



The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

February 2020

Pastor Notes

"We love because God first loved us." --1 John 4:19

It's cold outside. Have you noticed there seem to be more people who complain about the cold and winter than there are those who embrace this season and its effects? For me, my perpetually cold nose and fingers and the longer hours of darkness contribute to my opinion. I suppose this is magnified by the season we just completed, specifically Christmas with its warm gatherings of family and friends, good food, lots of lights and a hustle and bustle schedule that forces you out and about. There's excitement in the air. And then there's January that stretches into February and often the blues set in. As a result, January is said to be the most depressing month of the year.

Maybe that's why we have a special celebration that comes in the middle of this troubling season, and it's not the Super Bowl. It's Valentine's Day when stars get replaced by hearts. I'm going to put a God-spin on this that is of my own making, but I think just might make some sense. Valentine's Day is all about love and remembering both the ones that we love and the ones that love us. For some there is a sting to this holiday celebration when a loved one is missing for one reason or another. But if we remember that there is always *Someone* who loves us, that being Jesus, then this is a day of the greatest of joy – even laughter. God loves us – even when our lives are dark and cold and the world seems dreary.

So here's my suggestion, when you are sitting at home, your nose is cold and Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD) has kicked into high gear deep down in your soul, get yourself some paper – preferably red or pink or just use markers, and cut out some paper hearts. Lots of them. Dance around, in whatever dance step you have in you, as you scatter them around the house like snowflakes in a blizzard. Sing "Jesus Loves Me" in full volume. Do it every day, whether you feel like it or not. You can even make it a real party by getting your cat, dog, iguana, children, spouse or friends to join you. But whether you've got company or you are a party of one, remember that you *are* loved, no matter the season. See if it doesn't start to feel warmer and brighter.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Sue

Heartfelt Thanks to our Rotating Leaders

After serving faithful, we extend our deepest gratitude to those who are rotating off from active service as Ruling Elders. Brad Sanders has served on the session for two years and has taken on the responsibility of improvements in our communication including revamping our website and Facebook page. He will continue to work with this ministry even as he no longer performs other leadership responsibilities.

We also want to thank Pat Pizza. Pat has served on the Stewardship Committee for his three years on session. During his tenure he has provided leadership for our successful capital campaign.

The Deacons will miss Sally Thiessen's gifts of compassion. Even though she will no longer serve on that board, we know that Sally will continue to offer her support and care to all who are in need.

We are grateful to all of our leaders for their deep faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his mission to the world through the workings of his church. There have been many meetings, challenging decisions, inspiring insights, loving conversations and just plain work that goes into being both an elder and a deacon. Their contributions are immeasurable and their reward shall both be great in heaven and in the appreciation of the congregation. Well done, good and faithful servants. We know that you will continue to use the gifts God has given you for the welfare of the church. Thank you for your service!



Membership Apportionment Sunday – March 1

March 1 is the first Sunday in Lent. As a part of our church's Lenten discipline, we are asking members of the congregation to contribute their share of apportionment.

What is it? Each year the congregation is assessed a per capita amount to be given to the presbytery for our denominations ministry in the name of Jesus Christ within our area. This year's apportionment amount is \$30, an amount that is assessed for every member of the Forest Grove congregation.

What exactly is it for?

Per Capita Apportionment is an invitation for church members to partner with the Presbytery as we host the necessary infrastructure to...

- **WALK ALONG SIDE OUR CONGREGATIONS** in the joys, struggles, transitions, seasons of discernment, conflict management, and missional aspirations. Per Capita dollars make possible the ministry of the Presbytery Leadership Collegium and Commission on Ministry and Membership.

- **FACILITATE A NETWORK OF TRUST** through the ecclesiastical Offices of the Stated Clerk, treasurers, and accountants at all levels of our denomination. Per Capita dollars enable our leadership to maintain records and assure responsibility and compliance alongside the broader Body of Christ and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

- **EQUIP AND EMPOWER CHURCH LEADERS** to serve our congregations and communities with intentionality, generosity, and creativity. Per Capita dollars make possible the Commission on Preparations as we walk alongside candidates for ordination, receive new Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and equip Elders for service in our churches.

- **LAUNCH AND LEVERAGE NEW** as we engage our neighbors and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ. Per Capita dollars pay for essential leadership catalysts, whom oversee grant programs, support creative ministry initiatives, and sustain the Ministry and Leadership Incubator for seminarians, ruling elders, and other budding ministry possibilities.

- TELL THE STORY AND GATHER THE FAITHFUL through the hosting of various meetings of Presbytery leadership commissions, committees, and mission groups. Per Capita dollars also make possible various publications, website and social media management, critical record keeping of our churches and the work of the Presbyterian Historical Society located in Center City, Philadelphia.

You can help our operating budget by making an additional donation to the church of this \$30 per capita amount. Please be sure to mark your donation as “per capita apportionment.”



