



The Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Glorifying Christ in Joyful Community through Worship, Fellowship, and Witness

From the Pastor's Pen

May 2026

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Will We Have Bibles in Heaven?

One of the best gifts God has given to his church is the Bible. The Bible is inspired by God, contains divine revelation, illuminates all of life, and, most importantly, shows us who Jesus is. We call the Bible “the word of God” because God still speaks to us through it. The authors of the Bible wrote under a divine impulse, infusing these earthly words with heavenly power. The word or message that God wants to tell us was preached by prophets and apostles in history and was written down for our salvation, instruction, encouragement, and hope. Nothing else can compete or compare with the Bible in terms of its reliability, authority, and divine quality.

But when we get to heaven, will we still have Bibles? Will we even need them? Will we still need to read about God and Jesus when we see them in person? What would be the point? If I had the opportunity to meet one of my heroes from history and spend a day with him in conversation, I would not need to consult his biography when he is sitting right in front of me. If I met up with a dear friend I had not seen in decades, I would no longer need to look at an old photograph of my friend, for the man himself is standing there. In the same way, everything the Bible does for us in this life will be done for us by Jesus himself face to face. When we get to heaven, we will lay aside our books. Why read when we can behold? We will put away our photographs. Why look upon the image when you can gaze into his very eyes?

This does not diminish the greatness, value, or importance of the Bible. It rather helps us to keep the Bible in its proper place. The Bible is all-important in this life because it reveals God to us. Our eyes are essential and precious because of what they enable us to see, not because our eyes themselves are of ultimate value. Similarly, the Bible is precious to us, not because the words themselves are of supreme value, but because those words reveal God to us. In heaven, God will reveal himself to us directly, without the aid of intermediate things. This immediate experience of beholding God directly in heaven is called the Beatific Vision. In the glorious experience of this vision consists the fullness of everlasting joy that God promises to us. For the fruition of that vision, we will no longer need a Bible. That is why we will not have Bibles in heaven.

Here is how St. Augustine explained this concept to his congregation in a beautiful passage from one of his sermons.

“What I am handling before you now is ‘daily bread’; and the daily lessons which you hear in church, are daily bread, and the hymns ye hear and repeat are daily bread. For all these are necessary in our state of pilgrimage. But when we shall have got to heaven, shall we hear the word, we who shall see the Word Himself, and hear the Word Himself, and eat and drink Him as the angels do now? Do the angels need books, and interpreters, and readers? Surely not. They read in seeing, for the Truth Itself they see, and are abundantly satisfied from that fountain, from which we obtain some few drops.”

Grace and peace,
Pastor Wesley



Fun and Fascinating Forks Facts

Historical

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 12 in a Series of Interesting Historical Accounts

FUN AND FASCINATING FORKS FACTS - Part 5

Women's Organizations

The Forks has been blessed to have had very active **women's organizations** throughout the late 19th Century and into the 20th. Thanks to the writings of Miss Anna Dorlan (benefactor of our church elevator) which were prepared for the 235th church anniversary in 1970, we can get a glimpse into the workings of these organizations.

Miss Dorlan notes in her 1970 writings of an organization consisting of "older women" called The Mite Society. Although the Mite Society was disbanded in approximately 1906, its work was continued with the formation of the Ladies' Aid Society in the summer of 1908. The work of this group of ladies was the "general upkeep of the interior of the church building. Money was raised by small monthly dues, suppers, cake and fancy work sales, bakes, festivals, socials, birthday cards, sunshine rags, and many other ways." (We're still researching what 'sunshine rags' referred to, but it may have been used clothing, linens, etc.) The Society met monthly in a member's home, with refreshments served. As previously reported in our "Fascinating Facts," it was the Ladies' Aid Society who purchased our present-day pulpit furniture in about 1909 for \$750, in time for the 175th anniversary of our church in 1910.

