



The VOICE



Pastor's Message

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters:

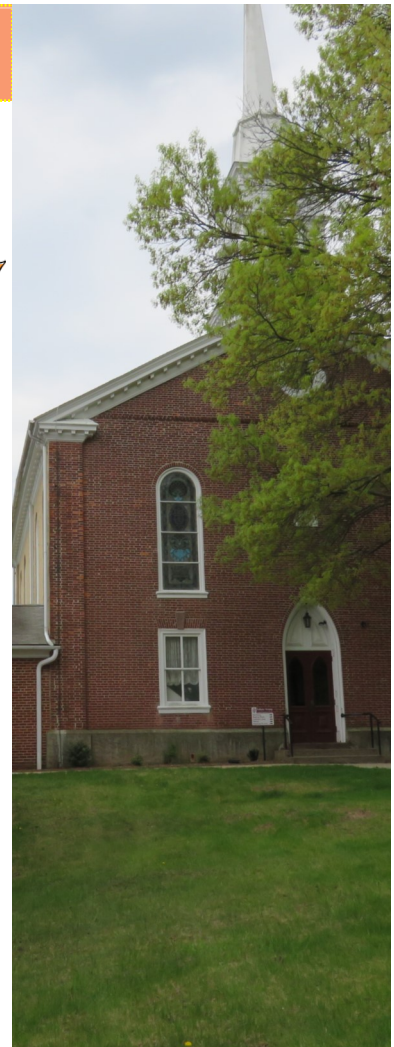
According to our worship on September 17, Falkner Swamp values most dearly it's abiding love and how the church community cares for one another. These prized values can help shape how our church's deep gladness meets the world's greatest need.

On Sept 10 and 17 in worship we talked about the importance of recalling a meaningful story to uncover our shared values. In a whole-congregation exercise on the 17th, we partnered up and shared a story, a time or event when we felt excited and energized to be part of Falkner Swamp. After taking turns with a partner, we gathered back as a whole congregation.

In the larger group we talked about the values underlying those stories, the one we told and the one we listened to. I wrote on easel paper as people kept sharing, and I ended up with a list of about 15 values and could have kept going! I then grouped those values on separate poster boards, ending up with 7. With help from several people, I hung them around the sanctuary.

The final step in this process was to "vote" on the values. With music in the background, everyone was invited to take the 3 sticker dots they'd been given and choose a value on which to place them. Some chose to spread the 3 dots among 3 poster boards, others chose to stick them all on one value.

A number of you noted this was the hardest part. The poster boards listed these values: *Love, Caring for One Another* (friendship, support one another), *Service* (outside of church, desire to give, generosity), *Gratitude, Passing on of Faith* (dedicated Christian Education, ongoingness), *Faith in Beliefs*, and *Joy and Hope* (Children's participation, sharing, strong family/ church/beliefs).



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- "H.U.G.S."
- Office Communication
- October Birthdays
- "The Shack" Bible Study
- Upcoming Services

~continued from page 1

The stickers showed up most on the *Love* and the *Caring for One Another* posters (see photo).

Why go through this exercise? To unite us around a common vision. We focused on what is life-giving, what is energizing, and what keeps us coming to Falkner Swamp. Lifting up values from these times of strength will help unite us around a shared vision to take us into the future.

Focusing on what is good and works well gives energy to consider how we can offer it more often and more broadly.

