

*The Focus*  
*Forest Grove Presbyterian Church*  
*March 2025*



Pastor Notes

*“I was glad when they said to me,  
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” – Psalm 122:1*

On October 5, 2023 a new church steeple was placed on the roof of the church building. Steeples are meant to be a means to cause people to cast their gaze upward, to the heavens, and remember God who is over all things.

In preparation for that construction the question was asked, “What about the church bell?” It was decided not to place the bell within the steeple but to find it a new home somewhere on the church grounds. It was the strong desire of many to keep the bell, even in a new location.

But why have a church bell to begin with? For some, it was sentimental. Many memories were stirred of the special occasions when it toned throughout the area – weddings, funerals, the end of WWII, when the hostages were released...

Historically, church bells have been used to call the faithful to worship as well as thrice daily prayer. It beckons all those within earshot to stop whatever they are doing and turn to God. That’s not such a bad practice as it is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day that we forget about giving thanks to the One who created day and night and all that gives life.

A dedicated group from the congregation has been meeting to determine the future of our church bell. The Session is calling a special congregational information meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> following worship to share the bell’s next chapter. Be assured that it will still be an auditory and visible call for the faithful to come to God here in this place or wherever its sound is heard. That is its mission and ours.

Yours in Christ’s service,

Pastor Su

Handwritten signature of Pastor Su.



“He fasted for forty days  
and forty nights...”

In the Bible, significant things happened over a forty day period like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. These were times when God was at work creating a new thing. Lent, minus the Sundays, is the forty day season when Christians prepare themselves through prayer, fasting and self-examination for the celebrate God’s new thing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Here at Forest Grove we will once again begin our Lenten journey with the imposition of Ashes during worship on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM. The service will center around the acknowledgment of our mortality and commit to living in accordance with God's Word. For the next six Wednesdays a brief thirty minute mid-week Communion service will be held at 11:30 allowing us to come together and contemplate the centrality of the cross. All are welcome to remain after the service and share fellowship over a brown-bag lunch.

# Friday Night Fellowship



Friday Night Fellowship this month, March 7, is one of Pastor Su's favorite nights – Pajama Night!! That's the theme for the gathering. Who doesn't like to hang out in their PJs? And if that wasn't enough, in addition to playing some pajama games, Youth Group members and helpers will be preparing the meal – Breakfast for Dinner! Yum!!!

Our mission project will be to decorate socks for those living in the homeless shelter in Levittown. Donations of socks, particularly children's sizes, will be appreciated. There will also be activity packs to create and assemble for children at the shelter.

On April 4, Friday Night Fellowship will be held at The Anchor Presbyterian Church. The theme and mission project will be announced when we are closer to the date.





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer kids will dive into a friendship with God! Through the curriculum, they will go on an amazing under-sea adventure where they'll experience the -

Ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. VBS will be held on June 23-27, 9:00 – noon and is for 4 yr. olds – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration is now open online: [myvbs.org/forestgrove](http://myvbs.org/forestgrove)

Adult and teen volunteers are needed. Please contact Pastor Su if you can help.





## **WELCOME CHURCH SNACK PACKS**

Once again our congregation will be providing snacks for those who are homeless through the Welcome Church ministry.

Items needed for the packs include: brownies, cookies, trail mix, fresh fruit, granola bars, fruit snacks, Goldfish/Cheez-Its. Slips for these items will be available in Fellowship Hall on the rolling partition. All donations need to be brought to the church by the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Youth Group will then package these items to then be given to The Welcome Church for distribution on April 6<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in helping to pass out snacks at their outdoor worship service at 2:00 PM, please contact Pastor Su. It is a truly rewarding experience.



## **MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Each Monday at 9:30 a study of God's Word is offered. For the next few weeks the study will continue to focus on the Sermon on the Mount. After that, a new Lenten study will begin.

# YOUTH GROUP

## YOUTH GROUP THIS MONTH

The Youth will be very busy first cooking the food for the Pancake Supper on March 7.

After that, there will be a regular meeting

on March 23 at 7:00 – 8:30. The main event for the evening will be to pack snack bags for the Welcome Church. (Please see the article of how the congregation can participate by providing snack items.)

Thanks to everyone who purchased hoagies on Super Bowl Sunday. The group made 72 sandwiches for a profit of just over \$400 that will help to fund this summer's mission trip to West Virginia. The food was delicious and maybe brought good luck to the Eagles!





**Our Property Committee**  
**It takes Teamwork**  
**(Did the boys find the key)?**



**New Elders**

**Mary Young**  
**Ruth Squillace**

**New Deacons**

**Kevin Young**  
**Leanne Yerkes**





# MISSION AT WORK





## Friday Night Fellowship



Elder of the Month

March Bob Propsner

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

March 2  
March 16  
March 30

Deacon of the Month

March Leanne Yerkes

March 9  
March 23 Emilie Cullerton

Ushers:

March 2 Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz  
March 9 Sharon Ruth and Emilie Cullerton  
March 16 Courtney Woolslayer and Rachel Dell'Orefice  
March 23 Paul Wachtendorf and Mike Guarracino  
March 30 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.

March 2 In memory of Joseph A. Fry  
March 9 In memory of Watson F. Rockafellow  
March 16 In memory of Martin Klair  
March 23 In memory of Florence and Josephine Blumrick  
March 30 In memory of Alice Gilbert



Mary Bode 3/1  
Hailey Guarracino 3/6  
Brad Sanders 3/10  
Richard Wright 3/11  
James Conner III 3/12  
Sally Thiessen 3/15  
Terry Holton 3/20  
Craig Jencks 3/22  
Eloise Hyndman 3/27  
Rick Wiggins 3/28  
Regina Guarracino 3/30  
Gail Shaffer 3/30  
Evin Kimbel V 3/31

Deacons 2025

Louise Stemplewicz  
Dana Daniels  
Maggie Realley  
Missi Dell'Orefice  
Leanne Yerkes  
Kevin Young

Sessions 2025

Maggie Rash - Clerk Amy Raab  
Donna Jencks Bob Propsner  
Mary Young Janice Propsner  
Courtney Woolslayer Ruth Squillace

**FGPC Operating Fund**

For the month Ended

January 31, 2025

**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended January 31st 2025**

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	68,850
Large Fund Income	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$68,850</b>

**Expenses**

Pastor Compensation	11,178
Staff	2,687
Office	1,349
Music & Worship	305
Christian Education	239
Property	2,303
Stewardship/Finance	69
Parish Life	405
Mission	0
PILP Loan interest payment	1,482
Chicken Barbeque	0
Credit Card Holding	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>20,017</b>

**Transfer to Memorial Fund**

0

**2024 Operating Fund**

**Surplus (Deficit)**

48,833

Fund Balance @ 12/31/24	<u>114,173</u>
Feb. Transfers from Holding Acc	<u>0</u>

Fund Balance @1/31/25	<u><b>163,006</b></u>
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**Benevolence Fund**  
**As of January 2025**

Balance @ 1/31/25	\$ 10,497.23
Receipts & Transfers	0
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 1/31/25	<u>\$ 10,497.23</u>

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



**M A R C H 2 0 2 5**

## 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)

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan  
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

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