

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



Pastor's Notes

*"Then they brought (the colt) to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road." – Luke 19:35-36*

It's April – my favorite month of the year. I can look out my office window and see the neighbor's magnolia tree in bloom, but my favorite sight is driving past the Tile Works and seeing the blanket of daffodils along the street.

Since it is April and the celebration of the resurrection on Easter is just around the corner, I am reminded of an article I read by Pastor Quinn Caldwell about a Latin American tradition where an *alfombra*, or carpet, of flowers is made all up and down the street in front of the church. This is for religious processions mostly centered around Holy Week. In Pastor Caldwell's church, the *alfombra* is made by the children on Palm Sunday because on that day, Jesus started a very difficult journey. He was about to walk a hard road to a terrible place. Before he was done, his feet will be bruised and battered. So they lay these flowers at his feet, in the most beautiful way they can contrive, to try to make the journey easier. To cushion his feet. To soothe his eyes. To let the last things he experiences before the betrayal be acts of devotion and kindness and beauty.

We won't be making a *alfombra* for Jesus here at Forest Grove Church, but perhaps there are things you can do to make Jesus' journey easier, even beautiful, as you prepare to follow him to the cross that will make Easter even more glorious. Maybe you can help feed the hungry or say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's willingness to extend love and mercy to even you and the whole world. Maybe you can walk barefoot in solidarity with Jesus or sing a beautiful song to him as encouragement, expressing the idea that this difficult road was not taken in vain. Let Jesus—and all who walk hard roads—know they are not alone – ever. Isn't that what Easter is all about?

Yours in Christ's service,

*Pastor Sara*



# Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

April 13:            10:00 AM            Palm Sunday worship. Palms will be distributed as we find ourselves among the crowd shouting “Save us!”

April 16:            11:30 AM

Midweek Communion

April 17:

5:00 PM

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship. The two events will be combined.

Worship will begin with a light soup supper as we remember Jesus in the Upper Room with his disciples, his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, trial before Pilate, crucifixion and death.

April 20:

9:00 AM

Easter Potluck Breakfast

10:00 AM

Worship

11:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for the children

*Pictures below from Easter 2021*



## RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

Last November our congregation joined with the Anchor Presbyterian Church and packed over 15,000 meals through Rise Against Hunger. That organization has notified us that these meals have been shipped to the Philippines.



The Philippines consists of over 7,000 islands in the Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean. One of the most environmentally disaster prone countries in the world, it faces near constant threats of natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. These disasters cause displacement and major loss of livelihoods and infrastructure, and disproportionately affect poor communities in rural areas, where people rely on agriculture and fishing.

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in the Philippines face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger's Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals we packaged help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you everyone for volunteering your time and energy in the name of Jesus Christ. Together, we make a difference!



## **PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT SUNDAY – April 13, 2025**

Each year all congregations of the Presbyterian Church USA are asked to support the work of the denomination at the presbytery, synod and General Assembly level. This is a way that we all participate together in Christ's work as we sustain our shared witness.

Giving is based on church membership. We are asking each church member, if they are able, to give their fair share either on April 13<sup>th</sup> or any time until then. Apportionment giving can be made online as well. Please indicate "per capita" on your donation. Here is the way in which our apportionment is divided:

- \$23.76 annual contribution to support Presbytery infrastructure necessary for mission in Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties
- \$2.40 annual contribution to the Synod, which consists of 16 Presbyteries across Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia and Ohio

\$10.84 annual contribution to the Office of General Assembly, which supports our Synods, Presbyteries, and over 10,000 congregations

Here are some ways the denomination uses these contributions:

*Walk Alongside Our Congregations* through the work of our commissions and committees that assist in pastoral transitions, church finances, resourcing creative new ministries, and other issues that may arise within the context of the congregation.

*Equip and Empower Church Leaders* by accompanying those seeking ordination, providing opportunities for leadership training events, and equipping elders for service in our churches.

*Facilitate a Network of Trust and Accountability* through the work of our Stated Clerk's office that upholds our constitutional expressions within the denomination and acts with diligence to any other ecclesiastic matters that may arise.

**This year's per capita apportionment is \$37.00 per member.**

## **MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The study has moved its schedule on Monday mornings. The new schedule is 10:00 – 11:30.



Currently the group is engaged in exploring the last words Jesus spoke from the cross. These words give the overarching picture of what Jesus' ministry and teachings were really all about. Although they are somewhat familiar, exploring each utterance can provide new understanding of who God is and what it means to be a follower of Jesus, giving the celebration of the resurrection on Easter a much deeper meaning.

Each week's lesson includes a reading. Printed copies can be found on the table outside the sanctuary. Pastor Su also sends out a copy electronically through email each week. Come and join the conversation.

