

November 2011

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



"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man" - Mark Twain

The other day, I was driving, and as I was stopped at an intersection, another driver motioned for me to go through the intersection first, and I waved a gesture of thanks as I drove past. This interaction made me think of all of the times I say "thank you" in the course of my day almost as an afterthought. I thank the clerk at the convenience store for giving me my change. I say "thanks" to the waitress for taking my order. I thank God when I look at my alarm clock in the morning and see that I still have one more hour to sleep before I have to get up. I say thank you so many times that I wonder if I'm beginning to take for granted the meaning of those words. In our society, athletes and celebrities thank many different people, and God, for their victories and awards.

As we approach the holiday of Thanksgiving, it is a good time to contemplate a deeper meaning of those words, "thank you", a sense of profound gratitude and praise and worship for the blessings that God has provided in our lives. This is not always easy. In many of our current circumstances, we may not feel a sense of "thanksgiving". A record of the Pilgrims at Plymouth stated that, "the men were staggering by reason of faintness for want of food, yet they acted as if they enjoyed such a plenty as though the windows of Heaven were opened up to them." In spite of their difficulties and hardships, the Pilgrims offered God their praise and worship and thanksgiving.

This Thanksgiving, what are we grateful for? I am grateful for many things, but this year, I am especially grateful for the people here at Forks, for new friends and wonderful relationships, for the deep sense of hospitality and service and love that I am experiencing here in this community. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving, and remember, when you say those words, "thank you", to think about our Creator, and the praise and worship and thanksgiving that God deserves.

Pastor Bob

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!" - Psalm 100:4



Thank you,

The Forks UCC Adult Fellowship would like to thank everyone who participated in any way in this year's Rummage Sale. Thank you for everyone's donations and help. This year's profits totaled more than 3,000 dollars!!! Thank you again.

Craft/Vendors Fair – November 12

Ready Set Go Preschool is hosting the 4th Annual craft show Saturday November 12th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Forks Church.

The staff and parents of Ready Set Go sponsor, organize and run the event. Crafters consist of parents, the local community and church members. 100% percent of the profits are given to the church. Please come out and support the church that day and grab some lunch. Homemade soups will be available as well as Hot dogs, Bar-B-Q and a bake sale.

Stewardship & Finance

~COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED~

The Stewardship & Finance Committee would like to thank every member of this church who has returned a pledge card already. As of October 24, we have 57 pledges returned totaling \$83,445. That is great start and we are still collecting them. For those who have not yet turned in your pledge card please remember to take time to think what Forks Church really means to you and then mark your card accordingly and return it to the Church by Stewardship Sunday, November 6, 2011. Stewardship & Finance will host Coffee Hour to thank all our members for participating.

~Thank you!

Christian Education

We are looking for Sunday School children interested in participating in this year's "Family Service" on Christmas Eve" at 5:30. The name of the play they will be doing is "**The Best Christmas Present Ever**". Practices will be on Sundays before church service from 9:00-9:45 starting on October 30th. All are welcome to participate. We hope to see you at the 1st practice.

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

Can you donate 2 hours of your time?
Volunteers needed to cook and/or serve
~ Donations also accepted~

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

2011 Date:

November 12th (Parish Life Hosting)

2012 Dates will be available soon!!!

SERVV will be here again on **Sunday, November 13th and 20th**. A wonderful opportunity to purchase handcrafted items from native crafters in a variety of lands. Displays will be in the social room adjacent to the sanctuary before and after worship.

SERVV is a non-profit 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.

These are TERRIFIC Christmas gifts! Remember to bring your money!!

Holiday Hope Chests –

We will be collecting items to be distributed during the holiday season to Lehigh Valley agencies serving children. This is a project adopted by the Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley to help less fortunate children living in the Lehigh Valley. **Deadline to bring in completed boxes, individual items, or donations is November 27th**. Instructions and gift suggestions will be available by the Mission and Action bulletin board or see a committee member.



A PLEDGE HAS BEEN MADE TO DONATE **50 BOXES!!** Last year we delivered 35 boxes....Let's see if we can beat that this year!

SUSQUEHANNA FLOODING NEEDS

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

Representatives of the Disaster Response Ministry Team have already delivered gallons of bleach, buckets, cases of water, ammonia cleaners, mops, masks, gloves, cleaning towels, wet wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, clothing, and clean-up kits.

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 this 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 IS ENCLOSED.

MISSION 1:

11/1/11 – 11/11/11 That they may all be 1

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice

This is a UCC-wide mission in order to more fully realize our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer, "That they may all be 1". In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services. From November 1-11, an online tote board at ucc.org/mission1 will tally our collective count of our donations.

Forks UCC will participate by collecting food items for a local food bank. We will also be collecting items for specific families or individuals who are in need of assistance.

More information will be announced at church services.