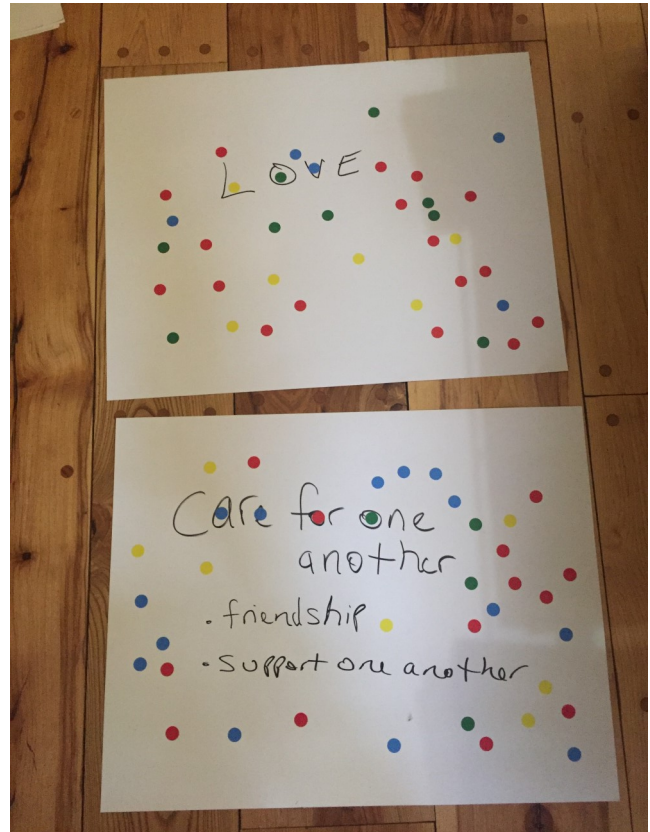
Jesus said to "let your light shine before others," and I don't think he meant after we had enough training or were given permission by whomever we think is in control.

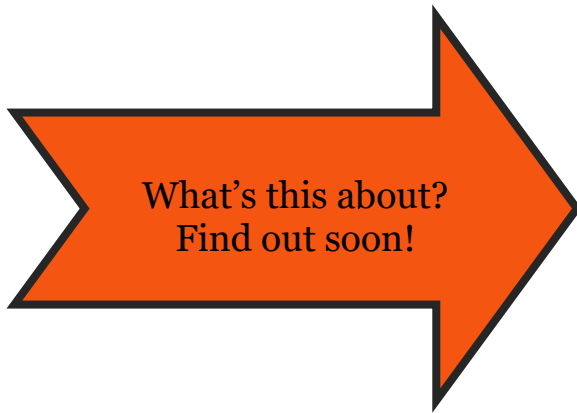
When I pray with you in worship I often pray that we would be God's hands and feet, voice and ears for others. I pray God empowers us to do the work of love, mercy, justice and peace-making through our small moments each day.

Poet columnist David Orr writes, "The plain fact is that the planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind."

Caring, loving...we value highly what the world craves. Without hesitation, let our lights shine!

~Rev. Frances





Office Communication/Calendar

In an effort to make our communication more efficient, we have posted a church calendar and office communication form on the bulletin board in the vestibule. The form can be used for prayer requests, change of contact information, bulletin or newsletter announcements, calendar additions, etc. You may also see these forms on the conference table for use at your committee meetings.

Please feel free to offer feedback to the office for any ways to improve this process.

Property
Committee



On October 28 from 8:30 am to 12:00 Noon the Property Committee has scheduled a work day. Robin will be providing a light lunch to the workers.

If anyone knows of small repair jobs that need doing, please bring them to the attention of Robin or Mary Ann (co-chairpersons) by Sunday, October 22nd so we can adequately schedule workers and supplies.

Thank you!



Falkner Swamp is now on
Twitter! You can follow us
[@falknerswampucc](https://twitter.com/falknerswampucc)

**Giving blood doesn't require much time.
About an hour should do it.**

You can help save up to three lives in about an hour.
The need is ongoing but the supply is not.
Please give blood today.



**American
Red Cross**



Blood Drive
**Falkner Swamp United
Church of Christ**

Fellowship Hall
2077 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Saturday, October 14, 2017
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Please contact Karen Miller: karenmiller811@aol.com
or call the church at 610-323-4053 for questions
1800- Red Cross
www.redcrossblood.org
sponsor code: Falkner Swamp

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

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OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday	2 7 PM Music & Worship	3 8:30 AM Women's Ministries 7 PM PRC	4	5 7 PM Choir	6	7
8 Tailgate Sunday	9	10 6:30 PM Property	11	12 7 PM Choir	13	14 Blood Drive 9 AM—2 PM
15 Anniversary Sunday	16 7 PM Consistory	17	18	19 7 PM Choir	20	21 9:30 - 11:30 AM "What is Discernment?"
22	23	24 7 PM Christian Ed	25	26 7 PM Choir	27	28 8:30 AM—Noon Church Work Day
29	30	31				

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

◇ 9 AM Sunday School ◇ 10 AM Worship ◇ 11:30 Fellowship Time ◇ 7 PM AA Meeting

Oct. 1— World Communion, Rev. Wanda Craner preaching, Neighbors in Need offering

Oct. 8 — Tailgate Sunday

Oct. 15 — Anniversary Sunday, Communion, Rev. Matt Hoover preaching, Youth Sunday

Oct. 22—

Oct. 29—Future of Falkner Swamp offering

Rev. Frances Hours: (generally) Wednesdays 9:30AM-2PM	Secretary Hours: (generally) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9AM-2PM
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On Tuesday, October 3rd the women will meet at 8:30 AM to make vegetable soup for homebound individuals. They will also be taking orders from the congregation. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to order any.

