

The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

August 2018

“Jesus said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.’” Luke 10:2-3

Recently I saw the documentary about Fred Rogers, TV personality – Presbyterian pastor (from Pittsburgh). It is one of the best films I have seen in a very long time because throughout the entire production, I was reminded of the impact the combination of the power of one and the power of faith can have on the world.

Everything Fred Rogers ever did was from a place of faith with Jesus at its center. He followed Jesus’ teachings from the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus answered the question of “who is my neighbor” by the shocking demonstration of neighborliness toward the beaten Jew at the side of the road by the unlikely Samaritan.

Fred Rogers taught Jesus’ answer with every television program and speech and real life in which he participated during a time of the Civil Rights movement, Cuban Missile Crisis, the Cold War, and the “If it feels good – do it!” generation was growing up.

Mr. Rogers echoed the sentiment of the biblical passage I John 4:10, “This is love: Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” The focus is not just how important it is that you’re loved, but also how vital it is to be loving. He said, “There are three ways to ultimate success: the first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.” He also said, “We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and then respond. I consider those my heroes.” These I consider followers of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said “The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.” We still live in a time when the world is hungry for kindness and love – neighborliness. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are the laborers called to the fields to do the work of our Savior in our individual lives and as a community of faith. Beginning in September we will have two seminary interns working with us (see article). I’m excited to work with Nate and Will who will be helping us to explore together how we can be neighbors to those who live in close proximity. How will we answer the call to be laborers in God’s fields demonstrating kindness as a community is one that truly cares and responds to the needs around us? May God’s Spirit work among us as we seek that answer.

Yours in Christ’s service,

Pastor Sue

Thanks for a Great All Church Picnic

Once again, the congregation broke bread together and shared fellowship at the home of Maggie and Steve Rash. Thanks to the Parish Life Committee and Kim & Deric Wertz for helping with the set up, hot dogs, lemonade and ice tea. Thanks everyone who brought a delicious side dish or dessert. It was a fun and relaxing time for all on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

VBS - A Rapid Adventure!

Thanks to the many who have volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School this year. Our theme was "Rolling River Rampage: The Ride of a Lifetime with God." With the help of so many, our children found adventure with God's presence! It was so much fun to see them explore how even ordinary and often unexpected people were chosen by God to go on an adventure with God finding peace, rest, acceptance and joy. Those ordinary folks include our children and their leaders! Knowing that God is always with us helps us to step into the adventure of being a follower of Jesus Christ!

Special thanks to Kim King for her overall coordination as well as Carice Ledyard and Kara Holton for their awesome transformation of our sanctuary with their amazing decorations. We also had seventeen adults and teens volunteer as leaders and helpers. Thanks also to Pat Pizza for taking great pictures of the week so we can all enjoy the experience. Thanks everyone!!!



Thanks for the Shoe Donations

Wow! We had a lot of shoes that were donated to Soles 4 Souls - over 100 pair of every shape and size. Soles 4 Souls believes everyone around the world deserves a good pair of shoes. Most of us have a closet or basket full of shoes. It is hard for us to imagine what it must be like to have only one pair or even none at all. A pair of shoes not only allows for better health but also dignity and value. Being given a pair of shoes tells that man, woman or child that someone cares about them. It also allows for some to run a small business selling the refurbished shoes so they can then provide for their own needs and that of their families. Whole communities can be transformed just by your cast-off footwear. You put your footprint on their heart. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Preaching and Pastoral Care Schedule

Pastor Su will be away for summer vacation on August 6 – September 3. During this time the congregation will enjoy a variety of guest preachers whose faces are familiar.

August 12: Rev. Susan Wonderland, Transitional Executive of the Synod of the Trinity. Ordained in 1983 at the Philadelphia Presbytery, Susan served for eight years in the Adirondacks as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Warrensburg, N.Y., 15 years as co-pastor of the Webb Horton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Middletown, N.Y. (with husband Ken) and 13 years on the staff of Hudson River Presbytery, serving in various areas of congregational resourcing and networking, particularly for education and youth ministry. In the past, Susan was also engaged in leadership and training ministries relating to Congregational Transformation and Missional Church. She also served as the Interim Executive Presbyter for Lackawanna Presbytery. She is married to Ken Wonderland, pastor of the Bensalem Presbyterian Church. They have three children, one grandson and two cats.

