

February 2012

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!*



"I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God and those who have the superintendence of them into His Holy keeping." ~George Washington

This month, we celebrate President's Day, and I found the above picture and quote of our first president. I don't pretend to be an expert on the Founding Fathers. I don't know how religious they were, or were not. But I liked the above picture, a lithograph of Washington praying at Valley Forge by the artist, Arnold Friberg, because February is also the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time for prayer, reflection and meditation. Lent is a time for centering ourselves, for focusing on what is truly important, for turning away from the many distractions of the world, and turning, once again, towards God.

The above picture conveys a profound sense of peace and tranquility. That kind of peace is often absent in our modern world. We are still fighting wars. Our politicians seem to spend most of their time and resources attacking each other. We become frustrated and anxious over many things that, ultimately, don't seem to matter all that much. This Lent, let us remember that our greatest peace, and fulfillment, and contentment comes from a relationship with the One who has created us for that sole purpose. This President's Day, let us reflect on the words of another great president, Abraham Lincoln, who, during the American Civil War, prayed this prayer of peace:

"Grant, O merciful God, that with malice toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right...we may strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may be achieved and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves..."

May you all experience lasting peace. Amen.

~Pastor Bob

Stewardship & Finance

2011 Year End Financial Statement

The fiscal year of 2011 here at Forks UCC has been an exciting one. We have continued to reduce the balance on the Line of Credit and stayed in the black with our financials instead of in the red. We have held many fundraisers to help pay for our heating oil, and other various general fund payments with a lot more planned for 2012. Our church completed a \$15,000 Memorial Home Renovation without borrowing money and rented the home out providing more income to help pay our bills; and repaved our front parking lot with a portion of our Renovations fund. We met our 2011 budget. Looking forward in the year 2012, we pray that our financial stability continues to improve and Forks UCC will endeavor to be financially responsible. We must stay our course to be good stewards of our money while in the process of preparing ourselves with upcoming challenges and celebrate our 200th year anniversary in 2012. This church's success depends on you, your energy and generosity.

Your Stewardship & Finance Committee

*Bob Trimble, Jacob E. Allen, Margret Zabe, Burton Ackerman,
Lori Avery, Dennis Hahn, Jim Laudenslager, Jeff Stoult*

Christian Education

Thank you to all our kids who participated in "The Best Christmas Present Ever".

Additionally thank you to all the parents and friends who helped by bringing the children to practices, and with other miscellaneous tasks.

Sunday School has resumed from their holiday hiatus. Join us each Sunday. Children have a message by Pastor Bob and then are dismissed to attend their program.

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.

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 your cans coming and place on the table by the elevator.

HELP WANTED...

Soup Kitchen @ Trinity Episcopal Church Spring Garden St in Easton

Volunteers are needed to cook and/or serve

~ Donations also accepted~

Please contact a member of the Mission & Action Committee or Sharon Merluzzi @ 610-252-7085

OUR NEXT DATE:

Saturday, February 11th



SUPER BOWL HOAGIE

It's that time again! Yes, time for the **8th ANNUAL** Forks UCC Italian Hoagie Super Bowl Hoagie Sale on Sunday, February 5th. Hoagies can be picked up on Sunday, February 5th after worship.

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, which we will be participating in on May 19, 2012.

More Info coming soon regarding the relay!

HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS – UPDATE

The final count was **75 boxes**, which were delivered to the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. Thanks again to everyone who helped us exceed our goal of 50 boxes and helped with this mission to spread some cheer to less fortunate children here in the Lehigh Valley.

Following is a list of some of the local agencies and organizations who received Holiday Hope Chests from your effort:

AIDS Activity Office, Allentown YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, Communities in Schools, Family Answers, Family Connections of Easton, Families First, Lehigh County Council of Churches, New Bethany Ministries, ProJeCT of Easton, Salvation Army Children's Center, Salvation Army Shelter, Valley Youth House, VNA, Women of Excellence.

THANK YOU!

NOTE: Donors will be recognized with a "*Someone Special Award*" announced by Bonny Gunther Walsh on WAEB 790 on your AM dial.

Forks UCC is scheduled to be recognized on February 1st between 7 and 9 AM!



Knowing CPR can save a life....



If you witness a medical emergency, will you be prepared to respond? Be ready to deliver lifesaving care by taking a CPR course.

If there is enough interest, a CPR class will be offered here at the church and is open to everyone. The class will last a few hours, and the cost is \$5 per person. This includes a certification card. Date of the class will be determined if there are enough people interested in participating.

If you are interested in taking a course and becoming certified, a sign-up sheet will be available at the church. You may also contact a member of the Mission & Action Committee or call the church office.

