



# The VOICE



## Pastor's Message

**<sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters [d] also. – 1 John 4:21**

"Can I skip the (bleep) ropes?" I gasped at Liz, the fitness instructor at my local Y. I had completed 2 sets of 8 exercises in a HIIT format. She was directing me to do a third set. I didn't know there was going to *be* a third set. If you don't know what HIIT means, it stands for "High Intensity Interval Training." This particular workout had me running through 8 exercises at 45 seconds each with a rest of 25 seconds in between.

Hence the gasping after the second set.

"The ropes" are a thick braided set of actual ropes, about 20 feet long, with plastic grab handles on the end. They are stretched out upon the gym floor for a poor soul to pick up and bang on the ground, over and over again, to strengthen arms, shoulders, and all the core muscles.

Hence the (bleep) when it came to thinking about doing those ropes for a *third* time.

Liz smiled at me with patient brown eyes twinkling. After my third gasp I came to the conclusion she was waiting for my oxygen-deprived brain to get: yes, *of course* I am going to do the ropes!

It's the only way to grow strong.

Our physiology is not so different from our spirituality. The only way to grow strong is to exercise the muscle. As it is pushed the muscle flags and finally gives out; then rebuilds to come back stronger for the next challenge.

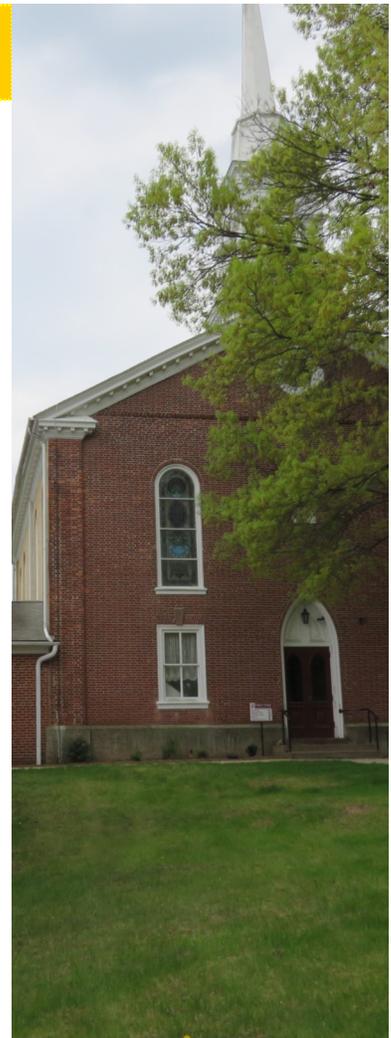
The writer to the Johannine community reminded them that love was central to their mission as Christ followers. If we are to love God, we *must* love our brothers and sisters. This is not an exercise we get to skip because we are worn out, exhausted, or tired of another's personality, weakness, or need.

Because we love God, we rest in *this* love when we need it, then take a deep breath for that third set of loving one another.

When we fix upon the source of our love, God, that third set is like the first: vigorous and offered with a deep desire for one another's joy.

So pick up the (bleep) ropes and keeping going. I will if you will.

A fellow traveler along the Way,  
Rev. Frances



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Member Sunday
- Peanut Butter Egg Update
- Prayer Requests
- Father's Day Service
- June /July Birthdays
- Church Work Day
- Pictures

## Movies AND Church

Marty Moss-Coane is host of the show “Radio Times” on National Public Radio. One day recently she hosted Jason Reitman, the director of the new movie “Tully.” The director had shared that we go to movies to experience “emotion with a crowd.” Moss-Coane replied, “When my son was young he asked me, ‘why don’t we go to church?’ Without thinking I replied, ‘But we go to the movies instead’.”



A thesis for a Doctorate in Ministry could be written on this brief conversation. In church we also experience emotion with a crowd, and of course, much, much more, as we allow the presence of God to fill us, settle us, empty us, move us.

But let’s also do movies!

A number of folks have discussed seeing “The Shack” together, followed by reading the book. Many of you have likely done both already.

Lee Comer is willing to host the movie and discussion. Listen for announcements and watch bulletins for show times.

