

TIDINGS

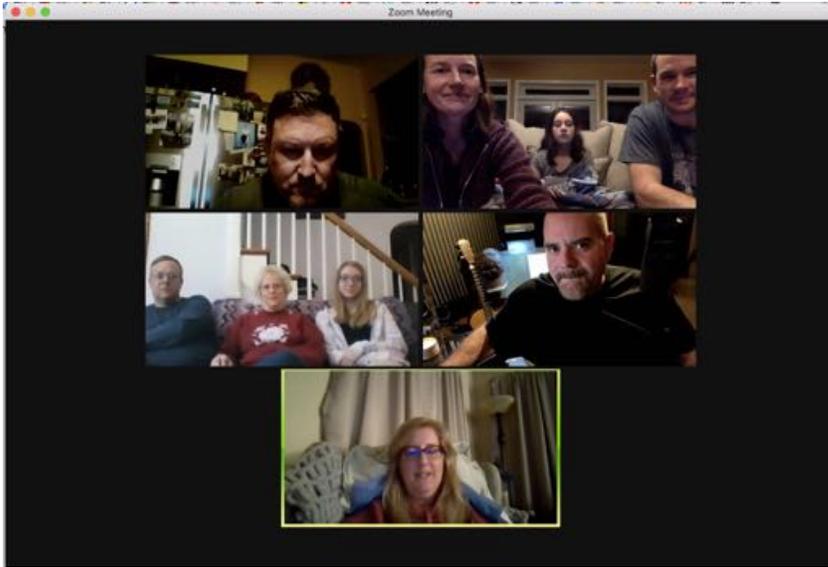
The Monthly Newsletter of Forks United Church of Christ
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...

you are welcome here!

Spaghetti Dinner Success

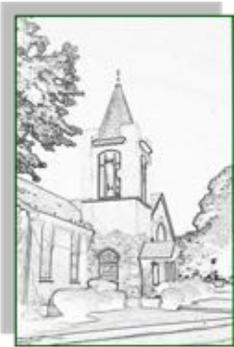


February Zoom Socialization



Ash
Wednesday
Drive Thru
Ashes





I had a conversation recently with a parent, who expressed concern for his son, who is a college freshman. “He doesn’t go out, he doesn’t hang out with friends, he doesn’t socialize at all. All he does is study,” the parent said. Some of you might wonder, “Well, what’s wrong with that?” The conversation reminded me a little of my own story. I was very sheltered when I was in High School. I didn’t party at all. All I did was study and worry about getting good grades. Then I got to college, and all H-E- Double Hockey Sticks broke loose. I became a total party animal. Predictably, I flunked out of college. Eventually, I got my act together (at least a little bit). I was sort of shocked to discover, later on, that most of the friends that I partied with in college, were also able to find time to study; that it wasn’t all or nothing. They were able to get their work done, and also socialize and have fun. They found a balance.

I remember reading an article, many years ago, about some countries in Europe (I don’t remember which) that actually took rest and leisure seriously. They limited the amount of hours that employees could be asked to work in a week. They allowed for generous vacation time. They provided maternity time off for both parents. Since I read the article so many years ago, I’m not sure if this is still the case, but it seems to me that, in our country, we live with the opposite mentality.

I filled out a pastoral survey recently which asked the question, “How many hours do you work in a week?” In the work of ministry, as in many other professions, I’m sure, there is an assumption among many that if we don’t work 80 hours a week, seven days a week, then we’re somehow failing. Of course, this thinking is ridiculous. For those of us who consider ourselves Christian, our Savior models a different way of living.

Certainly, Jesus worked hard in all aspects of ministry - teaching, preaching, healing, serving, so much so that he was overwhelmed, at times, with the amount of human need that he was confronted with. He also took Sabbath. He went off by himself to pray and rest. And sometimes, yes, Jesus was a bit of a party animal. People called him a glutton and a drunkard for a reason. Apparently, Jesus knew how to have a good time. And he knew how to strike a balance between having fun and the serious work to which he was called. As Marchae Grair says, in a recent devotional, “Sometimes, we find our calling and pursue it with clarity and intention. And we can forget that our calling toward a better world is in service of creating a world where we all work less, not more. As we try to create a future world with more spaciousness, relaxation, and joy, we can’t forget to manifest those things in the present, as often as possible. Finding joy within one’s life doesn’t demean our commitments to making the world better.”

