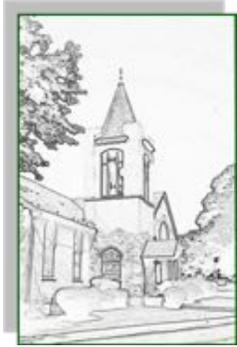


## What We've Been Up To...

At the end of the day  
all you need is hope  
and strength. Hope  
that it will get better  
and strength to  
hold on until it does.



During this time of pandemic, and the social restriction and distancing that has ensued, the church, in general, has faced a lot of uncertainty, and individual congregations have faced questions that have been unprecedented in our lifetimes, such as, “How can we survive the loss of Sunday offerings for so many weeks? How can we continue to provide pastoral support and care to those who are confined at home or in nursing homes? How can we feed hungry people if our soup kitchen or food pantry is shut down?” Of course, many of us have been using Zoom, and Facebook, and other technology tools, as well as the good, old-fashioned telephone, to try and minister to each other. But for many, the most pressing question remains, “When can we gather again?”

Now that most states are easing at least some restrictions, I’ve read that some small churches are already making plans to start worshiping in person. On the flip side of that, a U.C.C. church in Rhode Island has already voted to not gather in person for at least a year from now. Our local governing body, the Penn Northeast Conference, is advising that our state must enter what is known as the “Green Phase” of easing restrictions before we can even begin having these kinds of conversations. In the midst of these uncertainties, and anxieties, and questions, I read an inspiring story.

The story was about a church that was founded around a decade ago, in San Diego, California, right at the U.S.-Mexico border. The church was founded by two Methodist pastors, one American, one Mexican, and meets in a circle-shaped park, called, “Friendship Park”, which is cut in half by a fence. When the church began, the fence was chain link- it has since been replaced by an imposing steel and concrete structure. The mission of the church is simple- since the border has often been described as a place of crime and danger and fear, one of the pastors said, “We know it as a place of encounter, exchange, friendship, fellowship. We try to show up weekly to show what the border is truly.” Congregants share prayers and songs with each other across the border, celebrate Communion separately (nothing is allowed to be passed across the border) and stick their pinkies through tiny holes in the wall to share the “Passing of the Peace.”

The church has faced its share of uncertainties and anxieties over the years. One Sunday morning, the service was interrupted because migrants were swimming around the ocean end of the wall, seeking asylum. Border Patrol agents have been known to routinely close the park, for no reason. On a particular, recent Sunday morning, the American contingent of the congregation was told that the amount of people allowed on their side of the park for services was arbitrarily reduced from 40 to ten. The entire park was shut down for two whole years to build the new wall. Still, the church persists. As the American Methodist pastor says, “Showing up is just how it works.” Not surprisingly, the title of the story is, “The Separated Body of Christ.”

This story gives me hope. Although we are separated, we are still the Body of Christ. And that will be true, no matter if we gather again in a few months, or in a few years. We are the Body of Christ, and our mission is a simple one: To show up. To care for one another. To make a small difference in the world. And, perhaps, this time we are living in can teach us, once and for all, that the church is not a building. It is you and me. And we shall persist.

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.**

## Soup Kitchen

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

## 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:

6/7 - 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:wmhornbake@yahoo.com) to be featured next month.

### **“OUR DAILY DEVOTIONAL” BOOKLETS**

The JUNE / JULY / AUGUST issues have arrived. Anyone wishing a copy through the mail should contact the church office (610.759.5676). Cheryl will mail you a copy while supplies last. Thank you.

## 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!

## “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 June

## Those Serving

### Ushers/Coin Collectors

June 7 - Ron Mumaw  
June 14 - Sam Kemmerer  
June 21 - Steve Dewalt  
June 28 - Glenn Borger

### Greeters/Offering Collectors

June 7 - Debbie Hartzell & Ruth Hartzell/The Cressman Family  
June 14 - Lori Avery and Scott Reilly/Sharon Merluzzi and Bobbi Ricci  
June 21 - Glenn and Sandy Borger/Carol and Dave Young  
June 28 - Kim Starner & Rocky Starner/Lori Rowlands and Mike Bruengsen

## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy June Birthdays

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



### June Anniversaries

Paula & Michael Correll	6/03/1979
Rob & Julie Grogg	6/06/1998
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
Sarah & Lenny Ringhoff	6/26/2004
Ruth & Tom Smith	6/26/1971
Alicia & Jim Hancik	6/30/2001

### 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

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Trinity Sunday	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 2nd Sunday of Pentecost	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 3rd Sunday of Pentecost <i>Happy Father's Day!</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 63rd Anniversary of the United Church of Christ	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 4th Sunday of Pentecost	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Please check Facebook and Weekly Happenings for events being canceled or reinstated.			

Sundays  
8AM - Meditative Worship  
10AM - Worship



June 2020

