

The Focus



Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

October 2019

Pastor's Notes

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God." -
-Psalm 42:1

It has been a dry September. My next door neighbor and I are avid gardeners. She has her style and method and I have mine. Both of us enjoy flowers. Throughout the growing season we plant, pull weeds and admire the fruits of our labors. It is something that gives us great pleasure. This time of year, however, I get pretty busy and the flowers are more or less on their own and it shows. What was once a lush garden in July is looking past its prime right about now especially with the lack of rain we have been experiencing. My neighbor is out there with her hose daily in order to keep her plants going. Me, well, I go out with my watering can and get the stuff that is in pots, but that's about it. My neighbor's garden looks, well, different than mine right now. To be fair, she is retired and gardening is her interest.

But as I make my way to my car each day and glance at the two gardens, with a little guilt, I am made aware of just what water can do, how essential it is for survival. (Sometimes I swear I can hear my plants begging for a drink!)

The Psalmist gives us the image of not only the need for water, but the longing we feel for water when it is lacking and compares it to our need for God.

It's easy to become dehydrated, especially when the heat gets turned up. We feel ourselves light-headed or nauseous and wonder why until someone suggests we might just need a glass of water. One of my favorite movie scenes comes from the film, "Excalibur" the story of the tale of King Arthur and his quest for the Holy Grail. After much searching and trial, he is at the point of death. Taking a sip from the sacred cup he is magically restored and utters, "I never knew how empty my soul was until it was filled."

I've heard comments from others who have been distracted with other things that have kept them from church or prayers. They have said that when they finally got back to God, they realized just how much they had been missing, how empty, how thirsty they were and didn't even know it.

How much we need God and sometimes we know it and other times we do not. It seems to me that our world is almost to the point of dying for thirst when so much around us is far from what Jesus taught. Author Jim Wallis described a meeting he had with Washington DC interns. These young adults were from varied backgrounds and religions or no religion. He knew they were required to listen to him and that they were tired from a long day of work. So he told them about Jesus, his love for all people, his compassion for the poor and marginalized, and the interns, all of them, got excited. Some of them said they had left the church because they found it to be hypocritical and/or meaningless, but what he said made them want to hear more and draw close to God, either again, or for the first time. Their souls were empty and they didn't even know it.

We have good news to tell in Jesus Christ. Hear again the good news of God's love for you and for all of God's creation. Quench your thirst on that!

In Christ's service.

Pastor Sue





Church Photo Directory

It's been 5 years since our last directory. Some of us have changed a bit. Some weren't even born 5 years ago. It's time to put our faces out there for everyone to see. Pictures are being taken on October 3, 4 and 5. Dee Tori has been handling the scheduling. If you haven't scheduled your time yet, please contact her. Remember, you can have loved ones you want in your photo. Bring your cat, dog, guinea pig or gold fish. You don't have to buy anything. Having your photo in the directory cost neither you nor the church anything, but you are welcome to buy if you choose. They make great Christmas gifts or put one up in your own home.

Our goal is to include everyone in this year's directory, church members and those who actively participate in the life of our congregation. It helps considerably with getting to know each other, even with our name tags. A group photo for the cover will be taken after worship on October 13. Be sure to put on your best smile!

Building Project Update

Yes, right now it looks like a big ugly space, but that won't last. The manse has been removed as has much of the bamboo to the rear of the parking lot. Right now we are waiting for the new septic tank to be delivered so that the contractor can replace the old one and then start re-configuring the drive way, install new lighting and sidewalks. Once everything gets graded, grass seed will be planted and we will then wait for spring to begin landscaping for the memorial garden.

Once the site work is completed, attention will then be given to the parking lot entrance. Bids are being excepted at this time for the project. When completed there will be a whole new look to that area that will be accessible to all.

What about the windows? Unfortunately, due to the approaching cold weather, the windows will not be completed until spring. As we await the return to warmth, the order for the windows will be placed. It takes a considerable amount of time for the manufacturer to make our custom sized windows, but it will get done.

There will be a celebration at the completion of each aspect of this building project with a dedication to the glory of God. Get ready to party!





The Church Has Left the Building 2019

For the past seven years the first Sunday in November has meant that for one Sunday Forest Grove Presbyterian Church is leaving the confines of their building and going out into God's big world to engage in the ministry of Jesus Christ. A variety of mission projects are being identified by the Mission Committee from which the congregation can choose to participate.

Jesus told us to be salt and light in the world, not in a church building. This comes from his best known sermon known as "The Sermon on the Mount." The lessons taught there were not intended to be lived solely within the four walls of a sanctuary. Through these messages we learn that Jesus wants his people to live on the outside what we believe on the inside.

