

The Focus
Forest Grove Presbyterian Church April 2022

Pastor Notes

“Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’” -- Mark 15:37-39

It’s time. Just this past Monday I asked Paul W. to remove the Plexiglas partition that has been attached to the pulpit now since we moved worship inside last fall due to the pandemic. The barrier was put in place in order to protect the congregation from the possibility of my spreading the virus. Standing behind it was like being in another world apart from the congregation. Oh, the field of vision was clear, but I always noticed that there was something blocking me from everyone. It felt like I was in my own little world. I could see you, but I wasn’t with you.

Maybe that’s why God sent Jesus to live among us. God could see us, but as much as God communicated through the prophets, God wasn’t with us, not in the way that God wanted like when God walked with us hand-in-hand in Eden. God’s love for us is so great that this separation would not do. And so God took on flesh and dwelt among us – no partition, Plexiglas or otherwise.

In the gospels we hear about how at the time of Jesus’ death the veil of the temple was torn in two. That “veil” is a large curtain that provides a barrier between worshipers and the center of the Temple, the Holy of Holies where God was believed to dwell, as in the throne of God. Only the High Priest was permitted entrance. It was kind of like the curtain that concealed the Wizard of Oz.

When that curtain was torn in two, nothing blocked entrance to God – not a virus, social status, heartache, or our messed up tarnished sinful selves. We are all invited and welcomed into the presence and power of God.

This is what we celebrate on Easter – God with us, not as a tiny vulnerable baby, but as a risen and all-powerful Savior. Nothing can separate us now, not even death. Halleluiah!

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Su



THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The group will conclude their study of the themes from Les Miserable on April 21 at 7:00. It has been an interesting and challenging study of God's justice and mercy. The 21st will be the last meeting of the group until September

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 10

10:00am

Palm Sunday Worship.
Palms will be distributed



Maundy Thursday, April 14 6-7pm

Maundy Thursday Worship.
A light supper will be served as well as Communion. Soup and bread will be served as well as Communion. Soup and bread makers are needed. Please call the church office to volunteer.

Good Friday, April 15

12:00pm

Good Friday Worship. This service will held outside, weather permitting.

Easter Sunday, April 17

9:00am

Easter Potluck Breakfast. All are invited to bring breakfast food to share.

10:00am

Worship to be held outside next to the church near the playground, weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair if you are able. Additional chairs will be available.

11:00am

Easter Egg Hunt for the children



Blank Page

Fight Against Hunger Contest

Our mission is to serve those both near and far. To aid those who are in need, all are challenged to bring in food items to be donated to the Doylestown Food Pantry.

Be part of a team!

It's not too late to 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. Have fun! Please call the church office if you would like to participate but need a group.

Prizes will be awarded for donations.

Prizes will be awarded for the following:

- v Most balanced food group items
- v Most coupons used
- v Most green (the color) items
- v Most items using all the letters of the alphabet (first letter)
- v Largest pile of items
- v Most items found in the Bible
- v Heaviest pile of food
- v Wordle Food – food with five letters



Please bring all items to the church on Sunday morning, April 24* before worship. The Youth Group will serve as judges and deliver all items to the food pantry once prizes are awarded. Please note this change in the date.

BLANKET MINISTRY

Each Wednesday a group of faithful blanket makers come together to create knitted, crocheted or fleece blankets that are donated to Doylestown Hospital. These then become items of comfort to those either receiving cancer treatments or are in hospice care. In March we blessed the first batch of blankets during our worship service. The next batch will be blessed after Easter. All are welcome to come and participate in this care-giving ministry. The minimum skill necessary is to be able to either cut or tie knots.



MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORERS WEEK – July 11 – 15, 2022

We are going to do it again but are going to offer the camp to those in 6th – 12th grade. Monday – Friday, 9:00-4:00, youth are invited to participate in a weeklong series of adventures. Each day the group will engage in different activities that will take them beyond the church to engage in God's creation through different environment and outdoor experiences. Here's a list of just a few learning activities:

- fishing
- day at the shore
- kayaking in the Pine Barrens of NJ

Explorers are to bring their own lunch each day. Registration numbers are restricted to 10. Friends are welcome. There is a \$50 registration fee. Scholarships are available. Sign up by calling the church office. This program will be led by Pastor Su who is also looking for volunteers to help with transportation. Please contact her if you can help one or more days.





Vacation Bible School
June 27 – July 1
9:00 – Noon
with
Anchor Presbyterian
Preschool – 6th grade

This year we will be joining with The Anchor Presbyterian church for a joint VBS program. It will be held at Anchor, 980 Durham Rd., Wrightstown. Our children will come together for this interactive program where they will explore, celebrate, and care for God's good creation! To register your child go to <http://vbspro.events/p/c805d3> or call the church office.

To make this program a success, volunteers are needed to lead one of the activities, serve as a group “shepherd,” or help with making decorations. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Su.



