

December 2011 & January 2012

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!*

# TIDINGS



A few years ago, I was shopping for the perfect gift for my youngest child. What she wanted was a Tickle-Me-Elmo, which was the “hot” gift for that holiday season. I lined up outside of an area Wal-Mart at 4 o'clock in the morning, waiting for the doors to open. When they finally did, I felt like I had entered a demolition derby- shoppers crashed their carts into one another in a frenzied attempt to get a Tickle-Me-Elmo. By the time I reached the shelves, they were empty.

Every Christmas, Christians are asked to ponder a different kind of perfect gift, the small, quiet, intimate gift of love in the birth of a child. I read an article that talked about the ancient Greeks, and how they believed that God was perfect. By that they meant that God doesn't need anything, God is isolated, unchanging, unfeeling. If God had feelings, became angry or happy, hated or loved, God would be as vulnerable as any human being, which was a preposterous idea to them.

Then came a new idea, that God loves, that God is love, love with all the risk and vulnerability and heartbreak that go along with love. The basic Christian assertion is the opposite of the Greek idea: God is God only in relationship. God cares so deeply, loves so passionately, that it hurts. Twenty centuries ago, John wrote to the church in Asia Minor, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God...God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”

The perfect gift is the gift that causes us to love- perhaps against our will or better judgment, against our normally cautious reserve that warns us to be careful, not to care too much, not to risk being hurt. This is what Christmas is: God coming to the world in humble and vulnerable love, God coming to the world in the birth of a child. This Christmas season, instead of just spending all of our hard-earned cash extravagantly in pursuit of the perfect gift, let us spend ourselves extravagantly in the perfect gift of love. God abides in love in each one of us, and asks us to do the same.

Merry Christmas and many blessings,

Pastor Bob

### Craft/Vendors Fair – November 12

I would like to thank everyone who supported the craft/vendor fair held Sat. Nov. 12. This was the fourth annual fair the preschool sponsored and we were delighted to see a larger number of church members out shopping and buying hot soup this year. Thank you to our regular faithful crafters from our Forks family, who paid the fee to rent the table space and set up their beautiful handmade items as well. A special thank you to Diane Dewalt for coming through with her cream of broccoli soup, which was the first to sell out. Also to Betsy Warner for baking some delicious pumpkin bread which was sold at the bake sale table and finally to Floyd Mohn, who stayed up till 1:00 am baking Raspberry cream pies, homemade applesauce, and two trays of his extraordinary lasagna. Thank you everyone!! The preschool looks forward to passing on all of the proceeds to the Stewardship and Finance Committee which totaled just over \$1,500.00

## Stewardship & Finance

### *Thank you,*

The Stewardship & Finance Committee would like to thank all our members who returned a 2012 Pledge Card. We have had a very successful campaign.

Please remember that we have the Barrels of Oil Campaign in progress. This is paying our fuel oil for the 2011-2012 heating season and your participation with the Campaign has kept us 'on target'. Three months remaining. Also Thank you to the Congregation who have continued to support our church this past year and we look forward to your support for 2012, our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

## Christian Education

With a joint effort from Music & Worship and Christian Education Committee's this year's "Family Service" on Christmas Eve" at 5:30 will be a play by our kids called "**The Best Christmas Present Ever**". Practices are on Sundays after church and on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm . No Sunday School on December 25 and January 1.

## Youth Group Activities & News

### **Youth Group Meetings – Sunday Nights @ 7:00 PM:**

December 4<sup>th</sup> (5:00pm) December 18<sup>th</sup> January 8<sup>th</sup> January 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Christmas Caroling /5:00pm on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>:**

We will be Christmas caroling the church neighborhood and then back to the church for soup/sand, hot chocolate and possibly some activities

### **Youth Group Retreat:**

Coming in February . . . Watch for more details

### **Looking for Youth Information:**

If you aren't getting information from the youth group or if you haven't yet give your e-mail, cell phone/text number, please do so as soon as possible. We are trying to hard to make sure we get information and reminders out to all of you. Contact Karen Bernecker at [kbrunt@frontiernet.net](mailto:kbrunt@frontiernet.net) or call her at 610-588-1372

## *Mission & Action*

### **Food Bank – An ongoing outreach**

Thank you one and all as you remember the urgent needs which our food banks seek to address. Canned goods and other non-perishables are always in demand. Please keep you cans coming and place on the table by the elevator.

