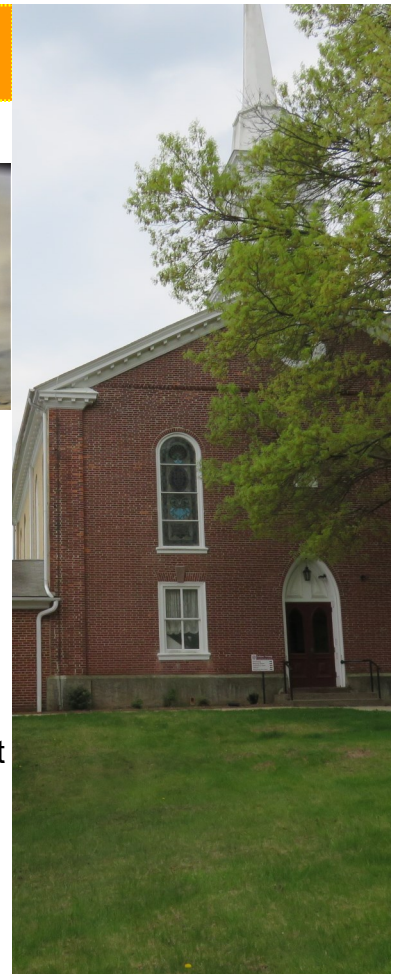




The VOICE



Pastor's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

People joke that the only sure things are "death and taxes." While that may be true, here are a few (and there are only a very few) other guarantees:

1. You are good. You were made in the image of God and God doesn't make bad stuff. By virtue of being born a human, you are fundamentally, to the core, bottom line good. Jesus, the head of the church, lived, died, and was resurrected to tell us this.
2. You are given a body. It is the instrument we use that reveals our faith. Through it we have the choice to mirror God to one another. It is up to you to treat your body well.
3. You suffer. Bodies get sick, break and die. Our hearts, even if beating perfectly, break. Our spirits, even those housed in finely-tuned bodies, break. Grief happens when something ends before we wanted it to.
4. You are given opportunity to experience love. The kind of love that helps you become your best self. Some have to go outside the family of birth to find this type of love. Love is not guaranteed; opportunity to find and be found by it, is. Some experience the love of God, some don't. Either way, see #1.
5. You will, at times, forget all this.

It's when we forget that the community we call church can step in. Through a chance encounter in town or a regular meeting in the same well-grooved seat, someone from church can hold up a mirror to remind you that you are good, your physical self matters, your suffering can be shared, and you can choose to receive and give love.

The Gospel stories are filled with moments of people seeing themselves as God sees them: good, embodied, suffering & loved. Thus seen, the circle of people increases who are not defined by human limits but freed to stretch with divine calling.

Death and taxes? Inevitable, but not determinate. Recall these words from the apostle Paul, who wrote so long ago to the church in Rome: *"What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:31, 38-39)

With love,
Rev. Frances

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Worship News/Speakers
- Lectionary Readings
- Movie Viewing/Discussion
- Inclement Weather Policy
- PND Meal
- "Check This Out"
- October Birthdays
- Anniversary Sunday

**Raised on September 9,
during Special Offering for
The Mustard Seed School in Malawi:
\$500**



Actually, the counters announced during the PND lunch after worship that over \$460 had been raised. Then voices shouted out: we'll kick in more to round it out to \$500!

This money will go towards the cost of building a well with greater capacity on school grounds, thus eliminating the need for someone to carry buckets back and forth 6 blocks to the nearest high-volume well.

This is a beautiful generosity; thank you, church!



Sunday Nov 11, Operation Paperback, 12-5pm at
Boyertown Area Multi-Service

-pack paperback books for stationed military and their families overseas

-join in this mission with area UCC churches Church of the Good Shepherd and Calvary UCC, Barto

If anyone would like to donate books, Operation Paperback Headquarters has requested new puzzle books (crosswords, word search, Sudoku, anagrams, cryptograms and brain teaser).

Worship News & Upcoming Speakers

- You may have noticed the Men's Chorus more often in worship. That's because they plan to offer 3 pieces of music each Sunday they have a critical mass: an opening piece to take us into worship, a prayerful song to lead us into our communal prayer time, and a closing benediction to go out with into our week. The Men's Chorus: *on guitar*, Bob Schnaars & Ed Thierolf, with *voices of* Ron Becker, Bob Erb, Jim Kooser, Rob Krause, and Wayne Gruver. New members are welcome!
- Sunday October 14, Anniversary Sunday, will feature Conference Minister Rev. Bill Worley in the pulpit. Rev. Frances will join him in leading the worship service.
- Sunday, November 4th, All Saints Sunday, we will be remembering anyone who passed away since last All Saints Day (Nov 5, 2017). 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.