Music & Worship

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:15 PM on Wednesday, February 22nd

The following 5 Wednesday's (February 29th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) we will have our Lenten services with Soup being served at 6:30 PM and service at 7:15 PM.

Hope to see everyone there!



Parish Life

2012 Coffee Hour Fellowship:

Parish Life will be hosting a Coffee Fellowship every third Sunday of the month for 2012. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Social Hall for those who would like to host a coffee fellowship. **Please Sign- up now.**



Our Easter Egg Hunt

Parish Life will be having an Easter Egg Hunt and need your help. We need hundreds of plastic Easter eggs (filled or not) to make this an enjoyable event. If you can donate plastic eggs please give them to any committee member.



200th Anniversary History Committee

Logo Contest: The winner is Kathy Boushell – Her logo will be presented soon

Commemorative 200 Anniversary Plaque:

View & purchase the plaque on the Anniversary Table in the Social Hall after worship on Sunday's, or contact Brenda & Jeff Stoudt.



Our Anniversary Cookbook: Our cookbook has been sent to print with more than 200 recipes inside. Please look for information coming soon on ordering your cookbook! The cost of the book will be \$20, and a portion of all sales will go towards reducing the cost of our 200th Anniversary Banquet (See information below!)

SAVE

THE

DATE!!!

200th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

When: September 23, 2012

Where: Bushkill Firehall

Time: 12:30

Jot this date in your calendar now; you won't want to miss it.

Watch for more details in upcoming months.

Come to Dinner at Friendly's!

On – February 21st

AT – The Friendly's on William Penn Hwy.

See all the information on the next page!

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

Youth Group Activities & News

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

February 26th

Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Assembly:

We need as many youth as possible to help put the Super Bowl Hoagies together on Saturday, February 4th at 8:30AM

Youth Group Retreat:

We have 7 youth going to the PNEC Winter Youth Retreat on February 17th – 19th. More information will be coming in the mail soon.

Looking for Youth Information:

If you want to get information from the youth group contact Karen Bernecker at kbrunt@frontiernet.net or call her at 610-588-1372.



VALENTINE'S DAY

In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they did not live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints. Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance, and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards.

No matter how many cards, flowers, or sweets you receive this Valentine's Day, be assured God loves you with an 'everlasting love'. (Jeremiah 31:3)



A ROSEBUD ON THE ALTAR

We celebrated the **Sacrament of Baptism of Porter Graham Ringhoff** on Sunday, January 8. Porter was born June 23, 2011. His parents are Lenny and Sarah Ringhoff and he has two big sisters, Lily and Isabel.

Congratulations to all!



Great Tasting Fundraising

Forks UCC 200th Anniversary Committee is hosting a

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On—Tuesday, February 21, 2012

From—5:00 pm till 8:00 pm

A percentage of ALL sales will go towards reducing the cost of our celebration banquet this year.

Come Join Us At—
Friendly's Restaurant
3099 William Penn Highway
Easton, PA 18042



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

Fundraising Committee

The newly formed fundraising committee is up and running and already planning fundraisers for the upcoming year. **Thank you** to all those who bought pasties from our January Pastie Sale, our total profit was \$250 which will be given to the 200th Anniversary Committee. Look for another Pastie Sale later this year in the fall.

We are in the process of forming a Basket Bingo Committee for a Basket Bingo fundraiser later this year. **Past experience is not required**, please email Verna at wildoak2@verizon.net or call 610-730-2862. More information will be coming soon!



Spaghetti Dinner

Spaghetti with homemade meatball or meatless sauce, salad, soda, coffee and tea. A dessert table will be full of treats for you to enjoy. During the night there will be a Bake Sale and 50-50 Raffle.

When: Saturday, March 24th, 2012
From: 5:30 PM—7:00 PM

Where:
Forks United Church of Christ
4500 Sullivan Trail
Stockertown, PA 18083

Tickets:
\$7.00 in advanced
\$8.00 at the door
\$5.00 Ages 6—12
Under 5—Free



Come and view our sign – up sheet for our Spaghetti Dinner on the bulletin board in the Social Hall!

COME & ENJOY ALL—YOU—CAN—EAT!

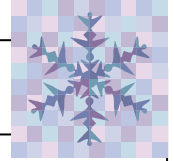
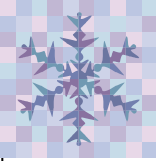
A Thank you from Cindi & Dale Wilson

Dear Friends,
Thanks so much for the cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy upon the death of Cindi's father, Allen. We are blessed to have such wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ.
In His Love,
Cindi & Dale Wilson

Our New Church Directory!

