

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...

Comfort Sunday

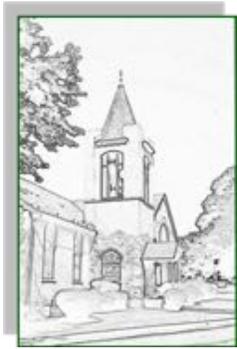


Super Bowl snack collection

Parish Life
Valentines'
Dance



Open and Affirming discussions



As I write this, we are approaching the season of Lent. I admit that I haven't always taken this season as seriously as I should. When I was growing up, we were asked to give up something for Lent. Usually we would give up something like chocolate, or some particular video game for the 40 days...something that we liked, but that we could certainly live without. Our "sacrifice" was more window dressing than something that was truly meaningful.

After I became an adult, I fell away from the practices of my childhood. I remember visiting my Mom during the season of Lent. If I visited on a Friday, she would tell me that we couldn't have any meat for lunch, since it was Lent. I would tell her that I really wasn't a practicing Catholic anymore, to which she responded, "You are when you're in my house." So I obliged.

Even after I became a pastor, I didn't really take Lent seriously, I remember having this running joke with a previous congregation. At the beginning of every Lent, I would announce to the congregation, "This year, I'm giving up broccoli for Lent"..."This year, I'm giving up yardwork for Lent." I didn't take Lent seriously.

I read an essay, recently, that made me think about taking Lent a little more seriously this year. The writer of the essay, Rev. Holly McKissick, writes about her daughter's ballet classes, and how, after every ballet move, the teacher would shout instructions to the class, "Pause...Hold...Resist." That last word, "resist", was important, because the dancers would have to resist what their bodies wanted them to do, would have to resist the pull of gravity, would have to resist landing where they normally would land.

It's a strong word that is found throughout Scripture, from the Hebrew people and the early Christians resisting oppressive empire, to individual examples, like the women resisting the urge to flee at the foot of the cross, and Paul, resisting his upbringing and the peer pressure of Christian persecutions to become the "Apostle to the Gentiles", from the midwives who resisted the Pharaoh, to Jesus resisting temptation in the desert.

McKissick writes, "Resistance. It's a helpful word for Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Resist your typical response. Resist yelling at the kids when you are frustrated. Resist withdrawing when you are depressed and eating when you are stressed.

The season of Lent asks: What do you need to resist? Consumption? Taking on too much? Being too hard on yourself? Hopelessness? Apathy? Turning a blind eye to the violence in Syria and Venezuela?

If our goal is to be different people come Easter Sunday than we are on Ash Wednesday, we must take time, step back, and evaluate our patterns. It will take active effort, intentional practice, and a supportive community.

If you want to land somewhere different? Pause... hold... RESIST."

The story is told of Marie Durand, who, in the 1700's, was imprisoned in France in the Tower of Constance for practicing her Christian faith. During her long imprisonment, she carved the French word, "resiste" into the stone block of her cell. Using her finger, it took 38 years to carve that word into stone. We have 40 days.

Taking Lent more seriously this year,

Pastor Bob

Evangelism and Outreach

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. March's food of the month is Easter items.

Fresh Air Fund - Hosts Needed

Have you been wondering how YOU can make a difference in someone's life? The Fresh Air Fund, a non-profit organization started in 1877, is actively seeking hosts to provide children ages 7 to 13 the chance to escape NYC for one to two-week trips this summer (July & August). Hosts can be singles and couples with or without children. FAF covers all costs. Children arrive in our area. All you need to do is show them a fun time! Imagine the things you could offer a child during their week away from the heat of the city streets. You can select the gender and age of the child. There is no long-term commitment. We offer local support and great activities! We have the chance to make a difference. So why don't we? Visit freshair.org or contact Alice Hornbake at lvfaf@yahoo.com or 610-703-3095. Like our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/freshairfundhighvalley or tweet us @LVFreshAir!

Soup Kitchen

We have a few soup kitchen opportunities coming up. Please mark your calendars for May 16th and August 22nd and see Sharon Merluzzi for details.

Pennies from Heaven

We will have our Pennies from Heaven campaign again this year. What is Pennies from Heaven? We ask that you take a jar or two home and during Lent fill them with your spare change or spare dollar bills. The jars will be due back to the church at the end of Lent.

Creative 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.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this year: July 27th-31st. Please see Amanda Knitter Williams if you'd like to volunteer!

Roast Beef Dinner

Thank you to everyone who supported our Spaghetti Dinner where the profit was \$1,543. Ten percent will be used for Youth programs. This was an all new profit record for the spaghetti dinner. NOW.....

Come enjoy delicious roast beef served with delicious homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned roasted vegetables, salad and an array of desserts on March 28th. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$16 at the door. See Jacob Allen, Margaret Zabe, Joan Mumaw, or Jean Cooper or call the church office for tickets or questions.

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.

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.

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!

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:

3/1 - maintenance and repair fund

3/22 - One Great Hour of Sharing

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

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. **We will be taking part in this special collection on Sunday, March 22nd.**

Philanthropy 101: What is a Philanthropist?

