

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!

The time the magic trick worked....

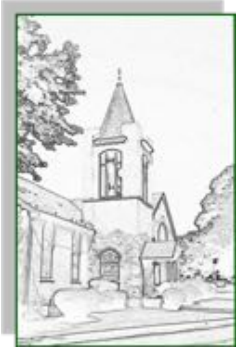


Community Day



Rally Day





Being a huge comic book superhero fan, I noticed the latest offering from the Marvel Cinematic Universe on Disney Plus, an animated series entitled, “What If...?” The series explores the alternate realities that might have occurred, if events had happened differently in the lives of several popular Marvel superheroes, like, for example, “What if Captain America had been a woman instead of a man?” It’s a fun series of questions for us die-hard Marvel superhero fans, but, in other contexts, that question, “What if?” can cause us a lot of angst.

I think that most people I have known who have dealt with issues of anxiety (myself included) have wrestled with this question in various forms, “What if this happens? Or that happens?” Or “What if I had done this? Or done that?” These questions cause us anxiety because we lament over a past we cannot change, or we worry about a future we cannot control.

In the life of the church, the COVID pandemic has definitely caused us to lament over the past- we lost our ability to gather together, to visit one another in person, some of our traditional expressions of music, fellowship and youth and mission events that we cancelled. We have experienced tumultuous changes, moving from virtual worship to outdoor worship, to virtual to outdoor, and, finally, to in-person worship. And, with COVID transmission levels still relatively high in our area, we may worry, “How long will this last?” “Will we be able to gather for Thanksgiving and Advent and Christmas?” “What if we have to go back to virtual only?”

I remember, as a kid, reading a Buddhist parable: “A man travelling across a field encountered a tiger. He fled, the tiger chasing after him. Coming to a precipice, he caught hold of the root of a wild vine and swung himself down over the edge. Trembling, the man looked down to where, far below, another tiger was waiting to eat him. Only the vine sustained him. Two mice, one white and one black, little by little, started to gnaw away the vine. The man saw a luscious strawberry near him. Grasping the vine with one hand, he plucked the strawberry with the other. How sweet it tasted!”

That’s a pretty extreme example of “living in the moment”, but I think it does jive with the example, in the Gospels, of Jesus and his disciples, who, oftentimes, did not know where their next meal was coming from or whether they would have somewhere to lay their heads. If people refused to welcome them, they shook the dust off of their sandals, and walked together, surely and faithfully, into an uncertain future.

Up to this point, we have enjoyed in-person worship for a few weeks, and hope to gather for at least the next several weeks. This month, October we have several activities planned- the Rummage Sale, a new book study, a wonderful education presentation by the Rev. Rick Taylor, Confirmation, and a Trunk or Treat gathering. Beyond that, no one knows for sure. And we certainly can’t recapture what we’ve lost. But we can enjoy the present moment together. And we can have faith in the God who sustains us- past, present, and future.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? O you of little faith! Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.”- Matthew 6

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:

10/3 - Neighbors in Need

10/10 - O.C.W.M. special offering

10/17 - 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.

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) Sunday is on **October 10, 2021**. NIN is a special mission offering of the U.C.C. that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. We have the opportunity to stand front and center with those working toward a just world for all. Please support NIN. Thank you and blessings.

Barrels, again!

Beginning in September we need to start paying for our Fuel Oil for the upcoming heating season. We have entered into a contract with Fogels Fuel again. 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.

Rummage Sale

On October 1st (9AM-4PM) and 2nd (9AM-2PM) we will hold our Annual Rummage Sale again. Lots of help is needed! If you can help in any way, please contact Sandy Schaadt (610-739-3952) or Jacob Allen (610-533-9108).

Pork and Sauerkraut

Join us on October 16th for a drive thru Pork and Sauerkraut dinner - 3-6PM! Watch our Weekly Happenings and Facebook page for details.

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.**

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. Please use this link to find out more about Open and Affirming in the United Church of Christ: <https://openandaffirming.org/>

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

THE PLACES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Religious memory is intertwined with places. We remember where we had an experience of grace. Indigenous people name as sacred the places where their people encountered the Holy.

