

# 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:***

- *Prayer Basket*
- *Church Communications*
- *Various ways to support our church & ministries*
- *November calendar*
- *Confirmation Class*



Upcoming dates to remember:

11/9 – PSEC Fall Meeting

11/10 – PND Meal

11/17 – Annual Congregational Meeting  
following worship

12/15 – Christmas with the Dogs from 2 – 4 PM



**Altar  
Flowers**  
Ministry Opportunity

## **Altar Flowers**

Text, call, or email Becky Comer at 610-413-3729 or [beckyo49@comcast.net](mailto:beckyo49@comcast.net) to sponsor an arrangement for a particular Sunday. \$30/arrangement.

Dear Falkner Swamp Family,

Lately I've been leaning in hard to two things: contemplative time with God and thoughtful discussions addressing the disruptive state of our nation. Rev. Ann Few delivered a terrific sermon on Psalm 46 and invited us into contemplative time with God. She honed in on Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God."

Maybe you are like Ann: in her sermon, she noted that when she sees a problem she wants to jump in and fix it, relying on her own sense of what needs fixing. She forgets to look first to God. Her words prompted reflection on my own behavior. So maybe you are like me: when I'm faced with a thorny issue I can get rooted to the spot with fear and anxiety. I forget that God equips me and that one of the most repeated phrases in scripture to us mortals is: *do not fear*.

Ann invited us to meditate on Psalm 46, to dwell with the One from whom we draw creativity and strength, courage and peace. If you missed Ann's sermon on Oct 27, listen to it on our YouTube channel.

On Wednesday October 23, Dr. Greg Carey, professor at Lancaster/Moravian Seminary, offered pastoral guidance on how to respond as a Christian amidst the sea of problems and thorny issues facing us in the US. At the end of his presentation on Christian Nationalism (What it is, How it Works, and Why it's Bad for the Gospel), he turned us back to the well, the vine, and the green pastures where our Good Shepherd leads us. His five points are below. If you come to worship November 3, All Saints Sunday, you'll hear more from me on them.

How can concerned Christians respond to the negativity in these times:

1. Guard your soul. Be in prayer, go to worship, spend time with loved ones.
2. Stay alert. This does not mean keeping the TV on. Read/listen to several news sources, including local news.
3. Be active.
4. Treat people as people.
5. Testify. Allow Jesus to speak through you. How is God good to you?

God is good to me, and to us, when we gather for worship, share in fellowship, and resolve to come together in mission even if – and especially when -- we are willing to sacrifice our comfort and safe routines. Jesus led the way, and he bid us, "follow me."

With you on the journey,  
Rev. Frances

P.S.: On election day, Nov 5, at 1 pm, I will host an informal time of prayer in the sanctuary. We will end with Communion. Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers.

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS....HEALING PRAYER MINISTRIES

On Oct 24 a group of seven finished the course on Christian healing, following the book Stretch Out Your Hand, facilitated by Rev. Frances and Ann Few.

We learned that God's way is to heal, even when the healing occurs in ways we never thought to pray for. We discovered that when we prayed for one another, often laying on hands (with permission), *some* type of healing occurred.

We took on the challenge of how can we at Falkner Swamp offer healing prayer in our community? Where is the pain in our community? Not only within these walls, but outside them as well.

### **Introducing A Prayer Basket**



To start a healing ministry at Falkner Swamp, the group put out a prayer basket in the foyer. Look for the table with a yellow tablecloth and woven basket. All are invited to write a prayer and leave it in the basket. All are equally invited to pick up a prayer from the basket, and pray for the person asking for healing.

Other ideas this group would like to implement include offering healing prayer with anointing of oil in our worship service, and to begin a healing prayer group that meets regularly.

Let Frances or Ann know if you would like to be involved in any of the above.

## **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.

### **Church Directory**

Please contact our church secretary, Sharon Sgriccia at [falknerswamp@comcast.net](mailto:falknerswamp@comcast.net), call the office 610-323-4053, or leave a note on her desk, and she can email or print an updated directory for you.

Financial Update through September 2024

Update from the budget committee:

Total funds available for general use at the end of August:	\$72,257.66
Total Income received in the month of September:	+ \$24,914.88
Total Expenses paid in the month of September:	(\$14,513.39)
Total funds available for general use at the end of September:	\$82,659.15



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!

### SPONSORING A WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN



**WHAT:** Be a Falkner Swamp UCC sponsor of a Sunday Service bulletin.

**WHY:** With an **optional donation** of \$10, you can name someone to honor: in remembrance/memory of, for a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, a graduation, a new birth, to God's Glory, or just because...

**HOW:** There is a sign-up chart on the vestibule's main bulletin board.

Choose your date and write your name on the slot. There may be more than one honoree on any particular date.

Then pick up a "Bulletin Sponsor" slip, fill it out, and either place it (with or without any monetary donation) in the offering plate or place it on the secretary's desk in the office **at least one week in advance**

#### Bulletin Sponsor

Please check :  Birthday  Anniversary  Graduation  Remembrance  Other

Person of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** Donations collected will help support the FSUCC budget.



