

# The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

August 2020

## Pastor Notes

*“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” -- Psalm 139:14*

Maybe one of the best aspects of summer for me is the ability to swim in the pool where I live with my grandchildren. Each time we go, the four of them engage in the same activity that has become a ritual of sorts – they hunt for frogs in the pool. Even before they jump in, they painstakingly scan every inch of the H2O to see where one of those amphibians have foolishly mistaken chlorinated water for a delightful pond filled with all sorts of nutritious treats and hiding spots. It’s a mission of mercy as they scooped up almost as many dead frogs who have succumbed to the chemicals as live ones. Gently holding one in the palm of their small hands has become its own reward to be coveted. In the moment, there isn’t much that can hold a candle to the adorable preciousness of a green croaker.

Conversely, the spiders, lantern flies, water bugs and any other living bug are to be reviled. There is no virtue in something that crawls on numerous legs or buzzes around our heads. If one is found alive in the water, there is no effort to save it from an untimely death, but rather to hasten it with the shout of, “Grandma, come kill this bug!”

Why is it that frogs are considered worthy and bugs are not? Why are frogs cute and bugs disgusting? Why do we squeal with delight at frogs and scream in terror at bugs? Bugs are amazing. My grandchildren are forever asking me why God made bugs and my answer is always the same: “Because they are useful and important. They, too, have been fearfully and wonderfully made.”

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**Don't we have a similar attitude when it comes to people? Some we see as beautiful and valuable and others as unseemly and worthless. Sure, you can say that we base our opinions on behavior, but science has shown that we judge others within the first seven seconds of meeting someone. Do we think of that person as "fearfully and wonderfully made" as we make that first, second or third glance? Maybe it's time we did.**

**Yours in Christ's service,**

*Pastor Sue*

## **SILVERLININGS**

**As we continue to struggle with our new normal due to the pandemic, there have been some positive occurrences as a result. This is where the Holy Spirit is at work.**

**We found on the TV "Sound & Scripture" on Fios 549...WBPH. The most beautiful scenery from all over; the Rockies, Red Rock National Park, Great Smokies, etc. All the while hymns are being played by different presenters, mostly piano. Peaceful & soothing during these tough times. So peaceful. And scripture appearing that makes it worthwhile. It gives one peace. And it brings you closer to God. It seems to be there most of the day.**

**Walter Cullerton in Yardley**

**To my dear Forest Grove Friends, I want to thank all of you for your kindness, prayers and notes. May Faith and Hope of God's blanket of care for each day is the reason we look for the purpose of life.**

**Love and blessings, Esther Welch**

## **SUMMER PREACHING AND PASTORAL CARE SCHEDULE**

Pastor Su will be away for summer vacation on August 3 – August 30. During this time the congregation will enjoy a variety of guest preachers whose faces are familiar. The Sunday preaching schedule will be as follow:



**August 9:** Rev. Amy Ruhf. Amy is a former intern at Forest Grove in 2017-2018. She graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019 ordained in June 2019 at First Presbyterian Church of Ambler and is currently serving as the Resident Minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. After completing two years in Michigan, Amy plans to go back to active duty as a Lieutenant in the Navy where she will serve as a chaplain.



**August 16:** Rev. Nathaniel Brantingham. Nate served as an intern at Forest Grove just last year, 2018-2019. He then graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2019. Following his wife to Illinois, Nate was able to secure the position of Director of Campus Ministry at United Church Fellowship, University of Illinois. The Lord does provide! While it has been a struggle with the coronavirus sending students home, Nate is still enjoying life in the Midwest with his wife, Antonia, their cat, Nova and new dog, Marley.



**August 23:** Will Myers. Will served as Forest Grove's intern in 2018 – 2019. He recently graduated in 2020 from Princeton Theological Seminary. Will is also a newlywed, marrying Nimmi Thomas in June. The coronavirus has made it difficult for many recent graduates to find pastoral calls. Will is waiting for God to place him where he can best serve but



**August 30: 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 also was engaged in leadership and training ministries relating to Congregational Transformation and Missional Church. She served as the Interim Executive Presbyter for Lackawanna Presbytery. She is married to Ken Wonderland, pastor of the Bensalem Presbyterian Church.**

**While Pastor Su is away, the session members and Deacons will be on call for pastoral care. Please contact Maggie Rash 215-543-4451, Missi Dell'Orefice 267-240-6222 or Susan Flanagan in the church office 215-794-8575.**