-Rev. Frances



On Sunday, June 3rd we welcome new members during worship. If anyone would like to become a member, please speak with Rev. Frances, Bob Schnaars, or Brenda Semach.

Greetings from your Consistory!

Consistory had their monthly meeting on May 21 at 7:00. After attendance was taken, we offered an opening prayer to God to give us guidance to do the work He asks us to do. Barb Geary then gave a devotional about offering a "warm welcome" to those people we come in contact with daily.



Vicki Fronheiser passed out the minutes from April's meeting, which we all read and approved. Then Robin Zerr passed out the treasurer's report on behalf of Vivian Wentzel. We had a net loss for the month of March of \$ 272.43, but a net gain for April of \$ 4,908.20. The church leadership is grateful beyond words!

There were no announcements, so we moved to the Pastor's comments and communiques. Reverend Frances has once again been very busy, preparing services for April 22, 29, and May 6. She also helped prepare and co-ordinate the bulletins for these weeks, as well as for May 13. Finally, she worked with Laura Brown and Susan Mercer to develop a wonderful event for Pentecost which featured the confirmands actually performing many parts of the service. Everyone did a wonderful job at this service!!

The committees then reported in. Property announced that there will be work days on June 9 and June 23 to replace the steps inside the "choir room" door as well as other repair and yard work jobs around the church. Music and Worship reported that there will be 2 upcoming special events. On June 3 there will be a part of the service inviting all who wish to come forward to be received as members of the church. Then on June 10 there will be a special congregational vote to decide if we would like to call Reverend Frances to become our permanent 3/4 time pastor. An exciting "step" for our church! Visitation noted that Mary Etta Mest made 8 visits, 3 extra-long telephone calls to folks who have been un-able to make it to our Sunday services, and sent out 18 "Sympathy Booklets" to people who have been experiencing some difficult times. She continues to do a wonderful job for Falkner Swamp!

Our new ministry, Reaching New People, under the leadership of Brenda Semach, continues to do a wonderful job of spreading the love of our congregation throughout the community. This month Stacy Brennan will be taking "Hugs" bags to the teachers at Gilbertsville and New Hanover Elementary Schools. This program addresses directly the commandment of Jesus: "Love your neighbors". It has been amazing watching it expand and grow!!

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. It is a joy to be in a leadership position of such a wonderful congregation!

Blessings to all

-Bob Schnaars, Consistory President

# JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 PA German Society Annual Meeting
3 Communion	4	5 7 PM Parish Relations	6	7 7 PM Choir	8	9 Philadelphia Ave. Street Fair 10 am—4 pm
10 Congregational Meeting	11 7 PM Music & Worship	12 9 AM Women's Ministries 6:30 PM Property	13	14 7 PM Choir	15	16
17 9 AM Confirmands meet	18 7 PM Consistory	19	20	21 7 PM Choir	22	23
24 Apostolic Sunday	25	26	27	28 7 PM Choir	29	30

## Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

**June 3**— Communion

**June 10** — Congregational Meeting, Choir singing

**June 17** — Joyful Noise Offering, Father's Day

**June 24**— Church Picnic, Peter Detterline preaching

Rev. Frances  
Hours:  
(generally)  
Wednesdays  
9:30AM-2PM

Secretary Hours:  
(generally)  
Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays,  
Thursdays  
9AM-2PM

# JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2	3	4 	5 7 PM Choir	6	7
8	9	10 6:30 PM Property	11	12 7 PM Choir	13	14
15 Apostolic Sunday	16 7 PM Consistory	17	18	19 7 PM Choir	20	21
22	23	24 7 PM Christian Ed.	25	26 7 PM Choir	27	28
29 Future of Falkner Swamp offering	30	31				

## Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

**July 1** — Communion

**July 8** —

**July 15** — Joyful Noise Offering, Apostolic Sunday, Peter Detterline preaching

**July 22** —

**July 29**—Future of Falkner Swamp Offering

Rev. Frances  
Hours:  
(generally)  
Wednesdays  
9:30AM-2PM

Secretary Hours:  
(generally)  
Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays,  
Thursdays  
9AM-2PM