August 19: Former Seminary Intern, Kate McShane. Kate is a graduate of Princeton Theological seminary and has been serving as our Interim Youth Director. She has also been working with siblings of children with disabilities.

August 26 & September 2: Former Seminary Intern Amy Ruhf. Amy is entering her senior year at and Princeton this fall when she will be serving a year's residency as a chaplain at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. This is training that will be helpful to her when she begins her Navy Chaplaincy work in three years.

While Pastor Su is away, the session members and Deacons will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Please contact Maggie Rash 215-543-4451 or Kim Wertz in the church office 215-794-8575.

Food Pantry Needs

The summer months are typically low months for donations to the food pantries. People are away on vacation or are busy with summertime activities and don't think as much about those who are hungry. For those who need the services of the food pantries, summer is often the time of greatest needs as children are not receiving breakfast and lunch at school.

During Vacation Bible School this year our children brought food donations for the Doylestown Food Pantry. This was added to the donations given faithfully by members of the congregation. While these gifts are greatly appreciated, the need for food continues. When you are at the grocery store this summer, or if you have more produce in your garden than you can possibly eat, remember the food pantry and bring your donations to the church. The cupboard is emptied when it becomes full. Let's try to fill it to overflowing every week!!

Welcome Seminary Interns

Nate Brantingham & Will Myers

This next year Forest Grove will be blessed with two seminary interns who will work along side of us guided by the Holy Spirit. On September 9th we will welcome these two students with a special potluck lunch following worship. It will be a time to get better acquainted that our work together might begin. All who are able are invited to bring sandwiches or side salad to share on that day. A sign up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall.

Will Myers grew up in rural Illinois, and went to undergrad at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. He graduated with Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Justice Studies before heading to Princeton Theological Seminary. In September, Will begins his middler (second) year of seminary, continuing on the ordination track in the PC(USA). Will is feeling called to rural ministry and so his hope is to return to the Midwest after graduation to serve as a parish pastor in such a setting.

Nate Brantingham is entering into his third year at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is a second (or third?) career student who maintains a career in financial data analysis. He lives in Princeton with his wife Antonia and their cat Nova. His theological passions include deep biblical understanding, community engagement, and churches in transition. His background includes business, entrepreneurship and startups. More than anything else, he is excited to be able to spend the year with the congregation at Forest Grove!

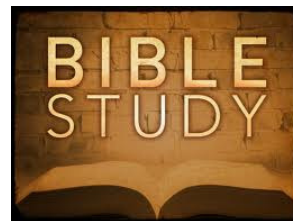


Aging With Grace

The Aging with Grace series will resume in September with three sessions. Mark your calendars for September 16, 23, and 30 at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 12 at 10am. We meet in the Clubhouse at Buckingham Springs. All are welcome!



Blessing of School Backpacks and Expressions of Encouragement

For the past few years we have held the tradition of blessing our children's backpacks asking for God's loving care to be with whoever is carrying that symbol of schooling and the year ahead as they pursue their formal education. This year the backpacks will be blessed on Sunday, September 9 during worship. Parents and grandparents can help by serving as reminders of this event.

Following worship we will have a parade of the backpacks where members of the congregation will have the opportunity to put notes of encouragement in the children's bags. Adults can start thinking now about what expressions of care they think would be helpful for our children. They may either write these notes prior to that Sunday or paper and pens will be supplied during the service.

Church School Begins on September 9

Beginning on that day we return to our program year schedule with worship at 10:00 AM. Sunday School begins following the Time with the Children (don't forget to have children bring their backpacks). Carice Ledyard will once again serve as our Sunday School Coordinator. She is always looking for folks who love God, love children and enjoy sharing the gospel with young minds. Curriculum is provided. We are blessed to have some amazing children who teach almost as much as they learn. Please contact Carice if you are willing to help even for one Sunday.

Needed: Flower Coordinators

One of the loveliest opportunities to serve the Lord at Forest Grove Church is that of scheduling flowers for Sunday worship and other special celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. Our flower calendar is displayed on the bulletin board outside of the main office. Members and friends of Forest Grove Church may sign up for Sundays when they would like to dedicate flowers. Arrangements may come from florists or backyard gardens. The flower coordinators maintain the chart and give reminder calls to donors.



