

The Focus
Forest Grove Presbyterian Church
August September 2024



Pastor's Notes

Then, because so many people were coming and going that the disciples did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

-- Mark 6:31-32

I recently had a very busy Saturday. In the morning was a birthday party for my soon to be eleven year old grandson, Braden, that included water balloons, squirt guns, a trampoline, a sprinkler and lots and lots of running accompanied by laughter. My job was to keep an eye on his three year old sister, Emilia, who wanted to join in and didn't miss any of the excitement.

After the party I took Braden and Emilia to my son's to spend the afternoon with his three very energetic dogs. Again, there was a wading pool, sprinkler and lots and lots of running accompanied by laughter and barking (that's laughter in dog-language).

By about 4:00 in the afternoon, after no nap, Emilia was done and the laughter turned to tears at every little annoyance and imperceptible scrape. It was time to "come away." I sat in a big lounge chair. Emilia crawled up next to me. Leaning her head on my arm, her sniffing eventually turned to deep breathing and her eyes went shut.

Sometimes we need to "come away to a quiet place and get some rest." Like Emilia, I am going to do just that during the month of August when I take my vacation. God knew from the very beginning of time that humans need rest so we can be refreshed and ready to work and laugh (in whatever language) again. I'll get mine in August.

If you haven't already, I hope you take time away, to sit with God in a different way. Sometimes it's just a few quiet moments that will do and other times it's a month. Whatever time it is, God is there to sit with you and let you lean your head upon the strong arm of God so that the tears, the worries, the stress and strain can turn to deep breathing and peace.

So I'll see you in September.

Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Su

Pastor Su



Monday Morning Bible Study to Resume September 23

What better way can there be to come off the lazy hazy days of summer than to gather around God's Word in Bible study?



Ok, maybe they haven't been "lazy days," but it will be good to come together for discussion and exploration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Bible study is held each Monday beginning at 9:30 AM both in-person as well as on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

Recognizing the tension of our current social climate, Pastor Su will be leading a study that addresses this concern. Written by Pastor Adam Hamilton, *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* begins by recognizing that everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it. One solution that hasn't yet been tried, says Hamilton, is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

This will not be an opportunity to persuade anyone's opinion in one direction or another but will be a way to hear the voices of both sides by looking at what scripture teaches us on how God wants us to live.

Can we have such a conversation? As followers of Jesus who are called to be a living example, we should. Hamilton writes, "The point is not to get you to agree with me, but to encourage you to think about what you believe. In the end I will be inviting those of you who find this book resonates with what you feel is true, to join the movement to pursue a middle way between the left and the right - to make your voices heard - and to model for our nation and for the church, how we can listen, learn, see truth as multi-sided, and love those with whom we disagree."



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





Sunday School Begins September 8

After a summer of seeing God at work in the beauty of summertime creation, it is time to resume our education programs for the children. Once again our fabulous faithful teachers will engage with the children teaching them about the love of God and the hope and joy of our faith. Karen Myers, Ruth Squillace, and Kim King will present lessons each Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of the month when we encourage our children to remain in the service to participate in the full service including Communion. Classes are for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Another Farewell – To the Holton Family

We knew this time was coming and in just a few weeks it will be here when the Holtons will be moving to their new home in Rhode Island. Terry, Kara, Nathan and Samuel have been a special part of this congregation for many years. Their recent involvement has included Terry's service on Session, Kara and Sam ringing handbells and Nathan helping out on Zoom. We wish them well and God's blessing in their new home.





Guest Preacher for August

As has been her tradition, Pastor Su will be taking her vacation from August 5 – September 2. 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 Louise Stemplewicz (215-667-7102).



Welcome Church Ministry Outreach Continues

It is hard to imagine what it is like to have no place to call “home.” Sadly, tragically, too many in center city Philadelphia don’t imagine it – they live it. The Welcome Church, an official congregation proclaiming the hope and love of a gracious God to all people and especially to people experiencing homelessness, works with those individuals to secure a permanent home. This is where folks like us come in to help. Our congregation has supplied those essentials by putting together “Welcome Home Kits.” One of our very successful mission projects has been to help the Welcome Church. In June we packed and provided 30 bag lunches that were handed out at a Welcome Church Bible Study Meeting and were greatly appreciated by the people who attended. In July we provided a Welcome Home Kit for a person who had transitioned out of homelessness to live in a place of his/her own, and we will be providing another kit to someone making this transition to a home in August. The dishes that are no longer used in our church kitchen and other donations were used to supply these kits. It is wonderful that we can help these people and they are grateful!

If you or someone you know is cleaning out a house or apartment and has items to donate, we have provided a list of items we can use for future Welcome Home Kits when needed. The items can be brought into the church office or given to Pastor Su or Janice Propsner to be stored until needed.

Thank you for your help with this mission project!

Su and Janice

ITEMS NEEDED FOR WELCOME HOME KITS

New or Used with no Stains or Damage:

Dishes: set of 8

Glasses: set of 8

Silverware: set of 8

Pots / pans: 2 frying pans, 2 pots, 1 soup pot

Dish towels / dish cloths

Bath towels / wash cloths (4 each)

Bed linens (queen size): 2 sets (fitted & flat) + 1 blanket

Bedsread / Comforter

Shower curtain / liner / hooks

Waste baskets: 2 small & 1 garbage pail

Ice cube trays: 2

Plastic food storage containers

Toaster

Coffee Maker

Steak knives

Can opener

Baking pans / Cookie sheets

Oven mitt / Hot pads

Placemats

Throw Blanket / Afghan

Bathroom accessories – toothbrush holder, etc.

Kitchen Utensils: measuring cups & spoons, spatula, large spoons, etc.

