



The Living News

Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ

When I was in high school, the youth pastor of a nearby church in my denomination would always spend the month of February teaching the teenagers about biblical standards for dating. The reason is fairly obvious. Valentine's Day made February the "month of love," so the youth pastor did not want this teaching opportunity to go to waste. As February is now upon us, we should also use this opportunity to think about biblical love—not the love between men and women, but the love of believers for the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the best, short treatments of the believer's love for Jesus is by a Puritan pastor named Thomas Vincent (1634-1678). Vincent wrote a short book, amounting to a very large sermon, called *The True Christian's Love to the Unseen Christ*. This work is a deep analysis and application of 1 Peter 1:8, which gives an inspired description of how true believers relate to Christ. In the preface to the reader, Vincent takes note of three alarming passages about love for God. Paul tells the Corinthians that a person who does not love the Lord Jesus is under a curse (1 Cor. 16:22); and John writes the words of Jesus to the church of Ephesus that they had lost their first love, and to the church of Laodicea that he would vomit them from his mouth for being lukewarm (Rev. 2:4-5; 3:15-16). Thus Vincent alerts us to the necessity of loving Christ, the danger of failing to love Christ, and the urgency of kindling our love for Christ.

In the introduction, Vincent appeals to our hearts by way of allusion to Proverbs 23:26. An important literary device in the Book of Proverbs that frames all the material in the first seven chapters is that of a father giving wise counsel to his son. This literary device occurs again in 23:26, and Vincent interprets this verse as the voice of God the Father instructing his earthly children with heavenly wisdom. In Proverbs 23:26, God speaks to each one of us and says, "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." The Father wants our hearts. The way we give God our heart is by giving Christ our love.

Vincent stresses that without love for Christ there is no true Christianity. "The *life* of Christianity consists very much in our *love* to Christ. Without love to Christ, we are as much without spiritual life as a carcass, when the soul is fled from it, is without natural life. Faith without love to Christ is a dead faith, and a [professing believer] without love to Christ is a dead professor, dead in sins and trespasses. Without love to Christ we may have the *name* of Christians—but we are wholly without the *nature* of Christians. We may have the *form* of godliness—but are wholly without the *power* of godliness." Vincent then gives a glorious description of what love for Christ looks and feels like. Make it your prayer this month that God would ignite your love for the Lord Jesus.

"Christ knows that . . . if He has their love, their *desires* will be chiefly after Him. Their *delights* will be chiefly in Him; their *hopes* and *expectations* will be chiefly from Him; their hatred, fear, grief, anger, will be carried forth chiefly unto sin—as it is offensive unto Him. He knows that love will engage and employ for Him all the powers and faculties of their souls; their *thoughts* will be brought into captivity and obedience unto Him; their *understandings* will be employed in seeking and finding out His truths; their *memories* will be receptacles to retain them; their *consciences* will be ready to accuse and excuse as His faithful deputies; their *wills* will choose and refuse, according to His direction and revealed pleasure.

All their *senses* and the members of their bodies will be His servants. Their *eyes* will see for Him, their *ears* will hear for Him, their *tongues* will speak for Him, their *hands* will work for Him, their *feet* will walk for Him. All their *gifts* and *talents* will be at His devotion and service. If He has their love—they will be ready to do for Him what He requires. They will *suffer* for Him whatever He calls them to. If they have much love to Him, they will not think much of denying themselves, taking up His cross, and following Him wherever He leads them."

Grace and peace,
Pastor *Wesley*

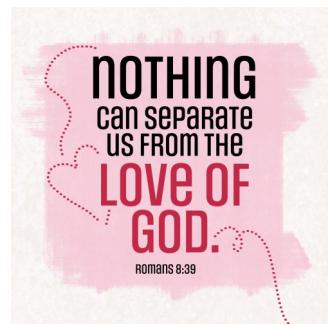
February 2026

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Church & Community News



ONE MEAL FOOD PACKING DAY!

