



The VOICE



Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Easter Greetings!

Church secretary Sharon and I took time the week after Easter to clean out the office closet in the education wing. Over time the accumulation of “stuff,” once deemed necessary, prevented access to tools needed for today. An electric typewriter and overhead projector yielded room for HUGS bags and the materials used by Women’s Ministries to turn old hymnals into decorative angels. The Christian Ed team now has some new possible craft supplies, or more to add to their own “give-away” pile! The work of pruning the closet applies to our faith lives, as well. A resurrected Jesus forced the disciples to make room for the new thing God was doing. A resurrected Jesus, walking to town, eating fish and breaking bread with the disciples, and blessing them with his peace and the wounds in his hands and side: this God demands that we rearrange the shelves in our minds and hearts.

On the same day that the women discovered Jesus’ tomb was empty, two disciples walk to Emmaus, recounting their grief. They don’t yet know it, but Jesus has come walking alongside them. In answer to his question, they explain the incredulous events of the morning. A key statement from one of them reveals the reason for much of their grief: “But we had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel.” (Luke 24:21).

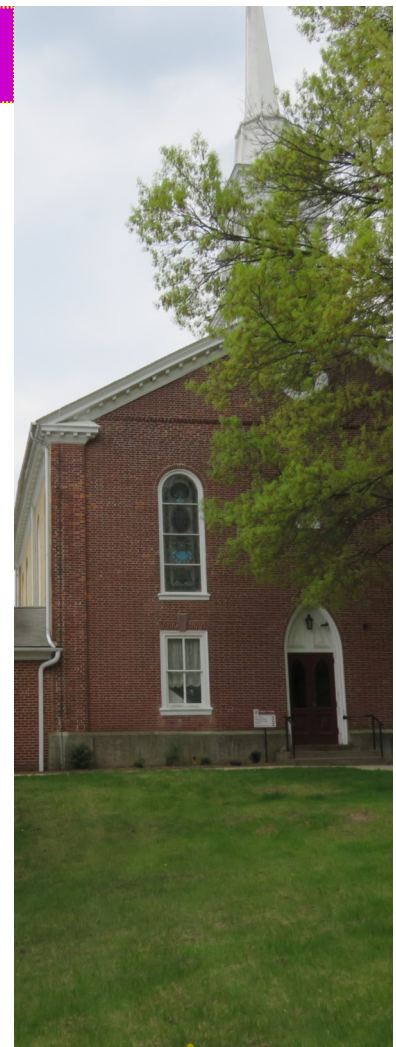
In that space between the cross and the resurrection lay the shattered hopes and dreams placed in a powerful Messiah to make right what felt so horribly wrong for so many for so long.

After the resurrected Jesus the people’s hopes and dreams shape-shifted into a community, a God-shaped gathering willing to embrace new words and actions. A new story was being told: the God *up there* is really *down here*, Emmanuel, which means *God-with-us*.

Joan Chittester, a nun in the Order of St. Benedict, writes in her recent book Radical Spirituality: This sense of awe for the God of a creation that is dynamic, ever-changing, always growing, this coming to know the God of possibility, frees us to trust life.

When we see ourselves as part of God’s creation, we cannot help but see that we, too, are called into the dance of being dynamic, ever-changing, always growing. This dawned on the disciples and it dawns on us now. Will we clean out the mind-closets? Let’s encourage each other to the task of making room for the God of possibility, as we welcome the cleansing breath of the Holy Spirit in the coming Pentecost season.

Grace & Peace to you,
Rev. Frances



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Peanut Butter Eggs
- Mother’s/Father’s Day
- PA German Society Meeting
- Pictures
- Youth Sunday



You're Invited to a
MOVIE NIGHT

Hosted by the Christian Education Committee

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 PM

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring a Snack or Drink to Share, a Comfy Chair OR Sleeping Bag and
Pillows,
and a FRIEND!

Peanut Butter Egg Update

I would like to thank everyone who came out to help both in the mornings and at night. Each of you did a great job! We made 400 lbs. of peanut butter eggs and sold out. Thank you to Barb Geary and Carol Stevens for picking up the ingredients and to Kim Erb for getting the chocolate. Also, a big thanks to Brenda Semach and Brenda Becker for selling at Freed's.

Working for 4 days in each of the two weeks, worked out well (even with a snow day thrown in). I could not have done any of this without all the help!

I will be reporting on our profits in May.

With gratitude,

Robin



We are in need of additional volunteers for the nursery on Sunday mornings during worship. Please see Becky Comer if you can help!

beckyo49@comcast.net

484-524-8271

Property
Committee



We have been working hard on getting things done around the church. On April 13 & 14, the hallway and steps toward the cemetery and the hallway to the Christian Ed floor are being stripped and refinished with a non-shine floor finish. This will hold up better and require less maintenance. Be sure to check it out!

