

*The Focus*  
*Forest Grove Presbyterian Church*  
*Summer into Fall*

Pastor Notes

*“All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” -- John 1:3-5*

As I write this article, I am one week away from my summer vacation. Summer is my second favorite season of the year (spring ranks first in my book). Looking back, this summer hasn't been a time of ease and relaxation for a few reasons – climate being a big factor. Living here in this miniscule speck of them Northeast, we have only experienced a fraction of the weather-related disasters including wildfire smoke, torrential rains and flooding, high temperatures and major tornadoes. In addition to climate issues, there are those personal struggles that too many of us are going through.

Recently, when hearing the news report of yet more record-breaking heat, into my head popped the song made famous by Louis Armstrong, “What a Wonderful World.” This song was written by the team of jazz producer Bob Thiele and George David Weiss. The original plan in 1967 was for the gravel-voiced, quirky jazz legend Armstrong to release the song as a piece that might quell some of the racial and political unrest in America, given its optimism and celebration of life.

*“I see trees of green, red roses, too. I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.”* These are just the opening lines of that iconic song and I recommend you look up the rest. The sentiment throughout is one of upbeat optimism, seeing the beauty that is everywhere to be found. There is light shining in the darkness, as John says in his gospel. We need to remember that, even when the storms come our way.

Louis Armstrong is quoted as having said, *“it ain't the world that's so bad but what we're doin' to it. And all I'm saying is, see, what a wonderful world it would be if only we'd give it a chance.”*

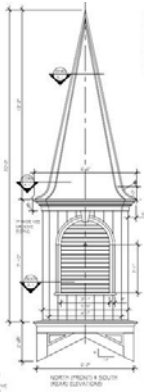
I read Armstrong's words and am reminded of my role as steward of God's creation – all of creation – the trees and whales as well as my friends, neighbors and strangers. What a wonderful world God has created and, with God's help, I need to help care for it, however I can. You can too.

I'm going to enjoy these next summer days, the trees of green and red roses too. Yes, there are hardships, but oh, What a Wonderful World our God has created and we get to enjoy. May we do our part in keeping it so!

Yours in Christ's service, Pastor Su



## STEEPLE UPDATE



Craig Jencks has been dealing with the many complicated meetings and details for the replacement of the church steeple.

We are glad to announce major progress has been made in replacing our current steeple. Our new Steeple is currently being fabricated in Kentucky. The attic structural design for properly supporting the new Steeple has been completed. We have a signed the contract for performing all necessary pre-steeple installation work; and Buckingham Township has approved the necessary permit. In addition, obtaining a contractor to perform the necessary Lightning Protection System hookup is currently being investigated.

The tentative removal of our existing Steeple will likely occur the second week of September with installation of the new Steeple the week of Sept 25. It will be a busy time with a lot of activity and big equipment making this event happen. It will be a moment for the entire Congregation to celebrate after supporting such a major capital improvement to our Church.

Our upgraded Carillon System will ring out in celebration!

If you have questions about the following information, please contact Sharon Ruth, chair of the FGPC stewardship committee.

**STEEPLE COST AND FUNDING:** The funding sources that were approved by FGPC Session at a meeting on July 18, 2023. The left table shows the funding sources and the right table the costs.

Steeple fund balance	\$ 6,621
Deplete unrestricted memorials account (if needed)	38,011
Presbytery grant	18,765
Capital Campaign balance	32,302
Other sources: donations, possible additional Presbytery grant, borrow from church investment account.	14,714
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,413</b>

Architect – Daniel Campbell	\$ 6,283
Structural engineer – Gary Talbot, GTA, Inc.	1,800
Steeple construction - Campbellsville Industries, Inc.	41,041
Construction in attic & prep for steeple – Twining Construction Co.	54,851
Lightning Protection System – contractor tbd	5,000
Township permit – Buckingham Township	638
Bell refurbishment and relocation to location on church property	800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,413</b>



## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Calling all children ages 4 year olds – 6<sup>th</sup> grade for Sunday School. The first week is September 10. Children are invited to attend worship and will then be dismissed to class after the Time with the Children.

Sunday School is a time to learn about our loving God who gives us all things, Jesus who is our Savior, and the Holy Spirit who gives us the power and inspiration to live our faith. Our dedicated teachers will pack each week with Bible stories, music, games and lots and lots of education fun!!



YOUTH GROUP BEGINS September 10 Hey 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, Youth Group time will be here before you know it! You may be starting to think about school right about now, but how about putting September 10 on your calendar for our first Youth Group meeting of the year? It starts at 6:30 and ends at 8:00.

