

*The Focus*  
*Forest Grove Presbyterian Church June 2023*

Pastor's Notes

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul." -- Psalm 23:1-3a*

Summer is upon us. Praise the Lord! As I see it, summer is the reward for making it through the other three seasons. I'm not talking about the chilling cold or the achromatic view from the window. Rather, I am talking about the over-abundance of activity and frenetic pace that seems to occupy nine months out of the year.

Talking with our Office Administrator, Susan, I commented on how this newsletter will have little news to report at least with regard to upcoming church activities and special services. Yes, we have Vacation Bible School coming up – with little to no down-time. Yes, we have our mid-week lunch gatherings, a swim party in July and kayaking with the youth group, but summer, for me, is a time to pause – really pause – reflect on the goodness of God and the gift of slower motion, slight breezes, the pulsing cadence of cicadas, the creaking chorus of pond frogs, the happy chirping of birds, lemonade and ice cream.

It is my intention over these next months to take all that in and savor every moment for the blessing that it is. The words of the pastor and poet, Ted Loder, express this so very well. Rev. Loder wrote:

"Let this season be for me a time of gathering together the pieces into which my busyness has broken me.

O God, enable me now to grow wise through reflection,  
peaceful through the song of the cricket,  
recreated through the laughter of play.

Most of all, Lord, let me live easily and grace-fully for a spell,  
so that I may see other souls deeply, share the silence unhurried,  
listen to the sound of sunlight and shadows..." from *"Guerrillas of Grace"* by Ted Loder

Summer will pass quickly and soon it will be time for the Chicken BBQ, Sunday School, Youth Group, Bell Choir, Friday Night Fellowship, The Church Has Left the Building, Mission Sunday and so much more. I can look forward to those things and all the rest the next season entails, but first, I'm going to sit with God in this summer season so I can be ready for the next. How will you spend your summer?

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Su



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MISSION

Each year there is a mission project during Vacation Bible School. This year it has been agreed by our two churches that we will support the local SPCA. The children and their families will be invited to either make a cash donation or bring in any of the items that are on the SPCA wish list. Anyone is welcome to also make donations. Here's what they are asking for:

### DOGS

- ♥ Purina ONE Dog Dry Food & Purina ONE Puppy Dry Food
- ♥ Purina ONE Wet Dog & Purina Pro Plan Wet Puppy Food
- ♥ Greenies Pill Pockets or Milkbone Pill Pouches
- ♥ Adaptil Comfort Collars & Adaptil Calming Spray
- ♥ Frontline Plus for Dogs
- ♥ Bully Sticks
- ♥ Soft, Mini Training Treats (no milk bones)
- ♥ XXL Kong or other sturdy dog toys
- ♥ Dog Waste Disposal Bags



### CATS

- ♥ Dry Food: Purina ONE Cat / Purina ONE Healthy Kitten
- ♥ Wet Food: Purina Pro Plan Kitten / Friskies Pate / Fancy Feast
- ♥ Inaba Churu Lickable Cat Treats
- ♥ KMR Powder for Kittens
- ♥ Nursing Kits (bottles for baby animals) & Miracle Nipple Mini (for pets & wildlife)
- ♥ Snuggle Safe Heating Pads
- ♥ Feliway Classic & Feliway Multicat (diffusers & sprays)
- ♥ Frontline Plus for Cats / Bayer Advantage II for Cats (over 9lbs) & for Kittens
- ♥ Tidy Cat Unscented, Non-clumping Clay Litter
- ♥ Cat Toys



### EVERYONE

- ♥ Laundry Detergent / Windex / Hand Sanitizer / Bleach
- ♥ Liquid Hand Soap & Liquid Dish Soap / Paper Towels
- ♥ Latex Exam Gloves
- ♥ Gift Cards: PetSmart or Pet Supplies Plus
- ♥ Clean used towels and blankets

### SMALL & FURRY OR SCALY

- ♥ Fresh Romaine Lettuce, Carrot Tops, Basil, and Parsley
- ♥ Oxbow Rabbit, Hamster, and Guinea Pig Food
- ♥ Yesterday's News Litter
- ♥ Small Animal Toys



## **BABY BUNDLES**

We are collecting items for The Baby Bureau to create “Baby Bundles.” The Baby Bureau is a nonprofit organization located in Warminster PA that works with area Social Service providers to supply Baby Bundles of clothing, diapers, and other essential items to at-risk babies in the greater Philadelphia area.