## Church Picnic



June 24<sup>th</sup> at Falkner Swamp  
following 10:00 Worship Service

### **What to bring:**

side dish to share

dessert to share

tablecloth

drinks

lawn chairs

### **Church will provide:**

hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls,

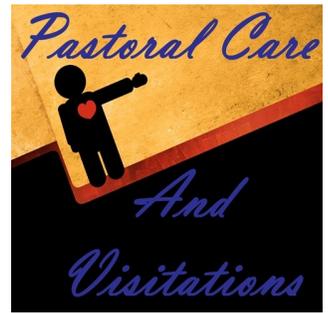
condiments, plates, napkins, cups,

utensils, serving spoons,

**Donation: \$2 for adults, children free**

## Pastor of Visitation Musings

Visiting you and your relatives and friends is a delight and a privilege for me. You are welcome to ask me to visit you or your friends in the home or the hospital or anything in-between. When you ask to have a friend or relative placed on the bulletin prayer list, you are welcome to contact me (610-659-2775 or [mestme@aol.com](mailto:mestme@aol.com)) to request a visit, a telephone call or a U.S. mail note to your person. Prayers are automatic!



If you are wondering if I am real, if I have a face, I do! My real self spends Sunday mornings as the Director of Music with Zion's UCC in Pottstown. My spiritual self can be in both places and so it is! I am excited that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in both places! I try to attend the monthly meals after church and the Community Breakfasts. I am a member of Falkner and I help to represent Falkner in our Covenant Association and our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). I participate in the "Reaching New People" group of Falkner.

In Christ,  
Rev. Mary Etta Mest



Prayer in our faith community is one of the many ways we show love for one another and our neighbor. Our Prayer list, in the weekly bulletin and posted on the board in the vestibule, is one way we continue to pray without ceasing for one another, to paraphrase the apostle Paul.

When considering placing someone on the prayer list, please be sure to first ask permission. This respects privacy and need for discretion at a vulnerable time in a person's life.

The discipline of prayer fundamentally changes each of us, as we submit ourselves to invoke God's power on behalf of another. While we may not understand the working of God's spirit in some situations, the fact that we bend our will and thought to God on behalf of another is exactly what Jesus asks us to do and modeled for us in his life and death on a cross.

May your prayers sustain you and strengthen your relationship with God.



**You are invited to bring 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 to fill out to identify them. Please contact Becky Comer if you have any questions.**

**JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 8 Louis Magyar
- 9 Brenda Moser
- 11 Cindy Meng
- 16 Bob Kline, Sr.  
Judy Miller  
June Moyer
- 17 Brian Miller
- 22 Barbara Geary



**JULY  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Isaiah Baez
- 4 Jane Harvey
- 7 Deborah Bingham
- 9 Peggy Straub
- 15 Brenda Becker
- 16 Guy Smith
- 18 Meghan Weller
- 21 Luke Schwenk
- 23 Jake Semach
- 24 Ken Berkowitz
- 25 Aidan Wentzel
- 30 Vic Umstead





## Community Breakfast

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the four breakfasts we've held so far this year! It could not have been done without all your help.

We served: 428 total people

- \* 69 were new and hadn't been here before
- \* 256 were returning attendees
- \* 103 were helpers

We had donations from the following stores: Costco, Walmart, Weis, Giant, Freed's, and Bob's Bread Barn. Debbie Rosenberry donated potatoes.

We hope to do at least one more (if not two) this fall. Again, thank you very much!

Robin



Saturday, June 9th 10 AM—4 PM

Our Reaching New People Task Force will have a table at this event. Please stop by!



Relay for Life  
Saturday, June 23  
starting at 10 am  
Boyertown Park



## Ladies' Night



## Pentecost Sunday



**Falkner Swamp U. C. C.**

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Gilbertsville, PA 19525

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Website: [www.falknerswamp.org](http://www.falknerswamp.org)  
Facebook: [@falknerswampucc](https://www.facebook.com/falknerswampucc)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**Sunday, June 10th**  
**after Worship**

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