**HELP WANTED...** Soup Kitchen @ Trinity Episcopal Church Spring Garden St in Easton – 2012 Dates will be available soon.

### **Food Distribution to Local Families:**

Thank you for the generous donations received to help 6 families and 2 individuals in our community. Nonperishable items were collected in conjunction with Music & Worship's reverse offering. More items were added as well as monetary donations. Thanks to your generosity, we collected **over 300 items** and **\$385** which was used to purchase gift certificates to Wal-Mart. What a wonderful way to share our gifts of love, support, and compassion.

### **SERRV:**

Thanks to everyone who purchased items in November. Sales totaled \$606. SERRV is a nonprofit fair trade organization who works with artisans and farmers around the world to help them improve their lives. Their mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.

### **HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS:**

A huge thank you to everyone who donated shoe boxes filled with gifts to be distributed during the holiday season to Lehigh Valley agencies serving children. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> year participating. Last year we collected **35** boxes. Our pledge this year was to beat that with **50**. The deadline for collecting the boxes was November 27<sup>th</sup>. Although the final count isn't in at the time of this writing, we have **exceeded our pledge with at least 70 BOXES!!!** Look for the final count in the next newsletter.

Thank you for helping with this mission to spread some cheer to less fortunate children in the Lehigh Valley!

## SUSQUEHANNA FLOODING NEEDS

### **Penn Northeast Conference Disaster Ministry Response to tropical storm Lee that caused flooding damage to communities along the Susquehanna River**

Among those affected is one of the churches in our Penn Northeast Conference, Trinity UCC in Bloomsburg, who has suffered thousands of dollars worth of damage. The pastor of that church has been displaced from his home as well.

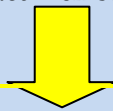
#### **What can you do to help?**

1. Pray
2. Make a donation in the envelope supplied in November's issue of 'Tidings'. All money will be sent to our Conference Office for distribution to the destroyed areas in need.
3. Do hands-on volunteer work.

The command post for volunteers in the Bloomsburg area is being organized by AGAPE Ministries.

They are looking for persons to help empty homes, clean homes, and shovel dirt out of basements. Work teams are being dispersed daily. Other volunteer opportunities such as delivering food are available as well. Volunteers may also be needed to transport items from the PNEC office to the Bloomsburg area.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Denise Polkowski at 610-746-0173 to receive further contact information.



**A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND WILL BE TAKEN ON DECEMBER 4, 2011. A SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE WAS ENCLOSED IN LAST MONTH ISSUE OF TIDINGS'**

#### **Greeting Cards:**

Please remember that there are greeting cards on the Evangelism Bulletin Board for the congregation to use. Remembering those who could use some uplifting words doesn't take a lot of time and certainly will be appreciated. Our committee continues to send cards to those in the congregation we know about. Let Sherry Prutzman know if there is someone you think would appreciate a card.

#### *Evangelism*

##### **"Helping Hands" Ministry**

Our "Helping Hands" ministry is still active. Do you know someone who might need help? Fill out a card on the Evangelism Bulletin Board and we will try to be of assistance.

## Music & Worship

**Thank you . . .** Thank you to all our servers on November 20<sup>th</sup> for our Lovefeast!

**Our Christmas Eve Services . . .** On Christmas Eve we will have our Family Service at 5:30 pm where our children will perform a play called “The Best Christmas Present Ever” and the congregation will join in with carols. At 9:00 pm we will have our Traditional Service with carols, scripture, anthems from our choirs and instrumentalists, and our candle lighting. Preludes for each service will begin 15 minutes prior to worship.

**Our Christmas Day Service . . .** We will have one service today. See ‘calendar’ page. *Merry Christmas!*

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### Chili Cook Off Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> – Mike Boushell

2<sup>nd</sup> – Margaret Zabe

3<sup>rd</sup> – Beth Schatzel

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### Nov. 12 Soup Kitchen

Thank you to the Forks UCC Youth Group for their participation

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### Christmas Coffee Social:

Parish Life is hosting a Christmas Coffee Fellowship after service on December 18<sup>th</sup>

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### 2012 Coffee Hour Fellowship:

Every third Sunday of 2012 Parish Life will be hosting a Coffee Fellowship after 10 AM service. If you or your committee wish to host a coffee fellowship there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the social hall.

