

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...

World Communion Sunday



Healing Sunday



Youth Group Apple Picking



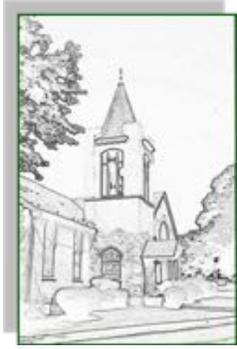
Parish Life Pumpkin Painting



Sleepout for Homelessness

Feed My Starving Children





My wife and I recently travelled out to Lock Haven University to visit our daughter, Julia. The campus is beautiful, and is located in a beautiful area of the state. And the drive out there is very scenic, especially at this time of the year. Still, I complained. I complained that the trees had not turned their autumn colors as much as I thought they should have, or perhaps as much as they had in the past, given the time of the year. I complained that the landscape was filled with too much green, and not enough red, and orange, and gold.

This got me thinking about the upcoming celebration of Thanksgiving. In addition to indulging our appetites with a multi-course feast, spending the day watching hours of football, and sleeping off a tryptophan-induced coma, a favorite tradition among many American families at Thanksgiving is pausing to give thanks for the good things that have happened in our lives, to take stock of our blessings, and to feel a sense of gratitude. Thanksgiving leads to giving thanks. That makes sense.

But, as Claus Westermann, a leading scholar on the Psalms, points out, there is no word in the Hebrew language for “thanks.” There is no biblical concept of “giving thanks.” The notion of giving thanks is included in the larger concept of giving praise. Praise can be thought of as “giving honor to something we prize or cherish.” And praise, as is often the case in the Book of Psalms, can be offered despite the fact that things are not working out so well for us, despite the fact that, on the surface, there doesn’t seem to be much cause for giving thanks. In the wake of the tragedy on 9/11, the magazine, *The New Yorker*, ran a poem written by Polish poet, Adam Zagajewski, which has become one of the most popular poems of the last twenty years, entitled, “Try to Praise the Mutilated World”, part of which reads as follows:

“Try to praise the mutilated world.
Remember June's long days,
and wild strawberries, drops of rosé wine...
You've seen the refugees going nowhere,
you've heard the executioners sing joyfully....
Praise the mutilated world
and the gray feather a thrush lost,
and the gentle light that strays and vanishes
and returns.”

The poem, in its entirety, captures well, I think, the idea that praise can be offered regardless of circumstance. As we approach our celebration of Thanksgiving, I reflect that we often take time to remember the first Thanksgiving, a three day festival of food and games, a time of fellowship between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims, an opportunity to rejoice over the good harvest and bounty they enjoyed together. But we should also remember that the Pilgrims endured much suffering and hardship to get to that point, they lost many members of their original colony to cold, and disease, and starvation, and yet, still, they honored God. As Governor William Bradford says in his summation of the Plymouth Colony, echoing Psalm 107, “Our fathers were Englishmen which came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness, but they cried unto the Lord, and He heard their voice, and He looked on their adversity. Praise the Lord for He is good, His mercies endure forever.” As one writer suggests, “I can praise God amid much that makes me shake my fist and cry my heart out.”

Perhaps this Thanksgiving, in addition to giving thanks for all of the good things that have happened in our lives, we might also give praise for the gift of life itself, and all that is contained therein.

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. We are collecting the following items for Thanksgiving baskets: canned corn, peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, canned or jarred gravy and turkey broth. Thank you!

Holiday Hope Chests

We will be participating in the Shoe Box collection again this year. Please take a tag, grab an information sheet and fill a regular sized shoebox. Don't have any shoeboxes? We have some available for you to use. We hope you choose to participate!

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:

11/3 - maintenance and repair fund
11/10 - 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.

Barrels, again!

Beginning in September we need to start paying for our Fuel Oil for the upcoming heating season. We have entered into a contract with Fogels Fuel again at a price of \$2.459. Our monthly payments are \$860 a month. Again this year we are hoping you help us by buying "Barrels of Oil" for \$50 a barrel. We need 173 barrels to complete our goal. You will find "Barrels of Oil" Envelopes in the pews and vestibules beginning in September. Together we can ensure we can worship in a warm sanctuary all throughout the cold winter.

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!

Creative Worship

We have some exciting Worship services coming up. Please mark your calendar and join us:

November 3rd - All Saints' Day Worship

November 10th - Stewardship Sunday

November 17th - Contemporary Service

November 24th - Thanksgiving Service

Christmas Services

Please join us at **4PM** on Christmas Eve for our Children's service. It will include the play and hymns. At **8PM**, we will have our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service. Come early for parking!