Come Pack Meals With Us—45,000 meals for Kids in Need!
(In partnership with Kids Around the World Ministry)

Event Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026

Event Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

**Event Location: Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church
1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA**

All Ages are Welcome!

Sign Up on the church website, www.forkschurch.org

Any Questions:

Contact: Diane Shumaker, shumakers@comcast.net Janice Williams, jwilliams@telhai.org
Karen Hall, Karen.Hall@forkschurch.org Erika Snyder, snyderla@hotmail.com

To Read More about the One Meal Program, go to this link: <https://kidsaroundtheworld.com/onemeal/>

Join the Forks Good Works Volunteer Team

The Forks is a Partner Church with Good Works by participating in their **Good Neighbor Program**. The program is where churches partner with GW by providing regular volunteers and workday leaders to complete home repairs for a homeowner and see the process through from beginning to end. They care for their “adopted” families in other ways too, such as ongoing emotional support and prayer. When homeowners and volunteers come together regularly, often lasting relationships result—enriching the lives and faith of both. The Partner Church outreach embraces the true meaning of active, living faith and provides opportunities to extend God’s love in a variety of ways.

A group of Forks volunteers meet at an ‘adopted home’ on the 4th Saturday of each month.
The average day is 9:00am-3:00pm, but you can give whatever time you have available.

Won’t you prayerfully consider volunteering some Saturday? No skills necessary. All tools provided. Lunch* is provided. *You can also help by volunteering to provide lunch for the group on a work day. If you cannot provide the full meal, you can offer to provide individual lunch items: sandwiches, pizza, chips, drinks, snacks, fruit, etc.

Contact: Matt Snyder, Crew leader - msnyderla@gmail.com
Colleen Knudson, Ambassador - cknudson@comcast.net
Glenn McClintock, Ambassador - ragmac@msn.com

“The Daytimers” Game Day



The Day-Timer's meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 10:30, for a time of games, light snacks and fellowship time.

This is open to anyone who would like to come!

**If you would like more information —Contact Louise Snyder,
610-653-7829!**



FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**For an appointment, please visit
[redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org)**

Sponsor Code: FORKS

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

Registration Is Required



Contact Information:

**Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator
Church Office: 610-942-2626**

Join the Thursday Ladies Bible Study!

On Thursdays, a group of ladies **meet at the church at 1:00 PM** for a fun and relaxed Bible Study. **All ladies** (church and community members) are welcome to join in at any time, and to bring a friend(s). The class is led by Jeanna DiNunzio.

A new study on the **Book of James** begins on **Thursday, February 5th**. The book of James is said to be intended as a circular letter that would be read by many congregations. The book treats issues and problems that would have been common to all of the recipients.



Join the CBS Monday Evening Ladies Bible Study!

The Ladies Community Bible Study that meets at the Stern home on **Monday evenings at 7:00 PM**, will begin a new study on **book of Job** on **Feb. 2nd** for a six-week session. All ladies are welcome to attend! See Reeta Stern.

Church & Community News

Join us for

Valentine's Banquet



Saturday, February 14 at 6:00PM

Forks of the Brandywine Church is hosting a Valentine's Day Banquet to raise funds for our Kids Around the World mission trip. Join us for an elegant evening including a 3-course meal, games, fun, and fellowship.

This event is for everyone! Bring your Valentine, or come with friends.

DINNER INCLUDES:

- CAESAR SALAD
- SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
- GARLIC BREAD
- CHOICE OF DESSERT
- GAMES
- FUN FOR ALL!

SUGGESTED DONATION

\$20

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY FEBRUARY 7

To make a reservation, contact:

484-880-1267 Shumakers@comcast.net



Venmo:
@Jwilliams2003

Forks of the Brandywine Church | 1648 Horseshoe Pike | Glenmoore, PA 19343

Church News

SECRET SISTERS & Potential Secret Sisters... Mark Your Calendars!



