

Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church



The Living News

From the Pastor's Pen

December 2025—January 2026

What the Sabbath Means for Christians

The Sabbath has its roots deep in the Old Testament. The core idea of the word “sabbath” is “rest.” The Hebrew word for the Sabbath comes from a verb that means to cease, come to a halt, to stop doing something. At the beginning of Genesis 2, we are told that God completed all the work he had set out to do in the first six days of creation, “so on the seventh day he rested from all his work” (Gen. 2:2). God ceased from the work of creation and refrained from doing any work on the seventh day. For this reason, we are told, God set apart the seventh day as the Sabbath, the day of rest, and made it a holy day (Gen. 2:3-4). The precedent that God set by his own course of action in the creation week becomes the pattern for Israel’s work week and a sign of Israel’s covenant with God (Ex. 31:12-17). In the Fourth Commandment, God instructs his people to remember the Sabbath day, follow his example, and keep the day holy by ceasing from all their labor (Ex. 20:8-11).

The Sabbath, then, is that holy day on which God’s people are to refrain from all their labors, to stop working, and to rest and be refreshed. When we rest on the Sabbath, we are acknowledging that God alone is the Creator. We are answering the call of Psalm 46:10, where God says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” God invites us to enter his rest and to know him. Our lives are so busy, our schedules so full, our distractions so unending. Sabbath is about resting from all that work, unplugging from all that distraction, and giving God our full attention. Sabbath is about remembering that God is Creator, God is in control, handing our burdens to him, finding rest in his provision, comfort in his care, joy in his fellowship, and renewal in his rest.

Sabbath not only points us to God our Creator but also to God our Redeemer. The God of Genesis is also the God of Exodus who liberated his people from slavery. Moses tells us to remember the redemption from Egyptian bondage as the basis of the Sabbath commandment (Deut. 5:15). Sabbath observance is a free man’s worship. We cease from work *because we can*. We are no longer slaves. We have no taskmasters who force us to work, for God has set us free. Referring to the exodus, God says, “I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself” (Ex. 19:4). Sabbath is about celebrating freedom, leaving bondage behind, and resting secure in the God who saves. On the Sabbath, we sing songs of redemption by a parted sea and rattle severed chains over Egyptian slain.

For Christians today under the New Covenant, the ultimate significance and fulfillment of the Sabbath is in Jesus Christ. Through Christ, God created all things and is making all things new (Col. 1:16; 2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus is Lord of the new creation. In Christ, God has redeemed all his people from their sins (Rom. 3:24). Jesus says that “everyone who sins is a slave to sin,” but “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:34, 36). Jesus is Lord of the new exodus. This same Jesus calls us to himself and promises to give us rest (Matt. 11:28-29). When we come to him by faith, we enter the true rest that the Sabbath foreshadowed (Heb. 4:1-11). Therefore, Christians ought to rest on the Sabbath day because we are justified by faith *apart from works*.

The Sabbath is ultimately a sign of our new covenant relationship with Jesus. It signifies that we are united to Christ, justified by faith, and enjoy his rest. Amid the bustle of life, remember the Sabbath. Keep it holy. Enter his rest. Be still and know your God. Because you are free, obey. “If you call the Sabbath a delight . . . then you will find your joy in the LORD” (Is. 58:13-14).

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Important Dates

- Dec. 14 Annual Church Christmas Dinner following worship
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM
- Jan. 25: Trail Life Sunday & Taco Bar Fundraiser, pg. 10

Special Points of Interest

- KATW Funding Update, pg. 13
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Church Information



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24th
7:00p.m.

There will be No New Year's Eve Service

Candlelight
Service

Pray for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

A Special Thank You! Thank you to everyone who filled an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox this year, and for those who donated items and contributed to the cost of shipping the boxes. We provided **71 shoeboxes** to Samaritan's Purse this year.

A special thank you to Kathy Wills for taking the boxes to a drop off location!

Kindly pray that each child who receives a shoebox, also receives the Greatest Gift of All—Jesus Christ as their Savior!



(Small Group) Community Bible Study

Currently there are 3 groups meeting to study the books of the Bible together for 6 weeks. Make your plans to attend today! To be added to a group, just email or call Julie Darnall at: jadarnall@verizon.net or call 484-459-2412.