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### Are you Able & Willing?

We are looking for new members to join us. Please contact Sandy Perrine, Janet Rush, Tony Jiorle, Sarah Ringhoff, or Beth Schatzel for details



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## Our New Church Directory!

While Directory picture sessions have started, there is still time for you to book your appointment! Our dates remaining are:

- November 30
- December 2
- December 3
- January 2

Please contact Jacob E. Allen at [jacob.e.allen@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.e.allen@gmail.com) or 610-533-9108 for further information regarding your picture session.

**Pastie Sale!**

All Pastie orders are due no later than Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 3:00 PM. An order form is in this issue of Tidings. Forms will also be available in Church starting Saturday, December 4. Please see the information below

Pick up dates and times at the church:

January 19, 2012 - 4:30 to 6:00 pm

January 21, 2012 - 10:30 to 12:00 noon

Any pasties not picked up on Saturday by 12:00 noon will be held in church refrigerator for Sunday pick up.



**Types of Pasties offered and Prices:**

BEEF - WITH ONION OR WITHOUT ONION .....	\$5.00
CHICKEN - WITH ONION ONLY .....	\$5.00
SAUSAGE - WITH ONION ONLY .....	\$5.00
HAM & CHEDDAR CHEESE - WITH ONION ONLY.....	\$6.00
VEGETARIAN - SPINACH, CHEDDAR CHEESE, POTATO AND ONION .....	\$5.00
VEGETARIAN - 7 VEGETABLES, POTATOES, CHEDDAR CHEESE, AND ONION ...	\$5.00

Please note – No changes to ingredients will be permitted – ALL PASTIE’s ARE **DELIVERED FRESH!**

Please call Verna Bolte with questions or orders at (610) 730-2862

***200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Committee***

**Logo Contest:** The winner is Kathy Boushell – Our logo will be presented soon.

**Commemorative 200 Anniversary Plaque:** —————→



View & purchase the plaque on a table in the Social Hall after worship each Sunday, or contact Brenda Stoudt or Jacob E. Allen. The cost is \$35, which a portion goes towards reducing the cost of tickets for our Celebration next year. **This would make an excellent Christmas Gift!**

**We’re creating an Anniversary Cookbook:** If you have any recipes and would like to submit please email them to Amy Knitter (waknitter@hotmail.com) or Jacob E. Allen (jacob.e.allen@gmail.com). If you would prefer to submit a hand written recipe please pick up the forms on the History Committee’s table in the Social Hall. Our Goal is to have 200 recipes in our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook. **The deadline for recipe submissions is December 11.** Please feel free to insert recipes of deceased members as a memorial to them.

**Mark Your Calendars:**

On Sunday, September 23, 2012 we will celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the afternoon with Dinner and Fellowship. Tickets will go on sale in May. Stay tuned for more information.

**Find all information on the Anniversary Committee’s page on the church web page!**

**FYI** - - When you leave a room in the church, is the door CLOSED? Is the light OFF? Yes this includes the bathrooms, the kitchen, hallway doors and even the elevator!

All interior doors should be closed and lights off when the building is not in use.

And don’t forget to ensure the door is locked when you are the last person out, this includes pushing and pulling on the door to make sure the door latches.

Thank you for your cooperation

**2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES & DONATIONS...**

Offering envelopes and any donations for this year should be in the church office by Saturday, Dec. 31, if you wish to receive credit for 2011. Any donations received after that date will automatically be credited to 2012. This also applies to donations that are 'mailed'.....so please mail early.

Thank you

**A ROSEBUD ON THE ALTAR**

We welcomed little Ian Alexander Wagner into the Forks Church Family through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday morning, November 20. Ian's parents are Dawn Ackerman and Chad Wagner. Also present were his big sister, Adia, and big brother, Zachariah. Congratulations to all, including grandparents, Deb & Burton Ackerman.

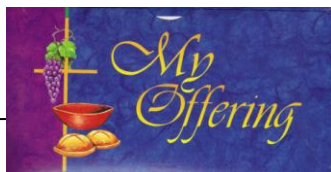


**POINSETTIA WILL BEAUTIFY THE SANCATURY**

You still have a little time to order your poinsettia plants if you have not done so already. Cost is still \$7.50 per plant and orders must be placed, along with payment, **by Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms are included with Sunday morning bulletins and in each vestibule.

