

The Living News

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From the Pastor's Pen

How Do You Know God Exists?

It is an interesting fact about the Bible that it never presents an argument for the existence of God. From the very first page, the existence of God is a given. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The word "genesis" means *beginnings*. That's what the book of Genesis is, a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of humanity, the beginning of sin, the beginning of redemption, and the beginning of Israel. But notice what is missing. There is no account of the beginning of God. He has no origin story, no starting point.

In the beginning, God is already there. This is what it means when we say that God is eternal. It means God exists without beginning, and he will go on existing without end. God possesses a boundless life and a limitless existence. He exists independently and with complete self-sufficiency. In other words, God is self-existent. He depends on nothing whatsoever for his life and being, and he has absolutely no needs (see Acts 17:24-25). A being like that does not need an origin story. A being who is eternal, self-existent, and self-sufficient could never have a genesis.

Since this is the nature of God, the Bible understandably takes his existence as a given. It offers no argument, no proof, no evidence. However, this does not mean that there is no evidence. Just the opposite. The evidence is abundant. Paul says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:21).

The key takeaway from this passage is that God has made his existence evident to all of us through his creation. That means we have biblical warrant to make an argument for God's existence based on what God has made. Arguments for God's existence that move from the cosmos to the Creator are called cosmological arguments. My favorite version of this argument is called the Kalam cosmological argument (*Kalam* is Arabic for "theology").

It goes like this:

Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist must have a cause of its existence.

Premise 2: The universe began to exist.

Conclusion: Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.

Nothing can cause its own existence. If something begins to exist, it must be brought into being by something that already exists. An effect needs a prior cause to explain it. That's premise 1. Premise 2 states that the universe as a whole began to exist, and this is firmly backed by modern science. The Big Bang Theory, for example, posits that the universe is 13.8 billion years old, which means it is not eternal. The universe had a beginning a finite amount of time in the past. That means the universe as a whole is an effect that needs a prior cause to explain it. If the universe cannot cause itself to exist (premise 1), then the universe must have been brought into being by something else that already existed. And that's exactly what Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." That's how you know that God exists.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Wesley

Special Points of Interest:

- Preschool Play Days, Sept. 1 & 22, pg. 12
- Forks Book Club Resumes, pg. 10
- Church Work Day, Sept. 19, back cover
- Men's Roundtable, Sept. 26, pg. 2
- 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat, Oct. 24, pg. 13
- BLOOD DRIVE, Monday, November 30, pg. 13
- Ladies Evening Out, Dec. 1, Looking for ladies to decorate and host tables, pg. 7
- Trail Lodge gets a Facelift, pg. 9



CHURCH NEWS

Cancer Support & Care Group—Second Monday of the Month



The Forks (Cancer) Support & Care Group: Monday, Sept. 14th at 1:00 PM in the MPR at church. The group meets the second Monday of the month (*unless there is a conflict). Anyone is welcome to join us for support, prayer, and encouragement.

Our mission is to reflect Christ's love by offering spiritual encouragement and emotional care rooted in hope, prayer and love; offering compassionate support to those affected by an illness or cancer.

Any questions contact Lisa Westervelt at 484-678-5452, text or call.

Men's Roundtable - Saturday, September 26th



Men's Roundtable

Join us for our next Men's Roundtable on Saturday, September 26th. We will shoot to eat at 9am, followed by a brief devotional and discussions at each table. We will be looking at "*Contentment in a Restless World*." We look forward to a time of fellowship and good conversation. **Please sign up in advance on the Posterboard in the Gathering Room** so we can plan accordingly for food.

We hope to see you there!

Forks Coffee Hour - Sunday, September 27th



The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Coffee Hour after worship on September 27th. Everyone is invited to remain after worship and enjoy some light refreshments and time together in fellowship.



Remember Your Secret Sister & Check for Cards/Gifts!



If you are a Secret Sister, this is just a reminder to check the designated table in the Gathering Room each Sunday for cards/gifts. Some gifts are flowers and/or are perishable.

Also remember to be praying for your 'sister', and letting her know you are with a card, note and/or small token gift once a month. if you able.

If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests for yourself or your Secret Sister, please call the church office and let Karen Hall or Gladys Toth know.