### **WISH LIST OF BABY ITEMS NEEDED**

**BABY CLOTHES** – Gently used or new baby clothing (sizes 0-2T), especially onesies and sleepers

**DIAPERS** – SIZE NB-2

**BABY WIPES**

**DREFT (HE) DETERGENT**

**BABY HATS** - new or in very good condition

**BABY BLANKETS / QUILTS** - new or in very good condition

**BIBS** - new or in very good condition

**BOOTIES / SOCKS** - new or in very good condition

**SMALL BOARD BOOKS** – new or in very good condition

**SMALL BABY TOYS / RATTLES** - new or in very good condition



There is a table with a large box for donations in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your donations in by Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day! Thank you for supporting this mission project! **QUESTIONS** – call or text Janice Propsner



## **MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE**

Way back when the congregation was first thinking about removing the church manse, the question that was immediately raised was, “What shall we do with the space.” It was agreed that a good ministry would be to provide a Memorial Garden where the cremains of loved ones could be placed. It would be a garden setting with a wall where commemorative plaques could be placed.

Since that decision, many projects needed to be completed first. We are now to the point where we are ready to make this concept a reality. Plans have been created and the Property Committee, with Session approval, has identified a company to do the work. It is estimated that the new garden will be completed by the end of summer.

## LINGHOCKEN GARDEN CLUB

### INVITES YOU TO BE A GUEST

Meetings are usually once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at noon.

Our goal is to stimulate interest in the growing of flowers, trees, shrubs and evergreens with special notice of wildflowers and native plants.



Our activities include a yearly flower show for members, a plant sale/exchange, a meeting devoted to making a craft, trips to local gardens, support of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, a covered dish lunch, a Christmas tea, fund raising events and our annual luncheon.

For more information, please call

Diane 215-345-8881 Margie 267-253-6647

## WELL DONE HANDBELL CHOIR

Almost every Monday at 5:30 our bell ringers are here at the church practicing their music in preparation for an upcoming worship service. Led by Sue Lewis, the group includes Rachel and Missi Dell'Orefice, Kara Holton, Courtney Woolslayer, Donna Jencks, Leanne Yerkes, Martha Greenwood and Paul Wachtendorf. It takes coordination and rhythm to play bells and this group certainly has both! Each time they play, our worship is enhanced to a higher level as the Spirit dances upon every note.



The group will be taking the summer off, but we look forward to their return in the fall. Meanwhile, if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Leanne Yerkes, our Director of Music. Even beginners are welcome.

## Administrative Lunch celebration

Thank you all for this wonderful luncheon. The food was fabulous but the company was the best!!! I am very grateful to everyone for being part of your community and working along with you. I could not do what I do without you!! What a pleasant surprise. And the gift certificate to the Lobster House I will certainly enjoy. Xo Susan



## WE'RE HAVING A POOL PARTY AT MAGGIE AND STEVE RASH'S

Whether you sit by the pool or put on your suit and dive in, on Saturday, July 22 come on over to enjoy the summertime with friends from the church. We'll start at 4:30 with a potluck supper at 5:30. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office and let us know what you will bring. Contact Maggie Rash if you have any questions.



## YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

It is hard to believe that the academic year is over. As a result the youth group participants will be off doing exciting summer activities so there will not be any Sunday night meetings until the September. They are in the process of putting together a mid-summer kayaking trip to the Pine Barrens. It will be great to spend the day playing on the water and enjoying that beautiful part of God's world.



As we bring this year's program to an end, once again a big thank you goes out to Missi Dell'Orefice for her service as one of the youth leaders. Missi has been sharing her gifts of working with youth for many years now and as a result has played a very significant role in nurturing our youth. Missi will be back in September but meanwhile we want to express our deepest heartfelt gratitude. Thank you Missi!!

## CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE!



This time of year is exciting for our children and youth, but most especially for our graduating seniors. It marks the beginning of a new road on their life's journey. They do not go alone! We, the Forest Grove congregation, have loved and nurtured them along the way and they take that with them. The graduate who will be stepping out from our congregation this year is Brielle Guarracino. It seems hard to believe that the little girl who used to sing in the Singing Angels Choir is now graduating and will be heading off to college in the fall. We wish her Godspeed!