**2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please watch for your 2012 Offering Envelope box in the Social Hall. They will be on a table beginning December 11<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas Eve the table will be in the back hallway adjacent to the Social Hall (behind the brown door). When able please pick up your Envelope Box.



**"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD..."**

**Psalm 100: 1**

*.....with singing....and ringing....and the playing of instruments!*



**GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR CORNER.**

My sincere thanks to the Senior Choir for their beautiful anthem "You Are Mine" sung on All Saints Day. It just seems to be a favorite for singers and listeners alike. I agree with so many comments about the blending of voices in the choir. So I say.....simply splendid singing Senior singers!!

Thank you, too, to the Men's Choir for their strong voices singing "For the Beauty of the Earth". Guys, you sing with gusto and just get better and better.

November 27<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of ADVENT. Quiet yourself, if possible, slow down, and focus on the coming of the Christ Child in this season of anticipation and intimacy with God.

***"Come, Lord Jesus, come and be born in our hearts. Come, O Prince of Peace, come and be born in our hearts. Our hearts are open, come and be born in our hearts. Come Immanuel, come and be born in our hearts." ~ C. Landry***

The choirs are well on their way to mastering the music for Christmas Eve. My hat is off to all of them for volunteering their time and talents to the Glory of God through singing and ringing and the playing of instruments.

**TENTATIVE ANTHEM SCHEDULE**

- Nov. 27 Senior Choir – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 4 Senior Choir
- Dec. 11 Senior Choir
- Dec. 18 Senior Choir
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day – No choir.  
(Short service of carols & scripture)
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day – No choir.

Please try to attend all remaining rehearsals. Each choir member will receive their annual 'instruction' sheet for Christmas Eve. January anthem schedule will come to you by carrier pigeon!

**TENTATIVE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

- Senior Choir Sundays at 9:10 am & after church.  
Wednesdays at 7:15 pm
- H'bell Choir Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
- Men You will receive a note from me!

***JOY TO THE WORLD!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

IS CHURCH CANCELLED TODAY?

To find out this winter, or anytime, if Forks UCC services are canceled due to inclement weather the Forks UCC Consistory has implemented procedures to notify the congregation.

The Forks UCC Congregation can find out if church is cancelled the following ways:

- The cancelation notice will be sent out to members on the mass e-mail list
- The cancelation notice will be posted on the Church Webpage
- The cancelation notice will be posted on WFMZ.com and in extreme weather conditions on WFMZ TV
- Members who sign up will receive a phone call between 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM on the Sunday in question if services are cancelled. To sign up please let the Church office know or e-mail Jacob E. Allen at [jacob.e.allen@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.e.allen@gmail.com). A Bulletin Insert will be available on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> for the Congregation to sign up.

**Please take advantage of these services to find out if church services are ever cancelled.**

TEEN PRAYER LIST

Cody Allen, Jacob Allen, Jordan Allen, Tyler Avery, Katie Barrick, Kelsey Beers, Larissa Bernecker, Shawna Bernecker, Sara Billiard, Elyssa Burd, Abbey Chesney, Justin Chesney, Dylan Deleon, Ashley Delserro, Sean Delserro, Kelvin Dewalt, Katlyn Ehrich, Kayla Flyte, Alek & Emily Gerstenberg, Tanner Gutekunst, Miranda Harden, Nicholas Hendricks, Mathew Johnson, Alyssa & Amanda Knitter, Leigh Ann Lively, Shelby McCollian, Rebecca Mitch, Jayson Mitch, Laura Moczulski, Ciarra & Sergio Ottaviano, Casey Polkowski, Alexandria Pump, Georgia Pump, Brian Schneebeli, Zachary Shook, Jessica Simanton, Brian Wahlgren, David Warner, Alex Wood, Connor Zehnbauer

