

The Focus

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church April 2023

Pastor's Notes

“So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’” -- Matthew 28:8-10

As I write this article, it's Sunday afternoon and the sunny spring skies called to me. For the past two days it was gray and rainy causing my mood to be gloomy. So after writing all the newsletter articles, I needed a break and some inspiration so I closed up the computer and went for a walk.

Spring is my favorite time of the year and I don't like missing even a moment of it. When I drove home from church, I noticed the ornamental pear trees are budded and ready to burst into bloom. The yellow celandine, forsythia, daffodils and hyacinths have emerged from their slumber and even the crocuses are hanging on. Ah, spring!

And so I went for a walk around the pond next door. For a short while, I wasn't alone. Two boys that looked like they were in middle school came onto the path as well. This is rather unusual. Yes, there are often adults who take advantage of the walkway, but I can't recall ever seeing adolescents taking a promenade around the water basin. I wondered if their mom kicked them out of the house so they would get some fresh air.

I watched those two as they made their way and what I noticed was no real surprise – they had their gaze fixed on their phones! Even as they chatted to each other, their eyes were peeled on their hand-held devices. “Boys, you are missing it!” I thought to myself.

After traversing the walkway about half way around, they exited and I sighed. But isn't that they way of things, I thought to myself. So often we have our gaze fixed downward that we don't look up and see the beauty that is around us. It reminded me of something Sharon Ruth said during Bible study one Thursday night when she suggested that there is beauty all around us, we just have to lift our eyes to see it.

I know I am guilty of often looking down at my device – the phone, computer or TV and see the ugly images of hate, violence, greed, and injustice. We do need to look down and see those things, but that isn't the only images out there, even though at times it would seem so. There is beauty all around us, God-given beauty, the Spirit at work. These are life-giving images and all we have to do is look up and see.

This is Easter. Yes, there's a cross on the hill, but there is also an empty tomb. There were grave clothes, but there was and *is* a Savior who greets us and walks with us. Look up. Just as the flowers are blooming with life, so is the world around us. This is the risen Savior with us. We just have to see him.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Su



Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 2

10:00am

Palm Sunday Worship.
Palms will be distributed

Good Friday, April 7

6:00pm

Good Friday Worship.
This service will begin with a simple soup supper and then participants will walk with Jesus including the events of his arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:00am

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

10:00am

Worship

11:00am

Easter Egg Hunt for the children



Per Capita Apportionment Sunday – May 7, 2023

Each year all congregations of the Presbyterian Church USA are asked to support the work of the denomination at the presbytery, synod and General Assembly level. Giving is based on church membership. We are asking each church member, if they are able, to give their fair share either on May 7th or any time leading up until then. Apportionment giving can be made online as well. Please indicate “per capita” on your donation. The graphic below gives the way in which our apportionment is divided.

PER CAPITA OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA

*We invite you to participate in Christ's work
as we sustain our shared witness*

\$32.00

2023 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER MEMBER



\$19.75

to support Presbytery infrastructure necessary for shared ministries in Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties



\$2.40

to the Synod, which consists of 16 Presbyteries across Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia and Ohio



\$9.85

to the Office of General Assembly, which supports our Synods, Presbyteries, and over 10,000 congregations

PRESBYTERY WIDE 2023 GOAL

\$640,000

Per capita is the amount constitutionally required of each church per member to enable the work of the PC(USA) on the local, synod, and General Assembly levels.

Throughout Lent our congregation has once again been receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in the form of loose change as well as dollar bills. This is an annual offering that is collected by Presbyterians across the country as well as other mainline denominations.



Our donations make a positive difference for hungry and hurting people. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, and *Self-Development of People* – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

During this sacred time of year, remember the love Christ shared with others. Your giving not only helps those in need but it gives hope to our neighbors and shows that even during difficult times, love remains.



It's "Italian Night" on April 14

Get ready to slurp up some spaghetti and meatballs as we gather for fun and fellowship starting at 6:00pm. Our mission this month is Soles4Souls, an organization that distributes new and gently used shoes to those who would otherwise go barefoot or in poor fitting or well-worn shoes. Donations of footwear can be made that evening or any time between Easter and the 14th. Our hands-on mission project will be to decorate socks with puffy paint making them slip-proof. These will be donated to Heritage Pointe Assisted Living.



