

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!



Musical performances from members and friends



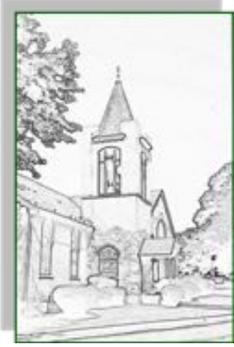
100th daily devotional

Children's Sabbath Sunday



Pork and Sauerkraut
Take Out





As we prepare for our annual celebration of Thanksgiving, one thing is clear- our celebration this year will be very different from celebrations of the past. As I write this, the leading health professionals in our country are, in fact, advising against having large family gatherings indoors, which, of course, is the traditional way that most of us celebrate Thanksgiving. We also, on this holiday, traditionally take time to give thanks for the blessings we have received in the past year. That may be difficult this time around, as most of us consider the past year to be anything but a blessing. It is challenging to give thanks during a pandemic.

I was thinking about these challenges, and also thinking about what is commonly referred to as the very first Thanksgiving, as I often do as our annual celebration approaches. That celebration, you may remember from history class, was celebrated by English Pilgrims, along with local Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the year 1621, after a successful Autumn harvest. You may not remember that it was a three day long celebration, instead of just one, and that, along with wild turkeys, seafood was served (my kind of celebration!). You may also not remember that this particular “giving of thanks” was offered in the midst of some pretty challenging and difficult times. The Pilgrims had inhabited a land that, because of disease, had been wiped clean of Native civilization. During their very first winter in their new land, half of the Pilgrim population died. If not for intervention from neighboring Native Americans, who gave them food and taught them how to catch game and grow crops, the remaining Pilgrims would surely have perished. And yet, during these difficult and challenging times, the Pilgrims were able to experience and express gratitude.

I read an article in the magazine, *Psychology Today*, that suggests that it is especially in difficult and challenging times, like the ones we are currently living in, that the experience and expression of gratitude is most important. The article begins, “There are always things to be grateful for (even now), and gratitude reminds us how special, beautiful and fortunate our lives are, even under stressful or hazardous conditions.”

The writer of the article suggests thinking of three things we might be grateful for, even in this time of pandemic, and offers these suggestions:

- The fact that a pandemic like this is unusual.
- Gratitude for the heroes of healthcare who put their own safety at risk to care for total strangers simply because it is what they do.
- Gratitude for loved ones and a time of forced perspective, to consider what really matters to us.

The article points out that expressing gratitude not only helps us psychologically, but has been shown to increase health in response to respiratory infection, and general health in older individuals, who are at the greatest risk during our current health crisis.

So, even during this very strange celebration of Thanksgiving, try, as best as you can, to give thanks. It’s good for you.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Bob

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:

11/1 - maintenance and repair fund

11/8 - 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.

Barrels, again!

Beginning in September we need to start paying for our Fuel Oil for the upcoming heating season. Again this year we are hoping you help us by buying "Barrels of Oil" for \$50 a barrel. Together we can ensure we can worship in a warm sanctuary all throughout the cold winter.

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!

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 1st at 11:15AM. This will be outdoors and can be heard on your car radio if it is too cold. This meeting is to approve the budget which you should receive in the mail soon. We hope to see you there!

Veterans' Day

Dear Veterans ~ Those of us who have not served will never fully understand the sacrifices you've made both in times of peace and of war. We will never fully understand what you were required to do or how you were able to do it. We will never fully understand the depth of your scars. Thank you for serving our country and protecting our freedoms.

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, Sharon Solt Harfman, Alice Hornbake, Carolyn Mitch, Rick Taylor, and Betsy Warner

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. We are collecting the following items for Thanksgiving baskets: canned corn, peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, canned or jarred gravy and turkey broth. Thank you!

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.

Housekeeping

In the new year, we will be looking for volunteers to help keep our church clean. Some responsibilities include emptying the trash cans, swiffering the floor under the pews, and vacuuming. If you or a group of your family or friends would be interested in doing this once for a particular month, please contact Jacob Allen (610-533-9108) or Alice Hornbake (610-703-3095) for details. Youth can also earn community service hours for their participation. Thank you for caring for our congregation and building.