**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AUGUST 18-25.**

**Susan Flanagan, our Office Administrator, will be taking a much needed vacation that week. Even though the office will be closed, phone messages will be checked regularly.**

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER**

**We all miss being together to worship our God. Even though the coronavirus continues, CDC guidelines indicate that meeting outdoors is safe compared to meeting indoors. We are blessed with a large unused outdoor space on our property just beyond the graveyard. The Coronavirus Task Force has met and with certain guidelines has determined that worship can take place in that open space.**

**This summer has been brutally hot but the hope is that September's weather will be much more tolerable. Beginning September 6 both in-person outdoor worship and Zoom worship will be offered at 10:00 Sunday morning. The following guidelines will be adhered to for in-person worship:**

- All will be required to wear a mask**
- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival**
- Seating will be in marked areas (6 feet apart) only**
- Paper bulletins will be available pinned to the rolling partitions to allow for single contact**
- We will not sing hymns (unfortunately) but there will be music**
- Prepackaged communion elements will be available for participants to pick up (on communion Sundays)**
- There will be a single offering basket placed at the entrance to worship**
- Indoor bathroom facilities will be available on a one-person-at-a-time basis**
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon entering and exiting the building**
- Participation waivers must be signed at home before admittance to the service (these will be mailed and are to be sent back to the church)**
- Volunteer Ushers will be used to get people to take temperatures and seat people (please contact the office if you are willing to volunteer)**

**cont.**

**These seem like a lot of regulations, but again, we want to ensure everyone's safety. Canopies will be set up in the open space to block the sun for those who need it. Those who are able are encouraged to bring their own chair. Some metal folding chairs will be available. Parking spaces in the rear parking lot are reserved for those who are unable to walk as far. If the weather doesn't permit in-person worship, there will be Zoom worship only.**

**The Task Force has also considered indoor in-person worship. Additional guidelines will need to be enacted with this type of worship. More information about that will be mailed to the congregation closer to the fall.**

**While the virus has made worship challenging, God is up to the challenge and has brought more people to worship as we have created the means to do so. The work of the Kingdom continues and so do we. Praise the Lord!**

**Address updates:**

**Eleanor Karpa  
238 Thrush Circle  
New Hope, Pa 18938**

**Barbara McCorkindale  
38 Tomahawk Trail  
Denville, NJ 07834-1127**

**Gail Shaffer  
Pine Run  
18 Dogwood Cluster  
Doylestown, Pa 18901**

**Peggy Cosner  
c/o Lakeview, Pine Run  
Room 254  
2425 Lower State Road  
Doylestown, Pa 18901**

## **THURSDAY EVENING HYMN STUDY FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY**

**During the month of August, the evening gathering will not take place due to Pastor Su's vacation. We do plan to resume a program in the fall. Our Wednesday morning Bible study will not resume in-person this fall. Pastor Su will be looking for interest in either or both programs. Call the church office if you want to be involved.**

### **NEW PRAYER GROUP TO BEGIN AUGUST 3**

**For several weeks a group has been coming together on Wednesday evenings to discuss anti-racism in our country. This is not a new issue but the recent unrest spurred by the death of George Floyd has prompted some to want to dive deeper learning more about systemic racism. Even while most of us would claim to be anti-racist, we are ignorant of some of the things that are happening around us that contribute to discrimination.**

**Not wanting to just talk about it, the group wants to do something. While they are exploring the possibilities, one action the group is going to take is to pray about it. To that end a prayer group is starting on Monday evenings at 7:00 on Zoom. Led by Peter Jonescu, it will be a time to pray for our country and individuals who are effected by the unrest so many are feeling today around this issue. As Jesus said, we are going to "take it to the Lord in prayer." All are welcome to participate in this free-flowing offering of prayer. Participants may either offer up their own prayers or simply join with those being offered up by others. The Zoom connection is the same as is used for all other Forest Grove Church gatherings: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.**



**BE LOVED.**  
**BE KIND.**  
**BE YOU.**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR**

**How we miss our wonderful children here at church for a week of Vacation Bible School! But even as the current restrictions that dictate our being diligent about safety regarding our building, God is still at work caring for our young ones. To assist in their Christian nurture, VBS material has been sent home to our families and friends with children so they can learn at home. The material is called “Compassion Camp.” It is centered on compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. This at-home material can be used for any age including intergenerational! Retired teacher, Vini Christie, went through the material to make it user friendly. Included are a music CD, discussion prompts and simple projects.**

