



# The Living News



Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church (EPC)

## From the Pastor's Pen

### Name It and Claim It?

#### Faith and the Promises of God

Christian television is infamous for its cast of preachers who teach what is often called the Prosperity Gospel. These preachers teach that God's will for every believer is that they enjoy worldly prosperity, including bodily health, miraculous healing, supernatural deliverance from suffering, and material and financial abundance. God wants to bless all believers with wellness and success, but the devil wants to keep believers poor, sick, and defeated. Therefore, Christians must rebuke the devil and claim God's blessings by faith. Those Christians who do not enjoy this kind of prosperity have only themselves to blame. They must not have enough faith.

This teaching is sometimes ridiculed as "name it and claim it" theology. All you have to do is blab it and grab it. Is this teaching true? Is the Prosperity Gospel biblical? Is there anything to the idea that we can name it and claim it? Is it really your own fault if you are sick and you haven't gotten better yet? These are important questions for our spiritual health and our Christian lives.

The English Puritan preacher John Bunyan (1628-1688) taught that offering true prayer to God depends on whether we ask "for such things as God has promised." "Prayer is only true," Bunyan writes, "when it is within the compass of God's Word; it is blasphemy, or at best vain babbling, when the petition is unrelated to the Book." In other words, Bunyan says that true prayer must make requests to God for things that are according to his will, and the surest guide to God's will is his word. Therefore, our prayers must be Bible-based. We ought to pray on God's terms, not our own. Anything else is vanity, at best, or blasphemy at worst. One of the examples Bunyan gives to support his teaching is the Psalmist who prays in Psalm 119:25 and 28, "My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word. . . . My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word." Bunyan concludes, "It is a praying then according to the Word and promise."

Bunyan's insight is the key to understanding why "name it and claim it" is unbiblical. *If God hasn't promised it, your faith can't get it.* It does not matter how much you believe or how sincerely. If God's grace has not provided it, no amount of naming and claiming will avail. God never answers prayers for things contrary to his will. God has never promised health, wealth, and prosperity to all believers in this life. Of course God blesses his people, and he is still in the miracle business. However, that does not mean that if you have prayed for healing and are still sick, you must not have enough faith. If you are suffering and God has not rescued you, it does not mean something is spiritually deficient with you. That is such destructive teaching, completely foreign to Scripture. It is the blasphemy and vain babbling Bunyan talked about. The Psalmist has the complete opposite mindset, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes" (Ps 119:71). What a different attitude we often have. Let us learn, then, to trust God with our circumstances and know our Bibles that we might pray on his terms. Let us believe God and ask only for those things his grace has provided and his word has promised.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Wesley

## JUNE 2026

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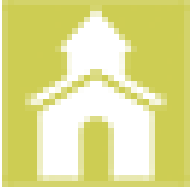
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# Church News

## Forks Church Photo Directory is Online



**We continue to ask for people to go online and add their photos, or send a photo to office to be added to our directory.**

Instant Church Directory provides the ability to see the Forks Church Directory for all members. It will also allow you to make changes to the information about you, **including a photo\*** if you so desire. Optionally, you can also provide updated information and/or **photos** to Gladly Toth or Bill Ensslen, and they will update your profile for you.

**THIS IS A SECURE SITE... THERE IS NO PUBLIC ACCESS.**

Here are the instructions on how to access, our new Forks Online Church Directory via the Instant Church Directory service provider.

**If you need help with completing these instructions, please call or email Bill Ensslen at 610-942-2423 or [wtensslen@gmail.com](mailto:wtensslen@gmail.com).**

### **Web Browser Access:**

Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. **If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Gladly Toth know so it can be added.**

Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on-screen to complete the create log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made, they will show on the Online Members' Website, too.

For more information about the members' website, go here:

<https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/638-navigating-the-online-member-directory>

### **Mobile App Access**

To download the app to your Apple device, go to: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221?ls=1&mt=8>

To download the app to your Android device, go to:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members>

You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. **If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Gladly Toth know so it can be added.**

Once you enter your email address follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device.

Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device also. In the app you will be able to search for families and members and call, email and text right from the app.

More information can be found at [www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app](http://www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app).

**If you need help with completing these instructions, please call or email Bill Ensslen at 610-942-2423 or [wtensslen@gmail.com](mailto:wtensslen@gmail.com).**

\* We strongly encourage each family to go online to verify your information and to **add a photo**, (if you are willing to share one). It helps people to connect names with faces, and that makes it easier for everyone to get to know each other.