Sign-up for this fun evening in Fellowship Hall. Remember, it is ok to leave early in order to beat sunset, but the sun that evening is scheduled to set at 7:34 PM. Please make a note that Friday Night Fellowship in May will be held on May 5th and the theme is "Mexican Night" – Cinco de Mayo!





Save the Date: Wednesday May 10, Mother's Day Tea

At noon we will gather for a special lunch that will be provided by the Parish Life Committee. This will be including guests celebration of our mothers but the lunch is open for everyone

. Bring a photo of your mom or someone who was very special and mother-like to you and we will try to guess who belongs to whom. After the lunch, Vini Christie will give a flower arrangement demonstration. A free-will offering will be taken to offset the costs



Thursday Night

BIBLE STUDY

The group will not be meeting during Holy Week, but will resume on Thursday evening, April 13. It's only a ninety minute lesson that begins at 7:00 and ends promptly at 8:30 PM.

The great thing about it is that it meets on Zoom. So on these warm spring evenings, you can take your computer or tablet or phone and sit outside, if you wish, and listen to the sound of the spring peepers and the Spirit as Pastor Su leads in exploring God's word to us.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 26 – 30,
9:00 – Noon
with Anchor**



Once again this will be a joint VBS program to be held at Anchor, 980 Durham Rd., Wrightstown. The rainforest adventure awaits! Children in grades pre-school thru sixth grade will learn together how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and throughout our lives. We might feel lost, but He'll show us the way. He'll never leave us. To register go to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/62355b>.

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.





In February Rev. Shaunel Steinnagel preached and introduced our congregation to The Welcome Church, *a church without walls*. This is a community of faith that ministers to the needs of the homeless. Since then our congregation assembled two “Welcome Home Kits,” items needed in a new home, and donated them to two individuals moving from homelessness into permanent housing.

On Sunday, April 30, our youth and any others who wish to join in, will travel to Philadelphia to worship with this congregation. The youth will be providing refreshments for Coffee Hour which takes place before the service begins. **It will be necessary to leave Forest Grove at 1:45** in order to arrive ahead of the service which is at 3:00. Worship is held outside, rain or shine, and lasts about thirty minutes. There will be a sign up in Fellowship Hall for all who wish to attend. We will form carpools.

Here's What's Happening at Youth Group



April 2: 6:30 – 8:00. It's always a blast at youth group but this week we will reach new heights (hint) when we meet at the church.

April 16: 6:30 – 8:00. Spring Scavenger Hunt

April 30: 1:45 – 5:00. Worship at *The Welcome Church* in Philadelphia. This is an outdoor service that ministers to the homeless. Our group will provide the Coffee Hour refreshments to be distributed before the service begins. After the half hour service that begins at 3:00, we will go out for ice cream to talk about the experience.



Samuel Holton's Eagle Project:

As many of you know, I am a Life Scout in Troop 71, and my Eagle project is to finish the playground. Nathan moved the playground into place, and I will be fencing the area and adding trees.

The project has been approved by the BSA and the forms have been signed. I'm ready to get the supplies and start building the fence. I hope to have the project completed by the end of April to mid May.

Of course, the supplies cost money. If you would like to donate to my project, please send your donation to Forest Grove Presbyterian Church and write *Samuel's Eagle Project* in the memo line of your check. This will make sure I will be able to use your donation. Any size donation will be helpful. I'll keep you updated. Thanks – Samuel

Spring Cleanup



Forest Grove Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 22 9 AM – 12 PM

There are lots of things that need to be done to help keep our building and property in good shape – and there is something for all skill levels. Here are some of things that need to be done:

Wiping some of the sanctuary pews, tidying the hymnals, sharpening pencils.

Dusting pews, furniture, window sills.
Cleaning all counters in the kitchen.

Washing all interior windows.