1. There is a Monday night group for women; the group meets at 7:00pm at Reeta Stern's home.
2. The Tuesday morning group for women meets at 9:00am at the church.
3. Another Monday night group is for both men and women, and meets in person or online at Tom and Julie Dar

New Studies beginning in January:

Mondays 7:00-8:00pm - Coed group at the Darnalls: **Dec. 8 and finish Dec. 15 until January; new study TBD**

Mondays 7:00-8:00pm - Women's group at the Sterns: **Matthew—finish Dec. 1, resume Matthew on Jan. 5 and finish on Jan. 26; new study TBD**

Tuesdays 9:00-10:00am - Women's group at Church: **Dec. 9, finish Dec. 16; January study TBD**

For questions, Contact Julie Darnall, 484-459-2412; or Reeta Stern, 484-678-9024

Merry Christmas from The Elders

Bill Ensslen, Clerk of Session
Tom Darnall Kyle Hall
Glenn McClintock



Church Announcements



Order Your Poinsettias For In the Sanctuary by Nov. 30th

It has been a long standing tradition at The Forks to place poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

This year we will again be offering 6 inch pot (branched plants) poinsettias from Ford's Greenhouses for your convenience. **Cost per plant is \$8.15.** Cash or **check** (payable to "[Ford's Greenhouses](#)") must accompany your order.

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 30th. Order form inserts are in the Sunday bulletin until Nov. 30th. The flowers will be in the sanctuary for our Christmas Program, Dec. 14th. **The flower dedication list will be in the December 14th bulletin only.**

Forks Annual Christmas Dinner - Sunday, Dec. 14th

With the busy Christmas season upon us, mark your calendars now so you won't miss our annual Christmas Luncheon! Our meal will be in the Fellowship hall following the worship service, which will be our Christmas Program.

We asking for volunteers to bake 1-2 dozen cookies.

Sign-Up forms are in the Sunday bulletins, so there is a headcount for set up and food preparation.

A Very special "Thank You!" to our awesome Fellowship Team for providing this wonderful opportunity for us to dine and fellowship together as we celebrate the Season of the Birth of our Savior, Christ Jesus!



Removal of the Greens - Sunday, January 4th, after Worship

Please join in taking down the Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 4th. Music, snacks and drinks will be provided.

"Many hands make light work!"



Support Your Local Police with Food Items



West Brandywine Police Department is in need of soda, Propel, seltzer waters, iced teas, breakfast sandwiches, frozen dinners, mini pizzas, protein bars, etc. They love having food and drink at the department to have for snacks and on the run meals!...and chocolates!

There is a designation donation bin on the table in the Gathering Room. Label any frozen food items for "WB Police" and place them in the kitchen freezer, and notify Gail Craig at: gcrraig529@gmail.com, or 484-364-9790. Thank you!



Christmas Cards

"FRIENDS OF THE FORKS" CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

Instead of mailing your Christmas cards this year you can put your cards for members of the congregation in the "Christmas Card Box" beginning Sunday, December 7th. They will then be sorted and placed on a table, in alphabetical order, for pickup on Sundays, beginning December 14th.



Forks Historical Highlights

In recognition of the 290th anniversary of the Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, founded in 1735, The Forks' Historical Committee is sharing interesting and illuminating articles in our monthly newsletters (first article was in the April 2025 edition).

Article 8 in a Series of Interesting Historical Accounts

FUN AND FASCINATING FORKS FACTS - Part 1

Tradition holds forth that the beautiful **Estey organ** was donated by the **William Potts** family in the nineteen-teens or early 1920s. In the early years before it was electrified, the organ had to be pumped to get air in the organ chest. It's interesting to note that only a few of the decorative pipes we see from the sanctuary actually produce sound. The majority of the sound comes from non-decorative pipes within the decorative enclosures on each side of the choir loft. The organ was originally in the center of the choir loft, close to the front. The keyboard and organist were on the back side of the organ as seen from the sanctuary so the organist was not able to see the pastor in the pulpit at all! It was moved to the side when it was completely rebuilt in 1964 by the American Institute of Organ Building in Paterson, New Jersey. At the time of the organ rededication, the 25-note Maryland solid bar chimes were donated in memory of Rev. Harry H. Kurtz by the Locustdale Boys and the Boy Pioneers. The console is a memorial from the D. Clark Guiney Fund in memory of Sarah L. Guiney, Owen C. Guiney and Laura Hanley. In 2016 further major work was done on the organ. The trumpet pipes were removed for cleaning and revoicing at Trivo Co. in Hagerstown, MD. The Hautbois pipes (oboe) were removed and taken to Trivo Co. to be used to match the used, revoiced oboe which was installed in place of the original pipes which were deteriorating due to age. According to our organ tuner/technician, Bill DeGothseir, his count of pipes is 1,303 after the 1964 rebuild and his enhancement in 2016.