On the occasion of the 175th anniversary, the women of the church served lunch to the more than 1,000 people who attended. But the big yearly event of the Society was a chicken supper held in the Fall. Very well attended, the price of the supper was 25 cents each and everything was on the menu. Four hundred people were usually served, and this was in the days of the horse-and-buggy! Mrs. Potts (of the Langoma Estate, now St. Mary's of Providence) always had a fancy table of everything for sale and she usually generated about \$400. "Supper tables looked very lovely with china and silver, and glass lamps with colorful crepe paper shades added to the picture. Coal oil lamps were used, since electricity was not yet here. All of this was done with a make-shift kitchen." The anniversary lunch and the chicken dinners were held in our present day Gathering Room and for the first few years, the ladies brought their own china and silverware for the tables, with workers coming the day after to clean up and take belongings home. Water was hauled in milk cans for this purpose, and it came from the spring house of what was then the Curry farm located over the back sloped area of the church grounds and now owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The women had accumulated \$2,000 from their sponsored events for the purpose of building new horse sheds. But with the advent of cars and the fact "cars were here to stay, the money was used to convert the basement from a sand pile to a dining room. A huge wooden tank in the basement had been used (initially) to collect the rain and snow water from the church roof. The water was then piped to the manse (corner of Highspire Road) for use in the bathroom. It ran by gravity." And since that method was no longer being used, the men of the church gathered in the evenings to remove the tank and wheel out tons and tons of sand to get it ready for concrete. When finished, two toilet facilities were installed in the southwest corner of the basement room and a kitchen in the southeast corner, with cupboard space and two sinks. "A large cook stove was put in the boiler room where cooking was done and water heated. Tables used in the dining room were twelve-and-fifteen-foot boards on trestles."

In the ensuing years, the women purchased Silesia tablecloths (a strong, thin fabric usually used for premium pocketing and lining in tailored suits, trousers, etc.), as well as "ten towels, china, glasses and silverware enough to set up for 125." They served a "welcome home" dinner to returning veterans of World War II and their families.

continued on next page...

Fun and Fascinating Forks Facts - continued

In September of 1954, 1955 and 1956, country sales were held at the Dorlan home (northeast corner of Rt 322 and Rt 82, where an event venue is now located). The main attraction was chicken corn soup, but also served “were salads, cold cuts, rolls, coffee, tea, ice cream, watermelon and cupcakes. There were cut flowers and potted plants, fancy tables of all sorts of needlework, and one year a white elephant table. Fruit and vegetables were also for sale . . . we cleared as much as \$600 one year.”

“In 1958, the kitchen was remodeled . . . two modern double sinks with extra space were installed; also two electric stoves with ovens. Counter and cupboard space was put in wherever space was available. Two refrigerators had been donated . . . At one supper we served, the men volunteered to wash the dishes. They did a good job but complained because of the lack of hot water. After that, a hot water heater was installed. A new ladies’ restroom was built and also one for the men.”

“Ten folding tables were bought, also 125 folding chairs and 18 high-backed wooden chairs for the Ladies’ Bible Class. Also washer and dryer for the manse.” Prior to disbanding in 1960, after 52 years of service, the Society purchased the Cross for the communion table in the sanctuary and the two flower vases, as well as 144 settings of stainless steel flatware. During those 52 years, we learn there were three presidents, or leaders, of the Society: Mrs. Helen McClure Curry, Mrs. Mary (Joseph) Trego, and Miss Anna B. Dorlan.

Well done, ladies! -- good and faithful servants of the Lord and to the church of the Forks of the Brandywine. We hope to touch on the Women’s Association in a future issue, which came into being after the Ladies’ Aid Society.



Missions News

“THANK YOU” to Our Generous Forks Family!

The Forks KATW ministry leaders, and the individuals of the Forks KATW Missions Trip Team, wish to express their deep gratitude for the prayer and financial support of our church family— from donating funds to provide Bibles to the children of Veron, and the support of all the fundraisers to build a playground, and especially for the prayers and support to send the team to the Dominican Republic to build the playground, June 21-June 26, 2026.

The ongoing prayer and financial support, and the generosity of our Forks Family is overwhelming; and such a blessing not only to the Forks Team, but to the children and families that are being blessed by your generosity!

Kids Around the World – Update in Q1 Quarterly Report

The Regional Director of KATW, who is working closely with The Forks KATW Missions Team, sent the following article from their recent KATW Q1 Quarterly Report in regards to our supported Veron Hope Zone....

The “I just wanted to share this update from your Hope Zone in the DR! I love to see what God is doing through this partnership!” - Brian Wahl / Regional Director of Partnerships



Because YOU chose to SHARE HOPE... Lotificación Veron Q1 2026

Before receiving OneMeal, Argentina worked hard to provide food for her children, grandchildren, and the children attending StoryClub. It was often difficult to prepare nutritious meals, and she had to be resourceful with whatever she had. Thanks to OneMeal, she is now able to prepare more balanced meals for her family and the children she serves. She uses the rice and lentils in a variety of ways, including white rice with lentils, moro, and soups. The children receive the food with joy and gratitude. Argentina highlights its value, saying, “**The rice with lentils has a lot of vitamins. It’s very good food—really, really good.**” She prepares each meal with gratitude and care, and gives all glory to God.

