

The Focus



Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

October 2020

Pastor's Notes

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1

The cover is on the pool; the air conditioners have been removed from the windows; Christmas decorations are on the shelves at craft stores. Yes, the seasons are changing. I knew it would come as it does every year and every year I dread it (sorry to those of you who claim autumn as your favorite season).

Spring is my favorite season. I love the bright "spring green" color (precisely halfway between cyan and green on the color wheel – you can look it up since it may be on *Jeopardy* someday), birds chirping (even when they wake me up), flowering trees and all the crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and more. What a glorious sensation of life and all its beauty.

I think the reason I am not such a big fan of autumn is because I know all too well what's around the corner – cold, dark bleak winter. That reveals what kind of pessimist I am. Recently I've come to appreciate, however, that there would be no spring without winter, or autumn for that matter. So often I have heard folks who live in more temperate climes speak longingly for the variety of the seasons. I guess spring wouldn't be so spectacular were it not for bland quality of winter.

Of course, I am speaking with a clear bias. Please don't be offended winter-lovers. But whatever season is your favorite, one thing we all share in common, none of them lasts forever, at least in this longitudinal neck of the world.

Seasons will come and seasons will go. The moment we are in will last but for a time. Depending on what that moment might look like, this can be a good or disappointing thing.

Celebrations are wonderful experiences, but then Monday morning comes again and it's all over. Illness or injury can be challenging and painful, but when recovery is completed, it can be a time of joy and renewal. So let's put it this way, if we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, successful thriving would not be so appreciated.

We are still in this season of coronavirus and, to put it mildly, it has been hard for a whole variety of reasons. If only that were the only hardship we are currently enduring. Of course there's a whole lot more suffering in our world including our individual lives to varying degrees. Depending on the moment, it is hard to see the sunshine, flowers and multicolored leaves.

The author of the wisdom writing, Ecclesiastes, states that there is a time for every matter, good and not good. The best thing we can do is enjoy life, whatever the season. It's God's gift and God desires good for us.

So what does this mean for the season we are in? It means that it won't last and that as we live into this time, God still provides good for us. Think about it. In autumn there are beautiful colors, cool evenings and blankets for snuggling. Even in winter, there is hot chocolate with marshmallows and Christmas! Following that – **SPRING!**

I may be able to count the days until spring and the number of days until the end of this coronavirus/election/wild fire/hurricane/civil unrest season is unknown, but I do know that it will come to an end. Spring/new life will come again. It is God's promise and God's gift and when it does, we are going to celebrate! Meanwhile, hold on and remember that God doesn't give us hardships to teach us a lesson, but when we are going through a season of life challenges, God is in that season as well. God is here willing good for each of us as we wait.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Se

Exploring The Book Of Acts

Beginning Thursday October 8th

7pm on Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or
by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.



As a Christian, when I think of crazy stories, I always turn to the Book of Acts. First off, it starts off with Jesus ascending into heaven. Then we find the story about how the Holy Spirit transforms Jesus's followers at Pentecost. They start hearing and understanding foreigners as if they were speaking their own language. Other crazy stories include Saul being blinded on the way to Damascus, Peter's weird visions about food, and Paul's shipwreck on Malta while being held Roman prisoner. All these stories might make us ask: How does Acts apply to our everyday, mundane lives? Does God still work in crazy, miraculous ways? For six weeks, we will explore what Acts says about God, Jesus Christ, and our response to the Good News as Christians. I call upon you to use your imaginations in thinking about Acts and about how God is still at work in our lives even today. For the first week, I will introduce Acts and we will explore how the book answers this question: What has God done? I hope to see you soon!! -Ryon

Optional Easy-to-Read Resource (which the study follows): Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit by Matthew L. Skinner, 2020.

