

The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

March 2020

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?” -- Psalm 13:1

Pastor’s notes:

Recently my six year old grandson spent the night. It had been a long day when we finally arrived at my home. Coming to grandma’s is always a treat for both of us. Typically the first order of business upon getting inside is to take off and hang up my coat in my bedroom closet. As I made my way, my grandson called to me requesting something to drink. Maybe it was because I was tired or maybe it was because I just barely navigated around the cat running in front of me, but I felt my muscles tense and I shouted, “WAIT A MINUTE!” (Maybe you heard me.) It took a few minutes, but eventually, I made my way to the kitchen, filled a glass of water and handed it over to the waiting child. “Thank you, grandma,” he said, with a tone that would lead you to think that I had just handed him a grocery bag full of candy – that’s a six year old’s version of a million dollars. I sighed as I looked at him and said an apologetic and sympathetic, “you’re welcome.” He drank down the entire glass quickly. He really was thirsty which didn’t surprise me as he had been asking for something to drink since we left his house and the car ride took all day – that’s a six year old’s version of 30 minutes.

My grandson waited and asked and waited and asked and I got tired of hearing it. It made me think about all the demands that we make on God. “God, I need a drink of water.” “God, I need this pain to go away.” God, I need my life to change.” “God, I need...” Unfortunately God’s timing isn’t our timing, just as my timing wasn’t my grandson’s. But I don’t think God makes us wait just because. I do think sometimes it just takes time and sometimes other things have to come first. Fortunately God is much more patient than I.

For the one who waits, however, time just seems to crawl and “how long” is always too long. That’s why a 30 minute drive can take all day, or a 20 minute wait for the medication to kick in can take hours and the darkness of night can take years. But the Psalmist teaches us that even as we wait, we can trust that God is not far away and that God will provide even if it isn’t exactly as we would have expected or wanted. God has provided for us in the past and God will continue to do so. We just have to be patient and wait.

Here's the thing, while my grandson waited, he went into the toy box and pulled out a dinosaur to play with. He waited, but he didn't just sit there doing nothing. Oh, he was still thirsty, but that didn't stop him.

Maybe that's how God wants us to wait, actively. There is still much to do even if it is to say a prayer or take a deep breath. Once again we are in the season of waiting. We wait at Advent for the coming of the Savior. We wait in Lent for the resurrection. God seems to make us do a lot of waiting. The Bible is full of waiting and it isn't easy. But in the waiting there is change, if we allow it. I think that's where God comes into the waiting, when we get active pulling us out of our own thinking and into God's ways.

Like my grandson, however, I don't like to wait, but if I stop and look around, I will see that in the waiting there are dinosaurs to play with, the hungry to feed, the lonely to befriend, the frightened to comfort as well as sunshine and raindrops to be awed by. During these next 40 days of Lent, how will you wait?

Waiting in Christ's service,

Pastor Sue



Adult Education: Racism

Join our seminary Peter , beginning March 1st. This upcoming month we will be talking about the effects of race in the lives of ourselves and others. Racism takes on many forms most obviously in the form of hate groups and sins of the past. This happens as well in a variety of ways,

many people are not aware of. In this education class, we will be talking about ways in which racism effects lives and what influences it.

For this first upcoming class we will talk about some key words and properly defining them. This includes race, ethnicity, racism, privilege, and much more. I hope you all can make it as everyone can learn from everyone on this topic. as we talk about racism in our country and the world. This will be a time for us all to learn about the subtle and not-so subtle ways in which racism still occurs. We hope you can show up so we can all learn from one another and have great discussions.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER



On January 20, fifteen from our congregation joined with about one hundred from the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown to package 120,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. These were combined with other meals from the Philadelphia area so that 285,120 meals in total were shipped and distributed to families in the Sudan. One of the recipients, a 12 year old boy wrote, “Now that I benefit from Rise Against Hunger meals, I eat lunch at school and no longer feel hungry during classes. Eating meals at school is also joyful because I can sit with my friends and talk about funny things while eating.” Rise Against Hunger distributes food to the families of children in school so that children can both perform better as well as remain in school since it isn’t necessary for them to quit in order to earn money to buy food. This has a long-term impact. Better education leads to a better future.

Rise Against Hunger has the ambitious goal of eliminating global hunger by the year 2030. With people like those who helped on January 20th, this goal can be reach. Thank you everyone for your efforts and caring.

Thank you!!



The Season of Lent

EARLY MORNING COMMUNION **DURING LENT**

Beginning on March 4 we will once again offer Wednesday morning Communion services that will continue through Lent. This brief half-hour service begins at 8:00 AM. Following the service, all are invited to continue the fellowship during breakfast at Cross Keys Diner. This is a way to take a mid-week pause to remember and share in God's steadfast love.



