

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!*

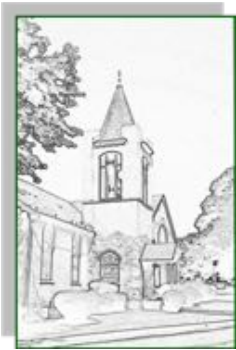
Confirmation



Tortoise and the Hare 5K



Property Work



I read an article on ESPN.com about Carl Nassib, a football player for the Las Vegas Raiders, who became the first active NFL player to come out as gay. He made this groundbreaking announcement on an Instagram post:

"What's up people?" Nassib posted. "I'm at my house here in West Chester, Pennsylvania. I just want to take a quick moment to say that I'm gay. I've been meaning to do this for a while now, but I finally feel comfortable enough to get it off my chest. I really have the best life, I've got the best family, friends and job a guy could ask for."

The response on social media, from the NFL commissioner, to the head of the player's union, to coaches and executives, to current and former players, to teammates and opponents, was overwhelmingly positive. But, I reflected, this would not have been the case just a few short years ago. And, as Nassib alluded to, it would be nice if we could arrive at a day when this kind of news would not be newsworthy:

"I'm a pretty private person so I hope you guys know that I'm really not doing this for attention. I just think that representation and visibility are so important. I actually hope that like one day, videos like this and the whole coming-out process are just not necessary. But until then, I'm going to do my best and do my part to cultivate a culture that's accepting, that's compassionate and I'm going to start by donating \$100,000 to the Trevor Project."

The Trevor Project provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to the LGBTQ+ community. And it's a necessary organization precisely because, in the year 2021, many people are still persecuted for their sexual identity and orientation.

All of this is a preface to remind folks that our congregation is in the midst of the Open and Affirming process in the United Church of Christ. We had begun the process by holding some Town Hall type meetings, offered a sermon series and other resources to educate, and engaged in a number of one-on-one conversations. All of that was put on hold when the pandemic hit us full force in March of 2020.

So I just wanted to take some time to remind people that we are on this journey together, to remind people that the Open and Affirming process is about welcoming all people into the life of our faith community, regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, sexual identity or orientation, or differing abilities, and to remind people why we are doing this.

The question that I have been asked often, regarding the ONA process is, "Why do we need to do this? We are already a welcoming congregation." Yes. That is true. But, in the year, 2021, there are many, many, churches who say the same thing, but, in fact, do not welcome people in the LGBTQ+ community. Sadly, in the year 2021, many people in the LGBTQ+ community are excluded, ostracized, persecuted, and harmed by church communities. So we want to say, loudly and clearly, we are here to change that, and to work toward a day when ONA processes are no longer needed.

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:

7/4 - maintenance and repair fund

7/11 - O.C.W.M. special offering

8/1 - maintenance and repair fund

8/8 - 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.

Interested?

I found 168 pieces of wains coating wood in my basement. This beautiful wood was removed from the large social hall at least 30 years ago. I 'm wondering if any member of the church has any use for this? Please contact Deb Ackerman @ 610-703-8793.

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.

*****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.**

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this year: July 26th-30th. Please see Amanda Knitter Williams if you'd like to volunteer!

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.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Hornbake Family for cleaning our church in June!

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.

Prayer for Independence Day

Father of all nations and ages,

we rededicate ourselves to your service
and to the works of justice and freedom for all.

As you have called us from many people to be one nation,

help us to give witness in our lives
and in our life as a nation
to the rich diversity of your gifts.

Grant that under your providence

our country may share your blessings
with all the peoples of the earth.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

~ Source Unknown

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.

Our team is meeting again!! Watch this area for news and updates.

ONA Committee members are: Brenda DeLong, Bob Gutekunst, Sharon Solt Harfman, Alice Hornbake, Carolyn Mitch, Rick Taylor, and Betsy Warner

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 July/August

Those Serving

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.

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 July Birthdays

01 Debra Roth	13 Rocky Starner
01 Debbie Chesney	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 Melvin Kresge	21 Alicia Rodenbough
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 93rd birthday and Betty Stocker celebrates her 97th birthday. Happy, Happy Birthday to you! Florence Saylor celebrates her 100th birthday!!!!

Contact the church office for addresses.

July Anniversaries

Laraine & Melvin Kresge	7/02/1960
Diane & Lew Parker	7/15/1967
Amy & Wil 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

Happy August Birthdays

02 Kathy Boushell	14 Anthony Newett
02 Adam Audenried	15 Roy Hackman
02 Alyvia Fry	16 Kalyn Kolb
04 Elizabeth Durie	16 Emma Wood
04 Randy Fry	17 Vickie Frace
05 Karen Werner	20 Breanna Schneebeli
05 Jean Cooper	22 Lorna Dreisbach
06 Darin Steward	23 Sandy Schaadt
06 Donald Riehl	24 Adam Polkowski
07 Emily Aicher Kerbaugh	25 Sally Dewalt
08 Florence Saylor*	27 Carter Duarte
08 Travis Woolverton	29 James Hancik
12 Rose Smialkowski	30 Mindy Hahn
12 Diane Flick	30 Cody Allen
12 Sariena Alfinito	31 Laura Butz
13 Dawn Pump	31 Michael Rinaldi
14 Michael Zabe	

August Anniversaries

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



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Communion</i> 6th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 6:1-13</i>	5 Independence Day Observed	6	7	8	9	10
11 7th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 6:14-29</i>	12	13 7PM Consistory Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 8th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</i>	19	20 2PM Spiritual Council Meeting	21 1PM Book Study	22	23	24
25 9th Sunday after Pentecost <i>John 6:1-21</i>	26 6-8PM Vacation Bible School Program	27 6-8PM Vacation Bible School Program	28 1PM Book Study 6-8PM Vacation Bible School Program	29 6-8PM Vacation Bible School Program	30 6-8PM Vacation Bible School Program	31

Sundays
10AM - Worship

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 10th Sunday after Pentecost	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 11th Sunday after Pentecost	9 7PM Stewardship & Finance	10 7PM Consistory Meeting	11 1PM Book Study	12	13 Ice Cream Festival 5-9PM	14
15 12th Sunday after Pentecost	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 13th Sunday after Pentecost	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 14th Sunday after Pentecost	30	31				

Sundays
10AM - Worship