There will be a sign-up sheet for two work days coming up on June 9 and 23. We are removing and replacing the tile from the Christian Ed wing steps and landing (by the choir door). Robin will be serving lunch. We plan to start at 8:30 AM.

As always, if you see anything that needs any work, please let us know.

Property Committee:

Bob Erb, Ron Becker, Rob Krause, Lee Heffner, Sharon Schnaars, and Robin Zerr, chair

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3 9 AM Women's Ministries 7 PM PRC	4	5 7 PM Choir	6	7 Community Breakfast 8 -11 AM
8 PND Meal	9 7 PM Music & Worship	10 6:30 PM Property	11	12 7 PM Choir	13 tile floors stripped	14 tile floors waxed
15 Youth Sunday Beth Eustis, preaching	16 7 PM Consistory	17	18	19 7 PM Choir	20 Movie Night 6:30 PM	21 Coming Out of Hibernation event in Boyertown 11 AM—2 PM
22	23	24 7 PM Christian Ed	25	26 7 PM Choir	27 possible additional floor work	28 possible additional floor work
29 Covenant Association Meeting 2-5 PM	30					

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

April 1— Communion

April 8 — PND Meal

April 15 — Youth Sunday, Joyful Noise Offering, Beth Eustis preaching

April 22 — Service of the Word

April 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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MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 AM Women's Ministries 7 PM PRC	2	3 7 PM Choir	4	5 Community Breakfast 8 -11 AM
6 Communion	7 6:30 PM Property 7 PM Music & Worship	8	9 Ladies Night 6:30 PM	10 7 PM Choir	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17 7 PM Choir	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday Youth leading worship	21 7 PM Consistory	22 7 PM Christian Ed	23	24 7 PM Choir	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31		

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

May 6— Communion

May 13— Mother's Day

May 20— Pentecost Sunday, Youth leading worship, Strengthen the Church Offering

May 27 —

Greetings from your Consistory!

1 Corinthians 12:14 *"For the body is not one member, but many"*

Hello!

Monday, March 19th at 7pm was our monthly consistory meeting. The attendance was taken and Bob opened with a word of prayer and a devotion was read, reminding us all to keep our hearts and minds open to whatever direction God is pointing us towards.

Vicki Fronheiser passed out the February minutes which we all reviewed and approved.

Next on the agenda was the treasurer's report, which Vivian Wentzel has prepared in such a way that it is extremely easy to understand (many thanks to Vivian for all her hard work she puts into the report and she makes it look so easy). The numbers are steady, but we still need all the giving we can get. We then listened to Rev Frances read her report on the Pastor's comments and communiques, which is a report on all that she does in the month including worship services, meetings, events attended, prep time for worship services and wonderful ideas for us and our future in faith and reaching others. (She is a busy girl!) Thank the good Lord!

We now move on to the committee reports:

The property committee, as reported by Robin Zerr. The hallway floors will, by the time you read this, be stripped, buffed and shined on April 13th and 14th. The committee is always working hard to make our church look good!

Music and worship reported on Holy Week worship services, including Palm Sunday, Mandy Thursday (my personal favorite, so powerful, thanks to all who participated), the prayer vigil, and Easter Sunday services. (I heard the sunrise sermon was smokin'). April 15th will be an apostolic Sunday with Beth Eustis as our guest speaker.

Reaching New People reported the selling of the peanut butter eggs at Freed's market on March 24th with Lee Comer handing out lollipops at the annual Easter egg hunt. The committee will be participating in the "Coming Out of Hibernation" event on Saturday, April 21st from 11am to 2pm in downtown Boyertown. We plan to hand out 100 tree seedlings. We also approved the buying of 1000 more HUGS bags. We will be participating in the "Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair" on Saturday June 9th. The next meeting for us will be Monday, April 30th at 7pm.

Christian Education has started Mission Church, which happens twice a month. The children do a project to reach out to a group or individuals in need of inspiration. Susan Mercer hosted a game show on Sunday, April 8th "Are You Smarter than a Sunday Schooler?" The adults who participated gave the kids a good run, but the kids were well prepared and obviously have been paying attention in Sunday School. It was a ton of fun and we all learned something in the process. Make sure you start brushing up on your Bible studies for the next one.

The report from our visitation angel, Rev Mary Etta Mest, was given by Barb Geary. Rev Mest had seven visitations. Continued blessings and prayers for Rev Mest and her outreach to those who cannot physically be with us on Sunday mornings.

We then discussed any old business that has not been resolved and any new business that needs to be addressed. We did not have any old or new business.

We always finish with the Lord's Prayer together.

Our next two meetings will be April 16th and then May 21st.

