

The Focus
Forest Grove Presbyterian Church
October 2025

PASTOR'S NOTES

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" – Ecclesiastes 3:1

It's that time of the year. What time is that, you may ask? Chicken Barbecue? By the time you receive this newsletter it may be just a memory, and I hope it is a delicious one. The leaves changing? Less daylight? School buses back on the roads? The clocks changing? (We have a month to go.) Woolly-bear caterpillars on the road? Church programs in full swing, including meetings?

Yes, it is time for all these things and as they are happening we need to remember the author of all these times – our great Creator God. And we will do so as we enter into that time of our annual Stewardship Campaign. This isn't just a time to solicit financial support for the work and ministries of the church. It is a time to give thanks to God for God's blessings throughout all time.

We will be starting the official campaign this month and will then ponder God's gifts of all creatures great and small and our responsibly as stewards of God's creation in all times. I hope you will ponder your role in all this as you appreciate the good things in these times.

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Su

Pastor Su





CHANGES IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus' final instructions in Matthew's gospel is to teach the lessons of Jesus. While children have always been taught the fundamentals of faith, Sunday School came into being in 1769. Since

then it has changed in its form and method but the lessons are timeless and unchanging.

Many churches are experiencing a reduction in the number of children among them. This has created a challenge and our church is trying to meet that challenge. For several years we have been without childcare for our preschoolers. Once a month, beginning on October 5 we are going to have some of our youth members serve as "nursery workers." Andrea Myers and Ellie Squillace will be the first. These girls have been trained and certified as "babysitters." Pastor Su has seen them at work and they are excellent!

Childcare will be provided on the first Sunday of the month. The Christian Education Committee will be evaluating this change. If any others are willing to serve in this capacity, please inform Pastor Su or Beth Conti. We want everyone to feel they have a place here at Forest Grove Church!

THANK YOU!



Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Red Cross blood drive by donating blood, or helping to recruit others to come out and donate. Through the efforts of many of our church members and friends in the community, 26 units of life-saving blood were collected. Each unit contains specific components with the

ability to help 3 individuals with various serious health needs. So, our donors will actually touch the lives of 78 people through their kindness. We're a small church with a big heart.





YOUTH GROUP NEWS

It has been a busy fall for our youth group teens. The group is getting started with a trip to Howell Living Farm on October 5 right after worship to experience their Corn Maze.



On October 19 the group will meet at 7:00 PM to make lunches for the Bible study participants at the Welcome Church in Philadelphia.

In November the group will participate in the church-wide Rise Against Hunger mission on the 9th. There will be a regular Youth Group meeting on November 16 at 7:00.

CHURCH BELL INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION

Last year a very dedicated group of volunteers came up with a plan for a new positioning of the bell that had been in the church steeple.

When that structure was replaced, it was decided to give it a new location – near the Memorial Garden.



The final placement of the bell will take place Friday morning starting at 9:00 on October 10th. All are invited to watch and then hear it ring again. Dedication of the bell will take place after worship on November 16.



WELCOME CHURCH MISSION PROJECT

Every Monday the Welcome Church in Philadelphia holds a Bible study that is open to everyone but is especially designed for those who are To help foster fellowship and to meet some of the needs of that population, lunch is provided. To do this, the Welcome Church needs volunteers to donate the meal. Through the Parish Life and Mission Committee, our congregation has volunteered to provide this on October 20. The Youth Group will be making the sandwiches and packing the lunch at their meeting on the 19th. We need the congregation's help by providing the lunch fixings. Donation slips with specific items needed will be posted in Fellowship Hall beginning October 12. The items will need to be brought to the church by June 19



Friday Night Fellowship begins again on October 10 at 5:30. Dinner that night will be Sloppy Joes. The mission project for the night is making special Halloween cookies for Valley Youth House, a shelter for homeless teens. Our own expert cookie baker, Bunny Pierce, will be teaching participants how to creatively decorate their cookies. She will provide all the ingredients and decorating tools. Some of the creations can go home with the decorators while the rest will be donated.