Youth Group

Here's What's Happening!

The group has started a new thing called “Question of the Week.” Along with the leadership of Pastor Su and Missi Dell’Orefice, the group is being presented with a question about something happening around them and are given the opportunity to respond with their own honest thoughts and further questions. With all the “mess” going on in the world, this is a chance to wrestle with it in a safe platform. The group is using “What’s App.” It’s a private app that only group members can use. Any youth not in the What’s App group can talk with Pastor Su, Missi or Nathan Holton about joining.

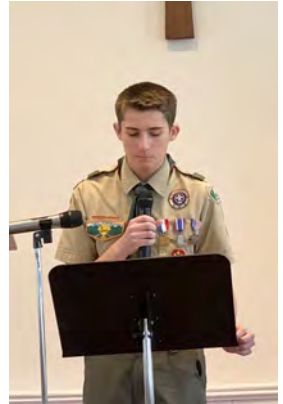
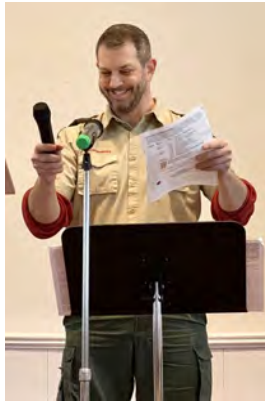
Other news: The group is meeting again on April 10 for another fun filled evening, 6:30 – 8:00. Be sure to mark your calendar!!



Ordination and Installation

Donna Jencks, Maggie Realley, Pat Gessner and Terry Holton

Boy Scouts Troop 71 A skit for our Sunday Congregation



**A special blessing
For all the handmade blankets that will be donated to
Doylestown Hospital Chemo Center.**





Thank you Tyler for helping to hand out our “Pray for Ukraine buttons”.

Thank you Doug and Vini for creating this beautiful wreath that is now displayed in our new Foyer



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Bob Propsner | 4/5 | Macey Schneyer | 4/19 |
| Kevin King | 4/6 | John Daniels | 4/20 |
| Jeffrey Greenwood | 4/7 | Evin Kimbel VI | 4/20 |
| Missi Dell'Orefice | 4/8 | Phyllis Scarpill | 4/23 |
| Emilia Lily Fullman | 4/11 | Sharon Conner | 4/24 |
| Cindy Dobbins | 4/12 | Louise Stemplewicz | 4/25 |
| Anna Samsel | 4/15 | Dale Borneman | 4/26 |
| Brenda Barnhart | 4/17 | Tyler Raab | 4/30 |
| Ben Wiley | 4/18 | | |

Elder of the Month:

Donna Jencks

Deacon of the Month:

Maggie Realley

Sunday School Teachers: Our Sunday School Teachers rotate each week. Thank you to the following Teachers: **Beth Conti, Kim King, Karen Myers, Ruth Squillace and Donna Jencks.**

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

April 3 Penny Kipe

April 10 Leanne Yerkes

April 17 Easter

April 24 Emilee Cullerton

Potluck Breakfast

Carillon March 2022 Schedule

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

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| April 3 | In memory of Jennie Leedom |
| April 10 | In memory of Florence Blumrick |
| April 17 | In memory of Emma Rockafellow |
| April 24 | In memory of Joseph A. Frye |

FGPC

Operating Fund

For the month Ended

February 2022

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended February 28, 2021

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Offering & Misc Income | \$ | 9,670 |
| Large Fund Income | | <u>1,976</u> |
| Total Income | | \$ 11,646 |

Expenses

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------|
| Pastor Compensation | | 8,428 |
| Staff | | 5,440 |
| Office | | 1,564 |
| Music & Worship | | 133 |
| Christian Education | | 264 |
| Property | | 3,109 |
| Stewardship/Finance | | 62 |
| Parish Life | | 0 |
| Mission | | 65 |
| PILP Loan Payment | | <u>1,271</u> |
| Total Expenses | | \$20,337 |

2021 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) (8,691)

Fund Balance @ 12/31/21 71,217

Fund Balance @ 2/28/22 \$ 62,527

Capital Campaign @2/28/22

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| Pledge Receipts | | <u>\$ 304,618</u> |
| Pledge & Non-Pledge | | \$ 2,190 |
| Total | | <u>\$ 2,190</u> |
| Disbursements | | <u>\$ 0.00</u> |

Benevolence Fund

28-February-22

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Balance @ 1/31/22 | | \$ 4,734 |
| Receipts & Transfers | | |
| Disbursements: | | |
| Balance @ 2/28/22 | | <u>\$4,734</u> |

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

PO Box 462

Forest Grove, PA 18922



All are Welcome

A P R I L

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule

10:00 am Worship

Church Office Hours

9am-2pm (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Phone 215-794-8575

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Frank Orzechoski, Treasurer

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org