**While this isn’t the VBS experience we were hoping to offer our children, we still hope that it can be fun and meaningful for all. If you would like to receive a copy and weren’t included in our mailing list, please call the church office. For those who use the material, we hope you will take pictures and share with the church by sending them to [office@forestgrovechurch.org](mailto:office@forestgrovechurch.org). We always love seeing our children!**



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE-**  
**BLOOD DRIVE SEPT 12<sup>TH</sup>**

The Forest Grove Session has approved continuing our community outreach with a blood drive this fall, and the date will be Saturday Sept 12<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 1PM. This will be our 8th consecutive yearly blood drive, and the need for blood is ongoing. In light of Covid concerns, there will be additional safety precautions and screening of all donors. Whether you would like to donate in honor of a loved one, or just to help someone in need, it's wonderful to consider the different components from each blood donation can be used to help save *three* lives. For information about Covid safety precautions & screening, donor age requirements & health considerations & medications, please visit this website; <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html>.

Or, if you would like to go online and schedule a donation time on Sept 12th, please visit this website; <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM&ed=09%2F12%2F2020&order=DATE&range=10&sd=09%2F12%2F2020&zipSponsor=18912>

Please help make *the Forest Grove* blood drive a success! For questions or assistance with scheduling, please call Dana Daniels 215 450 0705.

## DON'T FORGET THE NEED FOR FOOD DONATIONS

With unemployment still at a higher level, there is great need for food donations. The Deacons continue to take donated food to the Doylestown Food Pantry. Food may be dropped off in the plastic bin outside the rear entrance door. Any unexpired items are very welcome.



## Operating Fund

Six Months Ended  
June 30, 2020

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended June 30, 2020

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	\$	112,193
Large Fund Income		<u>11,332</u>
Total Income		123,525

### Expenses

Pastor Compensation	47,957
Staff	25,356
Office	7,417
Music & Worship	1,643
Christian Education	677
Property	10,791
Stewardship/Finance	218
Parish Life	0
Mission	<u>3,400</u>
Total Expenses	97,459

### 2020 Operating Fund

**Surplus (Deficit)** 26,066

Fund Balance @ 12/31/19 38,060

Fund Balance @ 6/30/20 \$ 64,127

### Capital Campaign @ 6/30/20

Pledge Receipts	<u>\$ 304,618</u>
Pledge & Non-Pledge	\$ 313,179
Construction Loan	<u>150,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 463,179</u></b>
Disbursements	<u>\$ 428,279</u>

### Benevolence Fund

#### 30-June-20

Balance @ 5/31/20	\$4,496
Receipts & Transfers	
Disbursements:	
Balance @ 6/30/20	<u>\$4,496</u>



**Charlie Dell'Orefice**





Ethan Dobbins



Jack Bush



## **August Birthdays**



<b>Jim McMahon</b>	<b>8/4</b>
<b>Su Fall</b>	<b>8/6</b>
<b>Preston Eckmeder</b>	<b>8/9</b>
<b>Dee Tori</b>	<b>8/9</b>
<b>Mike Guarracino</b>	<b>8/9</b>
<b>Anna McQuaid</b>	<b>8/12</b>
<b>Kevin Realley</b>	<b>8/12</b>
<b>Dylan McKeever</b>	<b>8/15</b>
<b>Abigail Lang</b>	<b>8/17</b>
<b>Aleena Lang</b>	<b>8/17</b>
<b>Braden Fullman</b>	<b>8/19</b>
<b>Kathy Washburn</b>	<b>8/23</b>
<b>Beau Conner</b>	<b>8/24</b>
<b>Barbara Huber</b>	<b>8/24</b>
<b>Karen Myers</b>	<b>8/26</b>
<b>Janet Martin</b>	<b>8/26</b>
<b>Rachel Dell'Orefice</b>	<b>8/29</b>

**Check our social media platforms for up to date information and pictures. Follow and share !**

**Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/ForestGrovePresbyterianChurch/>**

**Webpage: [www.forestgrovechurch.org](http://www.forestgrovechurch.org)**

**Instagram: Forest Grove Presb Church**





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

**A U G U S T 2 0 2 0**

**COME  
WORSHIP**  
*with us!*



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@forestgrovechurch.org)  
[www.ForestGroveChurch.org](http://www.ForestGroveChurch.org)