

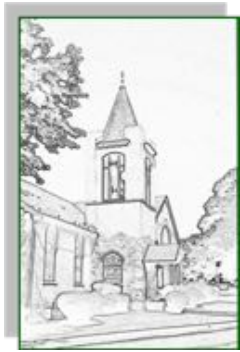
What We've Been Up To...



A Vigil for Peace and Justice

Zoom book study





I've been a little disappointed that, in response to some of the racial justice themed sermons, prayers, and devotionals that I've written lately, I have received some angry messages from church members. I've also received a couple of messages that questioned why I would say, "Black Lives Matter", when all lives matter. That's interesting, since, in all of my recent sermons, prayers, and devotionals, I haven't actually said those words, "Black Lives Matter", but, since the can of worms has been opened, I thought I might as well address it.

I confess that, when the "Black Lives Matter" movement began a few years ago, this was my exact response, "All Lives Matter." Of course they do. As a Christian, it is impossible to read the words of Jesus Christ and conclude anything other than we worship a God who has created each and every one of us in God's image, a God who finds infinite worth and value in every human life, and a God who loves each and every one of us, unconditionally. Of course. But saying that sort of misses the point, which I have only recently come to understand.

The reality is that, for much of our country's history, black lives have not mattered as much as white lives, if, indeed, they have mattered at all. Still today, in many parts of the country, black lives do not matter as much as white lives. Making the statement, "Black Lives Matter", is a recognition of this indisputable reality, and a realization that, for all lives to matter, things need to change. It is simply standing up for a segment of our population that has been marginalized, that has been oppressed, that is in need, which has always been a part of our Christian heritage.

In the Gospels, Jesus hung out with all kinds of people. He ate at the homes of the religious elite, the Pharisees, and he ate at the home of notorious sinners. His disciples were a cross-section of the population- women, fishermen, tax collectors, zealots. He treated everybody equally. He loved everybody equally. But, his ministry most often involved those who were in need- lepers, the blind, the lame, the sick, poor widows, ostracized adulterers, those cast out of society because they were possessed by demons. Those lives didn't matter any more to Jesus, but he went where he was needed at the time.

I read a great explanation of this on the Penn Northeast Conference website: "When the Boston Marathon was bombed, and everybody's profile picture changed to "Boston Strong", nobody said, "All cities are strong." When the Las Vegas shooting happened, and people changed their profile pictures to "Stand With Vegas", nobody said, "Stand With Everyone." Have you ever seen someone counter a breast cancer post with, "Wait, what about colon cancer?" But, for some reason, when someone says, "Black Lives Matter" it turns into an all-inclusive, "All Lives Matter." This is not an either/or proclamation. When there is a crisis, we have always rallied around that group/city/cause. It does not diminish any other group/city/cause, it just brings awareness and support to where it is needed. Nobody is saying all lives don't matter, but right now, our black friends, families, colleagues, neighbors and strangers need our support."

If anyone would like to talk about this some more, I would be happy to talk with you.

Blessing on a safe and happy Summer,

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!

## 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:

7/5 - maintenance and repair fund

7/12 - O.C.W.M. special offering

8/2 - maintenance and repair fund

8/9 - 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.

## 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 July and August

July 5 - Barb Huff	August 2 - AVAILABLE (call church office)
July 12 - Mel and Laraine Kresge	August 9 - Carol and Dave Young
July 19 - Sally Dewalt	August 16 - Brenda DeLong
July 26 - Lois Steward	August 23 - AVAILABLE (call church office)
	August 30 - Barb Huff

## Those Serving

### Ushers/Coin Collectors

July 5 - Ron Mumaw  
July 12 - Sam Kemmerer  
July 19 - Steve Dewalt  
July 26 - Glenn Borger

### Greeters/Offering Collectors

July 5 - Debbie Hartzell & Ruth Hartzell/The Cressman Family  
July 12 - Lori and Scott Reilly/Sharon Merluzzi and Bobbi Ricci  
July 19 - Glenn and Sandy Borger/Carol and Dave Young  
July 26 - Kim Starner & Rocky Starner/Lori Rowlands and Mike Bruengsen

## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy July Birthdays

01 Debra Roth	13 Rocky Starner
01 Debbie Chesney	14 Sean McCollian
02 Casey Polkowski	20 Louise Hoy
02 Zachariah Wagner	21 Ruth Gardner
04 Jim Martin*	21 Lew Parker
04 Barbara Huff	21 Abbey Hower
08 Sandy Borger	21 Bill Setzler
09 Fred Bolling	21 Alicia Rodenbough
09 Melvin Kresge	22 Emalie Hughes
09 Dallas Labar	23 Betty Stocker *
11 Brenda Egolf	27 Floyce Metzgar
11 Cheryl Johnson	27 Austin Whitmore
12 Frank Mengel Jr.	28 Kelly Berger
13 Mary Jo Audenried	28 Jon Herres

\* Jim Martin celebrates his 92nd birthday and Betty Stocker celebrates her 96th birthday. Happy, Happy Birthday to you! Contact the church office for addresses.