Souper Bowl of Caring

Once again the Youth Group will be making soup to be donated to Aid for Friends on February 2. The group will be making chicken vegetable soup with rice. Congregation members are invited to make donation of food items that can be added to a pot of soup including chicken, rice, chicken broth and vegetables. Donations should be at the church by Sunday morning before worship.

Bowl of Caring was started 30 years ago. It is a youth-inspired, youth-led movement working with other groups across the nation including: schools, churches, local businesses, corporations, passionate individuals and NFL teams to tackle hunger in their local communities during the weeks leading up to the biggest celebration in football, Super Bowl. In our congregation alone, nearly 1,000 servings of soup have been made in the past 9 years. Way to go!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The group has started a new study on the book of Revelation. Although it has been much misunderstood and distorted, this book offers strong, reassuring visions for the church whose world is in crisis. The themes are universal and timeless. Careful examination will reveal it's overall message as actually being one of hope and calls upon its readers to cling to their faith in God whose promises will endure forever.

This Bible study meets each Wednesday morning from 10:00 – 11:30 at the Buckingham Springs clubhouse. Led by Pastor Su, we are all learners and seekers together. Biblical expertise is not required, just an open heart and mind to the Spirit's teaching.

Study Leave for Pastor Su

January 27 – February 2, Pastor Su will be attending a conference in Little Rock Arkansas where she will be learning with others about "Thinking Outside the Box" with regard to mission, worship and education. This is a national conference sponsored by our denomination. While she is on study leave, pastoral emergencies are being handled by our elders and deacons. Please call Missi Dell'Orefice or Beth Conti if you need help.





Food Pantry Donations Needed

Deacon Sponsored Food Contest During Lent

What did you have for dinner last night? One thing is for certain, all of us ate dinner last night, and if we didn't, it was by choice. Some don't have that luxury, even in our area. One in six children in America don't have enough to eat. That includes more than 16,000 in Bucks County. To address this urgent need, the Board of Deacons is challenging the congregation to donate food to the Doylestown Food Pantry that will begin on March 1 and end on Palm Sunday, April 5.

Here's how it will work. Create a team that will work together to purchase food items to be donated. Teams can be as small as 1 but not larger than 8. Name your team. Create a team logo. Register your team on the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in Fellowship hall. Have fun!

On April 5, please bring all donated items to the church. Prizes will be awarded for donations. Prizes will be awarded for the following:

- Most balanced food group items**
- Most coupons used**
- Most green (the color) items**
- Most items using all the letters of the alphabet (first letter)**
- Largest pile of items**
- Most items found in the Bible**
- Heaviest pile of food**

Please bring all items to the church on Sunday morning, April 5 before worship. All food items will be delivered to the food pantry once prizes are awarded.

Friday Night Fellowship



Friday Night Fellowship

During these cold winter nights it is great to come here to the church on the 4th Friday of the month to enjoy the warmth of Christian fellowship and laughter. Our next gathering will be held on February 28th. The theme for that evening is “Crazy Shoe Night.” Wear your craziest shoes but also go through your closet and bring to the church donations of shoes you no longer wear. New or gently used shoes in all sizes will be accepted and then given to Soles 4 Souls, an organization that gives old shoes new opportunities. Since 2006 over 35 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries by this organization. What you no longer use can make a huge difference to someone else.

On that night we will also be making blankets for Synergy Project, an outreach ministry to help runaway, homeless, nomadic and street youth, age 21 and under, in Bucks County, Philadelphia, Allentown, and Dauphin County.





Storytelling Service: February 7, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

How well do you know the story of Abraham? Do you know who his father was? Do you know what God promised him? Do you know how long it took for those promises to be fulfilled? Just how far-out was this whole idea anyway? Just how does Abraham's life have anything to do with your own? Well, if you have ever gotten a crazy idea in your head that wouldn't let go, then Abraham does have something to say to you. And even if this hasn't been your experience, his story is the foundation of our story, our faith story and how he lived long ago still has relevance to us today. Come to the Storytelling service and learn. This is an intergenerational experience.

On February 7 from 6:00 – 7:30 we will explore Abraham's story and consider how we can learn from it for our own lives. It will be a time to hear stories and create our own story in a different kind of worship experience.

Dinner will be served. Each Storytelling service will include a pasta dinner. We are asking volunteers to bring a food item to contribute to the meal. Food slips are available in Fellowship Hall. This will allow us to offer the meal at no cost. If you are able to participate, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



Ash Wednesday Worship

Each year we begin our Lenten journey by remembering that we belong to God, whose love and forgiveness is for us all and for all time. It has been our tradition to join with the congregations of both Anchor and Thompson Memorial Church on a 3 year location rotation. This year is our turn! The service will be held in our sanctuary on February 26th at 7:00 PM. The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be observed. There will also be a joint choir. If you are interested in singing, join the choir on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for rehearsal.