Thank you to all those who got their photos taken. The Directory Committee is hard at work creating our new directory. **All those who have pictures of church events that could be included in the Directory** please email or call Jacob E. Allen at: jacob.e.allen@gmail.com or (610)533-9108 by **February 16th**.

Thank you!



IS CHURCH CANCELLED TODAY?

To find out this winter, or anytime, if Forks UCC services are cancelled 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 cancellation notice will be sent out to members on the mass e-mail list
- The cancellation notice will be posted on the Church Webpage (<http://www.forkschurch-ucc.org/welcome.html>)
- The cancellation 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.

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, Aaron Cook, Dylan Deleon, Ashley Delserro, Sean Delserro, Kelvin Dewalt, Katlyn Ehrich, Kayla Flyte, Alek & Emily Gerstenberg, Tanner Gutekunst, Diana Hammerstone Miranda Harden, Nicholas Hendricks, Matthew 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 AyersVillage at Sullivan Trail
 Alberta BrownSaucon Valley Manor
 1050 Main St.
 Hellertown, PA 10855
 Emily ClemisSaltern Residence, in Directory
 Betty KaniperFellowship Community
 3000 Fellowship Dr.
 Whitehall PA 18052
 Ferne KeiperGracedale
 Charles KesslerIn Directory
 Dorothy KortzCountry Meadows, Bethlehem
 Helen MumawGracedale SW 2
 Jane RaderIn Directory
 Christine WeilandMoravian Hall Square, Nazareth
 Evelyn Werkheiser Manorcare, 2600 Northampton
 Street, Easton PA 18045
 Ruth ReedRm 208, Traditions of Hanover
 5300 Northgates Drive
 Bethlehem, PA 18017
 Harvey Thatcher.....Gracedale, Tower 3



CELEBRATE WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 Cathi Tirrell | 15 Allison Silfies |
| 03 Vilma Milham | 16 Dale Wilson |
| 05 Barry Miller | 16 Kim Edelheiser |
| 05 Cayden Shook | 16 David Warner |
| 05 Samantha Shook | 19 Pauline Frace |
| 05 Gabrielle Francis | 21 Gloria Burkos |
| 06 * Charles Kessler * | 21 Justin Weis |
| 08 Bob Zabe | 21 Shelby McCollian |
| 08 Diane Dewalt | 23 Kim Starner |
| 08 Alan Hartzell | 23 Chris Mumaw |
| 09 Nicholas Hendricks | 24 Dolly Abel |
| 10 Shannon McCollian | 25 Patti Starner |
| 11 Tyler Mitch | 26 Ron Mumaw |
| 12 Paul Metzgar | 26 Violet Ortiz |
| 13 Jennifer Wood | 26 Abigail Audenried |
| 15 Roger Keat | 26 Devon Clifton |
| 15 Kelsey Beers | 27 Laura Moczulski |
| 15 Lily Ringhoff | 28 Judy Kinsey |
| 15 Jakob Herres | |

* Charlie celebrates his 92nd birthday. *



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No February Anniversaries are listed in our Church Records

Donate your blood and make a difference

Forks UCC had 52 donors for 2011! Which exceeded our goal by 32 donations; keep up the good work in 2012!! Please call Miller-Keystone at 800-223-6667 to make your appointment and to serve our community.

Our Next Consistory Meeting is . . .

A Brief February Consistory Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, February 12th

ANNUAL FEBRUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Remember on Sunday, February 26th is our annual February Congregational Meeting after worship. We hope to see you all there!
~Forks UCC Consistory

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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If anyone wishes to submit any articles for the Newsletter, please have all items emailed by the 15th of each month to:
jacob.e.allen@gmail.com

Webmaster

For all questions and updates concerning the Website; please contact:
jacob.e.allen@gmail.com

THOSE SERVINGOffering Leaders

February 5	Janet Rush
February 12	Bob Egolf
February 19	Carole Steckel
February 26	Betsy Warner

Offering Collectors

February 5	Jim & Anna Laudenslager, Barbra Huff, Mike & Kathy Boushell
February 12	Dave & Carol Young, Charles, Lori & Tyler Avery
February 19	Bob & Sandy Perrine, Sarah Happel, Beth Schatzel, Betsy Warner
February 26	Joan & Ron Mumaw Bob & Brenda Egolf, Carole Steckel

Altar Guild:

February 5	Kim Starner
February 12	Kim Starner
February 19	Janet Rush
February 26	Joan Guthrie & Janet Rush

Ushers

February 5	Sam & Jane Kemmerer
February 12	Jen Zabe
February 19	Robert & Margaret Zabe
February 26	Jim Milham

Greeters

February 5	Alice Bartholomew & Shirley Thatcher Paul & Denise Polkowski
February 12	Sandy & Glenn Borger Mike & Kathy Boushell
February 19	Rocky Starner, Laura Butz Joan & Ron Mumaw
February 26	Carol & Dave Young Mel & Laraine Kresge

Acolytes:

February 5	Emma Wood & New Acolyte
February 12	Karlee Flyte & Alisha Day
February 19	Rebecca Mitch & Alex Wood
February 26	Diana Hammerstone & Abbi Chesney

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

Psalm 100: 1

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



GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR CORNER.

