

The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church February 2022

Pastor's Notes

“He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.” -- Psalm 91:4

What were you doing when the winter storm hit the east coast recently? Our Scout Troop 71 was doing what it seems that scouts do at such times – camp out! I’ve said for years that if there is foul weather, there is a scout troop camping somewhere in the middle of it.

The boys had originally planned to go to a camp in the Poconos where they would be learning about ice fishing and other such wintry activities. But the Pocono weather wasn’t predicted to be as severe as it was to be here at home so, of course, they decided to brave the elements in Forest Grove. (Of course the severe wind-chill factor caused the Pocono camp to cancel all activities, but never mind.)

Instead of being disappointed, the boys and their leaders saw this as a great opportunity to learn survival skills including how to make a snow cave in which they would sleep as opposed to their usual tents. It was like that old saying, “Where God closes a door, somewhere God opens a window!”

When I saw the troop Sunday morning before worship, instead of their being half frozen and bedraggled, they were bright-eyed and enthusiastic. I was reminded by this positivity that no matter what, God is faithful and will see us through whatever storm comes our way – pandemics, reduction of income, loss of dearly beloved ones, illness or just aging bodies, to name but a few.

One thing to note, those boys didn’t get through the weekend on their own. They had knowledgeable leaders and the resources necessary to not only survive, but thrive. So it is with all of us. We don’t face the “elements” alone but God gives us just what and who we need. That’s why the faith community is so important. We are not alone! The boys made snow caves with their leader’s help – we made the church with God’s help! Their snow caves are still standing and so is Forest Grove Church!

Yours in Christ’s service,

Pastor Sue



THE IGLESIA PENTECOSTAL ASAMBLEA DE DIOS CONGREGATION AT FOREST GROVE HAS CLOSED

A little over three years ago our congregation was approach with a request to allow a Spanish-speaking congregation (IPADD) to meet in our church building. This consisted of a small group of families who had been worshipping in each other's homes as opposed to traveling to Trenton to meet in the "Mother" church. The Spirit moved among them swelling their numbers to the extent that no home could accommodate their needs. And so, they looked to us.

What a joy to have another faith community use our space! It was our original intent to provide opportunities for our two congregations to engage in fellowship and even a joint ministry project. Then the pandemic hit and everything shut down. Like our own congregation, the IPADD congregation met on Zoom. Also, like us, eventually they started to meet again in the building but with greatly reduced numbers.

Sadly, as much as their pastor and those who remained prayed that the Spirit would reignite faithful passion among the missing, that didn't happen. On Thursday, January 20, the congregation met to discuss honestly their situation. In the end they felt they could no longer support themselves and their mission and so resolved to close their congregation.

It is with great sadness we receive this news. We are sad for the congregation as they were so full of the Spirit before the pandemic. We are sad that our two congregation will not have the opportunity to bring our gifts together for any joint ministry. We are sad for their pastor who will return to work at the Mother church, but won't have his own pulpit from which to proclaim God's word.

Of course, there is also the practical side of this. We will also miss the additional income we would have received from their monthly rental of the space. This has financial implications for our own church budget as the rental income amounted to \$16,200 per year.

It has always been our commitment to use these funds to pay the mortgage we were forced to take on to complete our capital improvements. The session, with the counsel of the Stewardship Committee, will be prayerfully making adjustments to accommodate this financial shortfall which, in all likelihood, will lead to an appeal to the congregation for additional financial support.

Although the financial aspect of the IPADD decisions have a direct impact on us, we want to pray for all of them trusting that God will hold them and lead them into new ways of faithfulness. May this be our prayer for us all.



THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Each Thursday evening at 7:00 a group meets on Zoom to study God's Word. Recently we have been examining some of the difficult sayings of Jesus – and they are difficult, but their message for us is so very important! No Biblical expertise is necessary, but Pastor Su does give “gold stars” upon occasion for answers. The Zoom link is the same as the one we use for Sunday worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> **Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.** A new study will begin on March 10 that will carry through Lent. Please note that each week's lesson is independent. If you miss a week, you won't be scrambling to catch up.



SCOUT SUNDAY – March 6

Join us in worship on March 6 at 10:00 when our Troop 71 will be assisting Pastor Su in worship. This is a fantastic group of young men and their leaders and we will have the opportunity to enjoy their gifts and faithfulness. This service will be held both in-person and virtually on Zoom. Mark your calendar as you will not want to miss this special Sunday.