### July Anniversaries

Brenda & Bob Egolf	7/01/1961
Laraine & Melvin Kresge	7/02/1960
Diane & Lew Parker	7/15/1967
Amy & Will Knitter Jr.	7/15/1989
Sandy & Bob Perrine	7/21/1973
Denise & Paul Polkowski	7/23/1983
Dawn & Chad Wagner	7/24/2004
Brian & Kate McKelvey-Jones	7/25/2003
Bobbi & Ritchey Ricci	7/30/1966

### 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

## July 2020

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

Sundays  
 8AM - Meditative Worship  
 10AM - Worship



## August 2020

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

Sundays  
 8AM - Meditative Worship  
 10AM - Worship



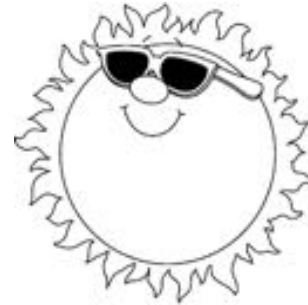


## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy August Birthdays

02 Kathy Boushell	13 Dawn Pump
02 Adam Audenried	14 Michael Zabe
02 Alyvia Fry	14 Anthony Newett
04 Elizabeth Durie	16 Kalyn Kolb
04 Michael Smialkowski	16 Emma Wood
04 Randy Fry	17 Vickie Frace
05 Karen Werner	20 Breanna Schneebeli
05 Jean Cooper	20 Ian Nuss
06 Darin Steward	22 Lorna Dreisbach
06 Donald Riehl	23 Sandy Schaadt
07 Emily Aicher Kerbaugh	24 Adam Polkowski
08 Florence Saylor*	25 Sally Dewalt
08 Travis Woolverton	25 Jeff Uhler
09 Alick Killian	27 Carter Duarte
11 Noelle Smialkowski	29 James Hancik
12 Rose Smialkowski	30 Mindy Hahn
12 Diane Flick	30 Cody Allen
12 Sariena Alfnito	31 Laura Butz

\* Florence will be celebrating her 99th birthday on August 8th.  
Contact the church office for her address.  
Happy birthday, Florence!



### August Anniversaries

Yvonne & Chris Beers	8/03/1996
Joan & Dave Phillips	8/07/1956
Tammy & Irv Angstadt	8/09/1980
Margaret & Bob Zabe	8/14/1965
Joanne & J.R. Mitch	8/14/1992
Karen & Dale Bernecker	8/15/1987
Louise & Art Bruch	8/27/1994

### Thank You

To my church family and friends of Forks U.C.C.,

A sincere "Thank You" for all prayers, cards, and phone calls we received throughout the last three years. Bob fought a courageous battle against Pancreatic cancer and your thoughtfulness and support meant a lot to both of us. I would also like to thank Pastor Bob for his many hospital and home visits, phone calls, and prayers at times when they were needed most. During these recent challenging times, I am so grateful Pastor Bob was able to join us and preside at Bob's funeral service.

God's blessings to all,

Dawn Trimble



**FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
4500 SULLIVAN TRAIL  
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STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083-0158

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4500 Sullivan Trail  
P.O. Box 158  
Stockertown, PA 18083

**PHONE:**  
(610) 759-5676

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.forkschurch-ucc.org](http://www.forkschurch-ucc.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
MON, TUES, WED, THURS  
8:15 AM TO 3:30 PM

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Alice Hornbake

**Staff Members**

Ministers .....Every Member of the Church  
Pastor .....Bob Gutekunst  
Music Director.....Anthony Newett  
Office Manager.....Cheryl Hahn  
Groundskeeper.....Frank Mengel, Jr.  
Housekeeper .....Loretta Seruga

**Your Consistory Members**

Consistory President .....Steve Dewalt  
Vice President.....Alice Hornbake  
Consistory Secretary.....Carol Young  
Spiritual Council.....Glenn Borger  
Spiritual Council.....Amanda Williams  
Spiritual Council.....Sue McCollian  
Christian Ed .....Tracey Cressman  
  Brandon Cressman  
Evangelism and Outreach.....Amy Knitter  
  Kim Starner  
  Rocky Starner  
Music & Worship .....Lois Steward  
  Betsy Warner  
Parish Life .....Kerrie Schneebeli  
  Debbie Roth  
Property .....Robert Zabe  
  Dennis Hahn  
Stewardship & Finance.....Jacob Allen  
  Margaret Zabe  
Personnel.....Verna Bolte

**About Forks UCC:**

We carry on the traditions of the faithful who founded this church in 1812. A landmark along Sullivan Trail, the congregations have been proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ for over 200 years.

**Our Mission Statement**

*God calls and empowers us to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of all people, through our gifts of love, support, and compassion revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



July/August 2020