

The Focus
Forest Grove Presbyterian Church
2024



Pastor Notes

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. – Romans 12:18-19

Recently I went to Philadelphia to work with The Welcome Church to distribute to the homeless the snacks that were donated by our congregation and that of Anchor Presbyterian. These were received with much appreciation. One recipient was memorable. He had opened his bag and from a distance I could see he went first for the homemade cookies. “Who made the cookies?” My immediate response to that query was “Our congregation.”

Upon reflection, this seems like the correct answer. Oh, sure, some individual mixed the ingredients and baked them in the oven, but it took the congregation to make those cookies into the nourishment that they were. It wasn’t all flour, sugar and eggs. It was caring, time, and faithfulness – and that took a team. Yes, someone baked, but the office administrators of both Forest Grove and Anchor put out the list of items needed. The children from Vacation Bible School packaged up the cookies along with other snacks. I distributed them along with my grandson, Keegan. The folks at The Welcome Church developed relationships with those living on the streets in that area of Philadelphia so that they were willing to accept food from strangers. Most of all, God laid it on all of our hearts to engage in this ministry following the example of Jesus.

They say it takes a whole village to raise a child. I say it takes a whole church to do the work of Jesus and I am so blessed to be a part of a church that takes that seriously. We may be a small congregation, but our work, blessed by God, has a big impact.

Yes, someone made a batch of cookies and with that and the efforts of many, we were able to distribute fifty snack bags to fifty hungry souls – hungry for more than just calories, but also hungry for the love of God that was packaged in every bag.

Yours in Christ’s service

Pastor Su

Pastor Su





Since 2018 we have been blessed to have a very special person use her gifts for music ministry in Leanne Yerkes. Leanne's wonderful can-do, cheerful personality made the offering of music during worship and for special events joyful. Not only is Leanne a very accomplished pianist, she also led the choir and even bell choir. She had a way of finding gifted people to share their abilities through solos and ensembles so that music could continue to be a means of inspiration in worship for all those gathered. Who will ever forget the fantastic and inspiring Christmas musicals!

Leanne has been a long-time member of Forest Grove and will continue to serve the Lord among us but not as the Director of Music. She will complete her music role at the end of summer at which time we will recognize her service in a special way.

Meanwhile the Worship & Music Committee is working with the Personnel Committee to find her replacement. She is a tough act to follow but with prayers for God's guidance, it is hoped that someone will hear the voice of God calling them to Forest Grove.





Pollinator Palooza
Saturday, August 10th | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
at Heritage Conservancy's
Jackson Pond Preserve

Celebrate the summertime with us at our Jackson Pond Nature Preserve and immerse yourself in the beauty of the outdoors and nature in a day filled with joy and excitement for the whole family. Located at a hotspot for pollinator habitats, Pollinator Palooza is a family-friendly festival. Guided walks, crafts, science, food trucks, games, and more. Save the date for this popular community event.

Parking: Forest Grove Church

1856 Forest Grove Road

Forest Grove, Pa 18922



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Once again Vacation Bible School was a huge success. Even though it was hot outside, there was the cool breeze of God's Spirit at work among us. Thanks to the wonderful seventeen leaders and twenty-seven children, it was an awesome week full of adventure as we all grew in our faith.

This year's participants learned about how we can trust in God through Bible stories, science experiments, arts & crafts, music, recreation and even snacks. First they explored how Jacob trusted in God to safely return him to his family home even after he tricked his brother. Then Ruth trusted her mother-in-law and through her, God, the God she had never known before. Both women trusted that God would care for them and provide even after a big family tragedy. Jesus demonstrated how we can trust that God will share wisdom at any age. The disciples trusted Jesus to calm a life-threatening storm. Finally, how a foreigner, an Ethiopian, came to trust God's love even for him and became a follower of Jesus. Trust is hard sometimes, but these individuals demonstrated that God is trustworthy. What a week!