This pandemic time that we are living in, for around a year now, has inflicted upon us all kinds of restrictions and public health protocols - wearing masks, and social distancing, and limiting large gatherings. And we must continue to take these measures seriously. But this pandemic has also caused a lot of isolation, and loneliness, and boredom, and anxiety. And so I think it is really important to remember that, to whatever extent we can, we need to do some things that we enjoy. To whatever extent we can, we need to find some avenues of socialization. Whatever it is that feeds our soul, we need to do those things. There will be plenty of work to do tomorrow. Have some fun today.

Blessings,

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:

3/7 - maintenance and repair fund
3/14 - One Great Hour of Sharing

Please note those words in the "comment" box while completing your online gift to allow your gift to be moved into the correct account.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will be taking part in this special collection on Sunday, March 14th.

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!

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: 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. March's food of the month is Easter items.

*****Our blessing box will remain on the front step of the church. Please use it to drop off donations or to fill a need you have.**

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. Or you can watch on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEOmIblk8CHl3wb55Ir-djg>) Never miss a week!

Newsletter Submissions

If anyone wishes to submit any articles for the NEWSLETTER, please have all items emailed by the **20th of each month** to: wmhornbake@yahoo.com

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 March

Those Serving

Pulled Pork Dinner

Come enjoy delicious pulled pork served with seasoned baked potatoes, a medley of roasted vegetables, coleslaw and an array of desserts on March 20th. Tickets are \$12 but are not required. Call Jacob Allen (610-533-9108) or the church office for tickets or questions.

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.

Visitation List

Please see the Church Directory or contact the Church office or a member of the visitation team for addresses. Chuck Givler, Anna Laudenslager, Florence Saylor, Janet Rush, Betty Stocker, Irene Tenges, Bonnie Warren

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy March Birthdays

01 Kate McKelvey-Jones	14 Charles Prutzman Sr.
01 Deann Allen	15 Kay Kromer
01 Chris Beers	15 Kaitlin Grogg
03 Carol Labar	16 Tammy Uhler
03 Jennifer Zabe	19 Justin Chesney
05 Debbie Hartzell	20 Dane Edelheiser
05 Kurtis Fleming	21 Sarah Ringhoff
05 Jordan Allen	21 Ryan Barrick
07 Joan Guthrie	24 Brett Fleming
08 Kelvin Dewalt	24 Apryl Audenried
09 Janet Berger	24 Jennifer Hughes
10 Sarah Fleming	25 Tim Weis
11 Tagan Steward	26 Dustin Gable
12 Victor Zeeman	28 Craig Warner
12 Alyssa Knitter Gilfilin	29 Irv Angstadt*
	30 Ryan Hartzell

*Our wishes to Irv Angstadt who celebrates his 87th birthday on the 29th. Happy birthday!!

March Anniversaries

Ruth & Gary Gardner	3/06/1959
Jennifer & Brent Wood	3/11/1995
Sherry & Charles Pruntzman Sr.	3/12/1987
Carole & Doug Steckel	3/13/1954
Carol & Chuck Hartway	3/20/1983
Jennifer & Michael Zabe	3/20/1999
Judy & Jerry Kinsey	3/25/1967

Confirmands

Andrew Biddle, Jacob Hackman, Chloe Miller, Grace Quinn

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 6PM Zoom Lenten Book Study	5	6
7 <i>Communion</i> 3rd Sunday in Lent John 2:13-22	8 7PM Stewardship & Finance	9 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	10	11 6PM Zoom Lenten Book Study	12	13 Daylight Saving
14 4th Sunday in Lent <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i> John 3:14-21	15	16	17	18 6PM Zoom Lenten Book Study	19	20 Pulled Pork Drive Thru Dinner 3-6PM
21 5th Sunday in Lent John 12:20-33	22	23	24	25 6PM Zoom Lenten Book Study	26	27
28 Palm/Passion Sunday Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 "Into Jerusalem"	29	30	31	April 1, Maundy Thursday John 13:1-17, 31b-35 April 2, Good Friday John 18:1-19:42 April 3, Holy Saturday Matthew 27:57-66		

Sundays

10AM - Worship

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



March 2021

