

NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT (adopted 11/13/2022)

as printed in the Constitution & By-laws

We, the Congregation of Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ offer this mission to all members, friends, and neighbors near and far:

1. To be a place of welcome and a peaceful spiritual retreat for all of God's children.
2. To strengthen and share our relationship with God through the Holy Word, prayer, music, worship, and service to others.
3. To spread God's love by modeling our daily lives as examples set before us by Jesus Christ.

See inside for:

- ~Church Beyond the Walls*
- ~Keeping You in the Loop*
- ~March calendar*
- ~Peanut Butter Egg fundraiser*



Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026
Photo by Karen Miller

Worship and Prayer in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Sign up for Lent Devotional (daily) written by local UCC clergy, Rev. Frances among them

-you choose hard copy or email

- Sundays Feb 22-March 22 and March 29, Palm Sunday
- Thursday April 2, 7 pm Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm, Sanctuary
- Maundy Thursday-Good Friday Prayer Vigil, 9 pm-Midnight; 5AM-afternoon.
Sign up for a time slot to pray in sanctuary.
- Easter Sunday, April 5, 8 am (outdoors, weather permitting) and 10 am, sanctuary
- As you are led, "leaf" out our Lenten Tree, in sanctuary.

Dear Falkner Swamp Family,

Our Lent series is called “Tell Me Something Good.” Digging into Jesus’ teachings, TMSG invites us to name God’s good news for us in our daily lives. The heading of each worship bulletin asks: “What is the good news your soul longs for?” Write your answer, which may change weekly, on a leaf for our Lenten tree that is in the sanctuary.

Worshippers on Ash Wednesday began the leafing. About one-third named the good news their souls longed for as “peace” – peace in the family, nation, or world. Which reminded me of this good news from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God* (Matthew 5:9).

Note the word is not “peacelovers” but “peacemakers.” Who wouldn’t love to simply have bloodshed, yelling and fighting just go away? To make peace requires action. While glacial patience is helpful, honest peace requires certain choices by those who would be peacemakers.

Peacemaking begins with a desire for peace. The Buddhist “Walk for Peace,” a 2,300-mile trek from their monastery in Texas to Washington, DC., occurred with this desire. More than a dozen monks and their dog, Aloka (“divine light” in Sanskrit) pressed on through uncharacteristic blizzard conditions in southern states. Social media led to crowds in various towns lining the path of their walk, culminating in thousands greeting them at their first stop in the nation’s capital, Bender Arena at American University.

In answer to “why the walk,” the monks posted a reply, in part: ***“Our walking itself cannot create peace. But when someone encounters us ... when it awakens the peace that has always lived quietly in their own heart — something sacred begins to unfold. ... That person carries something forward they didn’t have before (and) carries it forward to someone else. And it continues — ripple by ripple, heart by heart, moment by moment — spreading outward in ways none of us will ever fully witness, creating more peace in the world than we could possibly measure. This is our contribution — not to force peace upon the world, but to help nurture it, one awakened heart at a time.*”**

My soul longs for peace for so many right now. Every day is a news story or a text that brings to mind and heart the need for every follower of Jesus to choose the way of making peace. My Lenten practice is choosing to make peace. What is your choice today?

With you on the journey,
Rev. Frances



Church Beyond the Walls

Church isn't just something that happens inside a building anymore—and that's a good thing! With livestreaming and social media, we can stay connected and reach people wherever they are.

When we livestream our services, folks who are homebound, traveling, or not quite ready to come in person can still worship with us. It's not a replacement for being together, but it is a great way to stay connected and included.

Social media helps us do the same thing during the week. On platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, we can share encouragement, reminders, photos, and short messages that keep our church family in the loop and spread a little hope beyond our walls.

Every view, share, and invite helps. Together, we're using simple tools to love people, stay connected, and welcome others into our community—sometimes before they ever walk through the door.