CHURCH NEWS

Audio Options to Listen to the Worship Service



We now support Auracast for our Worship Service!

Auracast is a new Bluetooth technology which allows for a single broadcast to be received by multiple devices. In typical Bluetooth connections, two devices must “paired” together, Auracast allows this connection to happen with little no interaction. The technology is new, so it may be a while before all manufacturers support Auracast. Many major hearing aids made in the last few years support Auracast with no additional equipment, only needing to download an app on your phone. Check with your manufacturer for more details.

We also have available personal receivers that allow using headphones or earbuds. Check in with the Soundboard at the back of the worship area. We currently have 4 receivers. If your hearing aids use T-Coils, let us know so we can order the needed accessories!

Forks Online Church Directory or Paper Directory

Hello! Welcome to the Forks Church Family!

- Have you been greeted by friendly faces? Have you been introduced to others?
- Have you filled out a Visitor's Card? Did you receive a Visitor's Gift Bag upon your first visit? We want to get to know you and wrap you within our church family.

If you are a repeat visitor, or have been attending regularly, we want to make sure that you are getting to know others and more of us are getting to know you. If you haven't done so, kindly fill out a visitor's card.

If you have become a regular attendee, perhaps you would like to be added to our church directory, either in the booklet copy, or on our Instant Church Online Directory. Both are kept private among our church family. For more information about our church directories, contact Gladys Toth in the office: office@forkschurch.org, or 610-942-2626.



TRUSTEE NEWS

Two Convenient Ways to Tithe and Give an Offering



DON'T FORGET
TO TITHE WHILE
YOU'RE AWAY

ACH Giving Is Available to Everyone - with Flexible Giving Dates

The Forks has Automated Giving, also known as ACH (Automated Clearing House). This is the same process as automatic bill pay many utilities and business use. Church Members (and non-members) can set up automatic weekly giving amounts through an ACH Authorization Form.* No Fees!

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 the trustees have had to use "savings" funds to cover the shortage, then replenish the savings in the fall.

Sign-up is easy and secure, the same information is used that is on your check - Routing & Account numbers along with your bank name. Complete a form, secure in an envelope, and place it in Gladys church mailbox or the Drop Safe in the door of the office....**it is that easy!**

You can adjust your giving amount anytime* by sending Gladys an email. You may also give a check during the tithing in addition to your automatic giving to supplement other ministries, such as Building Preservation, Emergency Fund, Deacons, Missions and others. ***Note: If you currently give via ACH, this is an opportunity to change your payment schedule option, and/or increase the amount of your tithe. Simply send Gladys an email.**

***ACH Authorizations Forms** can be found by the Offering Boxes on the table on the landing, and on the information table in the Gathering Room near the portico entrance, or by contacting Gladys Office@ForksChurch.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

I currently give using envelopes, and receive a statement at the end of the year for my giving, will I still receive a statement?

YES! All transactions are recorded and a yearly giving statement will be available in January of the following year.

Is monthly giving available?

YES, along with other options! **No transaction fees, or transaction limits**, for you or the church! You have the option to give:

☐ Weekly ☐ Bi-Weekly ☐ 1st of Month ☐ 15th of Month ☐ 1st & 15th of Month

What if I decide to discontinue with Automatic Giving?

Just contact Gladys via email Office@ForksChurch.org or call at (610) 942-2626, five (5) days prior to when you want to stop your ACH, and we can put your account on hold and/or remove your information from the process.

I have a question not listed here?

Send Gladys an email at Office@ForksChurch.org.

Thank you,

Your Board of Trustees

The Forks Has ONLINE Giving Options

3 WAYS TO GIVE

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



AVAILABLE ON



The Forks uses Tithe.ly for our online giving platform. 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 may choose a one-time offering or set up a recurring gift.

You will also have the option to cover the costs!

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

Scan the QR Code Now to open a webpage for Online Giving!

The QR Code is also on the back of the Sunday bulletins.

DEACONS NEWS

Your Generosity Is Greatly Appreciated!

Our Forks Family continues to bless so many people and so many organizations in so many ways, that we want you to know on behalf of all of those you have helped and continue to help, that your caring, support and generosity is always greatly appreciated!