The next Friday Night Fellowship will be held on November 7. The mission project will be to make special Advent Wreaths for our home-bound members as well as simple wreaths for any home use.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend any of these events or call the church office.





Since 2012, one Sunday in November has been designated as a day when the congregation of Forest Grove intentionally engages in hands-on mission projects. This is in response to Jesus' teachings that we are to care for the poor and needy. The morning will begin with a brief worship service at 10:00 followed immediately by our project to help feed the hungry through the very special program, "Rise Against Hunger." One in three people worldwide are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Rise Against Hunger meals, are designed to provide a comprehensive array of micronutrients including enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and nutrients.

We will be packaging life-changing meals on the 9th. There are jobs for every age and ability. This year we will be packaging 15,000 meals so lots of help is needed! Our friends at The Anchor Presbyterian Church will be joining us but other friends are very welcome as well. Don't miss what will be an energizing, Spirit-filled experience to "be the church." As there is a cost of the materials needed for this effort, we are asking for donations. Donations can be made at the event on the 9th. If you are unable to make a donation at this time, come and help anyway! God needs you!



LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

The Parish Life and Mission Committee is busy planning for the upcoming holiday. There are two very special event offerings of note. First, please mark your calendar for

December 3rd when all are invited to visit the Pearl Buck Festival of Trees. The first stop will be for lunch at Plumsteadville Inn and then onto the display where a private tour will be given. Please contact the church office if you want to make a reservation for the trip.

Second, the annual Christmas Lunch will be held on **Monday, December 15th**. This year's program will be a special Barber Shop Quartet presentation. Again we are asking for sign-ups. Please contact the church office to reserve your place. Friends and Family Welcomed.



Pearl Buck House
Festival of Trees



Elder of the Month

October Donna Jencks

Sunday Morning Coffee Host:

October 5 Doug and Vini Christie

October 19 Emilie Cullerton

Deacon of the Month

October Kevin Young

October 12

October 26

Ushers:

October 5 Gerry and Louise Stemplewicz

October 12 Doug and Vini Christie

October 19 Jim and Sue Hampton

October 26 Kevin and Maggie Realley



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.

October 5 In memory of Dr. Robert Swaim

October 12 In memory of Thomas J. Frederick

October 19 In memory of Emily F. Morris

October 26 In memory of Rudy and Sally Kalozi

Happy October Birthdays

Washburn, Rich 10/1

Borneman, Carole 10/4

Lucera, Chris 10/5

Foster, Anthony 10/8

Davis, Adam 10/13

Foster, Nicholas 10/14

Lang, Nichol 10/16

Woolslayer, Courtney 10/17

Christie, Douglas 10/18

Foster, Michael 10/19



Squillace, Julia 10/20

Kimbel, Anna 10/23

Danilowicz, Peggy 10/23

Holton, Samuel 10/27

FGPC Operating Fund

For the month Ended

August 31,2025

Offering & Misc Income	9,122
Large Fund Income	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$9,122

Expenses

Pastor Compensation	\$9,463
Staff	\$3,818
Office	\$1,649
Music & Worship	\$0
Christian Education	\$7
Property	\$2,172
Stewardship/Finance	\$68
Parish Life	\$0
Mission	\$0
PILP Loan interest payment	\$815
Chicken Barbeque	0
Credit Card Holding	<u>\$0</u>
Total Expenses	\$17,991

Transfer to Memorial Fund 0

2025 Operating Fund

Surplus (Deficit) - \$8,869

Fund Balance @ 8/31/25	<u>\$127,631</u>
August. Transfers from Holding Acc	\$26

Fund Balance @8/31/25 \$118.788

Benevolence Fund

As of August 31th 2025

Balance @ 1/31/25	\$ 10,497.23
Receipts & Transfers	664.46
Disbursements:	0
Balance @ 8/31/25	<u>\$ 11,161.69</u>

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
Furlong, PA 18925-1120



OCTOBER

The delight of Fall

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

Administrative Assistant: Susan Flanagan
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org
www.ForestGroveChurch.org

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 5