					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>10 AM Worship w/Communion</b>  Joyful Noise & All Saints special offerings  7 PM/AA Mtg.	<b>4</b>     7 PM M & W mtg.	<b>5</b>  Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM  10 AM Women's Ministries  1 PM Scripture Study 2-3:30 PM Confirmation Class	<b>6</b>  Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>7</b>  **Rev. Frances' office hours	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>PSEC Fall Meeting</b>
<b>10</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  PND Meal  Stewardship mtg. following worship  7 PM/AA Mtg	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM  1 PM Scripture Study  7 PM Property mtg.	<b>13</b>  Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>14</b>  **Rev. Frances' office hours	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  10 AM Green Lane Walk
<b>17</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  Annual Congregational mtg.  11:30 AM Confirmation Class  7 PM/AA Mtg	<b>18</b>     6:30 PM Consistory	<b>19</b>  Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM  1 PM Scripture Study	<b>22</b>  Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>21</b>  **Rev. Frances' office hours	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  11:30 AM Confirmation Class  7 PM/AA Mtg	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM  1 PM Scripture Study	<b>27</b>  No office hours for Sharon today	<b>28</b>  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

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.



Upcoming walking date:

November 16<sup>th</sup> (tentative)

Meet @ 10 AM at the tennis courts in Green Lane Park.

Dogs welcome!

Call or text Becky 610-413-3729 if interested or with questions. She will keep you updated on any changes (weather related, etc.).



Thank you to our Cleaning Crews! They keep all our church spaces sparkling & fresh. For November we thank Susan Mercer and Olga Rees.

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](mailto:falknerswamp@comcast.net)



## Christmas Basket Raffle

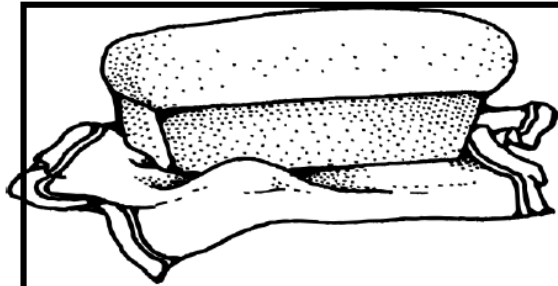


The FUNdraising Committee is sponsoring a Christmas-themed Basket Raffle just in time for Christmas! Some baskets will be filled with Christmas items, and some baskets will be perfect for gift-giving!

If you would like to donate a basket for the raffle, please bring it to church by November 17, along with a list of the contents on an index card. In keeping with Consistory's Off-Plastics October, if you are able to wrap the basket in tulle or something else transparent and non-plastic, that would be great! If not, please don't let that stop you from participating.

Raffle tickets will be \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5, and the drawing will be Sunday, December 15. If you have any questions, please talk to any member of the committee: Patty Fritz, Jim Fahy, Barb Geary, Wayne Gruver, Rob and Cassandra Krause, and Karen Miller.





## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PRESENTS: FALL BREADS For Sale!

The Women's Ministries will be baking and selling Fall Breads: 10 ZUCCHINI, 10 PUMPKIN, AND 10 BANANA. Some will be plain and some will have nuts or chocolate chips. So be sure you write your name on the correct selection line.

The time to sign up starts **Nov. 3rd** and because there will only be 30 breads made, it will be on a **FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE** basis

**The Cost: \$8** See Judy Miller for payment at the time you sign up .

The breads will be baked fresh on Saturday, November 23rd and will be available for **pick-up on Sunday, November 24th.**

That is the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day.

(If you cannot pick up your bread on that Sunday, it will be placed in the freezer with your name on it for later pick-up.)



Thank You...All proceeds go to support the Women's Ministries' Missions.



### Women's Ministries Annual Breakfast @ Sunflower Café

- Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 AM
- All women invited
- Look for sign up sheet later in November

Women's Ministries is again selling the fresh green Christmas logs. They will be available on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. \$15 each – first come, first served.



## Our 2024-25 Confirmation Class of two has begun!

Lydia Brown (9<sup>th</sup> grader at BASH) and Archie Young (9<sup>th</sup> grader at Spring-Ford), met with the Confirmation team of Rev. Frances, Becky & Susan, for their first session on Oct 27, following an introduction during worship.

The Confirmand's schedule is as follows, through Jan.

Tuesday (no school)	Nov 5	2 - 3:30 pm
Sunday	Nov 17	11:30-1pm
Sunday	Nov 24	11:30-1pm
Sunday	Dec 8	11:30-1pm
Sunday	Dec 15	11:30-1pm
Sunday	Jan 5	11:30-1pm
Sunday	Jan 19	11:30-1pm
Monday (no school)	Jan 20	Time TBA



The Confirmands meet in the basement in the Confirmation Room.

Stay tuned for more information on the Confirmands' joint project, to create Clean Up Buckets through Church World Service. The buckets are essential following natural disasters such as occurred with Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Currently, warehouses are emptied of these Clean up Buckets, so replenishment is needed! Please support this project when the Confirmands introduce it.

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### Upcoming Special Offerings:

- November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Joyful Noise & All Saints Offering
  - Joyful Noise Offering is collected via our children passing cans around our sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month, Oct-June. One-half supports the Mustard Seed School in Malawi; one-half supports Operation 143.
  - All Saints' Offering is sponsored by the PSEC (PA Southeast Conference of the UCC). On the first Sunday in November, we celebrate long ago saints and those known to us as saints; people who inspired us by grit and determination to “keep on trying.” Many of those people are the pastors who lives shaped and influenced our own. Some of the PSEC pastors who retired years ago are now in need of special assistance. Because their retirement income is low, the churches of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference supplement the cost of their health benefits through this offering.