MILE OF QUARTERS OFFERING:

Normally our Mile of Quarters Offering has gone to pay down our Line of Credit and \$30 a month to sponsor Joshua Jalmero (Kalauman Development, Philippines). For the month of November, however, this offering will go to support both Joshua Jalmero and the balance to Safe Harbor, a homeless shelter in Easton. This is in conjunction with a wider effort among all the churches in the Easton Area Mission Council to help raise funds. So instead of Quarters, this month let's see some dollar bills and support a greater cause!

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.

P**Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale:**

October 30 - After 10 AM service, Members of the congregation are needed to bake and enter the Chili Cook Off.

A**Soup Kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church:**

Parish Life is hosting a Soup Kitchen on November 12th. Volunteers are welcome to help serve.

R**Christmas Coffee Fellowship:**

Parish Life is hosting a Christmas Coffee Fellowship after service on December 18th

**I****S****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 signup sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the social hall.

H**L****I****F****E**

Music & Worship

November 20 marks the Sunday for our “Thanksgiving Lovefeast” during morning worship. Lovefeasts originated in the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and broke bread together signifying their union and equality. The Lovefeast is primarily a service of song with the partaking of symbolic meal. The food served is not consecrated as in Holy Communion, but neither is the food to be seen as refreshments. The meal is a symbol of our unity and love for one another as expressed through the common meal we share.

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 a table in the Social Hall after worship starting soon,

or contact Brenda Stoudt. **This would make an excellent Christmas Gift!**



We're doing 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 like to submit a hand written recipe please pick up forms on the History Committee's Bulletin Board at the back of the Social Hall. Our Goal is to have 200 recipes in our 200th Anniversary Cookbook. The deadline for recipe submissions is December 11.

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

A Thank you from Cindi & Dale Wilson

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much to all who supported our Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in New York City October 15 & 16. Whether you donated funds, goods for our flea market events, attended our wine tasting, or prayed for us, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We walked the entire 39.3 miles in 2 days, and were part of Team Avon, which raised over \$200,000. The Avon Walk in NY raised a total of 8.4 million dollars, which helps thousands of women and men get treatment for breast cancer. It was an incredible experience, and thanks to our friends and family for helping us reach our goal.

God bless you for your help.
Dale & Cindi Wilson

Special Thanks to:

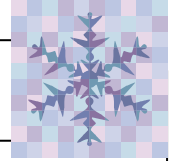
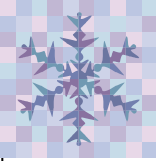
Dale & Cindi Wilson, Lois Steward, Chuck & Carol Hartway, and the Evangelism Committee for all the help and donations to make Classroom A into a Library and Meeting Room.

Also to Bob Trimble and Jacob E. Allen for getting the carpet installed in the hallway and to Sam Kemmerer for the driveway resurfacing out in front of the Church.

We still have a few more tasks to be done and that is in planning (painting the sanctuary and cleaning the rug in the Social Hall). All other tasks are mostly cleaning and fixing smaller areas; which will include our Property Committee and a Cleaning Day.

Thank you to all from the Task Team Committee for church upgrades and needed improvements.

Chuck Hartway, Chair
Lois Steward, Co-Chair



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 (<http://www.forkschurch-ucc.org/welcome.html>)
- 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. There will also be cards available during church in November 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, 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 ClemisKresge 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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Carol Cottrell	16 Brenda Stoudt
01 Georgia Pump	17 Elwood Ayers
02 Larry Dewalt	17 Katlyn Ehrich
02 Sherman Metzgar	18 Shelcy Markley
03 Warren Eberts	18 Lenny Ringhoff
04 Laura Dewalt	20 Greg Cottrell
05 Burton Ackerman	20 Bob Perrine
05 Jesica Alfinito	20 Paula Correll
07 Michael Tirrell	20 Kyla Burnhauser
07 Kevin Keat	21 Ethan Riehl
10 Sherwood Happel	23 Kerrie Schneebeli
10 Scott Dewalt	24 Lyndsey Hartzell
11 Anita Wallbillich	26 Carolyn Mitch
12 Nathan Bozeman	26 Brian Jones
12 Lucas Pittenger	27 Andrew Gava
13 Carly Correll	27 Brenda Butz
14 Brian Lively	27 Bradley Silfies
14 Brandon Cressman	28 Bob Tenges
15 Harvey Thatcher	28 Steve Chesney
15 Deborah Harden	29 Jim Milham
16 Edwin Frace Jr.	29 Linda Saltern
16 James Cottrell	



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Evelyn & James Martin	11/12/1955
Shelly & Curt Kemmerer	11/14/1998
Deb & Steve Chesney	11/16/1991
Cheryl & Dennis Hahn	11/17/1973
Anna & Victor Zeeman	11/24/1985
Ruth & Michael Rinaldi	11/24/2001
Rita & Jerry Blossey	11/25/1967

**Donate your
blood and
make a
difference**

Forks UCC had 46 donors for 2011 thus far. Please call Miller-Keystone at 800-223-6667 to make your appointment and to serve our community.