SUNDAY LECTIONARY* READINGS

Sunday liturgy often reflects the lectionary readings, and the sermon focuses typically on one selection.

During the month of October in worship we will focus on the gospel of Mark, chapter 10.

Mark is the shortest gospel and will take about an hour to read in one sitting.

For Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) readings, there are a string of selections from the book of Job.

10/7: Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16

10/14: Job 23:1-9; 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15, Heb. 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31

10/21: Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Heb 5:1-10 and Mark 10:35-45

10/28: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22); Heb. 7:23-28 and Mark 10:46-52

* The "Lectionary" refers to The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). It is a three-year cycle of weekly Bible readings used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four readings for each Sunday. During most of the year, the selections are: a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Hebrew Bible lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles.

Here is what happened at our Consistory meeting this month:

After attendance was taken, we offered an opening prayer to God once again to give us the guidance to do the work He asks us to do with our church in our community. We also prayed for the people around the world who are suffering from wars and who are refugees. In my opinion, this is what we are supposed to be doing; trying to help ALL people as Jesus commanded.

Barbara Geary gave the Devotion based on Psalm 119. This passage sends us the message that God's Word is "Good for You". There is a peace in reading the Bible; a terrific message. Thank You, Barb!



This month we were honored by 2 more members of our Confirmation Class, Maggie Brennan and Grace Erb. We are so grateful to have them there; they are the future of our church.

Another guest at our meeting was Becky Comer. It has been brought to the attention of the Music and Worship Committee that there are some people registered as members of our church whom we have not heard from in several years. As a result, we are sending out a "Contact Letter" to these folks simply asking them if they still want to be members of Falkner Swamp. We are not setting any conditions; we just would like some sort of reply as to their intentions regarding church membership. She brought this idea to Consistory for their approval, and Consistory agreed that this would be a good plan. Barb Geary and Robin Zerr, along with Sharon Sgriccia are going to help with this task. Our thanks goes out to them.

Back to our regular business: Minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted. There was no treasurer's report as our financial secretary is in the midst of late filings in her accounting business. She is preparing for our budget meeting Thursday September 20. She does a wonderful job for us and I am sure if there were any financial problems facing the church she would bring them to our immediate attention.

We then had an extensive report from Reverend Frances about her month. She speaks to this elsewhere in The Voice, but some of the highlights in her report were that she will be in her office Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and certain Fridays. She will be preparing for her sermons at this time, but of course she will be available to anyone in the congregation who wants to see her. She is also doing visitations to members who, for whatever reason, have been unable to attend regular church services. Finally, she encouraged all of us to visit our web site, "falknerswamp.org". If anyone in the congregation sees anything on the site that is confusing or misleading, please see her, that we may make the site as friendly as possible.

Moving on to the Committee reports, the first report was filed by Robin Zerr as head of the property committee. She reported that new toilets have been installed in the upstairs level ladies room of the Sunday School wing. Also, many fluorescent lightbulbs have been replaced, and at least two light-fixtures in the downstairs Sunday School wing have been replaced with LED lights. The next projects for the Property Committee are air-conditioning in the fellowship room, and new fiber-glass doors at the lower end of the Sunday School wing. On behalf of the Consistory I would once again like to thank all the members of the Property committee for their hard work on the numerous projects throughout the church.

~Continued on page 5

~Continued from page 4

Music and Worship reported that on September 23 we are having a baptism for Liam and Rhys Curran. Their mom and dad, Patrick and Heather, have been attending our services for several weeks, and we are honored to be baptizing their children. That same day there will be a lay-leader meeting to help with the presentation of our scriptures on Sundays.

Other upcoming dates of importance are 1) October 14, when we will be celebrating our church's anniversary with a sermon from the dynamic Reverend Bill Worley from the conference, and 2) the congregational meeting, which will be on November 11. Please put both dates on your calendars; exciting times!

Brenda Semach reported that Faith Formation and Christian Education will be making tie-dyed Tee Shirts with our church name on them this month. More information about this youth event elsewhere in the newsletter. Flash-back to the sixties here, man!!

Visitation as reported by Barb Geary noted that Mary Etta Mest made 12 visits and one long telephone call. Even with her new duties at Womelsdorf U.C.C., she continues to be a wonderful representative of Falkner Swamp, doing so much for our church! Thank You, Mary Etta!

October of 2020 when we will be celebrating our 300th anniversary. If you can help with this project in any way, please contact Robin Zerr or Brenda Semach. I know they would like the help.