DEAR FRIENDS, Kids Around the World - 2025 Annual Report Intro

This past year, we’ve witnessed you embrace our 2025 theme to “Give Freely!” Because of you, children worldwide have experienced nourishment, joy, and the love of Jesus in transformative ways.

Giving is central to our mission at Kids Around the World and fulfills our purpose of making generational change in communities through kids. This year, I kept returning to our theme verse for the year in Matthew 10:8, where Jesus reminds us “Freely you have received, freely give.”

People often think of giving as financial, but it is so much more! Your gifts, joining GO! Trips, volunteering in warehouses for playground refurbishment, packing meals and more create profound impact — fueling FOOD, PLAY, and STORY and empowering local churches.

And your generosity propelled us forward! In 2025, we added 77 new Hope Zones, welcoming 7,000 more children - ending the year with 171 Hope Zones serving over 13,000 kids. Our footprint of global communities continues to grow in Ecuador, Panama, Uganda, the Dominican Republic, and newly launched in 2025, the Philippines and South Sudan! The expansion of our passionate international team has been instrumental in this growth. In 2025 we established operations hubs in our global community countries where we are now refurbishing playgrounds globally and creating other opportunities to empower our local leaders.

All that the Lord allowed to happen through your generosity in 2025 has positioned us to move confidently into 2026, in aggressive pursuit of our vision to expand to 250 Hope Zones, serving over 20,000 children.

We’re grateful you chose to “Give Freely” in 2025 and eager to continue multiplying hope together!

Jeff Rosene
President / CEO

FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE CHURCH MISSION UPDATE

When it comes to partnering with missionaries, Gospel proclamation is our central goal in selecting who we, the Forks Church will support with our finances and prayers. We are fortunate to have **EPC World Outreach** as a resource in providing qualified candidates.

Last September we were made aware of **David and Melissa Kuehl**, their ministry in Southeast Asia and their need for support. David and Melissa have three sons, Isaac (14), Asher (12), and Elias (10).

The past 6 years they have been working in Vietnam through “Business as Mission” to primarily reach university students while contributing to local business development. David works with an IT company and Melissa is a teacher. They are passionate about reaching the unreached through education, coaching, discipleship and then connecting new believers with the local church.

The Kuehl’s vision is for congregations to step into the harvest by sending short- and long-term teams, building lasting relationships, and joining in the work of reaching the next generation together. As of January of this year, the Forks Church has committed to partner with the Kuehls with our finances and prayers.

If you would like to learn more about their ministry, you can contact David at davidkuehl@gmail.com. Do keep David, Melissa, and their boys in your prayers.

IN OTHER MISSION NEWS...

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, May 31st – Sunday School Hour – Paul and Linda Cruz from Chosen People Ministries will visit the Forks. Paul will be teaching on “The Intimate Connection Between The Passover and The Lord’s Supper”. He and Linda will also join us for the Worship Service.



Chosen People Ministries: Over 132 years ago—in Brooklyn, New York—Rabbi Leopold Cohn founded the mission to share the knowledge of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah with God’s chosen people. For over 132 years, Chosen People Ministries has proclaimed the gospel among Jewish people all around the world and trained fellow believers to reach their Jewish friends, family, and neighbors. Out of 15 million Jewish people around the world, less than 1% of them believe in Jesus. The Jewish population is one of the most unreached in the world. We strive every day to find new and effective ways to reach Jewish people all around the world with the good news of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Today, Chosen People Ministries serves over 20 countries.

Sunday, June 14th – Sunday School Hour –Daryl and Carol VanDyken from TWR will visit the Forks. Daryl and Carol will be retiring from full-time Missionary ministry at the end of this year. This meeting will be a celebration of the many years the Forks Church has partnered with them. They will also join us for the Worship Service.

TWR (TransWorld Radio): Broadcasting since 1954, we are a global network of partnerships using media to take God's Word to nations, tongues and tribes around the world. Now, the gospel speaks 200+ languages on air, online and on the ground in 190 countries thanks to the Lord's work in our ministry!

We Believe that the gospel is for everybody and all peoples should have access to the redemptive power of Jesus in their heart language. We are called to reach the world for Christ by mass media so that lasting fruit is produced.