# Church News

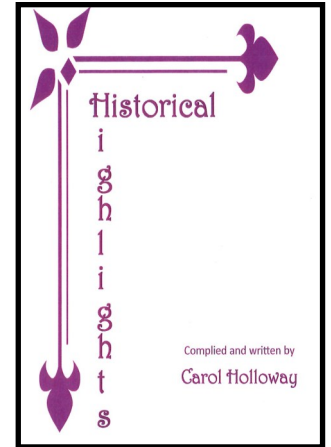
## Forks “Historical Highlights” Booklet Available

As part of celebrating the Forks Church’s 290th Anniversary in 2025, Carol Holloway, compiled information from many documents on our historical archive records and online publications, and began writing “Historical Highlights” articles for the Forks newsletter. Her introduction and first article, “*The Forks/ Springton Manor Connection*” was published in the April 2025 newsletter.

Each month through 2025 there was a new article in the newsletters. In the December/January newsletter, she began a 4-part series titled, “Fun and Fascinating Forks Facts”.

If you have missed any of these articles, or would like to have them all together to read, you are in luck! Gladly has published them all in a booklet, “*Historical Highlights*” compiled and written by Carol Holloway’.

The booklet is available by request thru Gladly, or email the church office.



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## Childcare & Kingdom Kids June Schedule for Ministry

**Childcare** is provided for children ages 0-4 years old. They may be taken to the downstairs Toddler Room prior to worship and picked up afterwards (by the parent or guardian who signed them in).

### Ages 0– 4 Years Old



#### Childcare

- June 07:** Katherine Westervelt  
Louise Snyder
- June 14:** Victoria Sanchez  
Laurie Troxell
- June 21:** Louise Snyder  
Susan Hein
- June 28:** Victoria Sanchez  
Lois Woods

### Ages 5 to 2nd Grade

#### Kingdom Kids

- June 07:** Walt Rigg  
Shelly Rigg
- June 14:** Diane Shumaker  
Erika Snyder
- June 21:** Kathy Wills  
Pam McNeal
- June 28:** Gail Craig  
Janelle Reeser

### **Your Child’s Safety and Wellbeing is Very Important to Us!**

Our Safety Team monitors that adults are present in each room and how many children are with them. All volunteers have background clearances.

# Church News

## FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE



MONDAY, June 29, 2026

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

Sponsor Code: **FORKS**

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

or Register on Church Website: [www.forkschurch.org](http://www.forkschurch.org)

**Registration Is Required.**

### Contact Information:

Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator

Church Office: 610-942-2626

8am-2pm, Mon-Fri

**It only takes approximately 20 minutes! Your one donation can save up to three lives!**

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## Ladies Summer “Gather & Gab” Get Together



### Gather & Gab

During the months of **June, July and August**, **ALL** ladies are invited to get together for lunch, a beverage, or simply to ‘gather and gab’ on the **1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.**

Beginning **June 4th**, we will meet at the **Fireside Café at 1:00 PM, and then again on June 18th.**

Kindly notify the church office (Glady) and/or Jeanna DiNunzio, (leads Thursday Ladies Bible study) [jldinunzio@yahoo.com](mailto:jldinunzio@yahoo.com) when you are able to attend so we know how many to expect and grab enough table space, or just show up!

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## Remember to Pray for Your Secret Sister! and, Remember to Check the SS Table Each Sunday!



June has started our new Secret Sister year! What a blessing it is to know that someone is praying for you! Remember to pray regularly for your Secret Sister. You can encourage her by sending her a card and/or giving her a small token gift each month.



“Whoever does God's will is my . . . sister. . .” Mark 3:35

# Donation Opportunities

## “Thank You” Snacks for Our Local Police Officers

Thank you to everyone who has been contributing snacks, frozen meal items, and drinks to the **West Brandywine Police Department**. The officers are very appreciative of the donations and enjoy the snacks immensely. They do not last long!

Kindly continue to contribute individually wrapped snacks and quick meal items for them to enjoy on their shifts. They can be left in the designated bin on the donations table in the Gathering Room.



### Honoring Our Police

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## Coffee & Candy Bars for Our Local Veterans



The deacons continue the ongoing ministry to help support our local veterans at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. In the past we have provided cards for Veteran’s Day, but many other organizations do also, and they become inundated with cards.

**We would like our church to donate chocolate bars (any kind), which will go to veterans at large, and ground coffee (which will go to resident veterans), on an ongoing basis.** We have been made aware of the need, and know that they will greatly appreciate our gifts.



There is a box, on the donation table in the Gathering Room labeled “VA—Vets”, in which donations can be placed. See Deacons Ministry, page 6, for more info.

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## The Honey Brook Food Bank

The Forks also sponsors a food collection to help support **The Honey Brook Food Bank**.

There are designated bins located in the Gathering Room for the collection of dry goods throughout the year.

Kindly bring in canned and non-perishable items as you are able.

Please check expiration dates! Items with expired dates cannot be donated.