Indoor Worship Update

During the month of September we have enjoyed worshipping in person in the fresh air of outside and beautiful surroundings. Unfortunately the weather will be turning colder in the not too distant future. The session has decided that we may resume worshipping in our church building on November 1. The numbers will be restricted to follow CDC guidelines. Since our building is small there is limited seating to allow for social distancing. As a result, the numbers will be limited to 24 units (a unit is the individuals living under the same roof). We are going to take reservations for worship. To ensure that you will have a seat on Sunday, please call the church office no later than 2:00 the previous Thursday afternoon. If no seats are available, you will be put on the top of the waiting list for the following Sunday. Masks will be required to be worn at all times while in the building. Other protocol will include the use of the rolling bulletin board/room partition for the worship bulletins. A basket for offering and individual communion elements will be located in Fellowship Hall.

We know that this isn't the way any of us want to worship, but to ensure the safety of all, this is the way we will worship until a vaccine is available and widely distributed. Meanwhile, worship will continue to available live on Zoom and copies of the service as well as a link to recorded services will be accessible on the church website.

God is still with us and we are still church together. Praise be to God!!!



Food Pantry Needs Help

Before the pandemic, 40 million people in the United States relied on food pantries to help feed themselves and their families. Since the pandemic that number has jumped by an additional 17 million. The COVID-19 has brought new challenges to food security across the U.S. Access to healthy food options and nutrition are important to overall physical and mental health and well-being. You can help by donating food to our local food pantry in Doylestown. Each Sunday a bin is placed at the worship check-in spot. Donations can also be dropped off at the church.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS NEEDED:



- **Protein:** Canned meats such as tuna, chicken, and salmon. Beans, canned or dried. Split peas and lentils. Peanut butter.
- **Grains:** Pasta, rice, or quinoa. Oatmeal or breakfast cereals (whole grain or low sugar).
- **Dairy:** Shelf stable milk, non-fat dried powder milk, or dry-grated Parmesan cheese.
- **Prepared Meals:** Pasta sauces, hearty soups, stews, canned pasta, baked beans, or Mac & Cheese.
- **Fruits:** Canned fruit in its own juice or 100% fruit juice.
- **Vegetables:** Especially carrots, potatoes, yams, or tomatoes.
- **Baking Goods:** Cake mix, flour, or sugar.
- **Fresh Produce:** Onions, garlic, oranges, carrots, potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, pears, bananas, or other produce that does not require refrigeration.
- **Other Items:** Olive oil, canola oil, broths, lemon juice, or vinegar. Spices such as pepper, cinnamon, oregano, parsley, or chili powder. Healthy snacks like nuts or crackers. Condiments, such as ketchup, mayo, or salad dressing.



October Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Rich Washburn | 10/1 |
| Stephanie Hess | 10/3 |
| Carole Borneman | 10/4 |
| Chris Lucera | 10/5 |
| Mary Reinhardt | 10/6 |
| Adam Davis | 10/13 |
| Lang, Nichol | 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 |

Silver Linings

Admittedly, I don't always turn to God when looking for guidance thinking I can handle things on my own.

I have been struggling, for sometime, to continue to work or retire.

Covid days arrived and the pressure increased and I had to make a decision.

Turning to my God the way became clear...

**"I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the Voice I hear
Falling on my ear"**

As hymns speak to us and through much prayer, God did walk with me and He did talk with me and showed me the way.

I HAVE RETIRED!!

Silver Lining...

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us"

As hard as it was CLOSING the one door, the OPEN door immediately allowed me to be available to share precious time with Gianna!! What a blessing.

God is an Awesome God!! We just need to let Him lead the way!!

Many blessing to you all...



Becky Schroeder

Church Cook Book

It's almost ready! Lots of recipes have been submitted. The printing has started. The books should be available by the beginning of November. Be sure to look over your Christmas and birthday list and see who might enjoy this collection of the tried and true best of our wonderful church cooks! Remember, all the proceeds will be used to help with the cost of replacing our church steeple that has a considerable leaking issue.



YOUTH GROUP

The youth group has begun meeting this past September and it has been wonderful to see some of our youth. We are meeting outside for the safety of one another and our close ones. Currently we are meeting from 11:30-12:30 outside the church, if there is ever a change Peter will notify the families. We would appreciate prayers as our students are starting up in person classes again and prayers for the safety of their friends and family.