## Confirmands and their mentors



**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.

**Come Join us for  
Vacation Bible School  
Sponsored by The Anchor and  
Forest Grove Presbyterian Churches  
and will be held at The Anchor**



**June 26-30, 9:00 – Noon for Preschool – 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

At *Rainforest Explorers*, we'll learn about Jesus, our Savior, through five Bible stories, meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more! It's going to be fun, but it would be more fun with you there. Register online: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/62355b>.

Adult leaders and teen helpers are also needed. Contact Pastor Su at 215-794-8575 if you can help.

*Mother's  
Day  
Tea*

*Thank you to  
our Parish Life  
Committee for  
hosting this  
wonderful  
event.*









## Strawberry Festival

There is nothing like a church Potluck Dinner and home made Strawberry Shortcake.



The **Strawberry Festival** was a great success thanks to the many people who volunteered with their time and talent. Thanks to those who set up the tables and chairs, prepared strawberries, provided side dishes, helped serve and grilled the hot dogs. A special thanks to Sharon and Tim Ruth for going to Lancaster to get the delicious strawberries. Also thanks to Vini Christie for baking all the yummy pound cakes. And it wouldn't have been a meal without the tasty hot dogs that Carol and Preston Eckmeder provided. It takes a team and we have one of the best!

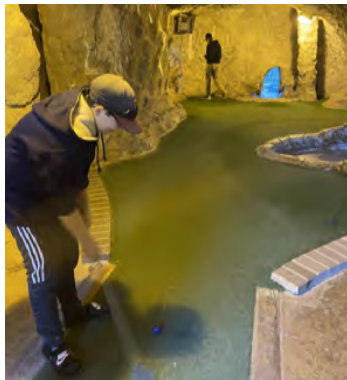
THANK  
YOU!







## Youth Fun Night



Elder of the Month, June

Deacon of the Month, June

Courtney Wooslalayer

Gerry Stemplewicz

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

June 4 Sarah Fall Lucera

June 11 Beth Conti

June 18 Emilie Cullerton

June 25 Marilyn Cook

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.

June 4 In memory of Reta Kruse.

June 11 In memory of Myrl Worthington.

June 18 In memory of John F. Kruse Jr..

June 25 In memory of Linda Ann Humlhanz.



Thank you Vini  
for the beautiful  
Mother's Day  
Lunch table  
arrangements.



Dana Daniels	6/1	Jason Dell'Orefice	6/17
Donna Jencks	6/1	Gianna Schroeder	6/18
Violet Sanders	6/1	Janice Propsner	6/19
Martha Greenwood	6/2	Kathryn Cornell	6/20
David Posnett	6/4	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 V. Hyndman	6/27
Marge Turner	6/11		
Nancy Shvanda	6/13		

**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended April, 2023**

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

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>		\$11,198
Large Fund Income		<u>\$0</u>
Total Income		\$11,198
<b>Expenses</b>		
Pastor Compensation		11,211
Staff		3,795
Office		\$751
Music & Worship		619
Christian Education		0
Property		3,095
Stewardship/Finance		121
Parish Life		50
Mission		175
PILP Loan interest payment		543
Chicken Barbeque		<u>0</u>
Total Expenses		20,360
<b>Transfer to Memorial Fund</b>		0
<b><u>2023 Operating Fund</u></b>		
<b><u>Surplus (Deficit)</u></b>		(9,162)
Fund Balance @ 3/31/23		109,977
Fund Balance @ 4/30/23		\$ 100,815

**Benevolence Fund**

**30-April-23**

Balance @ 1/31/23	\$ 7,635
Receipts & Transfers	375
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 4/30/23	<u>\$ 8,010</u>

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



J U N E 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](mailto:pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org)

Music Director: Leanne Yerkes

Handbell Director: Sue Lewis

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan  
Frank Orzehoski, Asst. Treasurer

Email: [office@forestgrovechurch.org](mailto:office@forestgrovechurch.org)  
[www.ForestGroveChurch.org](http://www.ForestGroveChurch.org)