Deacons Ministry



2026 BABY BOTTLE Campaign

What if the *change* in your pocket could *change* her life?

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES!



Baby Bottle Campaign at The Forks



Sunday, May 3 — Sunday, May 31, 2026

The Deacons are once again sponsoring the Baby Bottle Collection for Chester County Connect Care (previous name Chester County Women’s Services), during the month of May. We have been doing this for many years and CCCC very much appreciates our involvement in the ministry.

Bottles will be available in the a basket in the Gathering Room throughout the month of May. You are invited to take one home and during the month fill it with pocket change, or write a check and place it in the bottle. All bottles should be returned to the church by Sunday, June 7th.

“Your support enables CCCC to provide free pregnancy testing and limited ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins and nurse consultations, education, and peer counseling to women facing unplanned pregnancies. It’s a fun and easy way to raise funds, awareness, and connect people with opportunities to serve and volunteer.”

Help us reach our goal of \$55,000!

Your generous gifts of previous years through the Forks Baby Bottle Drive have certainly impacted results and helped to reach prior goals. So, grab a baby bottle* and use it to continue to bless those vulnerable members of our area!

*If you cannot get a bottle, you may send a check to the church that is made out to “CCCC”. This way we can include it with the Forks total and you can be part of the ‘Forks family’ donations.

Learn more about CCCC at: <https://ccconnectcareinfo.org>

20 2026 BABY BOTTLE Campaign

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$55,000!

SIGN UP YOUR CHURCH, SMALL GROUP, OR COMMUNITY GATHERING TODAY!

\$50,000
\$40,000
\$30,000
\$20,000
\$10,000
\$5,000

Please Return all Baby Bottles by Sunday, June 7th.

Thank you!

Contacts: Colleen Knudson or Pete Dawson



Why Should We Have Care Groups?

The biblical basis for these small groups is very strong. The early church had them (cf., Acts 2:46; 12:12; 20:8; 20:20; Romans 16:4-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 2). Furthermore, many biblical commands given to the church seem to require them. These especially include commands for Christians to minister to one another (cf., Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2; Colossians 3:16; James 5:16; 1 Peter 4:8-9; Ephesians 4:32).

The very “one anotherness” of these commands necessitates Christian fellowship contexts small enough for our ministry to one another to be truly mutual.

Our prayer is that every able member and regular attender of the Forks will view participation in a care group as an integral part of their privilege and responsibility that comes with being a part of the Body of Christ. In this way, God desires to satisfy our deepest needs in Himself and empower us to help meet the needs of others.

Youth Sunday School — the ‘Big Picture’ of Scripture

The Youth Sunday School Class is held in the Adult Room (yellow door frame) in the Sunday School wing at **9:00 am**. **This class is open to all youth.** You are encouraged to bring your Bible. Israel is teaching a series on the “Big Picture’ of the Scripture beginning in Genesis and taking the youth through the Bible. There are memory verse challenges along the way with prizes. Each week the youth take home an application card with a challenge for the week and a card for their parents with a brief summary of the content they’ve been learning and some usual discussion questions for the car ride home.

Childcare & Kingdom Kids May Schedule for Ministry Leaders

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).

Kingdom Kids is a children’s church service provided for kids ages 5 to 2nd Grade. The kids will be dismissed prior to the sermon and returned to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Ages 0– 4 Years Old

Childcare

May 03: Laurie Troxell
Victoria Sanchez

May 10: Lois Woods
Susan Hein

May 17: Lori Gebert
Robin Letts

May 24: Lois Woods
Gladly Toth

May 31: Phil & Evie Harvey

Ages 5 to 2nd Grade

Kingdom Kids

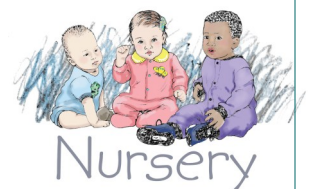
May 03: Diane Shumaker
Erika Snyder

May 10: Kathy Wills
Pam McNeal

May 17: Gail Craig
Janelle Reeser

May 24: Reeta Stern
Colleen Knudson

May 31: Bill Ensslen
Tommy Rigg



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. Our volunteers have PA Criminal History Record and Child Abuse History Clearances.