Pastor Su and Missi Dell'Orefice are thinking up some exciting events for the fall and want your input so come on out and share your ideas.

One event we already have planned is to go back to Philadelphia to bring snacks and share in worship with The Welcome Church. This time we plan to arrive before the service so we will be leaving Forest Grove at 1:00. We will stop at McDonald's on our way home.

Other Youth Group dates for the fall are as follows:

October 8, 22, November 5, 19, December 3 and 17.

Don't miss out on the good times at Youth Group. Bring a friend!!



**GUEST PREACHER FOR AUGUST**  
As has been her tradition, Pastor Su will be taking her vacation from August 7 – September 3. Unlike other years when we have had a variety of preachers, Rev. Debbie Heffernan will provide pulpit supply each Sunday.

Many remember Debbie as an intern at Forest Grove in 2011-2012. After her ordination she served as the Interim Associate Pastor at Morrisville Presbyterian Church, followed by Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Levittown and Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church. It will be a blessing to have her with us once again!

While Pastor Su is away, session and deacons are available for pastoral emergencies. Please contact Maggie Rash (215-534-4451) or Gerry Stemplewicz (215-667-7102).

**SUSAN FLANAGAN, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
ON VACATION AUGUST 13 – 20**

Susan will be enjoying a well-earned vacation during this week. If there are any urgent needs for Susan, please contact Pastor Su on her cell phone (609-510-0084). If the need isn't urgent, please feel free to leave a message on the church phone and she will return your call when she returns to the office on August 21.



## SNACKS AND WORSHIP WITH THE WELCOME CHURCH

Last spring the youth group went to Philadelphia and provided snacks and worshipped with the folks who are a part of the The Welcome Church. This is a church without walls that reaches out to those who are homeless, worshiping every other Sunday on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway – rain or shine. They are always looking for churches to provide refreshments and we have agreed to do so on September 24. Home-made snacks are welcome. We need enough snacks for fifty. Cookies, brownies, apples, raisins, prepackaged fruit, chips or other snacks that can be put into a Ziploc bag are appreciated. We put five different snacks into one gallon size bag.



In order to invite those who are living on the streets to the service, they walk along the parkway near where the service takes place and hand out snacks. We will therefore need to leave Forest Grove at 1:00. The youth group will be going along but anyone and everyone is welcome to also attend what will be a very meaningful experience. Contact Pastor Su if you are interested in going along or if you will make a snack. The youth group will be making trail mix.

Welcome  
back!

Since early on in the Pandemic, the Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea de Dois congregation stopped meeting in our building. Since then, they have been meeting in one of the member's home but that has become too small. After conversation with Pastor Su and the session, they have asked to return to our space and we welcome them back with open arms!

Beginning in Mid-August their worship will be held each Sunday evening in the sanctuary. This service is in Spanish, although they have provided translation to English when necessary, and is open to anyone. It is a blessing to share space with our sisters and brothers in Christ!

# PLEASE SAVE THE DATE- BLOOD DRIVE SEPT 9<sup>th</sup>



Continuing our community outreach, we're pleased to share the date of our yearly blood drive will be Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 1PM. Scheduled appointments are strongly encouraged. Whether donating to honor a loved one or to help someone in need, the different components from every blood donation can be used to help save *three* lives. For information about Red Cross safety precautions, screening, donor age requirements, health considerations & medications, please use this link; <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements/eligibility-criteria-alphabetical.html>. If you would like to schedule a donation time online for Sept 9th, please visit; <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/driveresults?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM&ed=09%2F12%2F2020&order=DATE&range=10&sd=09%2F12%2F2020&zipSponsor=18912>. For questions or assistance with scheduling, please call Dana Daniels 215 450 0705.

## **New phone service, internet, and phones!**

At the end of May, we received a new phone/internet system at church, installed by Verizon. It is hoped that the new internet will be more stable than our previous service. And, the new system is less expensive!



There are new phones in the offices of Pastor Su, Susan, and in the kitchen. There are some glitches in programming voice mail and intercom, but Susan Flanagan is working on that.

If you use the phone in the kitchen, you might want to check with Susan about any changes in using the intercom or dialing out of the building.





## Confirmands and their mentors



*Congratulations!*



**Confirmation Sunday** : By the power of the Spirit, Christ's church will grow here in this place by four of our eighth and ninth graders being confirmed. These children of God include Beau Bradney, Logan Hyndman, Aaron Myers, and Leila Shvanda.



## BUSY AS CAN BE

Bucks County beekeeper shows us what it takes to care for honey bee!