In closing, I am announcing that as of January 2019 I will no longer be the president of Consistory. It's been a long and event-filled 4 years, but now it is time for me to step aside. We will be voting for a new president at the congregational meeting on November 11. I will stay on Consistory, and I am also becoming Chair of the Music and Worship Committee. Becky Comer is stepping down from that position; I hope I can do close to the wonderful job that she did. I feel called to become more involved with the music of the church, suggesting songs for the choir director, running the Men's choir, and helping others present their musical talents as they feel called to do so. I want to work with Reverend Frances, helping to coordinate our music with her services. Music and Worship is where I feel I can use the talents I have more fully for the church.

Thank you all for letting me serve as Consistory President for the last 4 years. It has been the highest honor.

Respectfully,

Bob Schnaars, President of Consistory

Falkner Swamp U.C.C.

OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 PM Music & Worship	2 7 PM PRC	3 7 PM Choir	4	5	6 6:30 PM Harvest Night (bonfire, hot dogs, smores, & movie)
7 World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Special Offering	8	9 9 AM Women's Ministries 6:30 PM Property	10 7 PM Choir	11	12	13
14 Anniversary Sunday PND Meal Choir singing	15	16	17 7 PM Choir	18 7 PM "The Shack" Viewing	19	20 10 AM "The Shack" viewing
21 Joyful Noise	22 7 PM Consistory	23 7 PM Christian Ed Meeting	24 7 PM Choir	25 7 PM "The Shack" discussion	26	27 10 AM "The Shack" discussion
28 Apostolic Sunday	29	30	31 7 PM Choir	27	28	29

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

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

Oct. 7 — World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Oct. 14 — Anniversary Sunday, Rev. Bill Worley preaching, Communion, PND Meal

Oct. 21 — Joyful Noise Offering

Oct. 28 — Apostolic Sunday, Mr. Peter Detterline preaching

Rev. Frances Hours: (generally) Mondays, varies Tues & Wed mornings & by appt.	Secretary Hours: (generally) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9AM-2PM
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Freed's Market
Sunday, October 28
4-5:30 PM
(more info in article below)



The committee met Monday, September 24, at 7pm. We are going to participate in the Trunk or Treat event at Freed's supermarket on Sunday, October 28th from 4pm - 530pm. A trunk or treat is where trick-or-treating is done from parked car to parked car, the cars are decorated in the spirit of Halloween. It has become a popular way for children to trick or treat safely. The committee is sponsoring Christmas caroling also at Freed's supermarket on Saturday, December 8th from 11am to 2pm. We will be collecting food items for Multi-Service. We are always looking to be present in our community. If you know or hear of an event or need in our community, please contact anyone on our committee.

Respectfully submitted by

Brenda Semach chairperson

Rev Frances, Becky Comer, Stacey Brennan, Brenda Becker, Sharon Schnaars, Bob Schnaars and Laura Brown

Ephesians 2:10 New Life Version (NLV)

We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this.

Lady and the Gents Concert
Tuesday, Nov. 6th at 6:30 pm
at Frederick Living
ALL WELCOME !



Once again the Property Committee has been very busy. It is a never ending job to try and keep up with the work around the church. We finally made a decision on the air conditioner for Fellowship Hall. It will be installed in the next couple weeks. The money to pay for this project was raised the last 3 years from PND Meals, the breakfasts, the peanut butter egg fundraiser and donations for Robin's birthday. Many, many thanks for all the help that you have given. It could not have been done without your help.

Thank you to whoever is weeding the flower beds, much appreciated!

If you get a chance, check out the 2 new toilets in the ladies room. The generous donation from Women's Ministries paid for these.

Workday scheduled for Nov. 10th from 8:30 am—noon with lunch provided.

If you see a problem, please let someone on the committee know.

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



PRC COMMITTEE



Colossians 3:12

Paul tells them the key to remain unified is to show compassion and forgiveness toward one another.

12 Since you are all set apart by God, made holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a holy way of life: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Don't forget that the PRC committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The committee is designed to be a safe and confidential place to share any frustrations and struggles, also your joys and ideas. Please talk to anyone on the committee. They can listen and help with a direction for you. We are all here to do God's work in this world together.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Semach, Chair

Rev Frances, Bob Erb, Jane Harvey, Lee Comer and Bob Schnaars



MOVIE WATCH

Always wanted to see the movie “The Shack” or saw it and would like to see it again? We are going to show it at church in the Youth Room (lower level of education wing) on Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, October 20 at 10:00 am. We will have a discussion of some of the questions/topics that it raises at the church on Thursday, October 25 at 7:00 pm and again on Saturday, October 27 at 10:00 am. Bring a beverage. Snacks will be provided. You can't beat the price of admission! Hope to see you there.