Many, many thanks to all our **singers, ringers,** and **instrumentalists** for their inspiring anthems on Christmas Eve. Forks U.C.C. is so blessed to have these dedicated and talented musicians. Well done, servants - all of you. That's what it's all about..... making a joyful noise to the Lord. You all make God smile!

To these musicians: I want to extend *my* deepest thanks for all you do, for your support, and for your commitment to the music program here at the church. God's Blessings.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. To that I say, "oh my". I'm perusing anthems for all choirs for February and beyond. Palm Sunday is April 1 with Easter, of course, April 8. Ringers..... I have found a beautiful arrangement of "You Raise Me Up." I am excited for us to start rehearsing it.

So, here we go:

TENTATIVE ANTHEM SCHEDULE

Feb. 5	Sr. Choir
Feb. 12	Guest: Pipe Major James B. Ruhf (More information on Mr. Ruhf found on "Calendar")
Feb. 19	Men's Choir
Feb. 22	Sr. Choir (Ash Wednesday)
Feb. 26	Sr. Choir
Mar. 4	Handbell Choir

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Senior Choir	Sundays at 9:10 am & after church. Wed., Feb. 15, at 7:00 pm.
H'bell Choir	Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
Men's Choir	Sun, Feb. 12, after church by the organ.

Looking ahead: I'll be searching for about five teenagers to ring handchimes on Palm Sunday, April 1st. I know who you are and I know where to find you, ha, ha!

Continued Blessinas. Cherul



Happening
This Month!

Feb. 1 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir / 7:00 pm Senior Choir

Feb. 2 Thursday Committee Chair Year-End Reports Due
1:30 pm Study Group
7:00 pm Study Group

Feb. 5 Sunday **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob
10:00 am Worship / Communion / Children's Sunday School
—————> Super Bowl Hoagie Pick-Up

Feb. 6 Monday 6:30 pm Music & Worship

Feb. 7 Tuesday 7:00 pm Spiritual Council

Feb. 8 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir

Feb. 9 Thursday 1 - 3 pm Knitters / Stitches
1:30 pm Study Group
7:00 pm Study Group

Feb. 11 Saturday Soup Kitchen Outreach

Feb. 12 Sunday **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob
10:00 am Worship/Children's Sunday School / **Guest Musician: Pipe Major James B. Ruhf**

A Wonderful Opportunity————> On **Sunday morning, February 12**, Pipe Major James B. Ruhf will be with us. Yes, that's Pipe as in Bagpipe. This extraordinary opportunity is coming to us through a generous private gift. Mr. Ruhf is currently Pipe Major and Director of the City of Bethlehem Bagpipe Band in Bethlehem. He has been playing the Great Highland Bagpipe for about 30 years. I do think you will want to be with us that morning.

After Worship-A Brief Monthly Consistory Meeting

Feb. 13 Monday 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance

Feb. 15 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir / 7:00 pm Senior Choir

Feb. 16 Thursday 1:30 pm Study Group
7:00 pm Study Group

Feb. 17-19 Fri.-Sun. Youth Retreat

Feb. 19 Sunday **LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob
10:00 am Worship / Children's Sunday School

Feb. 21 Tuesday 5 - 8 pm Friendly Restaurant Fundraiser ←————

Feb. 22 Wednesday 6:15 pm Handbell Choir
7:00 pm Senior Choir Warm-up (Choir Room)

7:15 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - Communion ←————

Feb. 23 Thursday 1:30 pm Study Group
7:00 pm Study Group

Feb. 26 Sunday **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob
10:00 am Worship / Communion / Children's Sunday School

After Worship-Winter Congregational Meeting (2011 Financial Report; 2011 Committee Reports)

Feb. 28 Tuesday 7:00 pm Combined Evangelism / Mission & Action



FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4500 SULLIVAN TRAIL
P.O. BOX 158
STOCKERTOWN, PA 18083-0158

DATE MAILED:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Your Consistory Members

Consistory President..... Gregg Cressman
Vice President..... Jean Cooper
Consistory Secretary.....Amy Knitter
Spiritual Council.....Glenn Borger
Spiritual Council.....Bob Zabe
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)

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 AttendantDianne 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

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

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