The **William Potts family** of the Langoma estate, now known as St. Mary's of Providence, were faithful congregants and generous benefactors from the late 1890s until William's death in 1943. It was Mr. Potts who solicited and received 3 bids in 1901 to erect the **tower and spire** that is now on the western side of the church. The winning bid was from G. W. Piersol of Honey Brook for a price of \$2,837 and he estimated the work to take 90 days. Of the total amount, Mr. Potts and his wife committed \$1,650, and he mentions in his April 29, 1901, letter to Rev. Hector McLean that he felt his mother, Mrs. Joseph Potts, would also contribute.

The **Potts** estate was a frequent site for Boy Pioneers camps under the pastorate of Rev. Harry Kurtz.

There arose a local controversy in most likely the early 1920s, possibly a bit earlier, in which the **Potts** became unwilling participants because of rumors. A farm near their estate was apparently being considered as the site for a new State penitentiary and rumor was that Mr. and Mrs. Potts would withdraw their support from the Forks if it was built. Mrs. Potts corrected that misconception, from wherever it came, in an unattributed newspaper clipping that was found in our archives. She said they didn't know the proposed site was for sale and, had they known, they would have offered to buy it! Fortunately, the location for the new prison was selected to be elsewhere, and we now know that prison as Graterford, built in the later 1920s.

Potts Mansion is now owned by The Sisters of St. Mary's of Providence, and is open for annual Christmas tours in early December and in June for their annual Strawberry Festival. Information can be found on-line.

In 1798 a **schoolhouse** once standing on the northern edge of our upper cemetery area was chosen for annual elections. Boisterous and profane language was freely used. The decision was made not to use any property belonging to the church for secular purposes which were fraught with disorder and contention. In 1821 a **Sunday School** opened in that building. It was in operation only about two years. After a lapse of several years, Sunday School was held in the church building that preceded this one.

Of noteworthy mention is a **Sunday School pin** awarded to Viola Ferguson in 1992 commemorating her 60 years of perfect attendance!

(Content for this article was derived from church archives; church members' knowledge; unattributed newspaper clipping; M'Clune's History of the Presbyterian Church of the Forks of the Brandywine, Chester County, PA)

Opportunity to Tour Potts Mansion

"Joy Around the World" Christmas Celebration at the Historic Potts Mansion

December 13 & 14, 2025

Celebrate the magic of the Christmas season with a weekend of festive events at our beautiful Mansion. On Saturday, December 13th, we will be hosting **"Joy Around the World" Mansion Tours**, in which each room will be decorated to showcase Christmas traditions from cultures around the world. That evening, join us for **"Jingle and Mingle" Christmas Celebration**, a joyful night of dinner, drinks, and fun in the glow of the holiday décor.

Then on Sunday, December 14th, bring the whole family for **Cookies with Santa**, an afternoon filled with sweet treats, crafts, and visits with Santa himself.

Experience the wonder, warmth, and community spirit of Christmas at Saint Mary of Providence Center.

For more information, to buy tickets, go to stmaryprov.org



December 12-14, 2025

Westminster Presbyterian Church
10 W Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester, PA
610-399-3377

<https://www.westminsterpc.org/>

Tickets online: Pay what you want.

Friday: 7:00 PM

Saturday: 3:00 PM

Sunday: 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

And on Earth, Peace: Christmas at Westminster

"He is come in peace in the winter's stillness
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night
He is come in joy, like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light."
- Angels' Carol by John Rutter

These words as well as those used in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Hodie* reflect both the peace and joyful exuberance of Christmas. *Hodie* (which means "This Day") is a work of vitality, force and inventiveness. This work is wrapped with familiar carols like *O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel*, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, *I Wonder as I Wander*, *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* as well as carol settings by John Rutter, David Willcocks & Dan Goeller.

Come hear the 95 Voice Concert Choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church with orchestra and handbells as they present their 35th Annual Christmas Concerts.



Church Year–End Announcements

Congregational Meeting



Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, Feb. 15th

Sunday, February 15, 2026, will be the Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately following our worship service.

Lunch will be provided in Fellowship Hall during the meeting.
The main purpose of the meeting will be to approve the 2026 budget.