“Thank You!” from Bridge of Hope for Christmas in July

“Dear Forks of the Brandywine,

Thank you so much for focusing in on Bridge of Hope families for your Christmas in July cleaning supply drive! We are so appreciative! Cleaning supplies cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, so they are always an added expense for our families who are generally living on tight budgets. Thank you for offering a bit of relief!

*God’s Peace to you,
Rachel, Melanie & Ty”*



The deacons would like to thank the congregation for your tremendous response to this campaign!

“Thank You” For Supporting Your Local Veterans

The deacons and local resident veterans (who greatly appreciate our gifts) wish to thank you for your donations of coffee and chocolate candy bars!

This is an ongoing ministry, and we would like our church to continue to donate chocolate candy bars (any kind), and ground coffee. Your generosity and support makes this possible.

There is a box, on the donation table in the Gathering Room labeled **“VA—Vets”**, in which donations can be placed.



The Deacons continue to collect winter coats through this Fall for **local families** of the **Honey Brook Food Pantry**.

This is just a reminder that now might be a good time to start looking for deals at Walmart, Boscov’s, Kohls, and other stores.

If you have, or plan to purchase coats, you may bring them and pass them along to a Deacon*, or bring them to the church office. We will store them through the end of October.

To Our DEACONS! Your Church Family Says, “THANK YOU!”

The current Board of Deacons consists of: Ron Lefferts, Colleen Knudson, Cate Pedrick, Kathy Dix, Pete Dawson, Tim Rigg, Judy Larson.

The Congregation wishes to thank each deacon for your caring hearts in serving our church family, and the families within our community through this ministry!

DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Sunday School Classes & Community Bible Studies



The Sunday school class in the Multi-Purpose Room will begin a study on **Colossians and Philemon** in September. Even if we are currently in a study, or finishing up a study, you can begin attending at any time. This class is open to all adults from the age of 13 and up. The class walks through scripture and asks questions about what the verses mean, and in what way the verses should impact how we think and live our lives. Class participation is essential, and determines the pace of the study.

The class begins at 9am on Sunday mornings.

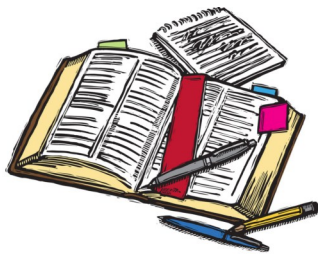
The Sunday School Class in the Chapel - Our class that meets in the Chapel is studying God's Word through the lens of the **Westminster Larger Catechism**. This document, along with the Shorter Catechism and the Westminster Confession of Faith, is a summary of the essentials of the faith that our church confesses to believe. We read through the questions and answers, read the Scripture references, and discuss the implications for our walk with Christ. It is a fantastic way to "go deeper" in understanding the Bible and build relationships with each other. **The class begins at 9am on Sunday mornings.**



The Ladies Fall Bible Study will resume on **Thursday, September 17th, at 1:00 PM**. The class meets in the downstairs Multi-Purpose Room and will be doing a overview of the 7 books of the Old Testament. All ladies are welcome to join any class they are able to attend. Study materials are provided.

The door opens at 12:30, so you can bring a bagged lunch and chat together prior to the start of the study.

Small Group CBS (Community Bible Study) - Resumes September 14^h & 15th



Community Bible Study

Study of Philemon; 1,2,3 John, and Jude

Mon. Sept. 14: Co-ed study meets at the Darnall home, 7:00 PM
New members are welcome!

Tue. Sept. 15: Ladies study at the Church—**A study of Philemon, 1,2,3 John, and Jude**. We will learn the ways Jesus loved: Jesus lived in perfect truth and love. He is our example of how to live in practical, everyday ways. Together, these five short letters demonstrate what it looks like when the people of God live in His truth and love. The first session will be 6 weeks.

This study meets at church in the MPR, at 9:00 AM

New members are welcome!

Contact Julie Darnall at: jadarnall@verizon.net

Study on Philippians; which offers learning about: peace and contentment with Jesus, gratitude and God's peace, Christlike humility and living as citizens of Jesus' kingdom.

