

What We've Been Up To...

Sunrise Easter Service

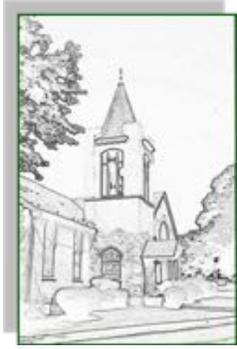


Palm Sunday



Drive through blessings





It occurred to me, recently, that I probably haven't spent enough time in prayer- thinking about prayer, speaking about prayer, and, of course, praying. I remember, a couple of years ago, writing a sermon, and including a story about Sister Rose Marie, a nun who used to be a college basketball star, and who gave up a lot of fame and money as a professional athlete in order to join a convent. Most of her family and friends thought she was throwing her life away, when she could have done something really important with her life. Sister Rose Marie said, "We spend a lot of our time in prayer. We believe there is nothing more important that we could do for the world than to pray for it."

In the religious tradition of my upbringing, we spent a lot of time in prayer. But, since I've become a pastor, I think that my focus has been on a lot of other things- fundraisers and visits, concerts and retreats, youth group stuff and planning great music and using technology more...and on and on it goes. A few years ago, during the season of Lent, I included five minutes of silent prayer in every worship service. There were a few folks who appreciated the extra time in prayer. But I'm sure that there were undoubtedly a lot of people who were pretty uncomfortable with that experience.

Perhaps the church, in general, doesn't spend enough time thinking about, and speaking about, and teaching about, and practicing prayer. Catholic priest and author, Richard Rohr, in a recent devotional, said this: "A few years ago, I wrote, somewhat facetiously, that the Church should close all programs for a year and simply teach people to pray. It seems to me we may unintentionally have just such an opportunity right now, although I sincerely hope it won't last a year!" I would imagine that most of us do have some extra time right now. And if we believe, as Sister Rose Marie does, in the importance of prayer, now seems like a good time to spend more time in it.

There are many devotional instruments that you might use- I know that we always distribute copies of "The Daily Bread" here at the church, and our conference and denomination websites have reflections as well. In my own humble effort to spend some more time in prayer, I am beginning a "Weekday Devotional"- posting some short reflections on our Facebook page. We are going to focus on the Book of Psalms, and pose some questions for meditation and a focus for prayer, as we consider some passages from the Psalms. Whatever you use, I hope you will offer your prayers for the world at this time.

One of the great "prayers" was the saint, Teresa of Avila. Mirabai Starr, who is a translator of Teresa's works, wrote a prayer about her, an excerpt of which reads:

"You [Teresa] lived that beautiful balance
Between active service
And quiet contemplation.
Teach us to be of use in this troubled world
At the same time that we cultivate
Joyous intimacy
With the Beloved who lives inside us."

I hope that we can all live this out during this troubled time.

Blessings,

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

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.

Christian Education

Sunday School

Sunday School continues through May and will come to a close on June 7th. Please join us outside for a picnic after Worship.

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!

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:

5/3 - Strengthen the Church

5/10 - heat special offering

5/17 - 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.

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.

Thank You

I'd like to thank Forks UCC for the beautiful card and generous Amazon gift card, in appreciation for streaming our worship services while our building is closed. Your gratitude is truly appreciated.
-Anthony Newett

ONA Corner

Visit this area of the newsletter for current Open and Affirming information.

ONA Committee members are: Gary Barraco, Brenda DeLong, Bob Gutekunst, Alice Hornbake, Carolyn Mitch, Rick Taylor, and Betsy Warner

Good Reads

Welcome to our section sharing what we're reading now. Please send your recommendations to wmhornbake@yahoo.com to be featured next month.

“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 soon. **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 May

May 3 - Sandy Schaadt
May 10 - Gregg and Tracey Cressman
May 17 - Ruth Hartzell
May 24 - Carolyn Mitch
May 31 - Will, Alice, and Eleanore Hornbake

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

May 3 - Ron Mumaw
May 10 - Sam Kemmerer
May 17 - Steve Dewalt
May 24 - Glenn Borger
May 31 -

Greeters/Offering Collectors

May 3 - Debbie Hartzell & Ruth Hartzell/The Cressman Family
May 10 - Lori Avery and Scott Reilly/Sharon Merluzzi and Bobbi Ricci
May 17 - Glenn and Sandy Borger/Carol and Dave Young
May 24 - Kim Starner & Rocky Starner/Lori Rowlands and Mike Bruengsen
May 31 -



Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy May Birthdays

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

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, 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 watch. Never miss a week!



May 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 4th Sunday of Easter	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 5th Sunday of Easter <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 6th Sunday of Easter	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 7th Sunday of Easter	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pentecost Sunday	Please check Facebook and Weekly Happenings for events being canceled or reinstated.					

Sundays
8AM - Meditative Worship
10AM - Worship



May 2020