Annual Church Audit - Sunday, February 1st, 2026

The Audit Committee will meet on Sunday, February 1st, immediately following worship to audit all church financial reports. Lunch will be provided.

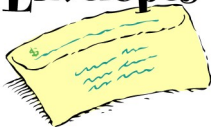


Annual Reports Due From Committees by Sunday, January 25th

The President or Head of each committee is asked to **have your Annual Report submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, January 25th**.

Offering Envelopes & ACH Giving

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes are available for your giving. We no longer have the pre-numbered envelopes.

Kindly write your Giving Number on your envelopes—(whether you use the printed ones or your own blank envelope), and/or also on your checks, to insure that it will be on your Year-End Giving Statement. If you do not know your Giving Number, contact Gladys in the church office.

ACH Giving Is An Available Option (No Fees): The Forks has Automated Giving, also known as ACH (Automated Clearing House) and is through Citadel Credit Union. This is the same process as automatic bill pay many utilities and business use. Church Members (or non-members) can set up automatic weekly giving amounts through the sign-up form. No more wondering about how much to make up for missed Sundays due to weather or other circumstances! This opportunity also allows The Forks to maintain a more even income throughout the year. You can choose: weekly, twice a month, or 1st or 15th of the month & End of month.

Sign-up is easy and secure, the same information is used that is on your check - Routing & Account numbers along with your bank name. You can adjust your giving amount anytime by submitting a new form. You may also give a check during the tithing in addition to your automatic giving to supplement other ministries, such as Building Preservation, Deacons, Missions and others.

2025 Year-End Giving Statements



Annual Giving Statements

2025 Giving Statements: Will be available mid to end of January, as soon as our records are "Closed" for 2025.

Note: Year End Giving statements can only be generated for only those who use an Offering Envelope, write you "Giving Number" on your checks, use ACH giving, or donate thru Tithe.ly. Special donations through the Benevolence Fund are recorded on your statements.



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY– SMART 911

SMART 911 - Did You Know?

Over 70% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones. When you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, the 9-1-1 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. This does not bode well in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or if there is a fire.

With Smart911, you can add key information about members of your household that would help anyone you care for in the event of an emergency, whether the call is from the home or any mobile phone.

Your entire household. One account.

People

Names, physical descriptions, and photos will help responders act quickly if a child goes missing, or help identify individuals in an emergency.

Phones

Did you know that mobile phones don't provide an address for the caller? By adding all phones for your household, 9-1-1 will have a better idea where you are when you need help.

Animals

Keep all members of your household safe by including pets, livestock, or service animals that responders need to be aware of.

Endorsed by Thousands of Public Safety Agencies Nationwide

"One of the things we fail to think about is the fact that when a person is dialing 9-1-1, it can be a very chaotic environment and there could be a lot of panic involved. If they have preloaded a profile that automatically populates for our responders, we have useful information, even if the person cannot relay all needed information to us."

Protect The Ones You Love



Smart 911 is a free, new service available in your community to help you when you call 911. Once you've signed up, first responders will be aware of important information you have provided that will help them address your emergency. This information - including medical issues, current location and even pets - can help Police, Fire and EMS locate and help you.



A free service - Provided by your community



Private and secure - You control your information



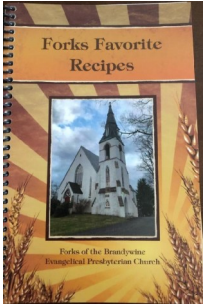
Saves time in an emergency - When seconds count

Smart911.com™

Because every second counts. Sign up today.



Fellowship Committee News



The Forks Cookbook Available for Christmas Giving!

The Fellowship Team has **"Forks Favorite Recipes"** Cookbooks...
with over 200 recipes from Forks family members.

Try some of the punches, cookies/cake recipes for Christmas Dinner & Appetizers
for New Year's Eve! **The Cost of the Cookbook is \$10.00**
You can purchase them directly thru the church office: Call or Email.



A Special "Thank You" to Dotti Ford for providing funds to purchase
new Christmas wreaths for the outside doors of our church, to the ladies
who came one day to repurpose the bows from the old wreaths to the
new ones, and to everyone who helped to decorate our church for the
Christmas Season on November 30th!

Congregational
Meeting & Luncheon



Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, Feb. 15th

Sunday, February 15, 2026, will be the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
immediately following our worship service.

The Fellowship Team will provide a luncheon.

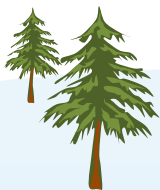
Who Will Make the Coffee!?