Annual Secret Sister Reveal

Sunday, March 1, 2026

12:00 Noon

**We will gather for a meal, fellowship, a devotion,
make a craft, a game,
door prizes, and our reveal gift exchange.**

The Devotion Theme: “Loved Beyond Measure”

What to Bring:

- A Food Item to Share - a Fun Finger Food
- A “Reveal Gift” for your Secret Sister
- Your favorite Mug or Tea Cup (optional, but there may be a prize involved!)
- A funny Story or Joke to share
- Smiles and a Happy Heart!!

Watch for further details via email and in the Sunday bulletins, and, for the Secret Sister Sign Up Forms for 2026-2027 to be available on the “Secret Sister” table in the Gathering Room - and at the ‘Reveal’. Prayerfully consider being a prayer partner with a ‘Sister’ in Christ this coming year!

If you would like to be a Secret Sister* this year, you are invited to attend the Reveal to enjoy the fellowship and see what a blessing you can be to other Sisters in Christ, but you must **RSVP no later than Sunday, February 15th.**

For more information about the Secret Sister Ministry, contact:

Glady Toth - in the church office: 610-942-2626; office@forkschurch.org

Karen Hall - 908-892-2461; Karen.Hall@forkschurch.org

***“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 (ESV)***

*The Secret Sister program has been an internal ministry of the Forks for over 25 years. It consists of women within the church who sign up to be a ‘secret sister’. Each one completes a form that gives information about herself—birthday, anniversary, favorite things, etc. These forms are then matched to another ‘sister’ and distributed. When you receive the form (and recently we have been including photos), you pray for that ‘sister’ throughout the year. You are also encouraged to give them a card and/or token gift each month or as you are able - for birthday, encouragement, anniversary, holidays, etc. It is a “Secret” who has who for a ‘sister’ so no names are listed in the cards. A list of monthly holidays with gift suggestions is provided to each ‘sister’ but is only a guideline and strictly optional. The giving and receiving of these ‘secret’ gifts is such a fun part of the ministry! In March of each year, we have the “Reveal” as detailed above. Then, the ‘Secret’ is Out!



Church News

The Forks Has Giving via ACH thru Citadel Credit Union



As a Reminder... The Forks has **Automated Giving. Also known as ACH (Automated Clearing House)**. This is offered through Citadel Credit Union, where the Forks currently has their accounts. 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 ACH Authorization Forms located by the Offering Boxes on the tables on the landing outside of the sanctuary doors, and located on the large information table in the Gathering Room.

No more remembering to write out a check, postage stamps, and getting it in the mail each week! 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, many families vacation over the summer, over the past we have had to use "savings" funds to cover the shortage, then replenish the savings in the fall.

There are no fees involved, and you have the option to give:

- 1) Weekly; 2) 1st of the Month; 3) 15th of the Month; 4) 1st & 15th of the 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 at any time by submitting a new form, or simply email the church office.

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, fundraising events and others.

The Forks Has Online Giving thru Tithe.ly

The Forks also uses Tithe.ly for online giving for visitors and special fundraisers. Apps are available for most smartphones, just go to your app store and search for Tithe.ly, create an account, and search for Forks of the Brandywine!

You can choose a one-time offering or set up a recurring gift. You will also have the option to cover the costs!

You can also choose to give an Offering or to the Building Preservation Fund.

If apps aren't your thing, you can also give online from the ForksChurch.org website – Click the green "ONLINE GIVING" button.

There is a QR code on the back of the Sunday bulletins to make using Tithe.ly even easier!

3 WAYS TO GIVE

YOU CAN NOW GIVE ONLINE, GIVE FROM THE APP OR GIVE IN PERSON!