Church Fellowship News

Secret Sister Ministry - Reveal & Sign Up Opportunity

On Sunday, April 19th, the Secret Sisters held their "Reveal" Social. It was a special time of fun, food and fellowship as shown in the photos! See and read about the blessings of this program and consider signing up to be a Secret Sister for the program that begins in June*. Forms are available on the Secret Sister table in the Gathering Room.



Punch Reception

Themed Centerpieces



Themed Table Place Settings

Themed Water Bottles

Tape Measure Gifts to remind us how much God loves us!



"Fun Finger Foods"

Each 'Sister' brought a food item: Fresh grilled cheese & fruit sandwiches, Cucumber cream cheese tea sandwiches, raisin rolls, deviled eggs, chips & dip, tortilla chips w/humus & dip, fresh carrots & grapes, and sweet snacks!



Our gifts to give and reveal ourselves to our Secret Sister.



Karen & Jess led us in making our craft-dried flower resin coasters.




Thank you Jess Hall for making your delicious chocolate mousse cups!



Examples of the beautiful resin coasters we made!

Secret Sister Ministry - Reveal & Sign Up Opportunity — cont.

GAMES Guess the Cleaning Product Brand Name



Cleaning Product Quiz

Name the cleaning or laundry product that fits the description.

1. Bird of peace	7. Confident
2. Happiness	8. To disappear
3. Encouraging yell	9. Emergency code
4. To stroke gently	10. Immaculate gentleman
5. Elephant tusks	11. To spring back and forth
6. Sunrise	12. To vow

Guess How Many Marshmallows in the Jar?



DEVOTION Excerpts & Summary from the Power Point Presentation — *"Loved Beyond Measure"*

[John 3:16] God loved. God gave. He loved us even in our sin. *His love is beyond measure!* No human being, no matter how hard he or she tried, could replicate that love. It's a love beyond our understanding. It's a love that's there for us whether we feel it or not.

How wonderful it is when we do feel it! How wonderful it is to experience God's amazing love! When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and have a heart energized by God's love, life is beautiful. Our ability to show love for others seems to expand exponentially.

The trouble is, our love is often interrupted. Those pesky sins I mentioned earlier always come back. We're tempted to spew out angry, hurtful words. We start looking for ways to control our own circumstances or to manipulate the behavior of others. We let worries and fears nibble away at our peace. But we need not! Instead, we can simply trust God's love.

We can think about our Savior's sacrifice – his sacrifice of love – for us. We can let the life-saving forgiveness he won for us on the cross continue to flood our hearts and minds with more hope, joy, and peace than we've ever known before. That is being loved beyond measure! That is God's love for us!

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

***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/April of each year, we have the "Reveal" as detailed above. Then, the 'Secret' is Out!

Church Fellowship News

“Thank You!” to Everyone Who Helped with Our Community Egg Hunt

A very special thank you to Walt and Shelly Rigg, who are the main coordinators for our Community Egg Hunt & Great Celebration, for their hard work and dedication to this event each year. Thank you to Israel Sanchez for providing the Message of Easter, and to Cliff Wardle who made the awesome cross puzzle. Thank you to Gail Craig who handles registration each year, and to Rick Craig for coordinating parking. Thank you to Claudia Rigg for handling refreshments, to Glenn McClintock and Kyle Hall for setting up the sound system, and to the many other volunteers who helped with the activity stations, fencing off areas, disbursing/hiding the 3,000+ eggs, and to all who helped with set up and clean up! Thank you so much!

We also wish to thank everyone who came out on the prior Friday evening to help fill the 3,000+ plastic eggs with candy, and those who dyed and decorated the 500+ hard-boiled eggs! They say “It takes a village”, and we are very blessed by our Forks Family ‘village’!



Graduate Sunday - June 7th - Information Requested

We will be honoring our Forks high school and college graduates on June 7th. If you are a 2026 graduate, or the parent(s) of one, kindly submit the following information to the church office no later than Sunday, May 24th, so we can list you on the bulletin insert on June 7th and in the June newsletter:

- Graduate Name:
- School name:
- Graduation Date:



Sunday School

Last Sunday we continued looking at the 'Big Picture' of Scripture. We studied Genesis 6-9 (Noah and the flood), where we saw both God's justice and His mercy. He judges wickedness, yet provides a way of rescue. The youth showcased their drawing skills in an opening game of pictionary depicting the animals going into the ark... read the next weekly youth update email to witness the talent!



This Sunday, we will have a review class. This can feel challenging for the youth because it requires them to recall and review the memorization they have been working on throughout the month. Please pray that the Lord would give them the right motivation, not to "perform," but to truly treasure God's Word and hide it in their hearts.