I would like to share a quote that Rev Frances shared with us:

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. So. Go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you. ~L.R. Knost

Blessings,
Brenda Semach
Vice President of Consistory

APRIL
BIRTHDAYS



- 6 Trinity Wentzel
- 12 Sarah Taylor
- 15 Beth (Garber) Dimedio
- 15 Erin Garber
- 15 Dana Tyson
- 18 Darryl Isett
- 24 Megan Becker
- 24 Lee Comer
- 28 Fran Berkowitz
- 29 Becky Comer

MAY
BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Maryanne Miller
- 6 Linda Rennard
- 7 Jonathan Berkowitz
- 8 Lottie Hildenbrand
- 10 Maggie Brennan
- 10 Cayla Duda
- 12 Joyce Rothenberger
- 13 Lee Heffner
- 14 Emily Duda
- 16 Matt Brown
- 17 Tim Keebler
- 17 Matthew Moser
- 18 Finn McDonough
- 19 Olga Rees
- 20 Elijah Brown
- 20 Jonathan Creed
- 23 Ron Becker
- 25 Jane Wilmer
- 26 Bill Scheck
- 27 Jason Moser
- 27 Mary Grace Holcomb
- 28 Evelyn Isett
- 30 Debra Helsel

Does anyone recognize this key? It was found in the kitchen when we were making the peanut butter eggs.





You are invited to bring pictures of your Mother, Grandmothers, Aunts, etc., on May 13th (Mother's Day) and pictures of your Father, Grandfathers, Uncles, etc., on June 17th (Father's Day). We will be putting them in the windowsills in their honor or memory. They can be any size. Becky will have name tags for you fill out to identify them. Please contact Becky Comer if you have any questions.



The Pennsylvania German Society

PA German Society Annual Meeting

@ Falkner Swamp ~ June 2, 2018

◆ Speakers include former Interim Pastor Judith Meier, who will talk about her paper on Falkner Swamp's early history

◆ Visit www.pgs.org for a tentative agenda for the day (registration is required)

If you are interested in John Philip Boehm and early German Reformed church history in this area, of interest will be: Boehm's Church Crawl, written by Rev. Meier (2013) and available on Amazon. It's a self-directed tour of 12 area churches founded or served by Boehm.



Ladies' Night ~ Wednesday, May 9th

6 PM ~ doors open

6:30 PM ~ dinner

*Immediately following dinner we will play
"Bible Bingo" & learn to make paper crafts
demonstrated by Becky Schlegel*

Menu (catered by Bause)

*vegetable lasagna, chicken marsala, fruit
salad, tossed salad, rolls, cookies & drinks*

\$15/adult, free for children ages 12 & under

*Sign up on the bulletin board & be sure to
take an invitation!*





"Today, I challenge you to pay it forward. You don't need to save a village—only one lost soul. Be the reflection of Christ and shine His light. The cost is little, but the reward is rich." — **Dana Arcuri, Harvest of Hope**

I've noticed all the missing HUGS bags from the table in fellowship hall and the shelves on the landings leading to the sanctuary. How awesome to hear the stories that are being shared from the people giving them, receiving them and then being recycled by both to others in their need.

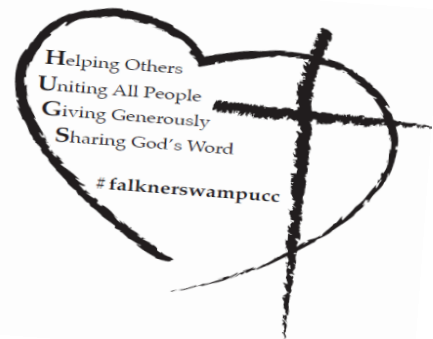
We would like to thank Lee Comer for handing out 160 lollipops with an Easter message from Falkner Swamp to the children who participated in Freed's Supermarket's annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 23rd.

We will be participating in the "Coming Out of Hibernation" event on Saturday, April 21st from 11 am to 2 pm in downtown Boyertown. We will be handing out 100 tree seedlings from the Arbor Day foundation. I hope anyone who is able to will come and support this event. We will be participating in the "Philadelphia Avenue Street Fair", also in downtown Boyertown, on Saturday, June 9th. Keep an eye out for other upcoming events. Don't miss an opportunity to reach out to someone new!

Blessings,
Reaching New People Committee,
Becky Comer, Brenda Becker, Stacey Brennan, Sharon Schnaars, Bob Schnaars, Rev Mary Etta Mest, Rev Frances Chester and Brenda Semach, chair

[2 Corinthians 4:15 NIV](#)

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.



Community Breakfast

We just got done with our 3rd breakfast for 2018 and we have one more on May 5th. If you haven't made it to one yet, please try to come and bring a friend! I think you'll enjoy it. We have done a good job of reaching new people each month. We see new faces at each breakfast. If I try to thank all the people who have helped, I will miss someone so please know how thankful I am for each and everyone of you.

~Robin

A busy March/April at Falkner Swamp!

Palm Sunday



Peanut Butter Egg making



Are You Smarter than a Sunday Schooler?



Community Breakfast



Easter Sunrise Service



Easter visit from the fire company



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



Sunday, May 20th

- ◆ Our Youth lead worship
- ◆ Joyful Noise Offering

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