2025 Year-End Giving Statements are Available

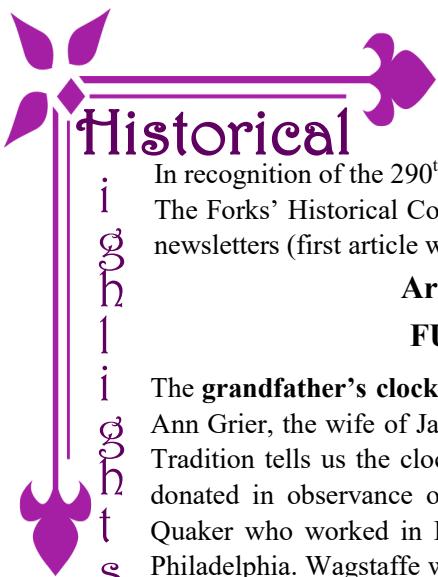


Giving statements for 2025 have been generated and are available on the information table in the Gathering Room, or in your church mailbox if you are a church officer or ministry leader.

Statements are generated for those using a Giving/Envelope number, and/or give through ACH (automatic giving) or use Tithe.ly (the QR scan square on the back of the Sunday bulletins).

If you do not see your giving statement, or find any discrepancies on your statement, contact the church office.

If you would like to receive a giving statement for this year, contact the office to be assigned a Giving/Envelope number. That is the only way we can generate statements. You do not have to be a church member to be assigned a Giving number or to receive a statement.



Fun and Fascinating Forks Facts

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

Article 9 in a Series of Interesting Historical Accounts

FUN AND FASCINATING FORKS FACTS - Part 2

The **grandfather's clock** at the top of the eastern stairs to the sanctuary was bequeathed to the Forks by Mary Ann Grier, the wife of James K. Grier to whom the large stained glass window in the choir loft is dedicated. Tradition tells us the clock, or at least its works, was brought to America by immigrant John Grier. It was donated in observance of the Forks' 150th anniversary. The maker is Thomas Wagstaffe (1724-1820) a Quaker who worked in London from 1766 to 1794 and was known to supply clock works to Quakers in Philadelphia. Wagstaffe was also an author and spent his later years devoted to his literary pursuit. His clocks can be found in museums as well as in private ownership. The clock is an 8-day clock in a walnut case. The brass face is marked with hours, minutes, and seconds, as well as the movements of the sun, moon and stars.

In the early days, **pews** were owned or rented by the families who occupied them. During the pastorate of Dr. J. N. C. Grier, the pew of a bankrupt member was seized by the sheriff and sold for the benefit of the creditors. Have you noticed on the wall outside the back of the sanctuary the pew chart for the early days of this church building? There is also in our archives a chart for the building that preceded this one.

The **oaken rafters spanning the arches of the inside of the sanctuary** may look solid, but they are hollow boxes, with the actual support beams between the ceiling of the sanctuary and the roof of the building. It may be difficult to imagine, but above the ceiling is a "catwalk" that runs the length of the sanctuary in the cavernous space which is the attic. When the church was designed, a venting system was installed in the ceiling. In the clover-leaf designs in the wooden trim running the length of the sanctuary are a series of piano-hinged doors approximately 10' long that are able to be opened to allow air flow from the top of the sanctuary to windows on either end of the attic space above. It's been many years since the venting has been used, due to dust and dirt, bugs and critters in the attic!

In our archives is a "Reminiscenses" writing by late long-time member **Anna Dorlan**, which she produced for the 235th anniversary of our church in 1970. She recounts many memories from the early 1900s, including how money raised for new horse and carriage sheds was used instead to dig out the basement and install, over time, a kitchen and bathrooms – this was decided instead of the horse and carriage sheds because they felt cars were here to stay! And she also told us that the present-day **sanctuary pulpit furniture** was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society for \$750 in 1909. We have our **elevator** today thanks to Miss Dorlan, who gifted the church

with a fund to install it – she was one of many who, through the years, had difficulty with the steps to the sanctuary level. The event venue, Westwynd Gardens, at Routes 322 and 82, now sits on the family property she once held and includes her home which was moved to be further down into the site.