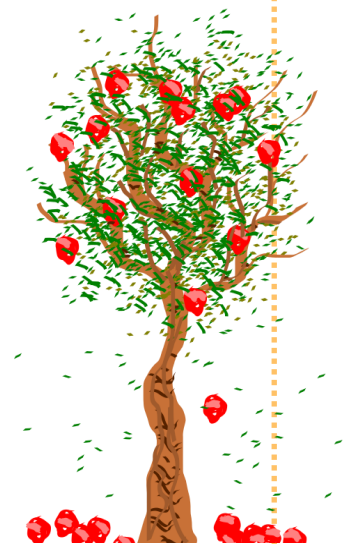


Christian Ed Fundraiser: We will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the church youth program through the end of October. Daily winners linked to the PA Evening Pick 3 Lottery throughout the month of November. If you are interested in purchasing tickets or helping to sell tickets, please see Barb McDonough. Tickets cost \$5 each. Goal is to sell 1,000 tickets. Thank you for your support!

Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning. You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth. You are here to risk your heart. You are here to be swallowed up. And when it happens that you are broken, or betrayed, or left, or hurt, or death brushes near, let yourself sit by an apple tree and listen to the apples falling all around you in heaps, wasting their sweetness.

Tell yourself you tasted as many as you could.

~ Louise Erdrich



Mission Church

SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS

- September 9-No Mission Church for Rally Day
- September 23-Tie Dye White Tshirts
- October 14-Finish T-shirt's/Start Christmas Cards for the Troops
- October 28-Finish Cards for Troops
- November 11-Operation Christmas Child
- November 25-No Mission Church-Confirmation!
- December 9-No Mission Church-Hanging of the Greens
- December 23-Birthday Bags for MultiService (Happy Birthday Jesus!)

Karaoke
NIGHT

Saturday, November 3
6PM

Harvest Night

Saturday, October 6
6:30PM

Join us around the fire for Hotdogs, a Smores Bar, and an outside viewing of "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"

Faithful Giving: Falkner Swamp by the (financial) numbers:

This financial information is for the month of August.

Total general fund intake and out going is:

General Funds In: \$8,757.69

General Funds Out: \$8,852.56

General Fund Loss for August: -\$94.87



Restricted and Other Funds In: \$2,070.00

Restricted and Other Funds Out: \$0.00



Consistory wishes you to know that in case of inclement weather...

If you are wondering whether or not church will meet, Consistory plans to spread the word in these ways. Consistory members will all be informed if church is closed. There will be no phone chain to call members.

Channel 69 news of WFMZ

Flocknote – sign up for email or text if you haven't already

Facebook

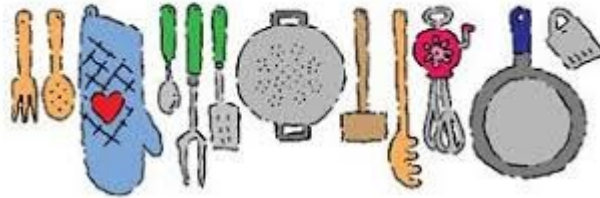
Additionally, Laura Brown (volunteer CE director) will decide regarding Church School/ Confirmation and will post on Facebook and make calls to teachers/parents.

If you are still unsure, please use your best judgment based on conditions where you are. You are welcome to call a Consistory member.



PND Meal
Sunday, October 14th
Stuffed Cabbage &
Parsley Potatoes

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



We started PND Meals again and the September turn out was great! October's menu is stuffed cabbage and parsley potatoes. Please sign up.

Our next project is saving for a dishwasher.

Committee Members: Brenda Becker, Doris Moser, Kim Shaak, Penny Zerr, & Robin Zerr

We enjoy serving you. Any suggestions, please let one of us know.

Save the date:

Breakfasts will start up again in February



Women's Ministries Schedule

October 9th @ 9 AM—clean the church, specifically windowsills & pews

November 13th @ 9 AM—pack Thanksgiving baskets for Multi-Service

December 4th @ 9 AM—breakfast at Sunflower Cafe



- ◇ 2 new toilets installed in ladies restrooms
- ◇ Changed over 20 light bulbs
- ◇ New blinds in the Pastor's office
- ◇ Parsonage dryer was fixed

**Anything to add to
this section next month?
Please let the office know.**



Welcome new members
Wayne & Debra Gruver
Rev. Frances Chester

Men's Chorus



Ice Cream for lunch



New Youth Room

**OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**

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

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Sunday, October 14th

Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC Conference Minister, preaching

Communion

Choir singing

PND Meal

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