BSA is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with about 2.3 million youth participants and about one million adult volunteers. The BSA was founded in 1910, and since then, about 110 million Americans participated in BSA programs at some time in their lives. BSA is part of the international Scout Movement and became a founding member organization of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1922 – 100 years ago!

The stated mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." Youth are trained in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations.

We are proud to be the sponsoring organization for Troop #71.



NEW BLANKET-MAKING GROUP HAS STARTED

In response to an appeal from Doylestown Hospital, a new group is meeting during and after lunch on Wednesdays to knit/crochet/sew blankets that will be donated to the hospital's hospice and cancer patients. The dimensions for the blankets are: lapghans 36" x 48", and the throws 48" x 48" up to 48" x 60". The hospital welcomes quilts and sewn items as well. For questions about the hospital request, contact Marilyn Cook.

No prior knowledge is necessary as there are those in the group that are more than happy to teach. Fleece blankets are also welcome. We are asking everyone to bring their own supplies, but there are those in the group willing to share yarn to get folks started. If you are unable to attend on Wednesdays, folks at home are also welcome to participate at home and then bring your finished product to the church.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

As has been our tradition here at Forest Grove, on Super Bowl Sunday, February 13, we will be making homemade soup that will then be donated to “Caring Friends” formerly known as “Aid for Friends.” This organization provides meals and friendship to older adults in our area.

We are asking for donated food items that can be put into a pot of chicken soup – no noodles, please. Soup making will begin at 9:30 before worship and be completed after the service. All are invited to participate in whatever way they are able.

In addition to soup, we are also going to pack lunches for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. This is a project we took on during the “Church Has Left the Building” missions last November. For this project we are asking for homemade cookies that can be put into baggies for the lunches. In addition, we would also like donations of pre-packed individual servings of apple sauce. There is still a lot of hunger out there and we can help, even in a small way.

**SAVE THE DATE
FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



Joining with the Anchor Presbyterian Church, this year we are offering VBS for those in preschool – 6th grade the week of June 27 – July 1. As in the past, it will be at 9:00 AM – noon. Pastor Su is recruiting volunteers to lead arts & crafts, recreation, science, refreshments and music. Adults and teens are needed who will be partnering with volunteers from Anchor. This year's theme is "God's Great Big Beautiful World." Registration will begin soon!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
ADVENTURE CAMP**



Last year we had a blast going on one adventure after another. This year even more adventures are being planned for those in 7th – 10th grade. Save the week: July 11-15, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Check out next month's newsletter for all the adventures for the week. Meanwhile, here's a tease – Kayaking (of course) and a day at the beach (of course). There will also be some new adventures. Friends are welcome to join us but there is a limit of 10 participants.

SAVE-THE-DATE!

JULY 24-27, 2022

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM July 24 – 27.

It only happens every three years and this is the year when our denomination will gather youth from around the country and around the world for an awesome faith-building, friendship-making experience that is like no other. Held at the Indianapolis Convention Center, 9th – 12th graders (those who just graduated) will be staying in adjoining hotels. Youth from the Philadelphia Presbytery will come together as a delegation led by Pastor Su and Christian Heyer-Rivera of First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. There are also other adult chaperones from the presbytery that will round out the leadership team.

Because of the pandemic, the national leadership team is still working out the details of this year's event but will have them solidified by mid-February. As soon as those details are known, they will be passed along to eligible youth and their parents. In the past, this event has cost individuals \$150 as it is heavily subsidized by both our presbytery and our congregation. It is our hope that some of our youth will want to engage in this memorable and formative experience. Please talk to Pastor Su if you have questions. She will share with you as much as she knows at this time and by the end of the month will put out all the details.

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Carillon Schedule 2022

The carillon plays each day at 12 noon and at 6:00 in the evening and plays 3 different selections each time