SHUT-INS

Elwood Ayers .....Village at Sullivan Trail  
 Alberta Brown .....Saucon Valley Manor  
 1050 Main St.  
 Hellertown, PA 10855  
 Emily Clemis .....Kresge Residence, in Directory  
 Betty Kaniper .....Fellowship Community  
 3000 Fellowship Dr.  
 Whitehall PA 18052  
 Ferne Keiper .....Gracedale  
 Charles Kessler .....In Directory  
 Dorothy Kortz .....Country Meadows, Bethlehem  
 Helen Mumaw .....Gracedale SW 2  
 Jane Rader .....In Directory  
 Christine Weiland .....Moravian Hall Square, Nazareth  
 Evelyn Werkheiser .... Manorcare, 2600 Northampton  
 Street, Easton PA 18045  
 Ruth Reed .....Rm 208, Traditions of Hanover  
 5300 Northgates Drive  
 Bethlehem, PA 18017  
 Harvey Thatcher.....Gracedale, Tower 3



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If anyone wishes to submit any articles for the Newsletter, please have all items emailed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to: [jacob.e.allen@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.e.allen@gmail.com)

Webmaster

For all questions and updates concerning the Website; please contact: [jacob.e.allen@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.e.allen@gmail.com)

CELEBRATE WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Carole Steckel	15 Scott Ziems
01 Beverly Hendricks	16 Margaret Ackerman
01 Alek Gerstenberg	17 Charles Prutzman Jr.
02 Rachelle Starner	17 Tyler Avery
03 Jeff Stoudt	18 Tracy Bonatz
03 Kris Sales	18 David Miller
03 Nolan Fry	18 Ashley Delserro
04 Miranda Harden	19 Anna Jones
04 Connor Sikora	20 Carol Hartway
05 Brenda DeLong	20 Walter Francis Jr.
05 Amanda Knitter	21 Jennifer Schulte
07 Matthew Dewalt	21 Jason Flyte
07 Scott Hughes	21 Chloe Ottaviano
10 Sam Kemmerer	22 * Alberta Brown
10 Richard Bartholomew	22 Floyd Mohn
11 Tabitha Brobston	24 Christine Weiland
11 Lily Jachowicz	24 Barbara Roth
13 Marguerite Obulaney	25 Duane Edelheiser
13 Arlene Swindell	26 Wade Burnhauser
13 Joanne Mitch	26 Renee Metzgar
14 Diane Parker	27 Marissa DeLeon
15 Karen Bernecker	28 Zachary Herres
15 Kurt Berger	30 Douglas Steckel
	30 Cindi Wilson

\*Shut-in Alberta Brown celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Vickie & Edwin Frace Jr.	12/01/19??
Joan & Ron Mumaw	12/06/1959
Marge & Don Markley	12/16/1950
Kathy & Mike Boushell	12/27/1990
Lorna & Bill Dreisbach	12/29/1993
Sarah & Ryan Fry	12/31/2004



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

05 Dawn Trimble	16 Willie Clifton
08 Carol Young	16 Matthew Johnson
09 Chuck Hartway	17 Jermaine Schaadt
09 Denise Polkowski	18 George Prutzman
10 Brian Berger	18 Joe Herres
10 Harold Foss	18 Katie Barrick
10 Patti O'Donnell	19 Al Stecker
11 Joan Jud	19 Pam Davis
11 Verna Bolte	21 Lorna Kline
11 Beth Schatzel	21 Gary Fleming
12 Jordan Rapp	22 Josh Starner
13 Bobbi Ricci	23 Earl Abel
13 Brent Wood	24 David Reinman
14 Amy Barrick	24 Jenifer Schaadt
14 Paul Polkowski	25 Sherry Prutzman
14 Megan Schulte	25 Chase DeLeon
15 Rodney Tashner	26 Rebecca Mitch
15 Amanda Bonatz	29 Jim Laudenslager

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Sandy & Glenn Borger	1/02/1971
Joan & Karl Jud	1/14/1950
Kim & Dale Starner	1/18/1975
Patti & Tim Weis	1/29/1983
Shirley & Harvey Thatcher	1/29/1989



**Donate your  
blood and  
make a  
difference**

Forks UCC had 47 donors for 2011 thus far. Please call Miller-Keystone at 800-223-6667 to make your appointment and to serve our community.