As you all know, Carolyn Laskowski will be moving closer to her family and we wish her
all the best!

For many, many years Carolyn came to the church before Sunday School and made
sure that we had hot coffee to start our morning off! **We are now in need of
someone to take over this important task.** This might be a good opportunity for
a husband/wife team or just someone who would like to serve in a quiet way without
having to be on a committee or someone who really, really likes a nice hot cup of
coffee in the morning. No worries about what to do, someone from the Fellowship
Committee will be able to show you where everything is and what to do!



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Fellowship Committee!



Kathy Rigg
Reeta Stern
Louise Snyder
Sara Grubb

Carolyn Laskowski
Karen Hall
Gladys Toth
Dana Rigg



From the Deacons



Deacons: Who are they?

The office of deacon as described by Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ.

The standard for deacons is to follow the pattern Christ, who came "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28).

To witness, serve and show compassion.

The Vision of the Deacons is:

- ◆ To minister with love, charity and hope
- ◆ Praying, acting and engaging the church family to help those in need
- ◆ Use church provided resources to help those in the surrounding community

The Deacons would like to express their gratitude to the Forks Congregation for their support of the different calendar events that were held throughout the year:

May **Baby Bottles** - \$2,261.20 raised!

July **Bridge of Hope** - Christmas in July cleaning supplies
(unprecedented response)

Fall **Honey Brook Food Pantry Coat Drive** (Coats, hats and gloves were donated this year). Look for year-end savings now for winter coats for next year!

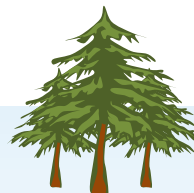
Nov/Dec **Giving Tree** (60 gifts purchased for 3 Chester County local ministries)

At any time **Coffee/Candy for Coatesville VA** inpatient/outpatient (please continue donations of ground coffee and varieties of chocolate candy).

Your generosity made each of these events a huge success and was a blessing to all ministries. We look forward to ministering to you and our community in 2026.

The Forks Deacons are:

Ron Lefferts
Colleen Knudson
Kathy Dix
Cate Pedrick
Pete Dawson
Tim Rigg
Judy Larson



Trail Life Troop 1:9

Trail Life Sunday & Taco Bar Fundraiser

TACO BAR
January 25th



Trail Life Sunday is on January 25th. The boys will participate in the service, and all the Trail Life families will be invited to worship at the Forks.

Join us for the Taco Bar lunch after Worship -Tacos with all the toppings along with drinks and desserts! Support Troop 1:9—it's one of our two fundraisers each year, and it to offset the cost for activities like camping, challenge courses, swimming, and rock wall climbing, and other activities.

Donations: Adults: \$8.00; Kids Under 10: \$5.00

Put it on your calendar! We hope you can join us!

December 2025

Dec. 01: Troop Meetings

Dec. 15: Troop Meetings

January 2026

Jan. 05: Troop Meetings

Jan. 17: Peak 2 Training—Leaders 8am-3pm at Forks Church

Jan. 19: Troop Meetings



The boys and leaders enjoyed a recent campout at Hibernia Park.

A "Thank You" to the troop for doing the annual Leaf Clean Up at the church on Saturday, Nov. 15th.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY



FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, February 23, 2025

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm



For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org

Sponsor Code: FORKS

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767),

or **Register on Church Website: www.forkschurch.org**

Registration Is Required

Contact Information:

Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator

Church Office: 610-942-2626

M, W, Th: 8:00am—2:00 PM

Tu, Fr: 8:00am—12:00 PM

Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343

Missions Ministry

Remember To Pray For Our Missionaries and Military Personnel

Please remember to pray for our missionaries who may be serving in countries away from their families this Christmas Season. Pray for their spirits to be lifted high as they celebrate the birth of our Savior and for peace and comfort for their families who must celebrate without them.

Also, please pray for all of the men and women in our armed forces who are not only separated from their families for the holidays, but who are putting their lives in harm's way so that we are free to celebrate and worship Christ openly and to celebrate His birth with public displays. Pray that God sends a mighty force of angels to surround them and protect them and that they might be able to worship Him during Christmas; that every missionary and military person has a Christmas celebration of some kind and a decent meal to eat. Pray that their families are comforted with the knowledge that God is with those who have faith in Him.

Thank You and God Bless You and Your Family during this Joyous Christmas Season!