Carol Eckmeder and Judy Ferguson, the retiring "flower girls" will be available to share information they have found to be useful. This mission is a pleasant responsibility in need of volunteers. Please consider helping to carry it out.

Building Project & Capital Campaign Update

It may not seem like much has happened with the building project since May when we voted to approve the building project including the removal of the manse and creation of a Memorial Garden, reconfiguration of the church parking lot and children's playground, rear entrance replacement, sanctuary window replacement (and painting) and replacement of the carillon – but that isn't so. In fact we have been working with a site engineering company for a complete site plan that should be completed by the beginning of September. Once that happens the whole exterior project will go out for bid and the work will finally begin!

Meanwhile the Property Committee has gone through the manse/annex identifying items to be kept, sold or disposed of. That work was so exciting that Pat Gessner and Marilyn Cook got the "clearing out" bug and started work on other areas of the church to help make room for those items needed to be kept that have been housed in the manse/annex. Thanks Marilyn and Pat!

A leadership team has begun its work on the capital campaign so that funds can be raised to complete the building project. They will have their next meeting on August 21 in preparation of kicking off the campaign on September 23rd to be completed by December 2nd.

This is an exciting time in the life of Forest Grove. Of course, with change comes concern, but the Spirit is at work in this place and we are trusting that all that we do is pleasing to God and will give God glory.



Red Cross Blood Drive September 15

We are pleased to announce the date of our yearly FGPC Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on Saturday, September 15th in Fellowship Hall, from 8AM to 12:30 PM. If you would like to make a donation in honor of a loved one, or perhaps to help someone in need, how wonderful to consider that the different components from every donation, can actually help save *three* lives. More information on for donors regarding age, medications and health considerations can be found on the Red Cross website, and will be posted in Fellowship Hall, this summer. For any questions, please call Dana Daniels- 215 450 0705.

5th Annual Chicken BBQ - September 29

Save the date and start to getting your tastes buds ready for Forest Grove barbecued chicken! Get your ticket beginning September 3. Be sure to get yours before the day of the event so you won't miss out. Beth Conti, Carol Eckmeder, Dee Tori and Sharon Ruth head up this community outreach event. If you would like to be a part of the fun behind the scenes by helping either to cook, prepare side dishes, serve or clean up, please contact one of them. It really is great fun!

August Schedules

Ushers

8/5 Pat & Natalie Pizza
 8/12 Walter & Emilie Cullerton
 8/19 Becky Schroeder, Sharon Ruth
 8/26 Paul Wachtendorf

Nursery

8/5 Kim Shvanda
 8/12 Karen Myers
 8/19 Louise Stemplewicz
 8/26 Jenny Kimbel

Elder of the Month - Beth Conti
 Deacon of the Month - Linda Bowers

August Birthdays

8/6 Su Fall
 8/8 Lois Daniels
 8/9 Ella Adams
 Preston Eckmeder
 Dee Tori
 Mike Guarracino
 8/12 Anna McQuaid
 Kevin Realley
 8/17 Abigail Lang
 Aleena Lang
 8/19 Braden Fullman
 8/23 Kathy Washburn
 8/24 Beau Conner
 Barbara Huber
 8/26 Karen Myers
 Janet Martin
 8/29 Rachel Dell'Orefice
 8/30 Steve Rash

Operating Fund 6/30/2018

Collections & Income	\$97,975
Large Fund Income	10,043
Total Income	108,018
Expenses	
Pastor Compensation	46,722
Staff	28,174
Office	12,183
Music & Worship	638
Christian Education	1,249
Property	15,979
Stewardship/Finance	249
Parish Life	(323)
Mission	4,313
Write off Preschool Deficit	4,592
Other	2,946
Total Expenses	113,775
Operating Surplus(Deficit)	(5,578)
Fund Balance 12/31/17	38,196
Fund Balance 4/30/18	32,438
Benevolence Fund	
Balance 1/31/18	\$4,765
Balance 4/30/18	\$4,765

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

PO Box 462

Forest Grove, PA 18922

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer Worship Schedule

9:15am Hymn Sing

9:30am Worship Service

Regular Worship Schedule September 9

Worship at 10am

Church Office Hours

9am-2pm (Monday-Thursday)

Phone 215-794-8575

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org

Administrative Assistant: Kim Wertz

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org