Toilet cleaner

Laundry soap

New or Never Opened:

Dryer sheets

Pillows: 2 (new)

Bars of soap

Sponges

Toilet paper

Dish Soap

Paper towels

All-purpose cleaner

Kleenex

Lysol wipes

Toiletries – Shampoo, Conditioner, Body wash, etc.

Toilet brush



Coffee Fellowship

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: We are looking for Sunday volunteers to provide refreshments for Coffee Hour. We provide 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: September through December.



HELP WITH ZOOM NEEDED: More help is needed to provide the important Zoom option for Sunday morning worship. Volunteers will be trained and it is relatively simple. Please contact Pastor Su if you can help



It's Almost 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! This year's event will be held on October 5. Call Sharon Ruth at 215-598-3639 and see how you can help. Call Susan at the church office to purchase your tickets.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 5

4PM—6PM *(or until SOLD OUT)*

TAKE OUT ONLY *(RAIN OR SHINE)*

Dinner includes

1/2 Chicken for adults

1/4 chicken for children

with Homemade sides and yummy dessert

Adults \$18

Child \$10



Special Retirement Lunch for Leanne Yerkes



We want to give a special “Thank You” to Leanne for sharing her wonderful gift of music with us as our Director of Music. Every Sunday she has not only led us in song, but she has also been a ray of “Son-shine.”

On September 8 we will celebrate Leanne’s ministry of music with a special lunch following worship. Sandwiches and dessert will be provided. Donated sides are welcome.

Susan Flanagan – Office Administrator on Vacation August 12-18



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 19.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!



**American
Red Cross**

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!

Moth Night at Jackson Pond

August 7 @ 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm



Come join our community science volunteers and staff as we discover the incredible diversity of moth species at our pollinator meadow! We will be setting up lights to attract these nocturnal pollinators where we can take pictures, identify them, and learn more about them.

We will be parking at the Forest Grove Presbyterian Church and entering Jackson Pond Preserve through the trail at the back of the parking lot. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight (red lights are best).

The event will start at 9 PM and end at around 11 PM. Please register early, space is limited. **Registration is free and exclusive to Heritage Conservancy supporters at the 50-dollar level or above.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Please contact Hayley at hwright@heritageconservancy.org or 215-345-7020 ext. 131 with questions or for more information.

Wishing you the best

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September

Raab, Amy	9/1
Foster, Joey	9/2
Woolslayer, Christopher	9/3
Wiley, Sally	9/4
Hyndman, Liam	9/10
Lang, Aaron	9/10
Lang, Alex	9/10
Foster, Shannon	9/12
Deschamps, Margit	9/12
Myers, Andrea	9/12
Bradney, Beau	9/13
Henley, Merrily	9/18
Ruth, Jesse	9/19
Yerkes, Leanne	9/20
Tinari, Ralph	9/22
Fullman, Keegan	9/23
Lucera, Sarah	9/23
King, Adelaide	9/28
Rekemeier, Chuck	9/30

August

Fall, Su	8/6
Ruhf/Brien, Lisa	8/8
Eckmeder, Preston	8/9
Tori, Dee	8/9
Guarracino, Mike	8/9
McQuaid, Anna	8/12
Realley, Kevin	8/12
Lang, Abigail	8/17
Lang, Aleena	8/17
Fullman, Braden	8/19
Washburn, Kathy	8/23
Conner, Beau	8/24
Huber, Barbara	8/24
Myers, Karen	8/26
Martin, Janet	8/26
Dell'Orefice, Rachel	8/29
Rash, Steve	8/30



Elder of the Month

August **Amy Raab**
September **Donna Jencks**

Deacon of the Month

August **Merrily Henley**
September **Gerry Stemplewicz**

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

August 4 **Sarah Lucera**
August 11 **Beth Conti**
August 18 **Kevin and Maggie Realley**
August 25 **Emilie Cullerton**
September 1
September 8
September 15
September 22 **Emilie Cullerton**
September 29



Ushers:

August 4 **Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz**
August 11 **Craig and Donna Jencks**
August 18 **Kevin and Maggie Realley**
August 25 **Bill and Maggie Mellinger**
September 1 **Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz**
September 8 **Sharon Ruth and Emilie Cullerton**
September 15 **Courtney Woolslayer and Rachel Dell'Orefice**
September 22 **Bill Wark and Mike Guarracino**
September 29 **Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz**

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 4 **In memory of Jack Fawcett**
August 11 **In memory of Florence L. Klair**
August 18 **In memory of Almeda M. Tussey**
August 25 **In memory of Clarence Knipe Sr.**
September 1 **In memory of Jennie Leedom**
September 8 **In memory of Sam Gallagher**
September 15 **In memory of Sarah H. Smith**
September 22 **In memory of Walter Mill**
September 29 **In memory of John and Helen Schroeder**



FGPC Operating Fund

For the month Ended

June 30 2024

FGPC FINANCIALS Ended June, 2024

Offering & Misc Income	15,406
Large Fund Income	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$15,406

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	8,359
Staff	3,645
Office	1,115
Music & Worship	144
Christian Education	298
Property	1,636
Stewardship/Finance	71
Parish Life	0
Mission	0
PILP Loan interest payment	516
Chicken Barbeque	- 0
Credit Card Holding	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	15,784

Transfer to Memorial Fund 0

2024 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) -378

Fund Balance @ 5/31/24	<u>107,282</u>
February Transfers from Holding Acc	0

Fund Balance @ 6/30/24 \$ 106,904

Benevolence Fund

As of June 2024

Balance @ 1/31/24	\$ 8,251.47
Receipts & Transfers	695.76
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 6/30/24	<u>\$ 8,947.23</u>

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



A U G U S T

S E P T E M B E R

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