Remember
Our
Missionaries

Missionaries Supported By The Forks Church in 2025

SERGE, Laurel Kehl—PA
Christar, Steve & Kathi Amar -Washington, DC
LATCOM, Elodia & Onesimo Rojas—Bolivia
LATCOM, Omar & Anna Vasquez - Bolivia
Beulah Land Services, Dr. Kanchana - Thailand
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Tom & Margie Rafetto—Indonesia
Son Raise Missionary Services, Jean Legters—Mexico
New Heart Foundation, Freddie & Lilian Verastegui - Bolivia
Mission Aviation Fellowship, Dave & Linda Ringenberg – Indonesia

KBC Ministries, Eugene Sologubenco, Moldova
David and Lee Hall – North Africa
Trans World Radio, Daryl & Carol Van Dyken - PA
EPC Engage 2025
EPC World Outreach, Tim & Karen Mindling - MI
EPC World Outreach, Dani & Delia Odendall - Asia
EPC World Outreach, Dan & Ira Pinckney - TN
Kids Around the World—Dominican Republic

Local Ministries Supported By The Forks Church in 2025

Bridge of Hope
Chester County Connect Cares (prev. CCWS)
County Corrections Gospel Mission (Camp at Old Mill)
Good Works
Chosen People Ministries (Paul Cruz)
Steeple to People
Glenmoore Food Bank

Adult Mission
Youth Mission
Sermon Audio



Local Ministries

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS from the Forks Missions Ministry Team!

Glenn McClintock, Chairperson

Rebecca McClintock

Glady Toth, Missionary Correspondent



Youth News

FORKS YOUTH

In October our youth group were able to pack 17 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Israel shared about the impact receiving one of those boxes has on a child, having experienced it first hand, and we prayed for each child that would receive the boxes. Thanks to everyone who helped out with donations!

We also enjoyed a campfire night with s'mores up at the fire pit and an intense game of mafia!



This past month our Bible study has led us to consider what it means to be a child of God. Studying King David and his treatment of Mephibosheth in the book of Samuel helped us identify a correct perspective of who we are in Christ, and how this plays out in our attitudes to life. Attitudes of worship and thanksgiving versus entitlement and victimhood came up. All great discussions to be having that we hope will always point us back to Christ!

Thanks to everyone who has prayed for and supported the Forks Youth this year!



2026 :
1/9 YOUTH SOCIAL: DUCKPIN BOWLING
1/23 HOUSE NIGHT



Church KATW Mission Event

Kids Around the World: Funding Update

We are grateful to share how God is moving through our church's support of the Kids Around the World ministry. Since the Forks has officially taken up the call to support the Hope Zone in Veron, our congregation has responded with encouragement, prayer, and incredible generosity. We want to take some time to share an update on where things stand.

We set out to raise funding to cover the playground, the food packing, the monthly contributions for the discipleship in Veron, and finally for the mission trip itself.

- At the Bag Bingo event on November 7, we raised \$7,575.43.
- From the 3 special offerings in the month of November, we received \$6,748.00 in contributions.
- The total amount of money raised so far is \$24,067.64.

This is all thanks to the generous giving of our church and surrounding community, who have dutifully come out to events, graciously donated, and prayerfully supported this ministry.

Because of the faithful giving, we have now fully funded the playground in Veron, as well as the food-packing event that will take place on March 14. Thank you for helping make these ministries possible!

Our next step is raising support for our June mission trip, where our team will travel to Veron to assemble the playground and continue building relationships with the community. We are excited to see this partnership come to life in person and to serve alongside our brothers and sisters there.

As we prepare for the months ahead, we ask for your continued prayers and support. Every gift toward the trip helps move the mission forward and strengthens our connection with those we hope to serve.

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples." — Psalm 96:3

One Meal 2026 Food Packing Day, Saturday, March 14th

Serve **locally**. Impact **globally**. The OneMeal program empowers groups and their volunteers to pack meals and deliver HOPE in the form of nutritious food to impoverished kids throughout the world.

1 in 7 kids in the world suffers from the effects of food insecurity, living in a chronic state of malnutrition.

Through our OneMeal program, we ensure that tens of thousands of impoverished kids have a warm, nutritious meal EACH DAY.





