

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!

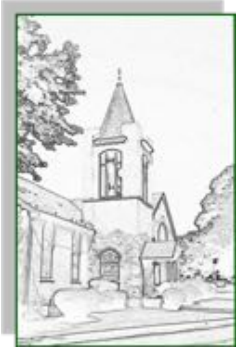
Outdoor Worship



Bushkill Stream Clean Up

Addams Family Understudy Cabaret





I wanted to use this space this month to let folks know what is going on with our congregation, in terms of all of the changes and restrictions we've endured because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our hopes and plans for reopening the building. As I sit down to write this, it has been only a few days since the CDC announced new guidelines for people who are vaccinated. These guidelines amount to a loosening of restrictions regarding mask wearing, social distancing, etc.

Since different organizations, such as schools, bars and restaurants, and churches, are responding differently to these guidelines, and each individual person has a different level of comfort regarding the loosening of restrictions, and, effectively, there is no way of knowing who is vaccinated or not, the announcement by the CDC has caused a lot of turmoil, angst, and confusion.

In the wake of the announcement, several congregation members have asked me why we have not yet opened the doors of our building for Sunday morning worship. Let me try and explain our thought process.

During the winter, when the pandemic was raging, we decided that, just like last summer, we could move to an outdoor worship once the weather turned warm enough. We decided to begin on the first Sunday in May. Since we have reached quite a few people by streaming our service virtually- people who, quite frankly, probably would have never set foot inside our building- and since most people have responded favorably to the streaming service, we knew we needed to continue to stream as well as worship outside.

The amount of work it took to transition to streaming outside was rather extensive (kudos to Anthony Newett and Grace Quinn for all of their time and effort to make this possible). We can't just snap our fingers and go back to streaming from indoors, along with the sanctuary filled with people. That transition is going to take some thinking, and planning, and logistics. That's why we originally planned, as long as the trajectory of the pandemic continued downward, to reopen in September. That would give us the summer months to figure out how to do this well.

Also, we took into consideration the fact that our sanctuary has no air conditioning. In July and August, the inside of the building is oppressively hot and humid, with very little air flow. It is much more comfortable for everyone to stay outside. We have a wonderful space set up- you can set your chair on lush, green grass, under the shade of trees, enjoying some sunshine and (hopefully) a breeze or two. As my wife said to me, "I love worshipping outside. I can look at the blue sky and clouds, hear the birds singing, and enjoy worshipping God in the midst of God's creation." For people who complain, "I want to come to church.", I would ask, "What's stopping you?" You can enjoy worship, singing, great music, fellowship, and even some coffee hour just as easily outside as inside.

As the summer progresses, we are planning on some more "normal" church activities- a book study, the Strawberry Festival, and Vacation Bible School. I hope that by September we can reopen the building and continue to do even more of what we love to do as a faith community together. And I hope that what we are doing in the interim will continue to feed your spirit. You should know that, although the church leadership is a part of these decisions, ultimately, I am the one who is accountable for them. So, if you're upset, I guess that I'm the one you should be upset with. But, if you want to discuss any of these actions, or thoughts, or decisions, please contact me. I would be happy to talk with you.

Let's have a safe and wonderful summer together.

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:

6/6 - 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.

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.

Soup's On!

The Soup Kitchen Outreach that is! The Outreach is scheduled for **Saturday, June 19th**. How can YOU help? The following items are needed (Please put in 'INDIVIDUAL' small lunch bags or donate any type of single-serve snack): Pretzels, Chips, Water bottles, Cookies, etc. Bring your single-snack items to the church and please label for "Soup Kitchen Outreach".

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 Betsy Warner, Kim Starner, Rocky Starner, and Barbara Huff for cleaning our church in May!

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.

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. June's food of the month is picnic items and healthy cereal.

*****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 June

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 June Birthdays

01 Talon Fry	15 Jennifer Lively
01 Ruth Smith	16 Louise Bruch
04 Benjamin Gleason	16 Alicia Hancik
04 Benjamin Machado	16 Alice Hornbake
05 Lori Avery Reilly	17 Gloria Francis
07 Shawna Bernecker	18 Rob Grogg
09 Amy Richard	19 Colleen Altieri
09 Richard Allen	21 Rhonda Herres
09 Chad Wagner	23 Porter Ringhoff
10 Charles Kolb	24 Diana Mumaw
11 Michael Correll	27 Cindy Aicher
12 Kara Young	27 Alexandria Pump
13 Dennis Hahn	28 Henry Pump Jr.
14 Sandy Perrine	28 Ashley Cressman
14 Gavin Gaul	29 Alice Bartholomew
15 Iona Gilfilen	29 Will Schneebeili
15 Sandy Fehnel	

June Anniversaries

Paula & Michael Correll	6/03/1979
Rob & Julie Grogg	6/06/1998
Diane & Larry Lopresti	6/10/1967
Catherine & Michael Tirrell	6/11/1993
Alice & Richard Bartholomew	6/12/1956
Brenda & Jeff Stoudt	6/16/1978
Alison & Brett Fleming	6/18/1994
Alice & Will Hornbake	6/18/2005
Gloria & Walt Francis	6/20/1970
Jean & Bill Cooper	6/22/1968
Kay & Glenn Kromer	6/23/1962
Sarah & Lenny Ringhoff	6/26/2004
Ruth & Tom Smith	6/26/1971
Rose & Michael Smialkowski	6/26/1983
Alicia & Jim Hancik	6/30/2001
Joshua & Emily Kerbaugh	6/30/2018

Confirmands

Andrew Biddle, Jacob Hackman, Chloe Miller, Grace Quinn

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Communion</i> 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Congregation al Meeting after Worship <i>Mark 3:20-35</i>	7 7PM Stewardship /Finance	8 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory Reorganization al Meeting All Committee Members	9	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 4:26-34</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19 Soup Kitchen
20 4th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Happy Father's Day!</i> <i>Mark 4:35-41</i>	21	22	23	24	25 64th Anniversary of The United Church of Christ	26 Strawberry Festival 5-9PM
27 5th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Mark 5:21-43</i>	28	29	30			

Sundays
10AM - Worship



June 2021