Back in the 5th century BC, the term philanthropy was coined by Greek playwright Aeschylus with a meaning of love of humanity. In today's world, the term has evolved to become known as generosity in all forms, including giving of one's time, talent, or treasures. At Forks UCC, we all have multiple opportunities to be philanthropists. Whether it is giving of time to help make the hoagies for super bowl Sunday, using carpentry skills to help construct a house for Habitat For Humanity, or making a generous donation in the weekly collection plate, we can all contribute to the love of humanity.

While there is growing evidence of philanthropy providing positive emotional and physical effects for both the giver and the receiver, the Federal tax code (IRS) also provides many avenues for the giver to reap financial benefits from their philanthropic efforts.

Stay tuned to the Newsletter for more info on how your philanthropic efforts can benefit both you and Forks UCC, or feel free to discuss with any member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Submitted by Jeff Stoult

“Forking” Over Blessings

Each month we will choose a charitable organization to donate 10% of a particular Sunday's offerings to. The more we collect, the more we give!

Our **second** collection will take place during Lent on **3/15**. Please remember that 10% of our offerings will be donated to Third St. Alliance for Women and Children while we listen about the Samaritan woman at the well. **We donated \$200 in February to *Feed My Starving Children***. 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 March

March 1 - AVAILABLE
March 8 - Doug and Carol Steckel
March 15 - Joan Jud
March 22 - The Grogg Family
March 29 - Betsy Warner

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

March 1 - Glenn Borger
March 8 - Ron Mumaw
March 15 - Steve Dewalt
March 22 - Sam Kemmerer
March 29 - Bob Zabe

Greeters/Offering Collectors

March 1 - Joan and Ron Mumaw/Julie and Rob Grogg
March 8 - Sam and Jane Kemmerer/Joan Jud & Sarah Happel
March 15 - Carla Solt & Jean Cooper/Mike and Cathy Tirrell
March 22 - Barbara Huff & Sandy Perrine/Margaret and Bob Zabe
March 29 - Deb and Burt Ackerman/Vic and Anna Zeeman

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy March Birthdays

01 Kate McKelvey-Jones	14 Charles Prutzman Sr.
01 Deann Allen	15 Kay Kromer
01 Chris Beers	15 Kaitlin Grogg
03 Carol Labar	16 Tammy Uhler
03 Jennifer Zabe	18 Kendra Ehrich
04 Bonnie Starner	20 Dane Edelheiser
05 Debbie Hartzell	21 Sarah Ringhoff
05 Kurtis Fleming	23 Corinne Gold Eberts
05 Jordan Allen	24 Brett Fleming
07 Joan Guthrie	24 Apryl Audenried
08 Kelvin Dewalt	24 Jennifer Hughes
09 Janet Berger	25 Tim Weis
10 Sarah Fleming	26 Dustin Gable
10 Tina Ehrich	27 Bob Egolf
11 Tagan Steward	28 Craig Warner
12 Victor Zeeman	29 Irv Angstadt*
12 Alyssa Knitter	30 Ryan Hartzell

Our wishes to Irv
Angstadt who
celebrates his 86th
birthday on the
29th. Happy



March Anniversaries

Ruth & Gary Gardner	3/06/1959
Jennifer & Brent Wood	3/11/1995
Sherry & Charles Pruntzman Sr.	3/12/1987
Carole & Doug Steckel	3/13/1954
Carol & Chuck Hartway	3/20/1983
Jennifer & Michael Zabe	3/20/1999
Corinne & Warren Eberts	3/23/2004
Judy & Jerry Kinsey	3/25/1967

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, Florence Saylor, Betty Stocker, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

Missing Church this Week?

No fear! You can watch from your computer. If you are on Facebook, go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/forkschurch/>) around 10AM and tune in LIVE. If you are not on Facebook, you can still go to our Facebook page AFTER the service and watch. Never miss a week!

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday in Lent Communion	2	3	4 Lenten Gathering	5 6PM Handbells	6	7 Paint, Pray, Pancakes \$25 Daylight Saving
8 2nd Sunday in Lent	9 7PM Stewardship and Finance	10 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	11 Lenten Gathering	12 6PM Handbells	13	14
15 3rd Sunday in Lent	16 6:30PM Adult Fellowship	17	18 Lenten Gathering	19 6PM Handbells	20	21 Craft/Vendor Show 9AM-2PM
22 4th Sunday in Lent <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i>	23 7PM Christian Ed.	24	25 Lenten Gathering	26 6PM Handbells	27	28 Roast Beef Dinner 4:30-7PM
29 5th Sunday in Lent	30	31	Lenten gatherings with area churches Soup and Fellowship 6PM Worship 6:30PM 3/4 - St. Luke's UCC, 471 Belfast Road 3/11 - Grace Lutheran Church, 5907 Sullivan Trail 3/18 - Belfast Wesley UMC, 607 School Road 3/25 - Forks UCC 4/1 - St. Peter's UCC, 401 Broad Street			

Sundays
 8AM - Meditative Worship
 10AM - Worship



March 2020