On **Sunday November 3** we will suspend our usual Sunday morning schedule. Instead we will gather together at 9:30 AM for a brief time of scripture, prayer and singing then go "outside" into the mission field where the Holy Spirit will lead us. The Mission Committee is finalizing mission options but these will include:

- make soup for Aid for Friends to be distributed to the frail elderly in Bucks County
- work at the Doylestown Food Pantry
- yardwork for seniors living at Buckingham Springs
- Help at Nova Thrift Store.
- Prepare food to be distributed to the homeless through the Synergy Project.
- and more

Job sign-ups will begin on October 12. We are still looking for projects so if you are aware of a need where the gifts and talents of this congregation can be used to help those who are in need, please talk to Pastor Su.

Why are we doing this on Sunday? Because Sunday is already the day that most people set aside for God. Other days are filled with other activities and responsibilities. It will also demonstrate to the surrounding community that we aren't some mysterious organization confined to a building, but are real people who live their faith. The church used to be the agency for caring for the underserved and marginalized. It's time to get back to what Jesus calls us to be and do – the loving hands and feet in a world that desperately needs it!

So mark your calendar for November 3rd and be prepared not only to roll up your sleeves and share what God has given you, but also to receive the blessing of making a difference.



New Look to The Church Website

Check it out, our website has a new look thanks to the efforts of Brad Sanders. It is easy to navigate and update. There are new photos being posted on a regular basis as well as upcoming events. The website also has a link to our Facebook page. The address is www.forestgrovechurch.org. Share with your friends the great things God is doing here at Forest Grove!

www.forestgrovechurch.org

Christmas Musical Needs Lots of Participants and Volunteers

It is only 3 months away but will be here before you know it – Christmas, that joyful celebration of God’s gift of God’s self to all creation! With the direction of Leanne Yerkes and Maggie Rash, we want to retell that age-old story in word and song by using the musical, “Shepherd, Sheep and a Savior.” There are parts for everyone – singers and “actors” alike, of all shapes, sizes and ages. An introduction for any who might be interested is being held after the photo shoot following worship on October 13. Stage crew help will also be needed, so come on down. Make this an even more meaningful Christmas experience by sharing your love for Jesus, and the talents God has given you, to share the good news in this unique opportunity. Please talk with Leanne, Maggie or Pastor Su if you have any questions.



Church Clean-up: Saturday, October 19, 8:30 AM

Even with all of the outside site work ongoing, it is time to get other parts of our church property looking good and ready for winter. There is plenty of inside work to be done including cleaning windows and doors as well as the sanctuary woodwork. Anticipating the cold and flu season, the toys in the nursery need a good cleaning as well. If you can help with these and any other projects that you see need addressing, please sign up on the bulletin in Fellowship Hall. Please bring cleaning buckets and “Magic Eraser” or any other type of sponges. Contact Michael Myers, Property Chair, if you have any questions.



Youth Group- Fall Schedule

Youth Group Will happen every Sunday even if there is not a special event listed below. Time is 6:30-8:00PM. Will only notify if there is not “Regular Sunday Youth Group”

October 6th- Middle School Small Group

October 20th- High School Out of the Church

October 27th- Family Time (no scheduled Youth Events)

**Later October to Early November*

*a Mission Event will be planned**



November 10th- Middle School Small Group

November 17th- Invite Night: Trampoline Park

December 1st- Family Time after Thanksgiving

December 8th- Christmas Party



*All above events will happen at different times and places. I will notify by the Tuesday before for the Time and Location

Midweek Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible study has begun! Led by Pastor Su, a group meets at 10:00 – 11:30 on Wednesday morning at the Buckingham Springs Clubhouse. The first series of study based on the development of the early church through the work of the Apostle Paul. At face value, Paul appears to be the least likely one that God would choose to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations, and yet Paul seems to have just what was needed. God was able to turn these characteristics and talents into working for the Kingdom, instead of against it. This study will also be examining the challenges of the early church that mirror many of the challenges facing the church today.

Join the group and share your questions and thoughts. No Biblical expertise is required, just an open heart that is eager to discern God's truth.

Sunday Morning Adult Education – Stewardship of Creation, **October 20 and 27**

Daily we hear reports concerning the environment. Recently a teen environmental activist, Greta Thunberg delivered a scathing speech to the UN. She accused world leaders of stealing her dreams and her childhood with their inaction on climate change.

The Bible tells us that the “earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (*Psalms 24:1*). It also tells us that God blessed humankind and charged us to be caretakers, stewards of God’s good earth.

During this two week series we will examine our God-given role and explore ways that we can improve on what we are doing for the preservation and renewal of the environment. Class will be held from 11:30 – 12:30. Come and faithfully explore and discuss this important issue.

Welcome to Our Old Friend, Peter Jonescu to a New Role

Peter is a second year student at Princeton Theological Seminary. For one year now he has been serving as our Youth and Family Ministry Director, but now he is taking on an additional role as our seminary intern. From now until May, Peter will be serving as a worship leader, preaching, leading adult classes, doing pastoral visits, participating in administrative work and all general parish ministry work. This is to help prepare him for where God will call him to service once he completes his other seminary course work and ordination exams.