Christians do the same, even if we end up naming a new location after the honored memory. So as we travel around we will find a Salem here, and a Zion there, a Jordan and an Egypt.

The traditions of the United Church of Christ also have their place names: Plymouth, and Heidelberg, and for those of us moving from place to place, Pilgrim.

A special event to introduce us to the "Places of the United Church of Christ," will be held on Wednesday evening October 13 at 7:00 PM at Forks United Church of Christ, on Sullivan Trail, just south of Stockertown.

The Rev, Richard H. Taylor, former Chair of the United Church's Historical Council will introduce us to the major traditions of the Church with maps indicating the places where each flowered and bloomed, with stories along the way.

This should be a particularly interesting discussion for those of us who have lived in other parts of the country, or have been part of different religious traditions. The United Church is a place of many places and varied traditions. Come and enjoy the discussion, and perhaps pick up a bit of UCC history along the way.

It is requested that people wear masks. Seating will be interspersed throughout the Church. All are welcome.

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.

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!

In Person Worship

On Sunday, **September 5**, we returned to the sanctuary and adjacent social room for worship. The large doors are open for the service in order to provide ample safe distancing. Masks are strongly encouraged. You are invited outside immediately after worship for refreshments.

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

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.

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 October

October 3 -
October 10 -
October 17 -
October 24 -
October 31 -

Those Serving

October 3 -
October 10 -
October 17 -
October 24 -
October 31 -

Housekeeping

We are 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 Joan Mumaw and Margaret Zabe for cleaning our church in September!!

Thank You and Welcome!

We thank Cheryl Hahn for her many years of dedicated service to our church and welcome Claire Willard as our new office manager. She will be in the office on Thursdays from 9am-1pm and can be reached at forksucc@gmail.com or 610-759-5676.

Celebrate with our Church Family

Happy October Birthdays

02 Sheri Burda	14 Tammy Angstadt
03 Brian Schneebeli	14 Matthew Ackerman
05 Ruth Rinaldi	14 Chloe Miller
05 Samuel Jones	14 Cheryl Miller
06 Makayla Fleming	16 Christopher Dewalt
06 Richard Taylor	18 Madysen Hughes
07 Linda Fleming	20 Steve Dewalt
09 Sarah Happel	22 Leigh Ann Lively
09 Cheryl Hahn	22 Ashleigh Gaul
10 Shelly Flyte	23 Christopher Flyte
11 Glenn Borger	24 Isabel Ringhoff
12 Bill Dreisbach	26 J.R. Mitch
13 Laraine Kresge	28 Deb Ackerman
13 Bob Gutekunst	29 David Phillips
13 Tom Gutekunst	31 Alexandria Wood
	31 Lisa Hackman

October Anniversaries

Carol & Dallas Labar	10/06/1972
Gary Barraco & Eric Hanlein	10/16/2011
Diane & Steve Dewalt	10/22/1983
Linda & Gary Fleming	10/23/1982
Rhonda & Joe Herres	10/28/1995

Confirmands

Andrew Biddle, Eleanore Hornbake, Kaiden Kresge, Chloe Miller, Grace Quinn

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

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9AM-4PM Rummage/ Bake Sale	2 9AM-2PM Rummage/ Bake Sale NOON - \$2 bag sale for soft goods
3 <i>Communion</i> 19th Sunday after Pentecost	4	5	6 1PM Small Group	7	8	9
10 20th Sunday after Pentecost	11 7PM Stewardship and Finance	12 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	13 1PM Small Group	14	15	16 Pork & Sauerkraut Drive Thru Dinner 3-6PM
17 21st Sunday after Pentecost	18	19	20 1PM Small Group	21	22	23
24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Children's/Youth Sunday</i> We support our children as they lead us in Worship.	25	26	27 1PM Small Group	28	29	30
31 23rd Sunday after Pentecost						

Sundays
10AM - Worship