Youth Group

Our next Youth Group meeting will be on May 8, and we are looking forward to being together again.

At our last gathering, 2 of the youth took on the responsibility of planning and leading games, they did a great job! We also had a helpful talk on forgiveness and what it looks like to forgive those who wrong us. We remembered that Christ is the ultimate example and the source of strength for forgiving others.



As we prepare for the next meeting, please continue praying that the Lord would grow our youth in love for Christ, and a willingness to forgive as they have been forgiven

Trail Life Troop 1:19

“THANK YOU” to Trail Life and AHG for Cemetery Work Day!

George Dzurina organized a Clean Up Day in our cemetery and members of the Woodlands group (K-5th grades) and American Heritage Girls came to help. They made a good bit of progress brushing and wiping off gravestones. Afterwards they all got a tour of the Trail Lodge and heard the history of the building and plans for improvements in the future. George and Dana treated them all to a pizza lunch afterwards!



Trail Life Calendar of Events — June 2026

- June 1** Troop Meetings
- June 8** Navigator/Adventurer Meeting
- June 19-20** Nav/Woodlands Campout at Brandywine Outfitters-Mountain Lions will graduate up to the Navigators in a moving ceremony.
- June 22** End of Year Court of Honor-all boys will receive the awards that they earned throughout the year.

Trail Life troop meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00p.m.
Trail Life Troop Committee meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00p.m.

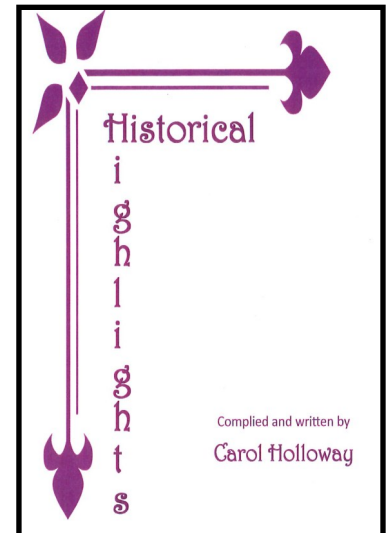
Forks “Historical Happenings” Booklet Available

As part of celebrating the Forks Church’s 290th Anniversary in 2025, Carol Holloway, compiled information from many documents in our historical archive records and online publications, and began writing “Historical Happenings” 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! Gladys has published them all in a booklet, “*Historical Happenings*” compiled and written by Carol Holloway’.

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



A very special “thank you” to Carol, along with Louise Snyder and Barb Sychterz, who meet to go through the many historical documents, photos, articles, etc., that have been in boxes for many years and are working diligently to preserve and archive them. If you would like to assist them, contact Louise.

Help Save Lives! Donate Blood Monday, June 29th

FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, June 29, 2026

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.

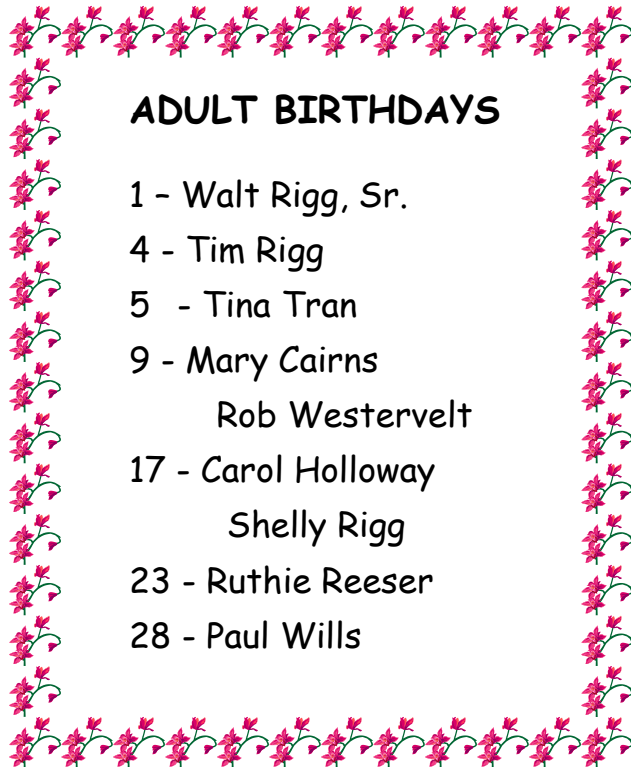
Contact Information:

