

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!

Sunday School outdoors



Pork and Sauerkraut Success

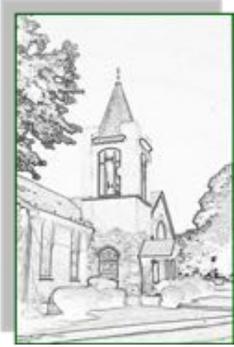


Staff Appreciation



Children's Sabbath Sunday





November is a month for elections. As I write this, some local elections are just around the corner- municipal posts and issues are on the ballots this year. I've been getting inundated with mail and phone calls offering various perspectives on political issues, asking for my agreement. I thought this year was a break from this stuff! Just another reminder of the vast divides and divisiveness that exist in our political landscape.

One of the things that was pointed out to me recently was that our disagreements aren't just over policies and practices, but over basic facts. We don't believe in the same truths. This reality was made clear to me a couple of weeks ago. I was having a conversation with a man, and he started talking about the COVID-19 vaccine, saying some things that I strongly believe to be untrue. "How could a person believe such nonsense?" I thought to myself.

I read an article, which talked about something that social scientists call, "motivated reasoning." The writer of the article says, "In most realms we inhabit, we're motivated to embrace information that supports our beliefs and sense of identity, while rejecting information that contradicts it." In other words, our minds are already made up about lots of things. It's extremely difficult to listen to opinions, or even facts, that go against the grain of our cherished assumptions, which is why it has become so difficult for us to listen to one another.

I attended a day-long workshop, recently, which dealt with the subject of church conflict, but I think that the things that we discussed could just as easily apply to conflicts outside of the church setting as well. We talked about how most of us would like to avoid conflict and are therefore reluctant to engage in dialogue with those we disagree with. We participated in a meditation, in which we were asked to imagine, in our heads, the voices of those people and opinions we disagree with, and then to imagine that those voices are encircled in and blessed by the love and redemption of God. Not easy! The biggest takeaway for me was the need to remain curious- if are able to wonder about a person's point of view, even when we strongly disagree, instead of instantly moving to defend our position, or avoiding the person altogether, we might open a door, if not to empathy and connection, then at least to some understanding.

In my conversation about the COVID-19 vaccine, I resisted the urge to change the subject, and asked the man, "Why do you feel this way?" I listened to his reasoning, even though it bothered me immensely. At the end of our conversation, he said, "I don't know. I could be wrong." I considered that a small victory. At least we had a conversation.

Theologian Patrick Henry once told of his mother-in-law accidentally confusing the words of her grace before dinner. Instead of asking God to "make us ever mindful of the needs of others," she asked God to "make us ever needful of the minds of others." I pray that we might at least be curious.

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:

11/7 - maintenance and repair fund

11/14 - 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. We have entered into a contract with Fogels Fuel again. We anticipate our costs exceeding \$8,000. We are hoping you help us by buying "Barrels of Oil" for \$50 a barrel. There are envelopes in the sanctuary vestibule or you can donate on Breeze by choosing oil barrels.

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14th. This meeting is to approve the budget which you should receive in the mail soon. We hope to see you there!

Veterans' Day

We appreciate all veterans and would like to specially honor those in our congregation. Please notice our "Forks United Church of Christ Hometown Hero" yard signs around the church in November.

Thank You

Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's successful rummage sale! Our profit was over \$8,100. The Adult Fellowship will again this year be selling Christmas wreathes. An order form will be available in the beginning of November. They will be available for pick up in early December. Adult Fellowship will be holding our Christmas covered dish on Monday, December 20th at 6:30PM. Ham will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share and a \$5 gift for a man or woman to exchange.

Also....thank you to those who came out to support our drive through pork and sauerkraut dinner! Our profit was over \$1,500! Special thank you to Jeff Stout for making and donating our sauerkraut again this year and to Cindy Aicher for cooking the meal! All was delicious!

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.**

Thanksgiving baskets are due 11/14. We are requesting canned corn, green beans, yams, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned or jarred gravy, and monetary donations for pies. Donations can be dropped off at the church. Our goal is 25 baskets.

*****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.**

Holiday Hope Chests

We will be participating in the Shoe Box collection again this year. Please take a tag, grab an information sheet and fill a regular sized shoebox. Don't have any shoeboxes? We have some available for you to use. We hope you choose to participate! Due 11/28.

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/>

On Sunday, September 26th, we had two women visit our service and speak about "Why" ONA is important. If you missed that service or would just like to hear it again, use this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_Z0JcWB0Jk and watch the whole service or scroll to about 1 hour 7 minutes in to hear the ladies speak.

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

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/UCEOmIblk8CHI3wb55Ir-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.

Christmas Eve Services

We will be utilizing a reservation system for both the 4PM and 8PM services. Information will be emailed and also found in the Weekly Happenings. The reservation system will open on November 15th. If you do not receive emails from the church, please call the church office at (610) 759-5676 to make arrangements.



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 7 -
November 14 -
November 21 -
November 28 -

There are many opportunities to sponsor altar flowers still this year. Please see the chart in the Social Room.

Those Serving

November 7 -
November 14 -
November 21 -
November 28 -

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.

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. Claire will be present at the November Congregational Meeting.

Thank you to those who wished me a happy retirement through cards, phone calls, and in person. Many thanks, also, for the wonderful wind chimes and the signed name plaque given to me. Both made me very emotional. God`s blessings to all. Cheryl

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	

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, Eleanore Hornbake, Kaiden Kresge, Chloe Miller, Grace Quinn, Mekhi Zuniga

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

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 1PM Small Group	4	5	6 Craft/ Vendor Show 9AM-2PM
7 24th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Communion</i>	8 7PM Stewardship and Finance	9 6PM Spiritual Council 7PM Consistory	10 1PM Small Group	11	12	13
14 25th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Congregational Meeting after Worship</i>	15	16	17 1PM Small Group	18	19	20
21 Reign of Christ Sunday Last Sunday of the church year	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent	29	30				

Sundays
10AM - Worship

