the Gospel of Luke, and quoting from the scroll of the prophet, Isaiah, "He has anointed me...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." In the Book of Leviticus, the year of Jubilee is mentioned to occur every fiftieth year, during which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest. Although historians don't know if this concept was strictly practiced in ancient Judaism, it is a wonderful idea. And, although most of us don't have the capacity to offer the kind of forgiveness of debt that Robert Smith offered to those Morehouse graduated, I think that we can all practice the concept of Jubilee, and offer to others and to ourselves new beginnings.

So many people in our society live with what I would consider to be a scorecard mentality- we keep track of all of the good we've done for others and keep track of all of the wrongs that others have done to us. We keep a ledger of all of the favors that we've done, so we can cash them in when we need them. I have a friend who told me that his wife is still angry with him for playing in a softball tournament instead of going with her to a flower show, even though this happened over twenty five years ago! Why do we hold on to such grudges, and burdens, and weights on our souls? What would it look like to offer ourselves and others the freedom of Jubilee?

Perhaps, during this season of proms and graduations, we might be reminded of the new beginnings we might pursue, each and every day, by living with a spirit of Jubilee instead of a scorecard mentality.

Congratulations to all of our graduates,

And blessings on all of your new beginnings,

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. June's food of the month is picnic items and healthy cereal. We are also in need of goodies for kids such as shelf stable jello, pudding snack packs, fruit roll ups, and packs of cookies.

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

Confirmation

Please join us on Sunday, June 9, 2019, as our confirmands complete their studies with Pastor Bob and are confirmed. We will wish them the very best in their continued spiritual journey.

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!

Consistory

The reorganizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at 7PM. If you are on a committee, please plan to attend.

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:

6/2 - 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

We encourage you to wear **RED** on Sunday, June 9th for our celebration of Pentecost. Also....mark your calendar for Sunday, July 21st as our outdoor worship service in the grove.

Graduation

Please inform the church office if you know someone who is **graduating from area high schools or an institution of higher learning** so we can inform the congregation of your accomplishment. Call the Church Office, 610.759.5676, with name of individual and name of high school or other.

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 June

June 2 - Karen and Dale Bernecker
June 9 - Cathi and Mike Tirrell
June 16 - Janet Rush
June 23 - Betsy and Craig Warner
June 30 - AVAILABLE

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

June 2 - Steve Dewalt
June 9 - Glenn Borger
June 16 - Sam Kemmerer
June 23 - Mel Kresge
June 30 - Burt Ackerman

Greeters/Offering Collectors

June 2 - Ron and Joan Mumaw/Lori Avery & Sally Dewalt
June 9 - Carol and Dave Young/Joan Jud & Sarah Happel
June 16 - Brenda DeLong & Alice Bartholomew/The Cressman Family
June 23 - Jane and Sam Kemmerer/Sharon Merluzzi & Bobbi Ricci
June 30 - Rocky Starner & Kim Starner/Sandy and Glenn Borger

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy June Birthdays

01 Talon Fry	15 Jennifer Lively
01 Ruth Smith	15 Sandy Fehnel
04 Benjamin Machado	16 Louise Bruch
05 Lori Avery	16 Alicia Hancik
06 Dale Starner	16 Alice Hornbake
07 Shawna Bernecker	16 Abigail Chesney
08 Abygayle Beers	17 Gloria Francis
08 Bill Cooper Jr.	18 Rob Grogg
09 Amy Richard	19 Colleen Altieri
09 Richard Allen	21 Rhonda Herres
09 Chad Wagner	23 Porter Ringhoff
10 Charles Kolb	24 Diana Mumaw
11 Michael Correll	27 Cindy Aicher
12 Kara Young	27 Alexandria Pump
13 Dennis Hahn	28 Henry Pump Jr.
14 Sandy Perrine	28 Ashley Cressman
14 Gavin Gaul	29 Alice Bartholomew
	29 Will Schneebeli



June Anniversaries

Paula & Michael Correll	6/03/1979
Rob & Julie Grogg	6/06/1998
Dolly & Earl Abel	6/07/1947
Diane & Larry Lopresti	6/10/1967
Catherine & Michael Tirrell	6/11/1993
Alice & Richard Bartholomew	6/12/1956
Tammy & Jeff Uhler	6/12/1999
Brenda & Jeff Stoudt	6/16/1978
Alison & Brett Fleming	6/18/1994
Alice & Will Hornbake	6/18/2005
Gloria & Walt Francis	6/20/1970
Jean & Bill Cooper	6/22/1968
Kay & Glenn Kromer	6/23/1962
Rose & Mike Smialkowski	6/26/1983
Sarah & Lenny Ringhoff	6/26/2004
Ruth & Tom Smith	6/26/1971
Alicia & Jim Hancik	6/30/2001

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 Abel, Fred Bolling, Corinne Eberts, Dorthy Kortz, Florence Saylor, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Communion</i> 7th Sunday of Easter End of Sunday School picnic	3 7PM Christian Ed.	4	5	6	7 Relay for Life 12PM-12PM Nazareth Middle School	8
9 <i>Communion</i> Pentecost Sunday Confirmation <i>Strengthen the Church Mission Offering</i>	10 7PM Stewardship/ Finance	11 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory Meeting/ Reorganization	12	13	14	15
16 Trinity Sunday Happy Father's Day!	17 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	18 7PM Evangelism & Outreach	19 Strawberry Festival 5-9PM	20	21	22
23 2nd Sunday of Pentecost	24	25 62nd Anniversary of the United Church of Christ	26	27	28	29
30 3rd Sunday of Pentecost						

Sundays

8AM - Meditative Worship

10AM - Worship

God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



June 2019