**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.

THOSE SERVING



**Offering Leaders**

- December 4 Diane Hriniak
- December 11 Brenda Delong
- December 20 Kim Starner
- December 24 Gregg Cressman
- December 25 Pastor Bob

**Offering Collectors**

- December 4 Karen, Shawna & Larissa Bernecker
- December 11 Gary Barraco, Eric Hanlein  
Tom, Kim & Emily Gutekunst
- December 20 Shirley Thatcher,  
Paul, Denise, Adam & Casey Polkowski
- December 24 Bob & Dawn Trimble, Betty Stocker  
Bob, Margaret & Jennifer Zabe

**Altar Guild:**

- December 4 Janet Rush
- December 11 Joan Guthrie
- December 28 Joan Guthrie
- December 24 Joan Guthrie & Jean Cooper
- December 25 Jean Cooper

**Ushers**

- December 4 Jim Milham
- December 11 Jean Cooper
- December 18 Bob & Margaret Zabe
- December 24 Sam & Jane Kemmerer

**Greeters**

- December 4 Brenda DeLong, Laura Butz,  
Bill & Lorna Dreisbach
- December 11 Craig & Betsy Warner,  
Vic & Anna Zeeman
- December 18 Sandy & Robert Perrine  
Mel & Loraine Kresge
- December 24 Gregg, Tracey, Brandon &  
(Early Service) Ashley Cressman
- December 24 David & Carol Young  
(Late Service) Bob & Dawn Trimble

**Acolyte**

- December 4 Rebecca Mitch & Larissa Bernecker
- December 11 Brandon Cressman & New Acolyte
- December 18 Diana Hammerstone & Alex Wood
- December 24 Zachary Day, Alyssa Knitter,  
(Late Service) Larissa Bernecker, Alisha Day,  
Justin Chesney, Abbi Chesney
- December 25 No Acolyte

**Offering Leaders**

- January 1 Pastor Bob
- January 8 Joan Guthrie
- January 15 Nicholas Hendricks
- January 22 Chuck Hartway
- January 29 Alice Bartholomew

**Offering Collectors**

- January 1 Volunteers Please
- January 8 Gary Barraco, Eric Hanlein  
Bill & Lorna Dreisbach, Sandy Schaadt
- January 15 Bobbi Ricci, Joan Jud, Dennis Hahn  
Glenn & Sandy Borger
- January 22 Sherry Prutzman, Rita Blossy  
Steve, Debbie & Justin Chesney
- January 29 Carolyn Mitch, Joanne & Rebecca Mitch  
Susan & Diana Hammerstone

**Altar Guild:**

- January 1 Verna Bolte
- January 8 Jean Cooper
- January 15 Jean Cooper
- January 22 Jean Cooper
- January 29 To be announced

**Ushers**

- January 1 To be announced
- January 8 Steve & Diane Dewalt
- January 15 Glen & Sandy Borger
- January 22 Joan & Ron Mumaw
- January 29 Jean Cooper

**Greeters**

- January 1 Volunteers Please
- January 8 Kim Starner, Carole Steckel,  
Marguerite Obulaney, Sarah Happel
- January 15 Barbara Huff, Tony Jirole  
Robert & Irene Tenges
- January 22 Carol & Chuck Hartway

- January 29 Jennifer & Mike Zabe  
Elwood & Elsie Lambert

**Acolyte**

- January 1 No Acolyte
- January 8 Nicholas Hendricks & Alyssa Knitter
- January 15 Karlee & Christopher Flyte
- January 22 Brandon Cressman & Zachary Day
- January 29 Emily Hendricks & New Acolyte