December BIRTHDAYS

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Kathy Rigg
- 3 - Evie Harvey
 - Wesley Grubb
- 5 - Louise Snyder
- 6- Robin Letts
- 10 - Robbie McNeal
 - Matt Troxell
- 11 - Claude Frisbie
- 18 - Matt Reeser
- 19 - Vicky Taggart
- 20 - Katherine Westervelt
- 21 - Julie Darnall
 - Scott Chamberlain
- 24 - Pam Holston
- 25 - Deborah Colburn
- 29 - Danny Moore

Children to Sr. Teens

- 2 - Lydia Snyder (13)
- 6 - Jessica Hall (19)
- 9 - Riley Williams (15)
- 13 - Madison Gebert (12)

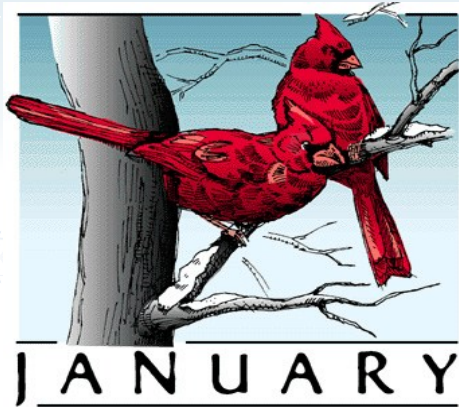


December ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 - Vicky and Ron Taggart
Evie and Phil Harvey
- 23 - Cate and Paul Pedrick
- 27 - Cheryl and Steve Wilson





January Birthdays

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

- 6 - Lisa Westervelt
- 12 - Nick Williams
- 14 - Olga Dressler
- 17 - Rodney Rigg
 - Barb Sychterz
 - Lori Gebert
- 20 - Janice Wardle
- 22 - Brian Dressler
- 26 - Amy Shimmin
- 28 - Sara Grubb
- 31 - Dave Bowers
 - Sandy Stirling

Children to Sr. Teens

None on record.



Anniversaries

- 3 - Janelle and Matt Reeser
- 4 - Victoria and Israel Sanchez
- 24 - Judy and Lew Larson
- 29 - Kathy and Dan Stewart



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify us by placing a note in Gladys Toth's mailbox located in the Gathering Room.