Thank You

The drive thru Pork and Sauerkraut dinner was a big success! Thank you for those who helped and participated. We made over \$1400!

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.

***Exciting news!!!!

Richard Taylor is pleased to announce the publication of his new book, "Congregations of the German Reformed Church in the United States." Running to over 700 pages, it includes a directory of over 4,000 German Reformed Churches formed before the 1934 Church merger, and their subsequent life. It includes 53 in Northampton County. The book begins with a summary of social and organizational history of the denomination. You can discover the stories of the church family within which our Forks congregation grew. You can check out the other churches that were in former charges with Forks. The book also notes about 1,300 Lutheran churches that were in union arrangements with Reformed churches, such as the former Salem Lutheran Church at our site. The book is designed to be a useful tool for genealogists. If you think you had German Reformed ancestors in other places, you can find the churches in those areas, which ones are alive, if they have merged, where they are affiliated, and other useful information to identify where you might find their records. Forks members will be particularly interested in the picture on page viii. Rick will be giving an online release presentation of the book at the Sigal Museum later this year. The date and time will be shared with Forks people so that you can tune in. The list price of the book is \$35.00. But a 10% discount is being offered for orders received before **December 31st**, making the price \$31.50. If anyone would like to order a copy, let Rick know (610-438-3771 or pilgrimrht@rcn.com). To save on postage he'll leave them at the Church, where you can pick them up at your convenience.

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 November

November 1 - AVAILABLE
November 8 - Adult Fellowship
November 15 - Amy Richard
November 22 - The Grogg Family
November 29 - The Grogg Family

Those Serving

Ushers/Coin Collectors

November 1 - Ron Mumaw
November 8 - Sam Kemmerer
November 15 - Steve Dewalt
November 22 - Glenn Borger
November 29 -

Greeters/Offering Collectors

November 1 - Debbie Hartzell & Ruth Hartzell/The Cressman Family
November 8 - Lori and Scott Reilly/Sharon Merluzzi and Bobbi Ricci
November 15 - Glenn and Sandy Borger/Carol and Dave Young
November 22 - Kim Starner & Rocky Starner/Lori Rowlands and Mike Bruengsen
November 29 -

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy November Birthdays

01 Georgia Pump	18 Shelcy Markley
02 Larry Dewalt	18 Lenny Ringhoff
03 Warren Eberts	20 Paula Correll
04 Laura Dewalt	20 Matthew Gleason
04 Ivy Nuss	20 Bob Perrine
05 Burton Ackerman	21 Ethan Riehl
05 Jesica Weaver	23 Kerrie Schneebeli
07 Kevin Keat	24 Lyndsey Hartzell
07 Michael Tirrell	26 Carolyn Mitch
10 Scott Dewalt	26 Brian Jones
10 Taylor Negrin	27 Brenda Butz
11 Anita Wallbillich	27 Bradley Silfies
14 Brian Lively	27 Tyler Grogg
14 Brandon Cressman	28 Steve Chesney
16 Edwin Frace Jr.	29 Jim Milham
16 Brenda Stoudt	29 Linda Saltern
17 Katlyn Ehrich	

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.



November Anniversaries

Karen & Michael DeJesso	11/06/2015
Debbie & Steve Chesney	11/16/1991
Cheryl & Dennis Hahn	11/17/1973
Anna & Victor Zeeman	11/24/1983
Ruth & Michael Rinaldi	11/24/2001
Rita & Jerry Blossey	11/25/1967

Confirmands

Andrew Biddle, Jacob Hackman, Chloe Miller

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!

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 22nd Sunday of Pentecost All Saints Day Congregational Meeting	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 23rd Sunday of Pentecost	9 7PM Stewardship and Finance	10 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	11	12	13	14
15 24th Sunday of Pentecost	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Reign of Christ Sunday Last Sunday of the church year	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Deut. 8:7-18 Palm 65	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent	30	Please check Facebook and Weekly Happenings for events being canceled or reinstated.				

Sundays
10AM - Worship