Gladys Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator

Church Office: 610-942-2626

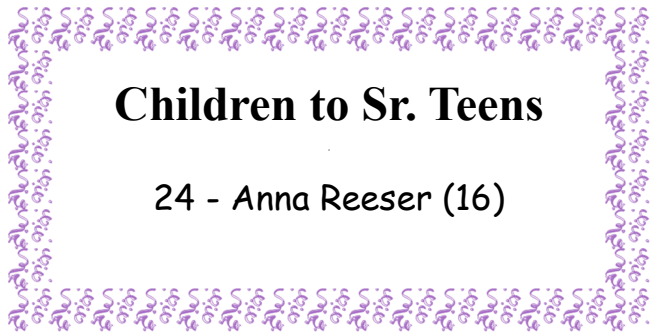
8am-2pm, Mon-Fri

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



ADULT BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Walt Rigg, Sr.
- 4 - Tim Rigg
- 5 - Tina Tran
- 9 - Mary Cairns
 Rob Westervelt
- 17 - Carol Holloway
 Shelly Rigg
- 23 - Ruthie Reeser
- 28 - Paul Wills



Children to Sr. Teens

- 24 - Anna Reeser (16)





- 1 - Gail and Rick Craig
- 4 - Katherine and Matt Westervelt
- 10 - Janice and Nick Williams
 - Claudia and Tim Rigg
- 18 - Glady and Ken Toth
- 19 - Ellen and Eric Kuhn
- 27 - Kathy and Jim Dix
- 30 - Lois and Michael Woods

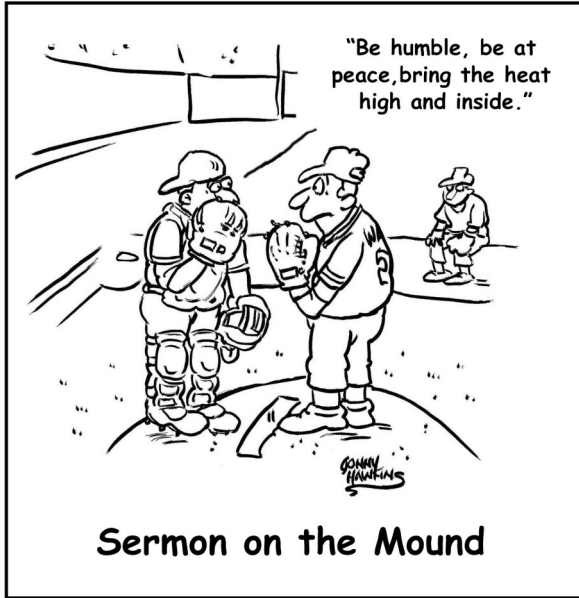
If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please notify us by placing a note in Glady Toth's mailbox located in



MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	2 9:30 AM Karate
3 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4	5 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	6 No Bible Study	7 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	8 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	9 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		
10 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion MOTHER'S DAY 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	11 1:30 PM Care & Encouragement Group 7:00 PM Trustees	12 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	13 7:00 PM Bible Study	14 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	16 9:30 AM Karate
17 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	18	19 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	20 No Bible Study	21 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	23 9:30 AM Karate
6:00 PM Prayer Hour	7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage					
24 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	25  MEMORIAL DAY 3:30 PM Deacons	26 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church 7:00 PM Session	27 7:00 PM Bible Study	28 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	30 9:30 AM Karate
31 9:00 AM All Ages Sunday School led by missionary Paul Cruz 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour						

Thoughts & Smiles



Where Home Is

As Christians, we trust that after this life, we'll be safe with God in heaven. What heaven is like is a mystery, but we rely on images from the Bible, including "the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven" (Revelation 21:2). Wait — what? Usually we imagine going "up" to God. What a difference to picture God's city, and God himself, "coming down" to us!

When we travel from the place we know best to visit others, no matter how much we love them we usually don't feel "at home." On the other hand, when I went from college to visit my parents and sisters, I was immediately at home, not just physically but emotionally.

Revelation 21:3 (NRSV) says, "The home of God is among mortals." God is "at home" with us! He knows our routines, understands how we live, fits right in. We don't have to behave in any special way, like for "company," because God is family. He "gets" us and loves us. **Best of all, because God is at home with us, we can be at home with God.**

—Heidi Hyland Mann

7 Things You'll Never Regret

1. Feeling reverence for your Maker.
2. Showing kindness to an aged person.
3. Destroying a letter — or not sending an e-mail — written in anger.
4. Offering an apology that saves a friendship.
5. Stopping gossip that could wreck a reputation.
6. Taking time to show loved ones consideration.
7. Accepting the judgment of God on any question.