**ADVENTURES AT VBS
CAMP FIRELIGHT**



CAMPING

**B
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**FUN TIME
LAUGHTER
SMILES**



MUSIC



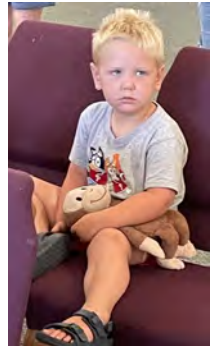
VBS



Storytime



SNACK
TIME





THANK YOU MISSI FOR YOUR FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

Who has been there to support and guide the youth at Forest Grove for over ten years? Missi Dell'Orefice. Missi has always been there for our teens during their formative years, giving her time, wisdom and faithfulness. She has been there for every Sunday night meeting as well as times in between. It takes a very special person to do this ministry and Missi is one such person.

After all these years of service, Missi is stepping down from this responsibility. She will be greatly missed, but for sure she will never lose her compassion for the youth and will continue to use her gifts in service to Jesus Christ through other types of ministry.

Meanwhile, Pastor Su will need someone to help her with Youth Group. It's a small group, but all the kids are awesome. Please prayerfully consider helping if you have talents you can share even for one Sunday night meeting. Youth Group will resume in October. Talk to Pastor Su if you want more information.



HELP WITH ZOOM NEEDED

Every Sunday morning there is an average of ten people coming to worship on Zoom. This is possible only because of the help we get from folks in the congregation who

run the computer. These include Dana Daniels, Aaron Myers, Bill Wark and Nathan Holton. Nathan will be going off to college the end of August and we not only need to find his replacement but we need a few extras for fifth Sundays as well as substitutes.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!



BLOOD DRIVE SEPT 14TH

On Saturday Sept 14th we will host our annual blood drive from 8AM to 12noon. Whether donating blood to help someone in need or to honor a loved one, we hope you'll join us in this important community outreach event. To schedule an appt, and for detailed information about donor eligibility, please visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> or call 1 800 Red Cross. Thanks!



**ANNUAL
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL**







SMILES
YUMMY
STRAWBERRIES
CAKE



BIRTHDAYS

Cole Wilsey	7/3
Sharon Ruth	7/6
Doris Daniels	7/11
Jim Turner	7/12
Brandon Davis	7/14
Beth Conti	7/15
Ainsley Dobbins	7/18
Brian Greenwood	7/18
Carol Eckmeder	7/21
Kevin Young	7/25
Becky Schroeder	7/29

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:

Every Sunday after worship a volunteer sets up light refreshments in fellowship hall for all to enjoy. We are looking for Sunday volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up of coffee and Tea. If you wish you can bring a snack to share. We provide the coffee, tea, iced tea and paper products. To link to our Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040444AAA729A4FB6-coffee1> or you can find a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. The following dates are currently available: July 28, August 4, 18 and the months of September through December.



Elder of the Month

Donna Jencks

Deacon of the Month

Merrily Henley

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

July 7

July 14

July 21

July 28

Emilie Cullerton

Ushers:

July 7

July 14

July 21

July 28

Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz

Doug and Vini Christie

Paul Wachtendorf and Beth Conti

Bill and Peggy Mellinger

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.

July 7

July 14

July 21

July 28

In memory of George A. Smith

In memory of Addis C. Worthington

In memory of Ruth S. Rathgeber

In memory of Earl T. Daniels



Join us Wednesday's at 12noon for fellowship. Bring your brown bag lunch sit with a group of church friends as we share stories. I have to say we have more laughs during this time together. Need a ride? Just call the church office 215-794-8575

FGPC Operating Fund

For the month Ended

May, 2024

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended May, 2024

Offering & Misc Income	10,334
Large Fund Income	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$10,334

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	8,853
Staff	4,539
Office	736
Music & Worship	9
Christian Education	168
Property	1,659
Stewardship/Finance	73
Parish Life	251
Mission	0
PILP Loan interest payment	518
Chicken Barbeque	- 0
Credit Card Holding	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	16,807

Transfer to Memorial Fund 0

2024 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) -6,473

Fund Balance @ 4/30/24 113,983
February Transfers from Holding Acc 0

Fund Balance @ 5/31/24 \$ 107,510

Benevolence Fund

As of May 2024

Balance @ 1/31/24	\$ 8,251.47
Receipts & Transfers	695.76
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 5/31/24	<u>\$ 8,947.23</u>

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



J U L Y 2 0 2 4

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, Financial Manager

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org