TheIntelligencer

**Michele Haddon**

Bucks County Courier Times | USA TODAY NETWORK



The sun hung low in the sky, as Kate Steck grabbed a white jacket out of her trunk, on her way to greet her little friends. • It was the perfect way to spend a warm June evening at the end of her long work week. •

Steck was checking in with her colony of honey bees, buzzing in and out of two hives set along the perimeter of a grassy field stretched out behind Forest Grove Presbyterian Church in Buckingham.

**HANDBELL CHOIR:** Step out of your comfort zone! Have fun with friends! Experienced and beginner bell ringers are needed for the upcoming year! Join this diverse, fun group as we rehearse weekly to participate in the service monthly and for special events! Practice Date was Monday evenings last year but we may need to adjust!



Contact Leanne for more information! 215-920-4000

## SAVE THE DATE – October 7, 2023

It's Chicken Barbecue time! This annual event is a favorite where lots of help is needed for cooking, preparing, handing out meals (it's all takeout), and selling tickets! Call the church office and ask Susan how you can help as well as ordering tickets!





## THANK YOU MAGGIE AND STEVE RASH.

A great time was had by all at the swim party hosted by Maggie and Steve. The kids had a great time in the pool and the adults enjoyed watching their youthful enthusiasm as well as having good conversation in a beautiful setting. The weather was fantastic and so was the company!







summer



SUMMER VIBES





2023 Vacation Bible School  
Rainforest Explorers  
Jesus Leads the Way







**Elder of the Month**

Sharon Ruth August

Bill Wark September

**Sunday Morning Coffee Host:**

August 6 Sarah Lucera

August 20 Emilie Cullerton

September 3 Donna Jencks

September 17 Emilie Cullerton

**Deacon of the Month**

Missi Dell'Orefice August

Gerry Stemplewicz September

August 13

August 27

September 10

September 24

**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 and plays at 10am Sunday.

August 6 In memory of Jack Fawcett

August 13 In memory of Florence L. Klair

August 20 In memory of Almeda M. Tussey

August 27 In memory of Clarence Knipe Sr.

September 3 In memory of Jennie Leedom

September 10 In memory of Sam Gallagher

September 17 In memory of Sarah H. Smith

September 24 In memory of Walter Mill

# Let's CELEBRATE

		<b>B</b>	Amy Raab	†	9/1
			Joey Foster		9/2
Su Fall	8/6	<b>I</b>	Christopher Woolslayer		9/3
Lisa Ruhf/Brien	8/8		Sally Wiley		9/4
Preston Eckmeder	8/9	<b>R</b>	Ava Ripp		9/9
Dee Tori	8/9		Liam Hyndman		9/10
Mike Guarracino	8/9	<b>T</b>	Aaron Lang		9/10
Anna McQuaid	8/12		Alex Lang		9/10
Kevin Realley	8/12	<b>H</b>	Shannon Foster		9/12
Dylan McKeever	8/15		Margit Deschamps		9/12
Abigail Lang	8/17	<b>D</b>	Andrea Myers		9/12
Aleena Lang	8/17		Beau Bradney		9/13
Braden Fullman	8/19	<b>A</b>	Merrily Henley		9/18
Kathy Washburn	8/23		Jesse Ruth		9/19
Beau Conner	8/24	<b>Y</b>	Leanne Yerkes		9/20
Barbara Huber	8/24		Ralph Tinari		9/22
Karen Myers	8/26	<b>S</b>	Keegan Fullman		9/23
Janet Martin	8/26		Sarah Lucera		9/23
Rache Dell'Orefice	8/29		Adelaide King		9/28
Steve Rash	8/30		Chuck Rekemeier		9/30





**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended June, 2023**

**FGPC Operating Fund**  
For the month Ended  
June 2023

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	\$11,093
Large Fund Income	<u>\$5,908</u>
Total Income	\$17,001
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor Compensation	8,228
Staff	3,592
Office	\$900
Music & Worship	316
Christian Education	119
Property	1,285
Stewardship/Finance	74
Parish Life	101
Mission	0
PILP Loan interest payment	540
Chicken Barbeque	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	15,155
<b>Transfer to Memorial Fund</b>	0
<b><u>2023 Operating Fund</u></b>	
<b><u>Surplus (Deficit)</u></b>	1,846
Fund Balance @ 5/31/23	<u>93,826</u>
Fund Balance @ 6/30/23	<u>\$ 95,672</u>

<b><u>Benevolence Fund</u></b>	
<b><u>30-June-23</u></b>	
Balance @ 1/31/23	\$ 8,331
Receipts & Transfers	0
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 5/31/23	<u>\$8,331</u>

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



**S U M M E R I N T O F A L L**

## 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, Financial Manager

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

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