\$7.00/quart

**OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Donna Hoffman
- 4 Joseph Junker
- 7 Laura Miller
- 10 Gerald Reinhart
- 16 Erma Frye
- 20 Vivian Wentzel
- 26 Todd Stevens
- 27 Grace Erb
- 29 Stacey Brennan



November 5, 2017

We will be remembering anyone who passed away since last All Saints Day (November 6, 2016). We invite anyone who has lost a loved one this past year to bring a picture of them (no larger than 5"x7") to place on the altar. We will be lighting candles in their memory.

Members of FSUCC who have passed away since last All Saints Day are:

Judy Heffner

James Miller

Please see Becky Comer with any questions.

Greetings from your Consistory!

Fall is here, folks, and right behind that the end of the year. Your church leadership is getting ready for the end-of-the-year meetings: Endowment, Budget, and of course the Congregational meeting on November 12. Time flies!

Consistory had their monthly meeting on September 18 at 7:00. After attendance was taken, we offered an opening prayer to God to give us guidance and the strength to “step up” for our church and to “step out” of our comfort zones to do the work He asks us to do. I then gave a brief devotional about forgiveness and sharing God’s forgiveness with the people we come in contact with daily.

Vicki Fronheiser passed out the minutes from August’s meeting, which we all read and approved. Then Vivian Wentzel passed out the treasurer’s report. We had a net gain for the month of \$ 2,951.91. Once again the congregation continued to support Falkner Swamp financially as well as spiritually. The church leadership is grateful beyond words!

There were no announcements, so we moved on the Pastor’s comments and communiques. Reverend Frances has been very busy this month; more about that elsewhere in this issue of the Voice. Suffice it to say once again that we are truly blessed to have her working alongside of us! I did want to mention what a wonderful job she did at our service of September 17, where she asked us what underlying values made us the church that we are. It was a different and exhilarating exercise, to say the least!

The committees then reported in. Property announced that the new sidewalk work will be starting at the end of the month. We still need another bid for the cover for the furnace room. The Air Conditioning in the sanctuary has to be “re-timed” because we recently had a power outage. And the lamp-post that blew down in the recent wind-storm is being replaced. Music and Worship reported that the Budget meeting this year will be September 26, and all heads of committees will attend. Visitation noted that Mary Etta Mest made 17 visits (an all-time record!) and 2 extra-long telephone calls to folks who have been un-able to make it to our Sunday services. She continues to do a wonderful job for Falkner Swamp!

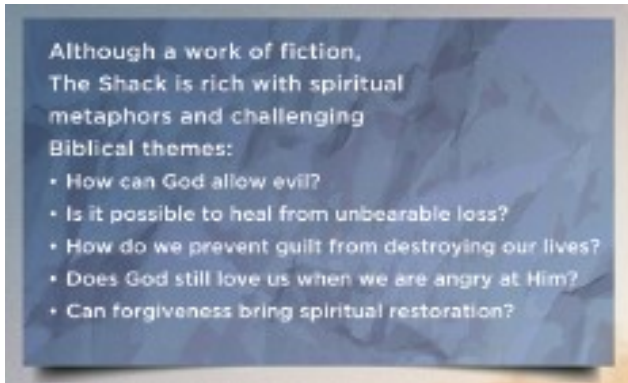
We spent the balance of the meeting talking about the profile we are putting together for our shared ministry program, and discussing the seminar several of us went to September 15 and 16 concerning how to increase new membership. This was a tremendous, motivating, exciting seminar, pointing out some of the facts surrounding church membership today, and how we at Falkner Swamp can start to increase our membership. I don’t want to take away any of this excitement from the folks here in our church who are involved in this, but I do want to say that it is not as hard as it seems. Just using a little common sense, and remembering that we are not in the 1950’s anymore. It will take a “2000’s” mentality to get “2000’s” people involved in the wonderful adventure of spreading the kind, forgiving message of our Lord and Savior Jesus. And now more than ever people need to hear this wonderful message!