Mon. Sept. 14: Ladies study meets at the Stern home, 7:00 PM

New members are welcome!

Contact Reeta Stern at: nstern572@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

14th Annual Ladies Evening Out - Tuesday, December 1st

The Fellowship Committee is Excited host another Ladies Evening Out! **Mark your Calendars Now!**

The evening is very elegant and consists of a catered dinner, a devotion and entertainment.

The tables are all set and decorated by volunteers (**this is where you ladies come in!**)

We are asking for volunteers to host/decorate tables: We will be setting up **14** tables. If you would like to **Decorate & Host** a table again this year, or for the first time, **you must email Glady to sign-up, and/or confirm, no later than October 30th** (several ladies have said they would like to host again, but need to confirm via email).

Table Decorators & Hosts: (2 people often go together to decorate a table- what one doesn't have, the other does).

- Invite family, friends, neighbors to come (to pay for a reserved seat or as your guest) and see that they are seated at your table.
- Provide place settings for 8 persons: dinner plates, bread plate, water glasses, cups & saucer or mugs for hot beverage, cloth napkins (or high quality paper ones), silverware (the church does have silverware if you choose to use it instead of your own).
- Decorate your table however you desire (Christmas, or a theme, a color scheme, etc.) using a centerpiece, candles, favors, etc. (I will list any items available at church (or in my personal large stash over 13 years) for your use.
- Round floor-length tablecloth (We will provide a list of colored tablecloths that the church has available for your use—there are enough white or plum for all who would like to use them).

More details will be provided to those who choose to be a Table Host/Decorator for the evening.

Decorating tables will begin after worship on Sunday, November 29th.

Your consideration to participate is greatly appreciated. Please contact Glady Toth (office), or Louise Snyder, if you have any questions.



**Watch for more information and reservation forms (required) to be sent out shortly.
This event fills up quickly, so be quick to RSVP once you see the forms!**

YOUTH NEWS

Forks Youth

The Forks Youth have enjoyed spending time together outdoors this summer through different activities and outings. We closed the season by meeting at the pickleball courts for one last pickleball tournament last week.



We will return to our regular Youth Group meetings at the church in September as we begin the fall term. We are excited to start an *Inspiring Missionary Series*, where we will learn how God has worked through the lives of different world missionaries, be encouraged to see His faithfulness in the work of the gospel and inspired to trust him daily.



Our meetings start with a meal together followed by games and then a talk. If you would be blessed to serve the youth ministry by bringing a meal please sign up using the following link or email Victoria Sanchez. Your help is so appreciated! [Sign Up](#)

We just wrapped up our summer book club and celebrated what the girls have been discovering and discussing together regarding *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis. Special thanks to Miss Kathy Stewart for guiding and hosting this endeavour!

Lastly, Sunday School will continue to meet at 9am every week this Fall. If you would like to support the youth Sunday School class, please consider donating \$5 or \$10 giftcards for local eateries - they make great prizes for the top Scripture memorizers at the end of each month. Thank you for keeping the youth in prayer!



TRAIL LIFE NEWS

Trail Life Lodge Received a Deep Cleaning

The Trail Lodge was in dire need of a 'deep cleaning', and the Trustees received a reasonable quote from Triple C's, Chester County Cleaning (proprietors-church members Marv & Charlee Molina). The Trustees, Trail Lodge leaders, parents and troopersmen are all very impressed with a great job well done!

UPSTAIRS



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

DOWNSTAIRS



These Are All **AFTER** Photos.... They were so busy working that they forgot to take 'Before' Photos.

Trail Life September Schedule

- * September 7—Troop Meeting
- * September 14— Nav/Adv Meeting
- * September 18-20—Hibernia Campout
- * September 21—Troop Meeting

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

CHURCH/COMMUNITY NEWS

Forks Book Club 2026-2027 - Resumes in September

The Book Club will continue to meet at the home of Kathy Stewart

135 Augusta Drive, Honey Brook

Time: 7:00-8:30 the LAST Wednesday of each month, September through May 2027*

All are welcome to join one discussion or all of them!

See Julie Darnall or Kathy Stewart



September 30th

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. A current bestseller— and a very different sort of book. One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.