Behind the scenes at Sunday Morning Worship Service



Ryon our Seminary Intern







Anna Kimbel and Charlotte Lucera receive their 3rd grade Bibles

Third grade has been a milestone for many over the years. At this point most children are able to read chapter books and a whole new world opens up to them. The church takes this opportunity to place into children's hands the most important book of them all, one that can transform and mold their lives by revealing God's truth and love – the Bible. It is the most read and most sold book of all times – 3.9 billion copies in the past fifty years! Now, two of our beloved young friends are among those who have been nurtured in their faith by God's revelation in paper form. May God bless them in their faith journey!

Operating Fund

Eight Months Ended
August 31, 2020

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended July 31, 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------------|
| Offering & Misc Income | \$ | 127,618 |
| Large Fund Income | | <u>15,109</u> |
| Total Income | | 142,727 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Pastor Compensation | 63,329 |
| Staff | 34,162 |
| Office | 10,916 |
| Music & Worship | 1,754 |
| Christian Education | 957 |
| Property | 13,162 |
| Stewardship/Finance | 303 |
| Parish Life | 0 |
| Mission | <u>4,400</u> |
| Total Expenses | 128,984 |

2020 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) 13,743

Fund Balance @ 12/31/19 38,060

Fund Balance @ 8/31/20 \$ 51,803

Capital Campaign @ 8/31/20

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Pledge Receipts | <u>\$ 304,618</u> |
| Pledge & Non-Pledge | \$ 332,449 |
| Construction Loan | <u>190,000</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 522,449</u> |
| Disbursements | <u>\$ 441,845</u> |

Benevolence Fund

31-August-20

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Balance @ 7/31/20 | \$4,496 |
| Receipts & Transfers | |
| Disbursements: | |
| Balance @ 8/31/20 | <u>\$4,496</u> |

We're waiting for sub- contractors!



The rear entrance framing is in place and our contractor is putting together a schedule for completion of the work by sub-contractors. After the Covid-19 months-long shut down, the construction industry is very busy and scheduling has been a challenge.

We don't want to go through winter without the completed rear entrance and final paving; and we have expressed our concern to the contractor. Work should be moving along soon!

*Things continue to
happen on the
Capital Campaign
projects!*





BIG LEAGUES BOMBERS CLOTHING DRIVE

Saturday, October 24th
9 AM to 1 PM at Newtown Fire Station 45

***Clean out your closets for a good
cause and help support the
Big Leagues Bombers on their trip
to Cooperstown Dreams Park!***



**Clothes, Coats, Shoes, Sheets, Towels, Blankets,
Curtains, Stuffed Animals and Bikes**

No baby gear, books, electronics or household items -
Visit www.clothingdrive.net for more information.

Questions? Contact Gina at crowne@comcast.net
Newtown Fire Dept, 14 Liberty Street, Newtown

**Logan Hyndman's Baseball Team is hosting a
fundraiser for the Big Leagues Bombers.
Contact : Jolie Hyndman at 267-471-2761
or email Jolie at: joliejo01@gmail.com
To arrange for Pick Up.**

**BSA Troop 71
at Forest Grove Church
are having their Annual Holiday Fundraiser
September 21 - November 2
To raise funds for a new troop trailer and equipment.**



Beautiful Christmas Wreaths, swags and centerpieces from Sherwood Forest Farms that are working with the BSA on this fundraiser.

**Help support our Boys Scouts by going to :
<https://sherwoodfundraiser.com/bsatrop71>
All profits go directly to Troop 71.**

“Happy Home” from Esther Welch



**4 cups of Love, 2 cups of Loyalty, 3 cups of Forgiveness,
1 Tbls. of Hope, 2 tsps. of Kindness, 2 tsps. of Tenderness,
4 cups of Faith, 1 barrel of Laughter.**

**Mix Love and Loyalty with Faith, blend Tenderness and
Kindness with understanding, add Friendship and Hope,
sprinkle abundantly with Laughter.**

Bake with Sunshine and serve a generous helping daily.

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

O C T O B E R 2 0 2

**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
Director of Youth and Family Ministry
and Seminary Intern: Peter Jonescu
Seminary Intern: Ryon Herin
Music Director: Leanne Yerkes
Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan
Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org
www.ForestGroveChurch.org

