

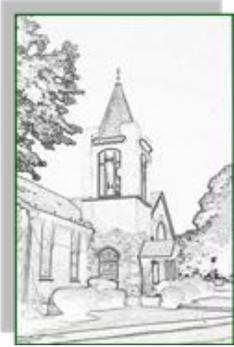
## What We've Been Up To....



Outdoor Worship

## Children's Message





John Lennon, in his song, “Beautiful Boy”, released in 1980, sang the following lyric: “Life is what happens while you’re busy making other plans.” In my experience in the church, a lot of time has been spent planning- short-term plans, long-term planning, planning for mission and vision. Sometimes, we’ve spent so much time planning that when it came time to try and implement the plans, the circumstances had changed and we needed to go back to the drawing board and start the planning process all over again. As a pastor friend of mine said to me recently, “The church is like the government, only slower.”

However, in the times in which we now find ourselves, it is nearly impossible to make any plans with any degree of certainty. A friend of mine, who is a school teacher, bemoaned the fact that when a question was raised about the school’s plans for our current environment, the response was something to the effect of, “Well, we’ll just have to wing it.” In essence, the same is true of the church. We can make plans, but we have to realize that our circumstances are constantly changing, and, at times, we may just have to “wing it.”

With that in mind, as we move into September and toward the Fall, here are some of our plans: We plan on worshiping outside as well as virtually as long as the weather permits, hopefully into October. When the temperatures become too cold for us to worship outside, we will have to make a decision. I have met with our “Re-opening Team” to discuss all of the particulars that will go along with trying to gather inside- wearing masks, social distancing, limiting capacity, sanitizing, modifying worship practices, etc. You should know that, as I write this, I am not comfortable gathering inside, but we want to be prepared. If we can’t safely gather inside, we will go back to strictly virtual worship. Of course, as I said, all of this is subject to change. As far as other church events go, we will be beginning Confirmation, along with New Creation UCC, in September with outdoor gatherings. We still plan on holding the Rummage Sale in early October, and are planning a Pork and Sauerkraut dinner, perhaps only take-out, for the Fall.

I realize that all of these changes and potential for changes are challenging to us all. But, as our Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, said in a recent letter, “In all these challenges, there is good news. Churches are continuing to worship and celebrate their faith. Communities of faith continue to do the work of mission and ministry in communities addressing the needs of those around them. Ministers are finding new ways to provide pastoral care and leadership. Worship attendance, at least virtually, have increased.” And here’s the thing- we may not like being forced into this, but the more open and open-minded we are, the more flexible and adaptable we become, the more we not just accept change but embrace it, the more we grow in faith, I think not just as individuals, but as a community of faith.

So we go on making our plans, and life continues regardless. But we must also understand that God continues to be present with us, moving in us and with us and through us, loving us, accepting us, inspiring us, strengthening us, and sustaining us. These are things that will never change.

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.**

## 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:

9/6 - 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.

## A/V Fund

Thank you for the extremely generous donations to our CPU fund. We were able to purchase a laptop and some additional necessities to stream worship smoothly. We appreciate the support of this endeavor.

## 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!

## 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: 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.

***The Color of Law***, by Richard Rothstein (New York, 2017)

Having an adopted African-American son, and having lived in African-American and multi-cultural communities for much of my life, I have been pleased to see a rise of interest in racial justice in the country, though saddened by the violent acts that have raised attention.

Some months ago I saw a television interview with Richard Rothstein and decided to buy his book. Its subtitle is "A forgotten history of how our government segregated America."

Sometimes when I talk with white people about racial injustice, people say "Slavery ended in 1865, why don't they get over it? My family all came to America after 1865, so its not my problem." Actually all of my ancestors came to America after 1865 as well. Sometimes people say, "Jim Crow was all in the south, it was not a problem created by us in the north." I have lived in the north all of my life as well.

But Rothstein's book focuses on things done by the government to promote racial segregation and limit the opportunities of African-Americans taken during the Twentieth Century. Many of these legal barriers existed for decades during the lives of many of us, and their impacts are still in place. If you're unaware of these policies, read the book. If you don't think there were such policies, read the book.

The only way we can build a loving and inclusive community is by understanding - listening to what has happened to our neighbors, confessing our ignorance and toleration of injustices, and dedicated action for reform. I recommend this book to all of you as a way to understand.

Just this week I got a catalogue of Christian Education resources from Cokesbury, the publishing house of the United Methodist Church. They also provide resources to other denominations. In it I was surprised to find Rothstein's book recommended as a discussion resource for Christians. If anyone would like to have that discussion I'd be happy to join you.

Rick Taylor

## 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.

## “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 September

September 6 - Barb Huff  
September 13 - Mel and Laraine Kresge  
September 20 - Sally Dewalt  
September 27 - Lois Steward

## Those Serving

### Ushers/Coin Collectors

September 6 - Ron Mumaw  
September 13 - Sam Kemmerer  
September 20 - Steve Dewalt  
September 27 - Glenn Borger

### Greeters/Offering Collectors

September 6 - Debbie Hartzell & Ruth Hartzell/The Cressman Family  
September 13 - Lori and Scott Reilly/Sharon Merluzzi and Bobbi Ricci  
September 20 - Glenn and Sandy Borger/Carol and Dave Young  
September 27 - Kim Starner & Rocky Starner/Lori Rowlands and Mike Bruengsen

## Celebrate with our Church Family

### Happy September Birthdays

02 Larry Lopresti	16 Tom Smith
04 Harrison Kolb	17 Alex Berger
05 Jacob Hackman	20 Zack Shook
10 Donna Lee Cresina	21 Diane Nicholas
10 Bonnie Warren	22 Irene Tenges*
10 Nick Williams	23 Jacob Allen
11 Mark Hendricks	25 Anna Zeeman
12 Ben Audenried	25 Jayson Mitch
12 Addalai Sales	26 Jane Kemmerer
14 Riley Williams	26 Gary Barraco
15 Aidan Fleming	26 Jack Sales
15 Patti Weis	30 Larissa Bernecker
16 Tayler Ostrander	

\* Irene will be celebrating her 91st birthday this month.  
Contact the church office for her address.  
Happy birthday, Irene!

If you are not on the birthday and/or anniversary list and would like to be and have not notified the church office, please call Cheryl. Thank you.

### September Anniversaries

Jennifer & Brian Lively	9/02/2002
Kara & George Young	9/02/2002
Deb & Burton Ackerman	9/07/1974
Ronda & Bob Gutekunst	9/13/2014
Carol & David Young	9/17/1960
Jane & Sam Kemmerer	9/19/1953
Betsy & Craig Warner	9/19/1987
Dawn & Henry Pump Jr.	9/21/1985
Dotothea & Bill Setzler	9/23/1995
Kim & Tom Gutekunst	9/24/1994
Tracey & Dathan Silfies	9/30/2000



### 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!

## September 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> <i>Communion</i> 14th Sunday of Pentecost	<b>7</b> Labor Day - Office Closed	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 15th Sunday of Pentecost	<b>14</b> 7PM Stewardship and Finance	<b>15</b> 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 16th Sunday of Pentecost	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 17th Sunday of Pentecost	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Please check Facebook and Weekly Happenings for events being canceled or reinstated.		

Sundays  
8AM - Meditative Worship  
10AM - Worship



September 2020