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings will continue the first Sunday of each month immediately following worship. If you would like to be involved and can't make a meeting or simply have ideas, please contact Lois Steward at 610-759-3519.

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.

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. Sign up using the yellow forms in each vestibule.

Please take advantage of these services to find out if church services are ever canceled.

Christian Education

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped with Children's Sabbath Sunday in October. We are proud of our youth!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday School continues at 10AM each Sunday throughout the program year. During the months of November and December we continue to work on our Christmas Eve play, The Polar Express for the 4:00 service.

Fundraising

The annual **Pork & Sauerkraut** dinner will be on Saturday, November 9th from 4:30-7PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$11 at the door. Children ages 6-12 are \$5, while children under 5 are free. The menu will consist of delicious pork with homemade sauerkraut, fresh peeled mashed potatoes, corn, homemade apple sauce, and desserts. Call (610) 533-9108 for tickets. Hope to see you there!

Newsletter Submissions

If anyone wishes to submit any articles for the NEWSLETTER, please have all items emailed by the **20th of each month** to: wmhornbake@yahoo.com

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10th. This meeting is to approve the budget which you should receive in the mail soon. We hope to see you there!

Forks UCC Art Series

Our next presentation will be from the Easton Municipal Band. They will be performing Christmas songs at Forks UCC on Sunday, December 8th at 2PM.

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 November

November 3 - Brenda Stoudt
November 10 - Adult Fellowship
November 17 - The Grogg Family
November 24 - The Grogg Family

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

November 3 - Ron Mumaw
November 10 - Steve Dewalt
November 17 - Gregg Cressman
November 24 - Glenn Borger

Greeters/Offering Collectors

November 3 - Margaret and Bob Zabe/Sarah Happel & Joan Jud
November 10 - Jane and Sam Kemmerer/Carla Solt & Maggie Obulaney
November 17 - Kim Starnier & Rocky Starnier/Sherrie Putzman & Sandy Perrine
November 24 - Lori Avery & Barb Huff/The Cressman Family

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy November Birthdays

01 Georgia Pump	18 Shelcy Markley
02 Larry Dewalt	18 Lenny Ringhoff
03 Warren Eberts	20 Paula Correll
04 Laura Dewalt	20 Matthew Gleason
04 Ivy Nuss	20 Bob Perrine
05 Burton Ackerman	21 Ethan Riehl
05 Jesica Weaver	23 Kerrie Schneebeli
07 Kevin Keat	24 Lyndsey Hartzell
07 Michael Tirrell	26 Carolyn Mitch
10 Scott Dewalt	26 Brian Jones
10 Taylor Negrin	27 Brenda Butz
11 Anita Wallbillich	27 Bradley Silfies
14 Brian Lively	28 Steve Chesney
14 Brandon Cressman	29 Jim Milham
16 Edwin Frace Jr.	29 Linda Saltern
16 Brenda Stoudt	30 Linda Machado
17 Katlyn Ehrich	



November Anniversaries

Karen & Michael DeJesso	11/06/2015
Debbie & Steve Chesney	11/16/1991
Cheryl & Dennis Hahn	11/17/1973
Anna & Victor Zeeman	11/24/1983
Ruth & Michael Rinaldi	11/24/2001
Rita & Jerry Blossey	11/25/1967

Confirmands

Tyler Grogg, Jacob Hackman

Visitation List

Please see the Church Directory or contact the Church office or a member of the visitation team for addresses. Fred Bolling, Corinne Eberts, Bob Egolf, Dorthy Kortz, Florence Saylor, Betty Stocker, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints' Day Luke 6:20-31	2 <i>Daylight Savings</i> - <i>Turn your</i> <i>clocks back</i>
3 21st Sunday after Pentecost Communion All Saints' Sunday	4	5	6 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	7	8	9 4:30-7PM Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner
10 22nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> Congregational Meeting after Worship	11 7PM Stewardship and Finance	12 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	13 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Parish Life 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	14	15	16
17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	18 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	19	20 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob 6PM Handbell Choir 7PM Sanctuary Choir	21	22	23
24 Reign of Christ Luke 23:33-43 Thanksgiving Sunday	25 Church Directory Photos	26 Church Directory Photos	27 1-3PM Study Group with Pastor Bob	28 Thanksgiving Day Psalm 100 From Vs. 4... "Give thanks to him, Bless his name."	29 Church Directory Photos	30 Church Directory Photos

Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship



November 2019