Author Bio - Allen Levi—attorney, judge, singer/songwriter, author—lives on and cares for family acreage near a small town in middle Georgia. *Theo of Golden* is his first novel.

October 28th (Reeta Stern choice)

The Girl from the Channel Islands by Jenny Lecoat The year is 1940, and the world is torn apart by war. In June of that year, Hitler's army captures the Channel Islands—the only part of Great Britain occupied by German forces. Abandoned by Mr. Churchill, forgotten by the Allies and cut off from all help, the Islands' situation is increasingly desperate.

Hedy Bercu is a young Jewish girl who fled Vienna for the island of Jersey two years earlier during the Anschluss, only to find herself trapped by the Nazis once more—this time with no escape. Her only hope is to make herself invaluable to the Germans by working as a translator, hiding in plain sight with the help of her friends and community—and a sympathetic German officer. But as the war intensifies, Hedy's life is in greater danger every day. It will take a definitive, daring act to save her from certain deportation to the concentration camps.

November - December 16th [This book is 464 pages, so we extend into December]

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon (Kathy Stewart choice) a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

"A thoroughly engaging, rich story with a murder mystery; secrets, gossip, and hypocrisy; a corrupt judge; a tightly knit community of villagers; women at the mercy of a patriarchal society; and the early stages of a developing justice system following the Revolutionary War. . . Turn the last page, and you will want more of this world she has created." --*Historical Novel Society*

January 27th

The Correspondent: A Novel by Virginia Evans (Julie Darnall choice) "Imagine, the letters one has sent out into the world, the letters received back in turn, are like the pieces of a magnificent puzzle. . . . Isn't there something wonderful in that, to think that a story of one's life is preserved in some way, that this very letter may one day mean something, even if it is a very small thing, to someone?" Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness. Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Forks Book Club 2026-2027 - Continued

February 24th

Christy by Catherine Marshall (Susan Hein choice) Nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves her comfortable home in Asheville to teach in the remote Appalachian community of Cutter Gap, where life is shaped by hardship, isolation, and deeply rooted traditions. As an outsider, she must earn the trust of a proud and resilient people while confronting poverty, superstition, and her own untested ideals.

Caught between two very different men—a dedicated physician and a passionate minister—Christy faces choices that will shape not only her future, but her understanding of love, purpose, and belonging.

Rich in atmosphere and emotional depth, this timeless novel continues to resonate with readers who love historical fiction, romance, and unforgettable coming-of-age journeys.

Inspired by real events, *Christy* has captivated millions of readers for generations and sparked a lasting cultural legacy, including a popular television adaptation and the creation of the prestigious Christy Awards. It has also inspired a bestselling novella series that introduces new readers to the world of Cutter Gap.

March 31st

A Gentleman In Moscow by Amor Towles (Carol Holloway choice) In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

April 28th

The Lumber Baron's Wife by Lynn Austin. (Isabel Pupis choice) 1873 - After a devastating loss, Hannah Wagner never imagined she'd leave her comfortable home for the harsh, unfamiliar wilderness near Lake Michigan. But when Henry Abernathy—a friend of her husband, John—offers them a fresh start in a booming lumber town, where John's skills as a doctor are sorely needed, Hannah reluctantly agrees. There, she meets Kate, Henry's spirited, much younger wife. Kate's sharp tongue and outsider status have made her unwelcome among the town's elite, and when she begins confiding in Hannah, it's clear her marriage is not what it seems . . . and that a secret from her past could destroy everything.

Present day. Ashley Gilbert never planned to settle in Michigan, but when her husband lands his dream job as a conservationist, she agrees to follow. While restoring their historic home—built in the 19th century for a doctor and his wife—Ashley becomes captivated by its past and its connection to the nearby Abernathy mansion, now being transformed into a museum. While volunteering with the restoration, she stumbles upon the unsolved mystery of Kate Abernathy's disappearance. What begins as curiosity soon becomes a quest for the truth—one that will connect her to two women whose stories and struggles echo and inspire her own.

May 26th

Dark Tides by Phillippa Gregory (Lois Linden Woods choice) Midsummer Eve 1670. Two unexpected visitors arrive at a shabby warehouse on the south side of the River Thames. The first is a wealthy nobleman seeking the lover he deserted twenty-one years earlier. Now James Avery has everything to offer: a fortune, a title, and the favor of the newly restored King Charles II. He believes that the warehouse's poor owner Alinor has the one thing he cannot buy—his son and heir.