4125 E Swamp Road
Doylestown, PA 18902

ONLINE PHOTO PERMISSION

Many of us enjoy the wonderful photos that Pat Pizza takes each week that creates a visual diary of who we are as the Forest Grove Presbyterian Church. While displaying those images in Fellowship Hall as well as putting them in our newsletter is great, we would like to include some of these on our website and Facebook page. We want others to know what a great church we are! If you are uncomfortable having your photo displayed in this way, please contact the church office. Note that no names are ever published in association with these images. Thank you.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR EASTER

It was so much fun having our children sing at Christmas time, we want to have them inspire us again with their enthusiastic voices on Easter Sunday. This isn't as big an undertaking as the Christmas musical – but it will be a significant offering during that special service. Leanne Yerkes, our Director of Music is working with Maggie Rash to lead our children in song. There will be short rehearsals on March 22, 29 and April 5 immediately after Sunday School. CDs of the two songs they will be singing are already available so the children can start listening and learning. See Leanne after worship or stop by the church office to pick one up.

Even if a child misses a rehearsal, as long as they know the music, they are very welcome to sing on Easter. It will be a wonderful way to lead us all in praising the Lord!

FOOD CONTEST ON HOLD UNTIL AFTER EASTER

Not wanting to conflict and have too many special offerings at one time, the Food Contest sponsored by the Deacons will take place after Easter allowing for a stronger effort on the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. It's not too early to start getting your team together! Join with others and strategize how you will collect food for the Doylestown Food Pantry during the month of May. Come up with your unique name for your team. It will be fun and you will be helping others, just like Jesus said.



sharing resources. changing lives.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SMALL CHANGE DOES MAKE

A DIFFERENCE

Last year during Lent we collected change that was given to Synergy Project. This year we are once again collecting change throughout the six weeks of Lent that will be given to One Great Hour of Sharing. Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. This special offering helps to meet these worldwide needs.

We are making our offering a little differently this year. The money we collect will be earmarked to purchase items from the denomination's "Giving Catalog," a collection of suggested tangible gifts of practical and lasting benefit, such as chickens, goats, oxen & plow, a community irrigation water pump and bags of Moringa Tree seeds. By March 8 our children will be deciding where our offering will go from these possibilities. Meanwhile, start saving your change and bring it to worship each Sunday during Lent. We will be filling a container in the sanctuary that will hold any denomination of currency. Remember, small change can make a big change!



FOREST GROVE IS BECOMING AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

During the recent 3 week adult education program on the environment, we discovered that there are many of us that are passionate about being good stewards of God's creation – and we want to do more. It isn't just about recycling and car emission, there is so much that needs to be done to fulfill our responsibility as caretakers of God's world. For many of us we aren't even aware of what we should and can do.

Our denomination recognizes the importance of this work and is providing guidance to congregations on becoming Earth Care Congregations. This initiative involves completing activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach. What we do here will also be helpful for what we do outside the church as well.

To begin we need to take the Earth Care Creation pledge.

Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

A task force is also being formed to help move this work forward. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Pastor Su. Remember, we are all in this together!

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Fun! Silly! Stimulating! Energetic!
Creative! Meaningful!



These are some of the words being used to describe what happens here at Forest Grove church on the 4th Friday of each month as we come together to share a meal, play games, sing and engage in a mission project with all age groups participating together.

Looking ahead in March, we will have our fellowship night on March 27. Shiver me timbers, it's "Pirate Night" – Aaargh! So "show a leg" and join us for a fun night pirate-style. Of course there will be great food, fun and games as well as a mission project. This month we will think about our college students who have "weighed anchor" and are away from home preparing for their next adventure in life. We'll be putting together care packages to send them as a reminder that we still love them and hold them in our thoughts and prayers. Some help with collecting items for the packages is needed. Suggestion slips are available in Fellowship Hall beginning March 1. All items should be brought to the church by March 27.

A NEW COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM



On Thursday, March 19 at noon we will hold the first of our monthly lunches here at the church that is open to the community. It will be a time to come together and enjoy both a meal and each other's company. Anyone who is hungry is welcome to join us. On the third Thursday of the month we will provide a meal and a program. This month Allen Jay Black, Sr., a Cherokee Storyteller, will share history and myths of the Cherokee. There is a \$10 fee. Reservations are required. Call the church office at 215-794-8575 no later than March 16.