We are blessed to have Peter with us, sharing his considerable gifts beyond his work with the youth. Many have already had the pleasure of getting to know Peter, but this year will be an opportunity to know him in a different role. As in the past, the congregation is encouraged to invite Peter to share a meal – lunch or dinner on the first Sunday of the month, or any other Sunday that fits your schedule. Unlike other interns, Peter spends the entire Sunday at Forest Grove in order to lead the evening youth group program that starts at 6:30. This gives him more flexibility for visiting with the congregation. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you would like to host Peter for a meal.

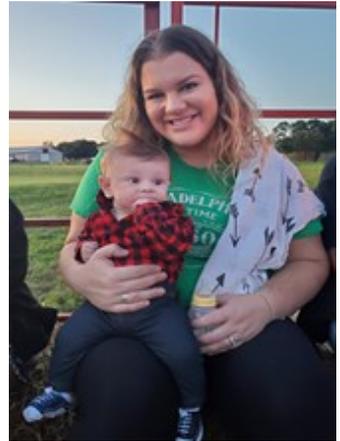


Special Music !



Nothing says Fall like a Hayride with
Forest Grove Presbyterian Church
Friends

S'mores



FUN !!

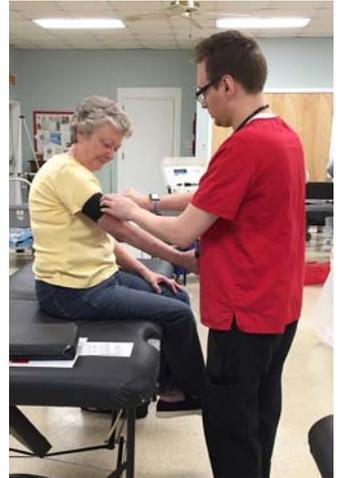




Thank you all for sharing your time and talents with our community.

Caring - Sharing - Loving

A Vibrant Community for sure!!!



Fall 2019 FGPC Church Blood Drive
Many thanks goes to
Dana Daniels for organizing the event and
Sally Thiessen for volunteering her time.
Over 30 donors were received.

October Schedules

Ushers

10/6/2019- Paul Wachtendorf, Michael Myers

10/13- Rick Wiggins, Dale Borneman

10/20- Terry and Kara Holton

10/27- Marilyn Cook, Pat Gessner

Greeter

10/6/19- Sally Thiessen

10/13- Linda Bowers

10/20 - Pat Pizza

10/27- Pat Gessner

Nursery

10/6/2019 Shannon Foster

10/13 Sandy Forsyth

10/20 Cindy Dobbins

10/27 Kara Holton



Elder of the Month - Pat Gessner

Deacon Sally Thiessen

Capital Campaign @8/31/2019

Pledge \$301,618

Pledge & Non Pldg. Rcpt \$195,652

Disbursements \$ 87,744

Operating Fund 8/31/2019

Offering & Income \$130,902

Large Fund Income 13,504

Total Income 144,406

Expenses

Pastor Compensation 62,496

Staff 33,799

Office 10,998

Music & Worship 951

Christian Education 1,880

Property 17,208

Stewardship/Finance 546

Parish Life (322)

Mission 5,300

Total Expenses 132,856

Operating Surplus(Deficit) 11,550

Fund Balance 12/31/18 37,379

Fund Balance 8/31/19 48,928

Benevolence Fund Balance @7/31/19 \$4,965

Receipts/Transfers/One Great Hour of Sharing. 0

Balance 8/31/19 \$4,965



October Birthdays

Rich Washburn 10/1

Stephanie Hess 10/3

Carole Borneman 10/4

Mary Reinhardt 10/6

Adam Davis 10/13

Nichol Lang 10/16

Courtney Woolslayer 10/17

Douglas Christie 10/18

Barbara McCorkindale 10/19

Anna Kimbel 10/23

Peggy Danilowicz 10/23

Samuel Holton 10/27

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2019						
6 10am Worship, Communion Followed by Coffee And Fellowship Sunday School 6:30pm Youth Group	7	8 9am MOMS 10am Garden Club 5:30pm Bee- keepers Mtg. 7pm Property Mtg. and Worship/ Music	9 10Bible Study	10	11	12
13 10am Worship, Followed by Coffee and Fellowship Sunday School 6:30pm Youth Group	14	15 Noon Christian Ed. Mtg. 7pm Steward- ship Mtg.	16 10am - Bible Study	17 10:30 Deacons	18	19 8:30am Fall Clean Up Day !!
20 10am Worship, Followed by Coffee and Fellowship Sunday School 6:30pm Youth Group	21	22 9am MOMS 6:30 Sessions Mtg.	23 10am Bible Study	24	25 6:00pm Mission and Fellow- ship Night	26
27 10am Worship, Followed by Coffee and Fellowship Sunday School 6:30pm Youth Group	28	29	30 10am Bible Study	31 		

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

PO Box 462

Forest Grove, PA 18922



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fall/Winter Worship Schedule

begins Sunday September 8

10:00 am Worship

Church Office Hours

9am-2pm (Monday-Thursday)

Phone 215-794-8575

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Peter Jonescu

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org