Carillon Schedule for 2022

Date	Name	Date	Name	Date	Name
1/9	Anna B. Brambley	5/8	Ted R. Rockafellow	9/4	Bob A. Gastgeb
1/16	Brent W. Daniels	5/15	Given Landis	9/11	Sam Gallagher
1/23	George & June Kallett	5/22	Earl & Pinky Hampton	9/18	Sarah H. Smith
1/30	Flora Daniels	5/29	Earl T. Daniels	9/25	Walter Mill
2/6	Edith L. Elliott	6/5	Reta Kruse	10/2	John & Helen Schroeder
2/13	Dallas T. Chambers	6/12	Myrl Worthington	10/9	Dr. Robert Swain
2/20	Frank L. Greenwood	6/19	John F. Kruse Jr.	10/16	Emily F. Morris
2/27	Charles & Wayne Hurst	6/26	Linda Ann Humlhanz	10/23	Thomas J. Frederick
3/6	In Honor of Scouting	7/3	*Richard A. Rathgeber	10/30	Rudy & Sally Kalozi
3/13	Alice Gilbert	7/10	George A. Smith	11/6	Ray Purdy
3/20	Martin Klair	7/17	Addis C. Worthington	11/13	W. Earl Rockafellow
3/27	Watson F. Rockafellow	7/24	Ruth S. Rathgeber	11/20	Ruth C. Fawcett
		7/31	Mr. & Mrs. Frederick S. Mack	11/27	Addis Cosner
4/3	Jennie Leedom	8/7	Jack Fawcett	12/4	Charles & Jennie Kirk
4/10	Florence Blumrick	8/14	Florence L. Klair	12/11	Mr. & Mrs. Tobias Kratz Landis
4/17	*Emma Rockafellow	8/21	Almeda M. Tussey	12/18	Emma K. Ashworth
4/24	Joseph A. Frye	8/28	Clarence Knipe Sr.	12/25	*Loved Ones
5/1	Anne C. Klair			1/1/23	Thomas D. Frederick

*Emma Rockafellow Always Easter Week

*Richard A. Rathgeber Always 4th of July, Patriotic

*Christmas Week Always "Loved Ones"



Happy New Year! Youth group resumed on January 23rd, 2022 bi-weekly. The group had a lesson on the new year, and how each of us in the new year has the potential to become new with God. We played the game "Revolution, Resolution, In-between " and had a great time playing Monopoly afterwards. I wanted to give a huge shout out to all the youth, parents, and community members who helped out the youth group get to where we are today! Kudos to you all!

Our next group will be taking place on February 6th, 2022 at 6:30pm-8pm. We will be celebrating the holiday of love (Valentine's Day), and how God's love teaches us all to love one another in our daily lives. There will be some interesting games, snacks, and we will be writing cards to local nursing homes and youth homeless shelters! Supplies for the cards will be at the church so do not worry about having to bring any materials. We are still wearing masks as a precaution toward Covid19. If anyone else in the community would like to help participate you are more than welcome! Youth Group isn't just for church members. It is open for anyone in 7th- 12th grade.

Please let me know via text or email who is able to make it!

215-990-2494

Many Blessings, Jason Gordon

Our Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

Youth Group



Happy
Wednesday!

PRESENTED BY: UNICITY OF OREM SOCIETY

Join us each Wednesday
At noon
For Lunch
Bring your sandwich
and Beverage



BE LOVED.
BE KIND.
BE YOU.

Celebrating
FEBRUARY
Birthdays

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

Elder of the Month:

Pat Gessner

Deacon of the Month:

Rachel Dell'Orefice



FGPC FINANCIALS Ended December 31, 2021

Operating Fund

For the Twelve Months Ended
December 31, 2021

Offering & Misc Income	\$	169,991
Large Fund Income		<u>25,622</u>
Total Income		\$195,613

Expenses

Pastor Compensation		94,263
Staff		45,179
Office		18,199
Music & Worship		1,454
Christian Education		2,869
Property		23,361
Stewardship/Finance		807
Parish Life		214
Mission		4,780
Other		<u>0</u>
Total Expenses		\$191,127

2021 Operating Fund

<u>Surplus (Deficit)</u>		4,486
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Fund Balance @ 12/31/20		<u>66,731</u>
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Fund Balance @ 12/31/21	\$	<u>71,217</u>
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Capital Campaign @12/31/21

Pledge Receipts		<u>\$ 304,618</u>
Pledge & Non-Pledge		\$ 412,794
Construction Loan		<u>215,000</u>
Total		<u>\$ 627,794</u>
Disbursements		<u>\$ 569,684</u>

Benevolence Fund

31-December-21

Balance @ 11/30/21		\$ 4,696
Receipts & Transfers		39
Disbursements:		
Balance @ 12/31/21		<u>\$4,734</u>

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

PO Box 462

Forest Grove, PA 18922



All are Welcome

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Church Office Hours

9am-2pm (Monday-Thursdays)

Phone 215-794-8575

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Director of Youth Ministry: Jason Gordon

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org