DECEMBER 2025

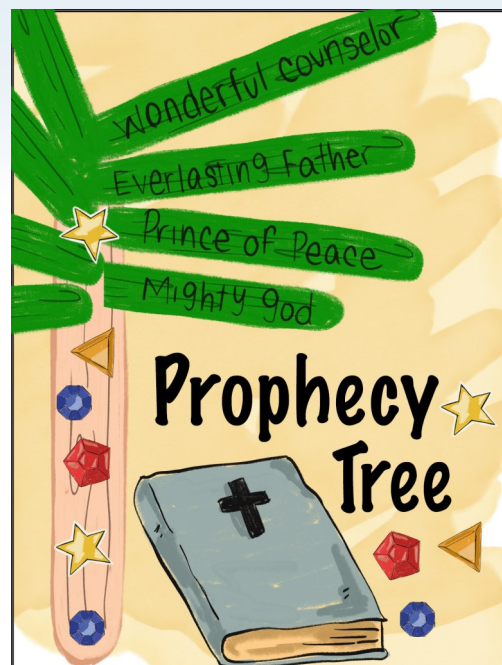
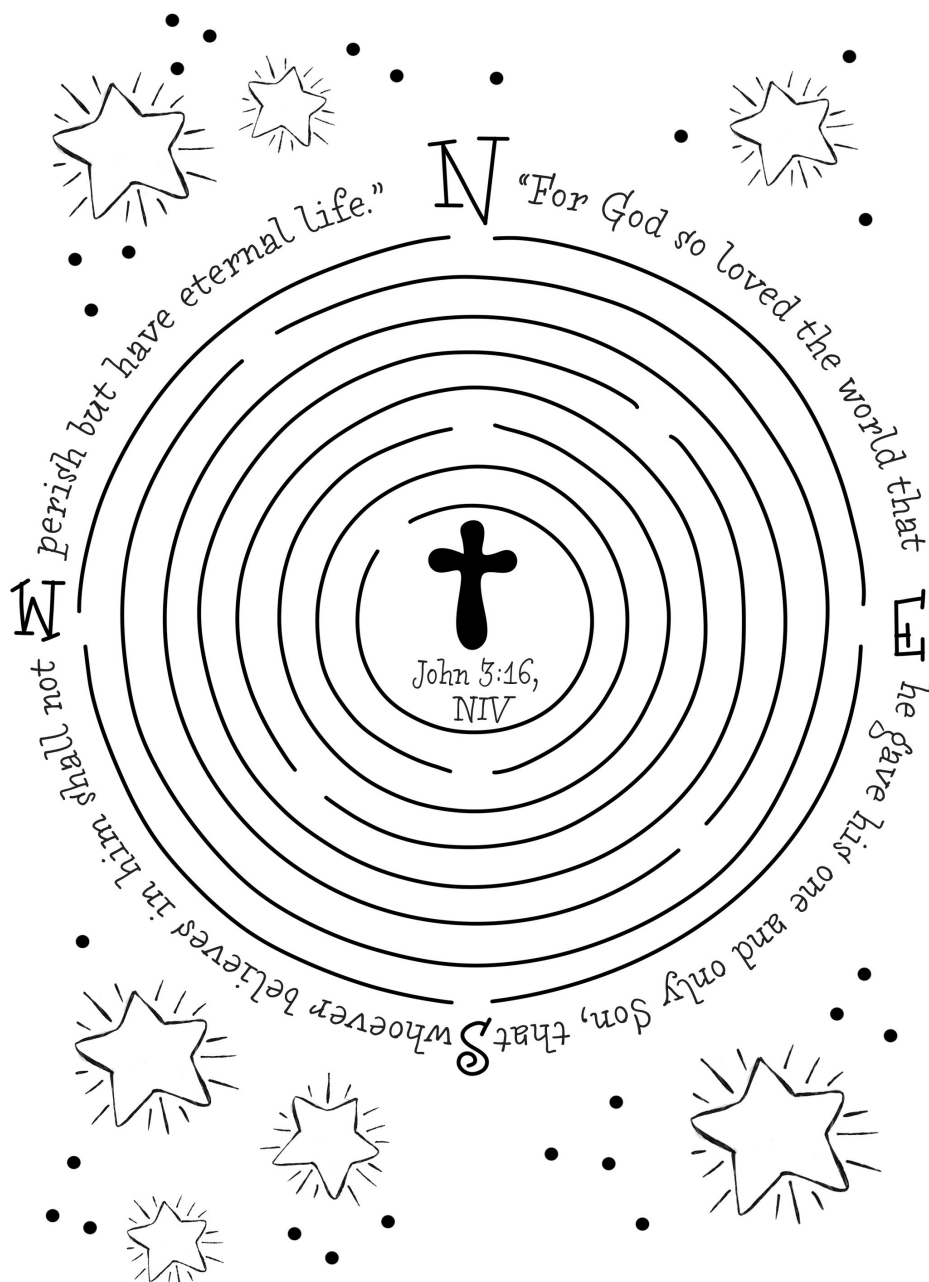
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church 6:00 PM Ladies Evening Out	3 No Bible Study	4 6:45 PM Music Night - Open to All	5 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	6 9:30 AM Karate
7 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	8 7:00 PM Trustees	9 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	10 7:00 PM Bible Study	11 6:45 PM Music Night - Open to All	12 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	13 9:30 AM Karate
14 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship W/ Holy Communion 12 PM Annual Christmas Dinner 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	15 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls	16 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	17 No Bible Study	18 6:45 PM Music Night - Open to All	19 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	20 9:30 AM Karate
21 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	22 3:30 PM Deacons	23 7:00 PM Session	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25  Christmas Day	26 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast No Karate	27 No Karate
28 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	29	30	31 No Bible Study			

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	3 9:30 AM Karate
4 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship	5 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	6	7 7:00 PM Bible Study	8 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study—Resumes 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	10 9:30 AM Karate
11 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship/ w Holy Communion	12	13	14 No Bible Study	15 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	17 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour 18 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship	19	20	21 7:00 PM Bible Study	22 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	24 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage			6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate	
25 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship	26	27	28 No Bible Study	29 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	31 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	3:30 PM Deacons	7:00 PM Session		6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate	

Puzzle!

Complete the maze to help people from all directions hear the good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read John 3:16, NIV.



Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.



Thoughts & Smiles



Vulnerable Love

God throws open the door of this world — and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because he wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a God that wanted such intimacy with us that he came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch him? So fragile that we could break him? So vulnerable that his bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death.

—Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*

Come Back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, *Publishers Weekly* interview

Advent Meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 1st, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).



The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Resolve To Go Micro



Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!

While Waiting...

Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Genesee Diary*

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

NEWSLETTER

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FORKS' STAFF

Pastor Wesley Grubb

Music Directors Julie & Tom Darnall

Office Manager Gladys Toth

Sexton Walt Rigg, Sr.