The second visitor is a beautiful widow from Venice in deepest mourning. She claims Alinor as her mother-in-law and tells her of the death of Rob—Alinor's son—drowned in the dark tides of the Venice lagoon.

Meanwhile, Alinor's brother Ned, in faraway New England, is making a life for himself in the narrowing space between the jarring worlds of the English newcomers and the American Indians as they move towards inevitable war. Alinor writes to him that she knows—without doubt—that her son is alive and the widow is an imposter. But how can she prove it?

Set in the poverty and glamour of Restoration London, in the golden streets of Venice, and on the tensely contested frontier of early America, this is a “superb” (People) novel of greed and desire: for love, for wealth, for a child, and for home.

June = Movie Night! TBD





A colorful poster for 'Preschool Play Day' at Forks of the Brandywine Church. The poster features a smiling sun, a string of colorful bunting flags, and a cloud. The title 'Preschool Play Day' is written in large, multi-colored letters. Below the title, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Songs, Stories, Playtime & Crafts for little ones and their grown-ups!'. The event details are listed in a dashed box: 'JOIN US ON 1ST & 4TH TUESDAYS IN SEPTEMBER' and '10:00 - 11:30 AM'. A calendar icon shows 'SEPTEMBER 1 & 22'. To the right of the calendar is an illustration of a tree, a playhouse, and a slide. Below the event details, a location pin icon points to 'FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE CHURCH' at '1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343'. Four circular icons represent the activities: 'SONGS' (musical notes), 'STORIES' (open book), 'PLAYTIME' (slide and ladder), and 'CRAFTS' (paint palette). A purple cloud-shaped icon indicates 'AGES 0 TO 5'. A yellow box says 'Bring your own snack!'. At the bottom, a smartphone icon is next to the text 'RSVP by texting Gail Craig at 484-364-9790'. A heart-shaped icon contains the text 'WE CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY WITH YOU!'. The poster is decorated with various small icons like stars, hearts, and flowers.

Preschool Play Day

Songs, Stories, Playtime & Crafts
for little ones and their grown-ups!

JOIN US ON
**1ST & 4TH
TUESDAYS**
IN SEPTEMBER

10:00 – 11:30 AM

SEPTEMBER
1 & 22

FORKS OF THE BRANDYWINE CHURCH
1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343

AGES 0 TO 5

Bring your own snack!

SONGS | STORIES | PLAYTIME | CRAFTS

RSVP by texting
Gail Craig at
484-364-9790

WE CAN'T WAIT
TO PLAY
WITH YOU!

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

“Trunk or Treat!” Saturday, October 24th

West Brandywine Police Department & Forks of the Brandywine Church



FAITH & BLUE TRUNK or TREAT EVENT

Saturday, October 24, 1-3 PM



NEW LOCATION: West Brandywine Township Park*

This year the event will be held at the park in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department that is having a **Halloween Parade and Games for the kids**. The **Trunk or Treat** will be held in their parking lot, instead of at the Forks.

We are asking for volunteers to again provide your trunks and candy!

- ♦ Set up time no later than 1:00 PM on Saturday.
- ♦ Provide candy or treats for 150 children.
- ♦ Provide own trunk set up/decorations.
- ♦ Trunks and costumes must be family friendly/no scary decorations or costumes.
- ♦ This is free for the community to attend.

There will be a designated box for Candy Donations and Registration Forms available in the Gathering Room for those who are willing to provide their trunks and/or candy.



Please RSVP to Gail Craig at gcraig529@gmail.com,
or Email the church office by Sat, Oct 17^h.

*West Brandywine Township Park
198 Lafayette Road
Coatesville, PA 19320



CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

A Unique Way to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!

Carol Specht is the woman who portrayed Martha Washington at the Forks for our 290th Anniversary Celebration that was held on October 11, 2025. She is a wonderful presenter, and here is an opportunity to see her again at St. Mary of Providence Center.