CONGRATULATIONS NATE BRANTINGHAM

Last year Nate served as one of our seminary interns. He graduated seminary in the spring and has moved to Illinois with his wife, Antonia, who received a position on the faculty of the University of Illinois. We all knew that God had given Nate extraordinary gifts and that God would provide a place for these gifts to be utilized – and now they are. Nate has received and accepted a call to serve as the Director of Campus Ministry for the UCC Church serving the University of Illinois. He has completed his ordination requirements and expects to be ordained very soon. We are so happy for Nate and honored to have been a small part of his ministry. If you would like to send well-wishes to Nate, his mailing address is:

Nathaniel Brantingham
617 W White Street
Champaign IL 61820

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS



This summer we will have a new one week program for those entering 5th grade through 9th graders. We are having “Creation Camp.” For the week of July 27 – 31 we will offer a full day program (8:30 – 4:00) that will allow participants to participate in environmental projects. For example, one day we will go to Delaware Valley University to learn about cows and even get to milk cows! Another day we will travel to Island Beach State Park for a nature program and swimming in the ocean. Each day will be another adventure! Enrollment is limited but also open to the community. Call the church office for more information or talk with Pastor Su.



SAVE THE DATE:
Vacation Bible School, July 21-24

VBS 2020 is coming! Plans are already being made to explore God's amazing love with our 4 year olds through sixth graders. We will meet each day from 9:00 AM – noon when the children will experience an energizing, Bible-based program that will give them an opportunity to grow in their understanding of God and God's love for us in Jesus

Once again Kim King is our VBS coordinator. She is looking for volunteers to serve as group leaders, snack helpers, recreation leaders, and story tellers. Contact Kim, Su Fall, or the church office if you are interested in helping. Remember, we supply the resources; you supply the love for God and children!

**Registration is now available including
online at vbspro.events/p/events/db9219.**





SOUP
BOWL
OF CARING





Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
Food • community • sustainability

Dr. MLK Jr Day - A Day of Service





**A Mission of “Love”
for the Tree of Life.**



March 2020 Schedules

Ushers

3/1
 3/8 Pat and Natalie Pizza
 3/15 Walter and Emilie Cullerton
 3/22 Phyllis Scarpill, Sharon Ruth
 3/29 Steve and Lynne Hovagimyan

Greeter

3/1 Bill Wark
 3/8 Michael Myers
 3/15 Marilyn Cook
 3/22 Pat Gessner
 3/29 Inge Zielke

Coffee

3/1 Beth Conti
 3/8 Donna Jencks
 3/15 Gail Shaffer
 3/22 Leanne Yerkes
 3/29 Diane Dauer, Donna Jagiela

Nursery

3/1 Cindy Dobbins
 3/8 Shannon Foster
 3/15 Beth Conti
 3/22 Kim King
 3/29 Kara Holton



Elder of the Month: Terry Holton
Deacon of the Month: Marilyn Cook

Capital Campaign @1/31/2020

Cap. Cam. Pledges \$304,618
 Rcpts Pledge/Non Pldg. \$300,547
 Rcpts Construction Loan \$100,000
TOTAL Rcpts \$400,547
 Disbursements \$365,959

Operating Fund January 31, 2020

Offering & Income	\$ 41,953
Large Fund Income	\$ 1,778
Total Income	\$ 43,731

March



Dolores Albert	3/1
Mary Bode	3/1
Duke Ripp	3/2
Hailey Guarracino	3/6
Brad Sanders	3/10
Richard Wright	3/11
James Conner III	3/12
Sally Thiessen	3/15
Terry Holton	3/20
Craig Jencks	3/22
Eloise Hyndman	3/27
Ledyard, Shane	3/27
Rick Wiggins	3/28
Evan Peters	3/29
Tom Ottilo	3/29
Regina Guarracino	3/30
Gail Shaffer	3/30
Evin Kimbel V	3/31

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	\$ 7,552
Staff	4,461
Office	1,005
Music & Worship	921
Christian Education	72
Property	2,892
Stewardship/Finance	34
Parish Life	0
Mission	0

Total Expenses \$16,937

Operating Surplus(Deficit) \$26,794

Fund Balance 12/31/19 38,060

Fund Balance 1/31/20 \$64,855

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

Receipts/Transfers: Disbursements: ()

Balance @1/31/20 \$4,496

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11am Worship/ Communion Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education	2	3 7pm Worship & Music	4 8am Communion Service 10am Bible Study	5 11am Parish Life	6	7
8 10am Worship Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group Daylight Savings Time	9	10 9:30am Mom's 10am Garden Club 12pm Christian Ed. 6:30 Beekeepers	11 8am Communion Service 10am Bible Study	12 6pm Beekeepers	13	14
15 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group	16	17  St. Patrick's Day 7pm Property	18 8am Communion Service 10am Bible Study 7pm Stewardship	19 Spring Begins 12 noon "Let's Do Lunch" 6pm Beekeepers	20	21
22 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship Youth Group	23	24 9:30 Mom's 6:30pm Sessions	25 8am Communion Service 10am Bible Study	26 10:30 Deacon's 6pm Beekeepers	27 6pm Friday Night Fellowship	28
29 10am Worship, Sunday Sunday School, Coffee/ Fellowship 11:30 Adult Education Youth Group	30	31 	March 2020			

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