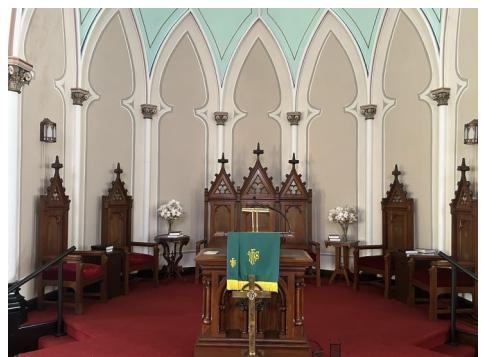
Grandfather Clock



Pew Chart Numbered Pews



Oaken Rafters—hollow boxes



Sanctuary Pulpit Furniture

Trail Life News

🥇 Freedom Award Recognition: Rick Craig

Our troop is proud to celebrate Rick Craig, Troop Ministry Liaison, on earning the Trail Life USA Freedom Award—a distinction available to adult leaders who previously achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Rick completed this honor through two Freedom Experiences:

- **Shooting Sports Double Major:** Rick earned the NRA Sharpshooter classification and became an NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, demonstrating both excellence and safety leadership in the shooting sports field.
- **Trail Life Service Legacy:** Rick also completed a second Freedom Experience by serving as a co-founder of Troop 1:9 in December 2014. His vision and commitment helped establish the very troop that continues to shape young men today.

We are grateful for Rick's dedication, example, and faithful service to the boys, leaders, and families of Troop 1:9. Congratulations, Rick!

HOLD THE DATES!

Summer 2026 will be an exciting time as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country! Trail Life will be holding a special nation-wide Summer Adventure from July 12-18th.
Save the dates now and stay tuned!
More to come!

March 21 – Nav/Adv Aquatics Day

April 24-26 – National Campout

July 12-18th – Summer Adventure 2026!



Campfire Fun!

Youth News

FORKS YOUTH

The Forks Youth Group enjoyed our annual Christmas Party at the Manor House with festive games and treats! See 'Hungry Reindeer' and 'Keepy Uppies' games below!



Our first meet of 2026 was a welcome back social at Golf Zone to fellowship, try out their duck pin bowling, and sample their food!

We discovered that duck pin bowling is great and their mozzarella sticks are on point. Join us on the dates below at church for Bible Study, games and food.

1/23 HOUSE NIGHT

2/13 HOUSE NIGHT

2/27 HOUSE NIGHT

3/13 HOUSE NIGHT

3/27 HOUSE NIGHT

4/10 HOUSE NIGHT

4/24 HOUSE NIGHT

5/8 VOLLEYBALL @ BALLFIELD

**5/22 PICNIC, PARK & PICKLEBALL
@ WAGENSELLER**



Israel has been working on opening a Youth Sunday school class. The first class will meet on 2/8. We will be sharing details on Sunday so watch out for that and hit him up with all your questions!



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Church Audit	2	3 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	4 7:00 PM Bible Study	5 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	6 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	7 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	7:00 PM Fellowship	6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate		
8 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	9 7:00 PM Trustees	10 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	11 No Bible Study	12 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	13 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	14 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	6:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate		
15 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Luncheon	16	17 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	18 7:00 PM Bible Study	19 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	20 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	21 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	7:00 PM Fellowship	6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate		
22 9:00 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship	23 2:00-7:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE	24 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	25 No Bible Study	26 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	27 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast	28 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	3:30 PM Deacons	3:30 PM Session	6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Karate		



ADULT BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Kathy Duncan
- 8 - Dana Rigg
- 20 - Dale Cairns
- 25 - Lorraine Reeser
- 28 - Ron Lefferts