- Dec. 4 Sunday **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** - We decorate the sanctuary progressively. The tree arrives.  
 8:00 am Meditative Communion - Led by Pastor Bob.  
 10:00 am Worship / Communion / Children's Sunday School / *PNEC Disaster Relief Offering*  
 After Worship Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant  
 5:00 pm Youth Group - Christmas Caroling in the church neighborhood then returning to church for soup, sandwiches, hot chocolate. Contact Karen Bernecker, [kbrunt@frontiernet.net](mailto:kbrunt@frontiernet.net), with any questions.
- Dec. 5 Monday 6:00 pm Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant  
 6:30 pm Music & Worship
- Dec. 6 Tuesday 6:30 pm Evangelism  
 7:00 pm Spiritual Council
- Dec. 7 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir / 7:15 pm Senior Choir  
***Deadline to order Poinsettia***
- Dec. 8 Thursday 1:00 pm Knitters / Stitchers Holiday Meeting - Refreshments will be served.
- Dec. 11 Sunday **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** - The tree is lit.  
 8:00 am Meditative Communion - Led by Pastor Bob.  
 10:00 am Worship / Children's Sunday School / 2012 Offering Envelopes available  
 After Worship Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant
- Dec. 12 Monday 6:00 pm Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant
- Dec. 13 Tuesday 7:00 pm Consistory
- Dec. 14 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir / 7:15 pm Senior Choir
- Dec. 18 Sunday **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** - We hang the chrismons on the tree.  
 8:00 am Meditative Communion - Led by Pastor Bob.  
 10:00 am Worship / Children's Sunday School / ***Parish Life hosts a Christmas Social***  
 After Worship Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant  
 7:00 pm Youth Group
- Dec. 19 Monday 6:00 pm ***Dress Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant***  
 6:30 pm Adult Fellowship Covered Dish / Brief Meeting / Christmas Party  
 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance
- Dec. 20 Tuesday 6:30 pm Christian Education
- Dec. 21 Wednesday ***Full night of choir rehearsals in the sanctuary.*** All choir members will receive their schedule.
- Dec. 24 Saturday **CHRISTMAS EVE** - The sanctuary is aglow with candles and beautified by the poinsettia plants.  
 "...O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord"  
 5:15 pm Pre-service Music  
 5:30 pm Family-g geared service.....for the young and the young-at-heart.  
 Teens, youth, & children present "The Best Christmas Present Ever".  
 Watch as five toys 'come to life!' Hm, they all think *they're* the best Christmas present ever. Congregation will participate in singing traditional Christmas carols.  
 8:45 pm Pre-service Music  
 9:00 pm Candlelighting Service with carols, scripture, and anthems by all our choirs & instrumentalists  
 "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth..."
- Dec. 25 Sunday **CHRISTMAS DAY** - "...and all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day...."  
 10:00 am Join us as we sing for joy at the birth of the Christ Child. ***Merry Christmas!!***
- Jan. 1 Sunday 10:00 am Worship  
*(Please Note: No Sunday School on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Also note, no 8:00 am service those two Sundays.)*



**FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 4500 SULLIVAN TRAIL  
 P.O. BOX 158  
 STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083-0158

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Easton, PA 18045  
 PERMIT # 148

DATE MAILED: 11/29/11

**Your Consistory Members**

Consistory President..... Gregg Cressman  
 Vice President..... Jean Cooper  
 Consistory Secretary.....Kim Starnier  
 Spiritual Council.....Joan Guthrie  
 Spiritual Council.....Glenn Borger  
 Spiritual Council.....Amy Knitter  
 Spiritual Council.....Kevin Schulte  
 Christian Ed.....Tammy Uhler  
 Evangelism.....Carol Young  
 Mission & Action.....Denise Polkowski  
 Music & Worship.....Sue McCollian  
 Parish Life.....Beth Schatzel  
 Property.....Jack Sales  
 Stewardship & Finance.....Bob Trimble  
 Jacob E. Allen  
 Personnel.....Brenda DeLong  
 Adult Fellowship.....Joan Mumaw  
 Ready Set Go Advisory.....Carol Hartway  
 (Convener)  
 Youth Group Contact.....Karen Bernecker

**Staff Members**

Ministers..... Every Member of the Church  
 Pastor.....Bob Gutekunst  
 Music Dir/Office Mgr.....Cheryl Hahn  
 Groundskeeper.....Frank Mengel, Jr.  
 Housekeeper..... Loretta Seruga  
 Nursery Attendant .....Dianne Paolicelli

**About Fork's UCC:**

We carry on the traditions of the faithful who founded this church in 1812. A landmark along Sullivan Trail, the congregations have been proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ for nearly 200 years.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*God calls and empowers us to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of all people, through our gifts of love, support and compassion revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

**Forks UCC**  
 4500 Sullivan Trail  
 P.O. Box 158  
 Stockertown, PA 18083

**PHONE:**  
 (610) 759-5676

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.forkschurch-ucc.org](http://www.forkschurch-ucc.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
 MON, TUES, WED, THURS  
 8:15 AM TO 3:30 PM

**Newsletter Editor:**  
 Jacob E. Allen

**Webmaster:**  
 Jacob E. Allen