## Food Donations



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## Save Aluminum Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Forks started to collect the tabs in 2011, in support of Carol and Dave Holloway’s grandson, Daniel Querriera. Daniel was born with a serious birth defect called bladder exstrophy (basically this means he was born with the bladder on the outside of the body and it was open), and his parents have had to stay at RMH many times as Daniel has gone through yearly tests and procedures.

As Carol wrote in a previous letter to the Forks: *“These tabs come from pet food cans, canned goods, drink cans, etc., and we happily take them to Ronald McDonald House each summer for them to recycle. Staff at RMH separate the steel from the aluminum tabs with magnets and take them all for recycling. The proceeds from this recycling enable RMH to provide vehicles and staff which are used to transport out-of-town families who are there for appointments with their children to the various city hospitals. You can only imagine how many tabs it takes to fund this free service!!”*

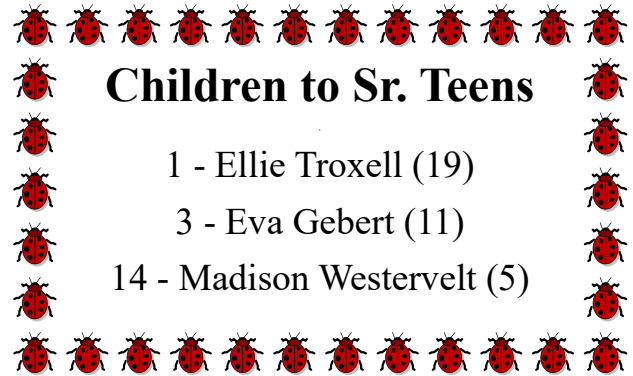


There is a designated container/bin in the Gathering Room in which to place the tabs.



**ADULT BIRTHDAYS**

- 8 - Ken Toth
- 10 - Cliff Wardle
- 14 - Dottie Ford
- 17 - Pastor Dan Stewart
- 20 - Milly Rogers
- Lois Linden Woods
- 23 - Gail Craig



**Children to Sr. Teens**

- 1 - Ellie Troxell (19)
- 3 - Eva Gebert (11)
- 14 - Madison Westervelt (5)






- 1 - Julie and Tom Darnall
- Sara and Wesley Grubb
- 8 - Staci and Dennis Miller
- 10 - Eileen and Dave Bowers
- 17 - Danielle and Russell Stirling
- 20 - Mary and Dale Cairns

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



# JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church  7:00 PM Fellowship	<b>3</b> No Bible Study	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM Ladies Get-Together @ Fireside Grill	<b>5</b> 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast  4:30 PM Karate	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Karate
 <b>3</b> 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Care Support Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast  4:30 PM Karate	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour  <b>14</b> 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Cemetery Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> No Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1:00 PM Ladies Get-Together @ Fireside Grill	<b>19</b> 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast  4:30 PM Karate	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour  <b>21</b> 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship  <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM Session	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast  4:30 PM Karate  6:00 PM Youth Night	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour  <b>28</b> 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>29</b> 2:00-7:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE 	<b>30</b>				



# Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



**What you need:**

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

**What you do:**

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

# Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

B W J I T J H Q H O B L Z D G B O O K

D K F Q R O M T B H J O B S Q E X Z T

O K X W J H O B M I Z T I J S D Q K U

E W X B H E Q N I T K I S I Z N Y O U

R P J Z O W B E Q R T O A X C Z T X J

DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV

# NEWSLETTER



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Presbyterian Church (EPC)

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E-mail: [office@forkschurch.org](mailto:office@forkschurch.org)

We're on the Web:  
[www.forkschurch.org](http://www.forkschurch.org)



## Forks “Good Neighbor” Ministry Could Use Your Help

As we, our congregation, continue to fulfill “Our Purpose,” for several years now, the mission committee provides us with the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our neighbor. The second greatest commandment is ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ and now we have the opportunity to put that love into action.

Not everyone is familiar with the great work that **Good Works** does, but there is a core team of volunteers at the Forks who do, and would like you to prayerfully consider joining in on a Good Works Saturday (**the 4th Saturday of each month**) to feel for yourself the true blessing of helping someone less fortunate to have a home that is “safer, drier, warmer”.

On these work days, some volunteers meet at the “adopted” home at 9:00a.m and end around 4:00 pm. You can give a half day, or even a few hours. This does not require any special skills or tools, just the desire to love your neighbor as yourself.

Lunch is provided, and we are looking for people who would be willing to help provide/prepare food items for lunch, and/or deliver lunch.

**The only thing we really need is you!** So please mark your calendar and plan to join a team on any 4th Saturday of the month. If you have any questions, or would like further information, contact Matt Snyder at: [msnyderla@gmail.com](mailto:msnyderla@gmail.com), or Colleen Knudson at: [cknudson656@comcast.net](mailto:cknudson656@comcast.net)

**Summer Good Works Saturdays: June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26**