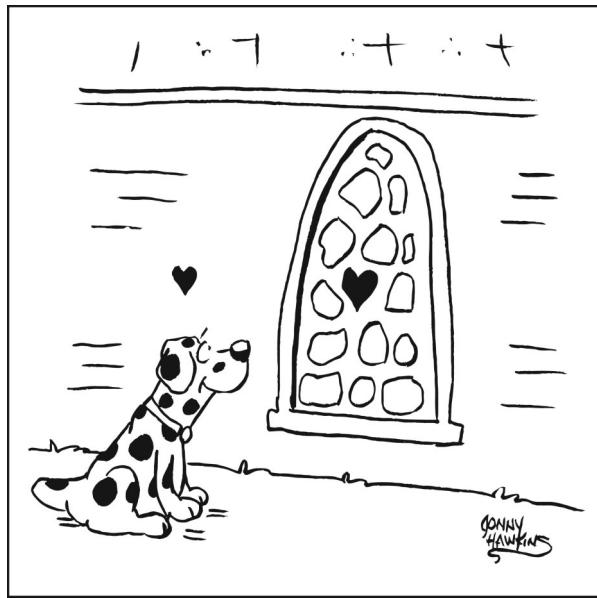
Children to Sr. Teens

- 5 - Gabrielle Reeser (13)
- 23 - Milania Majors (15)



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.

THOUGHTS & SMILES



Faith's Role in Love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).



But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. “I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more.” That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand.”

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart.”



Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses



The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.



Pure Love for Jesus

Jesus has always many who love his heavenly kingdom, but few who bear his cross. He has many who desire consolation, but few who care for trial. He finds many to share his table, but few to take part in his fasting. All desire to be happy with him; few wish to suffer anything for him. Many follow him to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the chalice of his passion. Many revere his miracles; few approach the shame of the cross. Many love him as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless him as long as they receive some comfort from him. . . .

Those, on the contrary, who love Jesus for his own sake and not for any comfort of their own, bless him in all trial and anguish of heart as well as in the bliss of consolation. . . . What power there is in pure love for Jesus — love that is free from all self-interest and self-love!

—Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*



SUCCESS

by Herb Warner

You can use any measure when you're speaking of success.
 You can measure it in a fancy home, expensive cars or dress.
 But the measure of your real success, is the one you cannot spend.
 It's the way your kids describe you, when they are talking to a friend.

(May it be about your faith.)

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

—John Holmes

KID'S PAGE

A MESSAGE OF *love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

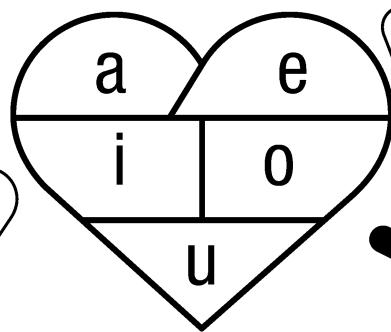


A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



“Y r my fr nd
y d wh t c mm nd.

Th s s my c mm nd:

L v ch th r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV



1648 Horseshoe Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343

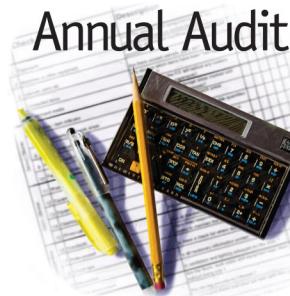
Phone: 610-942-2626
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E-mail: office@forkschurch.org



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
2026

Year End Procedures & Scheduled Events



The Annual Church Audit will take place following the worship service on **Sunday, February 1st**. All boards and ministries having financial statements and reports must be presented for audit by that time.



Sunday, February 15th
Every church member is strongly encouraged to attend this annual meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and receive the 2026 Budget and Terms of Call.

A Luncheon* is planned, and will be provided by our Fellowship Committee. *There will be an insert in the Sunday bulletins to sign up for the luncheon, only to get an idea for set up and food count. You do not have to sign up to attend.