Wallace Township Historical Commission
&
West Nantmeal Township Historical Commission
together present

*Our Nation's Foremost
Philadelphia Flagmaker*

Betsy Ross

*Come meet her and learn about our
most coveted national symbol!*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST
@ 2:00 PM

St. Mary of Providence Center
Elverson, PA

Portrayed by Carol Spacht

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

FORKS CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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:

Glady Toth, Blood Drive Coordinator

Church Office: 610-942-2626

8am-2pm, Mon-Fri

**Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church
1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA 19343**

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 AM Preschool Play Day	2 7:00 PM Bible Study	3	4 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	5 9:30 AM Karate
6 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	7 	8	9 No Bible Study	10 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	12 9:30 AM Karate
13 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	14 1:00 PM Support Care Group—all are welcome 7:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM Community Bible Study—Stern home	15 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	16 7:00 PM Bible Study	17 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate	19 8:30 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM Karate 
20 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	21 7:00 PM Trail Life & American Heritage Girls 7:00 PM Community Bible Study—Stern home	22 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church 10:00 AM Preschool Play Day 7:00 PM Session	23 No Bible Study	24 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study at church 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 4:30 PM Karate 6:00 PM Youth Night	26 9:00 AM Men's Roundtable 9:30 AM Karate
27 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Coffee Hour 6:00 PM Prayer Hour	28 3:30 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Cemetery Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Community Bible Study—Stern home	29 9:00 AM Women's Community Bible Study at church	30 7:00 PM Bible Study	School Buses Carry Precious Cargo! Please STOP for Red Flashing Lights and Be Aware of Children Crossing the Streets!		



1 - Reeta Stern
2 - Colleen Knudson
7 - Rose Fear
8 - Dennis Miller
11 - Kathy Dix
 - Dana Stauffer
14 - Suzie Ensslen
17 - Cheryl Wilson
19 - Tom Darnall
 - Libby Lutz
27 - Craig Shumaker

10 - Arielle Letts (7)
16 - Hannah Gray (4)
21 - Ava Gray (5)

September
ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Diane and Craig Shumaker
2 - Stacey and Scott Chamberlain
7 - Shelly and Walt Rigg
18 - Sunghwa (Hia) and Bob Fernholz
22 - Erika and Matt Snyder
24 - Susan and Bill Hein

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

The Near Future in Kingdom Kids



"I need a new battery in my crayon."

Joy in The Word of God



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther

Carried and Called to Follow



Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.



In Every Season, Turn to God



Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

It Only Takes a Spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.



—William Arthur Ward

A Repair for Brokenness

Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Our daily turning back to God is where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.





Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

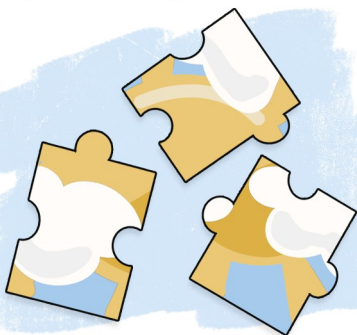
What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)



What you do:

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



PUZZLE



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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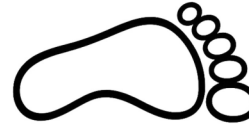
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Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Forks of the Brandywine
Presbyterian Church (EPC)

1648 Horseshoe Pike
Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: 610-942-2626
Fax: 610-942-7066
E-mail: office@forkschurch.org

We're on the web!

www.forkschurch.org

NEWSLETTER



Being Good Stewarts of Our Church



The Trustees are planning a
Church Work Day

Saturday, September 19th



Coffee and Donuts at 8:30.... and Lunch provided.
Start and end working as your schedule allows.

Church workers can help on Work Day, or before with some projects.

Contact Lew Larson or Louise Snyder to see where you may best be utilized.

Tasks and Projects will be listed in an upcoming email, and there will be tasks for all who are able to come out.

- We always have some cleaning work to do in a few places... dusting, Windexing door windows and the windows at the chapel entrance.
- More jobs will be offered as the trustees prepare the list.

"Many Hands Make Light Work"

Church Cleanup



If you are able to assist with some jobs/projects, kindly contact Louise Snyder, 610-653-7829, or Email her at: snydernana@comcast.net; or Email Gladys in the church office.