We closed with The Lord’s Prayer. Once again, I want to thank all the members of Consistory who contribute so much to the church life of all of us. I hope some of those folks who are not presently on Consistory will consider joining us in the coming years. It is a joy to be in a leadership position of such a wonderful congregation!

Blessings to all

-Bob Schnaars, Consistory President

We are in the planning stages for a viewing and Bible Study of the movie, “The Shack.” Interested? Please see Brenda Semach.



For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus Our Lord. ~ Romans 8: 38-39

Save the Date!

Nov. 5, 2-4pm

All-church mission activity to benefit our community.

More details to follow in church bulletins and announcements.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Warm Greetings,

What a great start to an amazing Sunday School year! We had a fun-filled Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. It was filled with getting to know our new classes, games, food, and faith-filled fun! Sunday School is every Sunday morning at 9 AM and this year we are focusing on “The Life of Jesus.” We will continue having Youth Sunday every third Sunday, with youth involvement and special music or skits by our youth. Youth Sundays through 2017 are: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17.

The Christian Education Committee wrapped up our “DearYoungPerson mission at the end of September and will start focusing on Christmas Missions! We will participate in Operation Christmas Child for a second year and be filling shoeboxes for youth near and far. We will also send Christmas Cards and words of thanks to our servicemen and women, local law enforcement, emergency service workers, and deployed troops. Both of these missions will run through November.

May the Love of Jesus be with you today and everyday.

Laura Brown

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS YEAR AS WE
DIG EVEN DEEPER INTO THE LIFE OF JESUS!

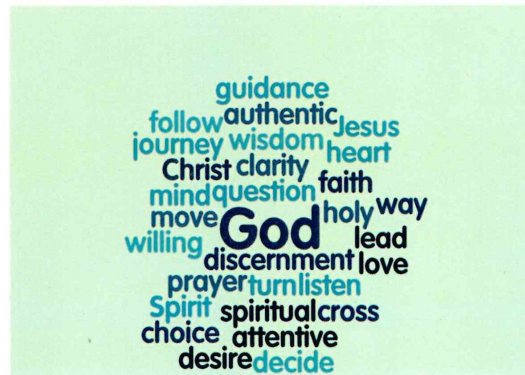


Sunday School-
Every Sunday at 9am

A Workshop on DISCERNMENT

For all of us, making decisions is a part of life!
God, who loves us passionately, wants to be involved.
Learning how to prayerfully make these decisions is what
the *spiritual practice of discernment* is all about.

How to begin discernment, what steps to follow, listening
to leadings, choosing a way forward, and more will be covered at
a FREE workshop, sponsored by our local Conference.



Join us at Falkner Swamp UCC, 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville,
on Saturday, October 21st,
9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

In order to have sufficient handouts ready, please let the church office
know that you're coming, at 610-323-4053.

The presenter will be Janeen Adil of Hungry Soul Ministries.
Janeen is a spiritual director, and Commissioned Minister of
Christian Spirituality within the UCC.

Falkner Swamp U. C. C.

2077 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Phone: 610-323-4053
E-mail: falknerswamp@comcast.net
Website: www.falknerswamp.org
Facebook: [@falknerswampucc](https://www.facebook.com/falknerswampucc)

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Upcoming Services

Oct. 1 – World Communion Sunday, Rev. Wanda Craner preaching,
Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Oct 8 – Tailgate Sunday, worship outside, Ken & Fran Berkowitz will
provide hot dogs, hamburgers and rolls; please bring a side dish or dessert
to share, lawn chairs, and something to drink.

Oct 15 – Anniversary Sunday, Communion, Youth Sunday,
Joyful Noise Offering,
Rev. Matt Hoover preaching, Senior Pastor, The Church of the Good Shepherd

Falkner Swamp's mission is to be a place of Welcome to All of God's children. To be a place of spiritual retreat for all who seek to know the loving Still Speaking God using the scriptures found in the Holy Bible, the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and utilizing modern interpretations and resources to make the word alive and well in the age we are in.

~From "Constitution & Bylaws," September 29, 2013