Sunday Morning Adult Education

“It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood.” That was the line from a song Fred Rogers wrote that always began his TV show, “Mr. Rogers Neighborhood.” A Presbyterian pastor, Mr. Roger’s faith taught him to not only see the beauty in his “neighborhood,” but to also help others open their eyes and hearts to the beauty of all neighborhoods as God created each one and called it good. Sadly, there has been much in our world that doesn’t appear so beautiful. Mr. Rogers message is a reminder of who we are and how we must work together to bring about our God-given mission to change. During our adult education classes on February 9 and 16, we will explore this important message as we examine the documentary about Mr. Rogers and the recent movie. It will be a time for us to think about where and how we can make “neighborhood” beautiful.

Beginning on February 23rd and continuing for four weeks, there will be a study on issues of racism led by our intern, Peter Jonescu.



Things are happening behind the scenes!

Kitchen stove: *Hurray!* The propane tank is installed, the line is connected, and the stove is ready for use!

Rear entrance: We have received a contract for the new rear entrance. The Property Committee reviewed the contract as its January 21st meeting and has questions about some contract terms. We will be seeking legal assistance from the Presbytery to review the contract prior to signing it. Spring 2020 is still the target date for start of construction.

Sanctuary windows & painting: Exterior painting will be done in the Spring as soon as weather permits. Renewal by Andersen is manufacturing the windows and will wait until we notify them that we are ready for installation – which should take only two or three days.

If you would like more information or have questions about **the rear entrance and windows**, contact the following people:

Rear entrance -
Sanctuary windows & painting -

Paul Wachtendorf
Craig Jencks



Rise
 AGAINST HUNGER
 food • community • sustainability

Dr. MLK Jr Day - A Day of Service



**Christmas at
Forest Grove**





Christmas Musical
Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior



February 2020 Schedules

Ushers

2/2 Terry and Kara Holton
 2/9 Rick Wiggins and Dale Borneman
 2/16 Michael and Brielle Guarracino
 2/23 Preston and Carol Eckmeder

Greeter

2/2 Sally Thiessen
 2/9 Linda Bowers
 2/16 Pat Pizza
 2/23 Dot Tinari

Coffee

2/2 Emilie Cullerton
 2/9 Inge Zielke, Anna McQuaid
 2/16 Sharon Ruth
 2/23 Amy Raab

Nursery

2/2 Jen Bush
 2/9 Sandy Forsyth
 2/16 Sharon Ruth
 2/23 Jolie Hyndman

Elder of the Month:

Deacon : Missi Dell'Orefice

Capital Campaign @12/31/2019

Cap. Cam. Pledges \$347,138
 Rcpts Pledge/Non Pldg. \$284,512
 Rcpts Construction Loan \$100,000

TOTAL Rcpts \$384,512

Disbursements \$283,405

Operating Fund

Offering & Income	\$186,054
Large Fund Income	\$ 20,256
Total Income	\$206,310

Expenses	
Pastor Compensation	\$92,605
Staff	50,833
Office	16,724
Music & Worship	1,821
Christian Education	2,547
Property	25,738
Stewardship/Finance	911
Parish Life	(151)
Mission	6,500
Xfer to Capital Fund	8,100
Total Expenses	\$205,628

Operating Surplus(Deficit)	682
Fund Balance 12/31/18	37,379
Fund Balance 12/31/19	\$38,060

Benevolence Fund Balance @11/30/19 \$4,506

Receipts/Transfers: 0
 Disbursements:

Balance @12/31/19 \$4,496



February

Pat Pizza 2/2
 Christine Sanders 2/4
 Michael Guarracino 2/5
 Natalie Pizza 2/7
 James Conner Jr. 2/9
 Brielle Guarracino 2/11
 Maggie Rash 2/19
 Kaydy Ledyard 2/23
 Aaron Myers 2/25
 Rebecca Hampton 2/27
 Sandi Ghering 2/28
 Leila Shvanda 2/28



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u> day
February 2020						1
2 10am Worship/ Communion Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship Souper Bowl of Caring 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group	3	4 7pm Worship & Music	5 10am Bible Study	6 11am Parish Life	7 6pm Dinner and Story Telling	8
9 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group	10	11 10am Garden Club 12pm Christian Ed. 6:30 Beekeepers	12 10am Bible Study	13 6pm Beekeepers	14 	15
16 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship Youth Group	17	18 9am Mom's Group 7pm Stewardship 7pm Property	19 10am Bible Study 	20 10:30 Deacon's 6pm Beekeepers	21	22
23 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group	24	25 6:30pm Sessions	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 10am Worship	27	28 6pm Friday Night Fellowship	29

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church
1856 Forest Grove Road
PO Box 462
Forest Grove, PA 18922



**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Worship Schedule

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

and Seminary Intern: Peter Jonescu

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org