### **EASTER FLOWERS:**

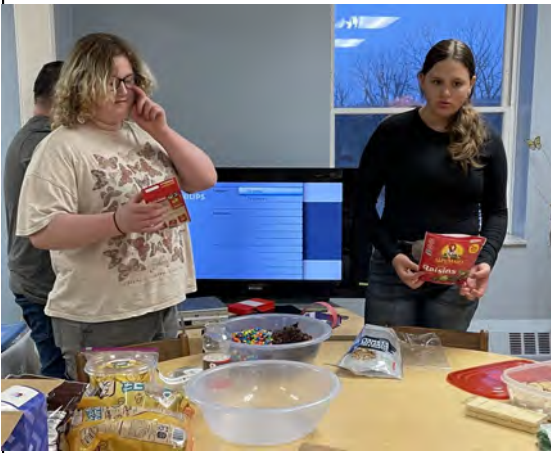
Purchase a flower or two in memory or honor of someone special.

Complete the form and return to the church office no later than April 13. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



**EASTER BREAKFAST:** A tradition at Forest Grove is to all gather at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall while we enjoy breakfast together on Easter morning. Sign-up sheets can be found in Fellowship Hall.

# Youth Group packing Snack Packs for the Welcome Church



## HERE'S WHAT'S

### HAPPENING:



The next meeting is on April 27 at 7:00 PM. The group that morning will hold a bake sale as a fund raiser for the summer mission trip.

**APRIL 27**

### FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The **Youth Group** will be holding this special fundraiser following worship. All sorts of goodies will be available for purchase. In addition to Youth Group families providing the treats, donations of additional sweets will be greatly appreciated. This event is to help cover the costs for the summer mission trip to West Virginia. All help, either purchases or donations, are greatly appreciated!



## Friday Night Fellowship



Friday Night Fellowship in May will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> AT THE RUTH FARM – 831A Pineville Rd., New Hope, just 4 miles from the church near the Pineville Tavern (weather permitting). The theme is “Down on the Farm.” We will get to see the chickens and sheep as well as play some games and, of course, engage in a mission project. Dinner will be potluck with Hot Dogs provided. Sign up in Fellowship Hall for what will be a great event!

# Vacation Bible School

June 23 – 27



It's time for a summer camp adventure with God! Once again this will be a joint VBS program to be held at Anchor, 980 Durham Rd., Wrightstown. Campers 4 yrs. old thru sixth grade will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Each day they will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about. To register go to [myvbs.org/forestgrove](http://myvbs.org/forestgrove)

To make this program a success, volunteers, adults and teens, are needed to lead one of the activities, serve as a group “guide,” prepare and serve snacks, engage in science experiments or help with making decorations. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Su.



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

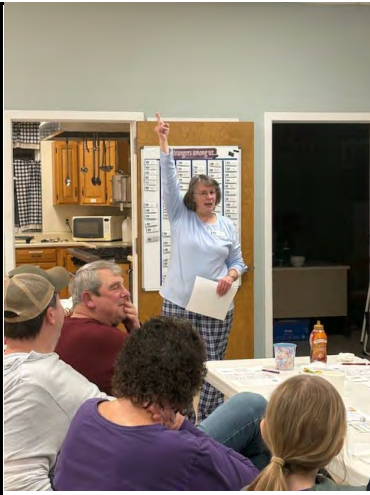
On July 27 all are invited to go to an IronPigs Baseball game in Allentown, PA. This is the Triple-A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. Come and enjoy

what is known as the “American Pastime,” eat some ballpark food, see some good ball playing and spend time with the wonderful folks from the congregation and their friends and families.

The plan is to carpool to the ball park after worship. The game starts at 1:35. It is a little over an hour drive so anyone attending can get lunch at the park.

Ticket cost is \$13. With that you get a \$2 voucher for food at the park. What a deal! Friends and family are welcome to join us. Tickets need to be purchased by April 21 to lock in the price and our seats. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.





*March  
Friday Night  
Fellowship*





## HEALTH & WELLNESS BROCHURES

Please feel welcome to browse the selection of informational handouts in the wall unit in Fellowship Hall, located immediately outside the sanctuary. Brochures there include topics such as; grief support resources for children, teens & adults, prevention of tick-borne illness, maternity information, drug & alcohol resources, dementia and caregiver support, how to avoid tech scams, veteran support, medication disposal, as well as other topics.



### CPR Class at Church

It's a win-win! Want to learn CPR, and donate to church at the same time? In April two CPR

Classes, with a First Aid training option, will be offered for church members & friends. You need only attend on one date: *Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> 9AM, OR Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> 6PM*. The CPR class is 2 hours.

But if you would also like First Aid training & certification, you may opt to stay for a 3rd hour. Whether renewing certification (this expires after 2 years) or taking a class for the first time, this basic class is low key and encouraging. The training offers preparation for emergencies that may occur in infants, children & adults, whether at home, school, work, during worship, or upstairs in the church nursery. Cost is \$45/person. After the material costs of \$25 are covered (for the book & certification by the American Heart Association), the remaining \$20 will be donated to church for each attendee.