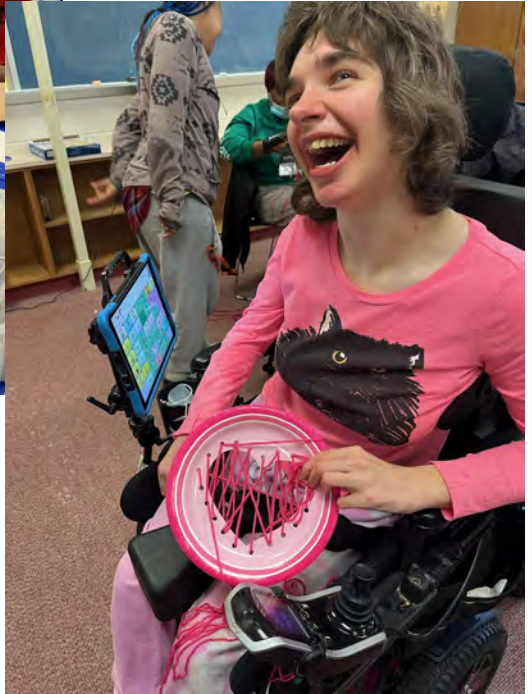
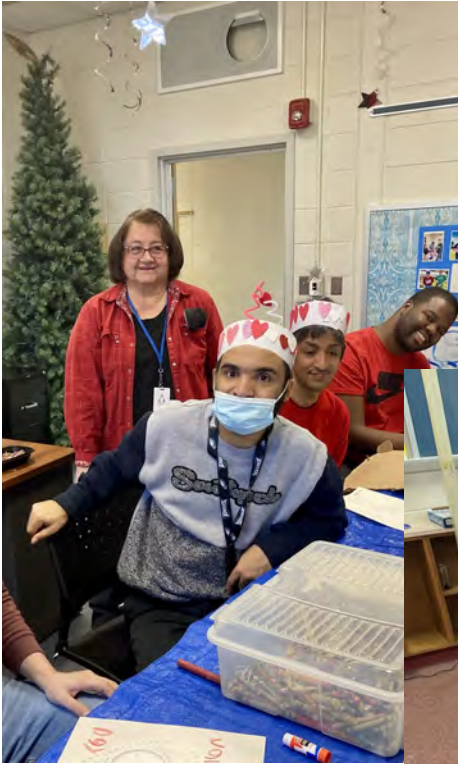
Installing air-conditioners in the offices and fellowship hall.

Weeding and mulching plant beds around the church.

And more.

Find a project that suits you and bring your Swiffer, sponges, bucket, rake to our clean-up day on Saturday, April 22!

Valentine Craft Kits Enjoyed By the Individuals at Allies





Elder of the Month, April

Deacon of the Month, April

Amy Raab

Maggie Realley

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

April 2 Doug and Vini Christie

April 9 Easter Breakfast

April 16

April 23 Emilie Cullerton

April 30 Leanne Yerkes

April 2023 Carillon Schedule

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

April 2 In memory of Florence Blumrick.

April 9 In memory of Emma Rockafellow.

April 16 In memory of Joseph A. Frye.

April 23 In memory of Anne C. Klair.

April 30 In memory of Ted R. Rockafellow.

Sunday School Teachers:

April 16 Ruth Squillace

April 23 Kim King

April 30 Beth Conti

Richard Wright
Pickering Manor
226 N. Lincoln Avenue
Newtown, Pa 18940



		Ben Wiley	4/18
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

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended February, 2023

FGPC

Operating Fund

For the month Ended
February 2023

Offering & Misc Income	\$ 3,812
Large Fund Income	0
Total Income	\$3,812

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	8,302
Staff	4,110
Office	598
Music & Worship	440
Christian Education	798
Property	2,435
Stewardship/Finance	0
Parish Life	300
Mission	104
PILP Loan interest payment	547
Chicken Barbeque	0
Total Expenses	17,634

2022 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) (13,822)

Fund Balance @ 1/31/23 128,896

Fund Balance @ 2/28/23 \$ 115,074

Benevolence Fund

28-February-23

Balance @ 1/31/23	\$ 7,635
Receipts & Transfers	0
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 2/28/23	\$ 7,635

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



A P R I L 2 0 2 3

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

Handbell Director: Sue Lewis

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan
Frank Orzehoski, Asst. Treasurer

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org
www.ForestGroveChurch.org