

*The Focus*  
*Forest Grove Presbyterian Church, June 2022*

Pastor's Notes

*"I give you all the credit, God— you got me out of that mess, you didn't let my foes gloat. God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. God, you pulled me out of the grave, gave me another chance at life when I was down-and-out.*

*All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God! Thank him to his face! He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only love. The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter." -- Psalm 30:1-5 The Message*

Summer is here! Well, unofficially as we have turned the corner with the celebration of Memorial Day. As I ponder what to write in my pastor's article, I want to write about the beauty of the season with flowers blooming and my fan blowing a cool breeze on my face where for the next 4-5 months my nose won't feel like an ice cube.

That's what I want to write about, but I can't. Somehow that just doesn't feel honest. In this moment, my heart is heavy, like so many others, as we reel from the recent mass shootings not to mention the continued war in the Ukraine and the ongoing struggle with COVID. Mostly, my heart is heavy due to the senseless loss of innocent lives in the pandemic of mass shootings.

The Psalmist asks the question that many of us ask, "How long, O Lord?" How long will we continue to endure such horrific tragedy? Maybe you are like me and you feel powerless in the face of all of this. I say my prayers but surely there must be more that I can do.

Recently I read an article written by Jon Mathieu, one of the editors of the periodical *Christian Century*. He wrote, “Seeing so many vigils, protests, and social media posts that name the 21 victims in Texas, I’ve had death and the deceased on my mind. I’m grateful that faith and community give us tools to face death and mourn our lost loved ones.”

That’s right, we have the tools to face tragedy, disappointment and sadness. This is our power. Maybe it seems like just a little thing, but to those who suffer, it isn’t. When chaos happens and there are no clear answers and lives are lost for no good reason, we are called to help people by journeying with those who suffer, and offer the love and compassion and grace that may witness to the fact that joy will, someday, come again into their lives. We are the witnesses to resurrection, to the worst thing never being the last thing. As followers of Jesus this is the foundation of our lives and is the message we can and should share.

So as I look over the planned activities for this summer that are included in this newsletter, I can smile remembering that “weeping may linger for the night but joy comes in the morning.” We weep with those who weep; we express our outrage and proclaim the gospel calling for change knowing all the while that God has not abandoned God’s people. God is working in and through you and me and beyond our little community. In the fullness of time, it will be good. For now, we can and must witness to the world that there is life, summer, laughter and joy even in times such as these.

Yours in Christ’s service,

*Pastor Sue*





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 27 – July 1, 9:00 ‘til noon  
It’s a Great Big Beautiful World that God has created and children in preschool – 6<sup>th</sup> grade will learn about and enjoy this wonderful world together. We are expanding our big beautiful world to include the children and adults of The Anchor Presbyterian Church. This year the program will be held at their church but all are welcome as there will be leaders from both churches working together to make this a very special week. It’s not too late to register:  
<http://vbspro.events/p/c805d3>.





To celebrate a great week of Vacation Bible School, Forest Grove and The Anchor Presbyterian Church will have a joint worship service on July 3. Anchor will hosted VBS and since awesome decorations from that week will still be in place, the service will be held there: 980 Durham Rd, Newtown, PA 18940. It's located just a few miles from our church on Rte. 413. The service will be held at our usual time, 10:00 AM and will also be available on our usual Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> **Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.** After worship all are invited to remain for a potluck picnic lunch and fellowship. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office and let us know if you will be attending so we are sure to have enough hot dogs and lemonade!



## **CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY – JUNE 25**

It's time to do some sprucing up around the church. There are cobwebs to clean off, windows and pews to clean, refrigerators to wash down and lots of dusts to remove. We also want to do some closet organizing. Lots of help would be appreciated. If you can help, please be at the church at 9:00 AM. Bring cleaning supplies if you can. Mr. Clean Magic Erasers are particularly helpful.

## CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Remember when Nathan Holton, Ainsley Dobbins, Sara Hovagimyan, and Collette Bush were chasing after each other as young children? Remember when they made their own confession of faith as members of the Confirmation Class? Well, now we will be creating a new “Remember when” as we celebrate with them their High School graduation. During worship on June 19 we will honor their achievement. Congratulations and well done!



## **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 10**

It's not too late to sign-up to attend the Strawberry Festival on Friday evening starting at 6:00. Not only will we enjoy delicious Strawberry Shortcake but we will also be firing up the grill for hot dogs to be served with baked beans, vegetables and chips. It will be an evening of fun and fellowship. Please sign-up by calling the church office by Wednesday, June 8. Bring a friend and come hungry!

Members of the Property Committee at work moving a few hundred pounds away from the parking lot!



## DIRECTORY UPDATES:

### **Dick Wright**

Bridges Assistant Living  
1600 Almshouse Road  
Jamison, Pa 18929  
215-792-7475  
Cell Phone: 215-262-7121

### **Nancy Shvanda**

352 Founders Village  
Meadowood  
Lansdale, Pa 19446  
267-885-4134

### **Jim and Marge Turner**

100 West Avenue  
#208W  
Jenkintown, Pa 19046  
Marge's cell 215-534-0474



Join us each Wednesday

At noon

For Lunch

Bring your sandwich and Beverage  
Followed by Knitting or Crocheting for  
Doylestown Hospital



### **OUR NEW ADDRESS:**

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, Pa 18925-1120



Dana Daniels	6/1	Nancy Shvanda	6/13
Donna Jencks	6/1	Jason Dell'Orefice	6/17
Violet Sanders	6/1	Gianna Schroeder	6/18
Martha Greenwood	6/2	Janice Propsner	6/19
David Posnett	6/4	Kathryn Cornell	6/20
Ruth McMahon	6/5	Benjamin Shvanda	6/21
Gavin Sanders	6/5	Charles Dell'Orefice	6/22
Sandy Forsyth	6/6	Karin Davis	6/23
Paul Wachtendorf	6/8	Susan Flanagan	6/25
Jenny Kimbel	6/10	Faith Hyndman	6/27
Marge Turner	6/11		

**Elder of the Month:**

**Bill Wark**

**Deacon of the Month:**

**Gerry Stemplewicz**

**Sunday Morning Coffee Host:**

***June 5 Donna Jencks***

***June 26 Emilee Cullerton***

***June 12 Sarah Fall-Lucera***

***June 19 Marth Greenwood***

**Carillon June 2022 Schedule**

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

**June 5** In memory of Reta Kruse

**June 12** In memory of Myrl Worthington

**June 19** In memory of John F. Kruse Jr.

**June 26** In memory of Linda Ann Humlhanz

**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended April, 2022**

**FGPC**

**Operating Fund**

For the month Ended  
April 2022

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	\$	10,045
Large Fund Income		<u>0</u>
Total Income		\$ 10,045

**Expenses**

Pastor Compensation		8,124
Staff		3,878
Office		1,794
Music & Worship		614
Christian Education		112
Property		2,948
Stewardship/Finance		68
Parish Life		113
Mission		0
PILP Loan Payment		<u>564</u>
Total Expenses		\$18,215

**2022 Operating Fund**

**Surplus (Deficit)** (8,170)

Fund Balance @ 3/31/22 87,396

Fund Balance @ 4/30/22 \$ 79,226

<b><u>Benevolence Fund</u></b>	
<b><u>30-April-22</u></b>	
Balance @ 1/31/22	\$ 4,734
Receipts & Transfers	4,032
Disbursements:	
Balance @ 4/30/22	<u>\$ 8,766</u>

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



**J U N E**

**2 0 2 2**

**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](mailto:pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org)

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan

Frank Orzechoski, Asst. Treasurer

Mark Lempp, Grounds Keeper

Email: [office@forestgrovechurch.org](mailto:office@forestgrovechurch.org)

[www.ForestGroveChurch.org](http://www.ForestGroveChurch.org)