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

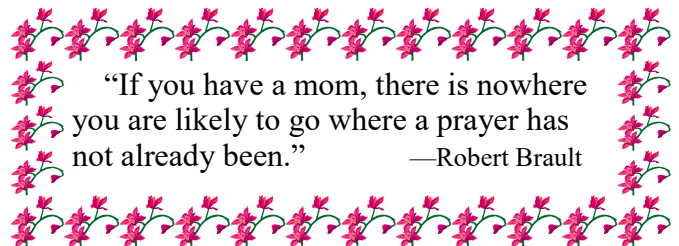
The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

Healing Hospitality

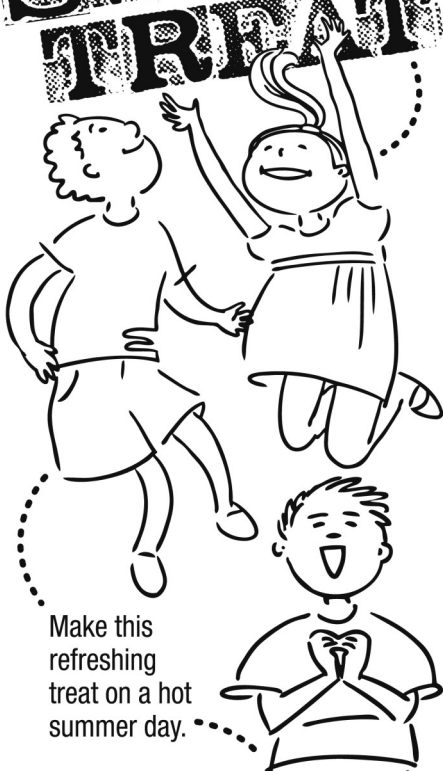
Repeated headlines about violence can make us "feel like locking our doors and never entering society again," writes pastor and author Max Lucado. After another mass shooting, he penned an online opinion piece that urged people to do the exact opposite by opening their doors, their hearts and their circles.

"It's no accident that *hospitality* and *hospital* come from the same Latin word," Lucado writes, "for they both lead to the same result: healing. When you open your door to someone, you are sending this message: 'You matter.'"

Because daily life is filled with rejections, extending an invitation — even to a simple meal — can be life-altering, Lucado contends. What you think is a messy house might be a sanctuary to someone else, "and to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon." Our kitchen tables are "God's secret weapons in the war on fear," Lucado says. "We never know what one meal will do."



A SWEET TREAT



Make this refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

What you need:

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola or cereal

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet covered with parchment paper, spread yogurt in a thin layer, about ½-inch thick.
2. Drizzle honey evenly over yogurt. Sprinkle granola (or cereal) on top.
3. Freeze about 30 minutes, or until firm.
4. Crack frozen yogurt into pieces and peel away paper. Enjoy!

PUZZLE



As sweet as honey



Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?



Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Gr c s w ords

 r h n c mb,

sw t t th s

 nd h ng 

t th b n s.



PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV



NEWSLETTER



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The Forks Church has 291 Years of History!

History of The Forks Church, 1735-1885

Anyone who has an interest in the history of our church,
here are good resources...

There is a reprint of the originally printed book written by James M'Clune, L.L.D. in 1885. James M'Clune was a member of the church. The book is titled "*History of the Presbyterian Church in the Forks of Brandywine, Chester County, PA*". It covers from 1735 to 1885.

The reprinted book (cover varies) is available on Amazon, the price seems to change, but it has averaged around \$34, hardback; \$15—\$22 paperback.

It can also be found online from other distributors (including Walmart.com) for varying prices.

FORKS HISTORICAL SKETCH BOOKLETS

This booklet, "*Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of the Forks of the Brandywine*" was written by a former pastor of the Forks, Rev. Harry H. Kurtz, 1944.

Additional addendums were later added...written by former Rev. John A. Kauffroth and Elder Charles V. Zeiders, 1985; and former clerk of session, Michael M. McCarty, and the 275th Anniversary Committee in 2010.

For our 290th Anniversary Celebration, additional updates were added to the "Historical Sketch Book" and copies are available in the Gathering Room.