Livestreaming and social media Team :

Brenda Semach - Media Operator

Kevin Brennan - IT Specialist

Bob Schnaars - Audio Technician



Be informed

Keeping you in the loop

The church parsonage has been managed by Times Real Estate Group since 2024. All communication with the tenants goes through this company as well as all maintenance/repair needs and payments. In 2025, the rent was \$2100/month with the management company's fee being \$168/month, which is taken out of the rent payment. They conduct a yearly inspection of the property. Consistory approved a rent increase to \$2150/month for the next renewal in April.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports/Consistory Minutes

Committee reports that are received by the Church Office, and Consistory Meeting minutes that are approved by Consistory, are refreshed on the board outside the church office after each monthly Consistory meeting, typically the third Monday evening of each month, excepting one summer month.

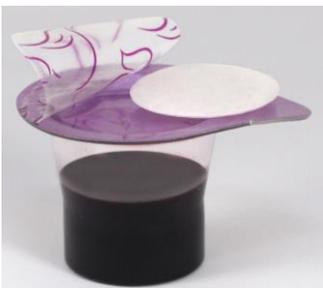
Financial Update through January 2026

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Total funds available for general use at the end of December: | \$87,849.61 |
| Total Income received in the month of January: | +\$15,119.25 |
| Total Expenses paid in the month of January: | (\$22,437.24) |
| Total funds available for general use at the end of January: | \$80,817.62 |

The net financial results from general church activity for the month of January reflected a loss in the general fund of \$4,345.40 (this amount does not include the parsonage rental income).



We gratefully receive your financial offerings for the mission and ministry of Falkner Swamp UCC through our weekly worship and via checks sent in the mail. We can also receive your financial gifts through this QR code to the left. Your donation will be processed through Vanco and is safe and secure. For all the ways you give, our church thanks you!



****A Note on Communion****

Not all find it easy to walk forward during Communion and need or choose to remain in the pew. To join in Communion from the pew, a pre-packaged wafer and cup is available when you pick up your worship order.



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|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 AM Worship w/ Communion 7 PM/AA Mtg. | 7 PM M & W mtg. | Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 10AM Women's Ministries | Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | **Rev. Frances' office hours | | 8 – 11 AM Community Breakfast |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg. | | Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study | Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | **Rev. Frances' office hours | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg | <div style="background-color: #c8e6c9; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> Peanut Butter Egg making 9 AM - ? </div> | | | | | |
| | 6:30 PM Consistory | Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study | Sharon's office hours 9 - 2 PM | **Rev. Frances' office hours | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg | <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> Rev. Frances vacation from March 23 - 30 </div> | | | | | Bake Sale @ Freed's |
| | | Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study | Sharon's office hours 9 - 2 PM | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 10 AM Worship Palm Sunday Rev. Ann Few preaching Joyful Noise, OGHS & Future of FSUCC special offerings 7 PM/AA Mtg | | Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study | <div style="background-color: #e1eef6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> Thurs. April 2, Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm, sanctuary, followed by Prayer Vigil into Friday Easter Sun April 5, 8 am and 10 am services, Children's Easter Egg hunt (indoors) following 10 am worship </div> | | | |

Please send any newsletter submissions by 9 AM on the final Tuesday of each month (except December & July when they are double month editions), to the church office, falknerswamp@comcast.net.

** Times vary, please call or text for an appointment:



Thank you to our Cleaning Crews! They keep all our church spaces sparkling & fresh. Our March cleaners are Susan Mercer, Olga Rees and Joanne Lewis.

We can always use more team members, please contact the church office if you have some time & can help out: 610-323-4053 or falknerswamp@comcast.net



Ladies' Night – Tuesday, May 12th
Look for more details soon!



It's that time again for our annual peanut butter egg fundraiser. Mixing, rolling, & dipping March 16 – 20 beginning @ 9 AM each day. Cost this year is \$15/box.



*Easter
Flower
Orders
Due 3/15*