Sign-up sheets for the classes are on the table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



*Bell  
Refurbishing  
Fund  
Raiser*



Please support our new church bell display and enjoy a piece of history. Have you been to a church member's house or in the church office and seen a Cat's Meow plaque that looked like the church? Perhaps a tile or a crock or a pitcher or a pie plate that looked like the church? Your eyes were not deceiving you! They exist! In 2003 the Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. For that special occasion the church commissioned Cat's Meow plaques, pottery tiles, crocks, pitchers, and pie plates (dishwasher-microwave-oven safe).

There are a limited number of these items left!

9" Shoulder Crock - \$50.00

7" Pitcher - \$45.00

10" Pie Plate - \$45.00

FGPC Cat's Meow - \$20.00

6" Tile - \$20.00

**Our original Bell was  
installed in 1905 and  
replaced in 2024.**

**Today the Bell is off to be  
refurbished.**

The Church also asked Jenny Ruth to author a brief history of our church over the years. Copies of her book, "Forest Grove Presbyterian Church - A History 1953-2003" are still available as well. Copies are \$5.00 New to the Church? Didn't get one the first time and still want one? Please contact the Church office or Becky Schroeder 267-885-4332. Quantities of the pottery are very limited and once they are gone... they won't be back!



**OUR NEXT DINE AND DONATE FUNDRAISER:** Will be held, April 28 at The Wyck (formerly known as The Candlewyck). From 5-8:00 you can dine at the restaurant and 20% of your bill will be donated to the church for the Church Bell Project. Flyers for the event are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. These are needed in order for the donation to be made.



## Mother's Day Luncheon

Please join us on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon for our Mother's Day Luncheon. Everyone is welcome – women, men, friends, neighbors, family, etc. Sandwiches and dessert will be provided. Please sign up in our fellowship hall so that we know how many people to expect. You can also sign up if you would like to bring a side dish.

This year we will have a special guest speaker. Nobel prize winner, Pearl S. Buck (aka Susie Woodland) will be here to share her life story including her childhood years in China with her parents who were Presbyterian missionaries, her literary achievements, and how she created the Pearl S. Buck Foundation to help children with health, education and job training. The Foundation is now Pearl S. Buck International, a charitable organization located in Upper Bucks County that carries on Pearl S. Buck's legacy. To thank our guest speaker, our church will donate to the foundation and 40% will go toward changing lives through humanitarian aid, 20% toward intercultural programs of education, and 40% toward maintaining historical tours of the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark Museum.

**Elder of the Month**

**April Ruth Squillace**

**Sunday Morning Coffee Host:**

**April 6 Penny Kipe  
April 20 Easter Breakfast**

**Deacon of the Month**

**April Maggie Realley**

**April 13 Emily Cullerton  
April 27**

**Ushers:**

**April 6 Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz  
April 13 Doug and Vini Christie  
April 20 Kevin and Maggie Realley  
April 27 Jim and Sue Hampton**



**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.

**April 6 In memory of Edith Elliott  
April 13 In memory of Anne C. Klair  
April 20 In memory of Emma Rockafellow  
April 27 In memory of Ted R. Rockafellow**



- Mary Young 4/2
- Bob Propsner 4/5
- Kevin Kevin 4/6
- Jeffrey Greenwood 4/7
- Missi Dell'Orefice 4/8
- Susan Thomes 4/9
- Emilia Lily Fullman 4/11
- Cindy Dobbins 4/12
- Anna Samsel 4/15
- Brenda Barnhart 4/17
- Ben Wiley 4/18
- Macey Schneyer 4/19
- John Daniels 4/20
- Evin Kimbel VI 4/20
- Phyllis Scarpill 4/23
- Sharon Conner 4/24
- Louise Stemplewicz 4/25
- Dale Borneman 4/26
- Tyler Raab 4/30

**FGPC Operating Fund**

For the month Ended

February 28 2025

**FGPC FINANCIALS Ended February 28 2025**

<b>Offering &amp; Misc Income</b>	\$7,379
Large Fund Income	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$7,379

**Expenses**

Pastor Compensation	7,273
Staff	2,841
Office	836
Music & Worship	123
Christian Education	705
Property	3,789
Stewardship/Finance	58
Parish Life	-10
Mission	437
PILP Loan interest payment	1,482
Chicken Barbeque	0
Credit Card Holding	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	17,533

**Transfer to Memorial Fund** 0

**2024 Operating Fund**

**Surplus (Deficit)** -10,154

Fund Balance @ 1/31/25 163,006

Feb. Transfers from Holding Acc 1,292

Fund Balance @2/28/25 154,143

**Benevolence Fund**  
**As of February 2025**

Balance @ 1/31/25 \$ 10,497.23

Receipts & Transfers 75.00

Disbursements: 0

Balance @ 2/28/25 \$ 10,572.23

# Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road  
Furlong, PA 18925-1120

*Happy Easter*



**A P R I L 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)  
[www.ForestGroveChurch.org](http://www.ForestGroveChurch.org)