**ANNUAL NOVEMBER
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING:**

Please remember on Sunday, November 20th is our annual November 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 SERVING**Offering Leaders**

November 6	Jennifer Wood
November 13	Janet Rush
November 20	Lois Steward
November 27	Gregg Cressman

Offering Collectors

November 6	Gregg Cressman, Rocky Starner, Kim Starner, Sam & Jane Kemmerer
November 13	Debbie Roth, Sandy Fehnel, Bill & Lorna Dreisbach, Warren Eberts
November 20	Beverly, Nicholas & Emilee Hendricks Anita WallBillich, Tony Jiorle
November 27	Bob & Dawn Trimble, Betty Stocker Sue & Shelby McCollian

Altar Guild:

November 6	Joan Jud
November 13	Kim Starner
November 20	Kim Starner
November 27	Janet Rush

Ushers

November 6	Steve & Diane Dewalt
November 13	Jean Cooper
November 20	Sam & Jane Kemmerer
November 27	Kim Starner

Greeters

November 6	Sandy & Robert Perrine Paul & Denise Polkowski
November 13	Rocky Starner, Bonnie Warren Ron & Joan Mumaw
November 20	Carol & David Young Bob & Dawn Trimble
November 27	Elwood & Elsie Lambert Alice Bartholomew & Shirley Thatcher

**“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE
TO THE LORD...”****Psalm 100: 1**

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

**GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR CORNER.**

Thank you to the handbell choir and Pastor Bob for the presentation of “Joseph and the Coat” on October 9. We all learned that [God will gladly take a repentant heart and bring great good out of sin’s consequences. And ringers, you DID make the bells sound like a shimmering coat and camels!](#)

Thank you also to the Senior and Men’s Choirs who have sung in these early autumn Sundays.

Autumn?! I can’t believe I’m writing for the November ‘Tidings’. The choirs have begun their Christmas music. The end of December comes so fast. But we do not want to run past Thanksgiving. As the ‘Count Yourself Blessed’ program continues here at church, I want to say that.....

I am blessed to know and laugh and work with so many wonderful, talented people in the music program here at Forks Church.

“When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue; Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

~ F. Green ~

TENTATIVE ANTHEM SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Senior Choir
Nov. 13	Men’s Choir
Nov. 20	Senior Choir - Lovefeast
Nov. 27	Senior Choir

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Senior Choir	Wed., Nov. 2 at 7:08 pm
	Wed., Nov. 16 at 7:08 pm
	Wed., Nov. 30 at 7:08 pm
H’bell Choir	Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
Men	Sun., Nov. 6 after worship.
	Sun., Nov. 13 at 9:30 am

Continued Blessings, Cheryl



Nov. 1	Tuesday	6:30 pm Evangelism 7:00 pm Spiritual Council
Nov. 2	Wed.	1:30 pm Small Group Study & 7:00 pm Small Group Study – Both led by Pastor Bob 6:15 pm Handbell Choir
Nov. 6	Sunday	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY/ Stewardship Sunday (2012 Pledge Cards Due) 8:00 am Meditative Communion - Led by Pastor Bob. 9:00 am Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant Each Sunday morning; get on board because it's "THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER!" 10:00 am Worship / Communion / Children's Sunday School / Anthem: Senior Choir
Nov. 7	Monday	6:30 pm Music & Worship 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance
Nov. 8	Tuesday	7:00 pm Consistory
Nov. 9	Wed.	1:30 pm Small Group Study & 7:00 pm Small Group Study – Both led by Pastor Bob 6:15 pm Handbell Choir
Nov. 10	Thursday	1–3 pm Knitters / Stitches Group
Nov. 12	Saturday	9am-12pm Craft/Vendor Fair (Sponsored by Ready, Set, Go Preschool; benefits Forks Church. Come out and get Baked goods, homemade soup and hot dogs.)
Nov. 13	Sunday	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob. 9:00 am Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant 10:00 am Worship / Children's Sunday School / Anthem: Men's Choir / SERRV is here !!!
Nov. 15	Tuesday	6:30 pm Christian Education 7:00 pm Mission & Action
Nov. 16	Wed.	6:15 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir
Nov. 20	Sunday	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - LOVEFEAST 8:00 am Meditative Communion – Led by Pastor Bob. 9:00 am Rehearsal for Family Christmas Eve Pageant 10:00 am Worship / Children's Sun. School / Senior Choir & Handbell Choir / SERRV is here!!! After Worship....Congregational Meeting
Nov. 21	Monday	6:30 pm Adult Fellowship Covered Dish / Meeting
Nov. 22	Tuesday	6:30 pm Parish Life
Nov. 23	Wed.	6:30 pm Handbell Choir
Nov. 24	Thursday	HAPPY THANKSGIVING. <i>"Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."</i>
Nov. 27	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Please follow regular Sunday schedule. Thank you. 8:00 am Meditative Communion 9:00 am Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship / Children's Sunday School



FORKS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

DATE MAILED:

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.....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)

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:
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WEBSITE:
www.forkschurch-ucc.org

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

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