

NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC



See inside for:

- *Summer schedule*
- *Pollinator garden pictures*
- *Choir rehearsals resume*
- *Mustard Seed request*
- *BAMS fundraiser*
- *Salvation Army back to school drive*
- *Women's Ministries invitation*

*Special
Congregational
Meeting*

- Aug 7 - congregational meeting with vote on the sanctuary roof repair, following worship. Flocknote voting option available for those unable to attend.



**Choir Rehearsals
Resume**

*Wednesday, August 10th @ 7p.m.
New members welcome!*

Dear Falkner Swamp Beloved,

As I am about to head out for 2 weeks' vacation, I have these vignettes rattling around to share with you.

LOST AND FOUND

On Monday July 11, Barry, Abby and I stepped out of a NYC cab to join a tour of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Walking past a surprisingly lush and colorful garden I wanted to take a photo, so I patted my pockets to pull out my phone....my phone. My phone! My phone is in that cab - it slipped out my pocket as I made my way across the backseat to exit curbside. I knew it instantly. I know for many losing a phone isn't gut-wrenching; however, it organizes my life. I felt lost. I had a decision to make. I could upend the day and turn us around searching for the phone. (It was on "airplane mode" to save battery and therefore I couldn't use the Find My Phone app to locate it. Thanks to Kevin Brennan, I've got a work around for the next time. Hopefully there is no next time.) Or I could enjoy the perfect summer day and the opportunity to share these historical sites with Barry and my daughter, whose birthday present this trip was. I chose the latter. Over the course of the tour, I resigned myself to purchasing a new phone and starting over. I even felt some excitement around engaging life pre-cell phone days. A paper calendar again! Leaving the ferry, a man behind me remarked pleasantly enough how long it was taking to get off. I nodded in agreement, just as the crowd starting surging forward. As we disembarked, he said he used to live in NYC in the 1980s, moved to California, then returned recently. "I'm a tour guide, and an actor," he shared. Funny, I remember, our tour guide saying earlier, "In addition to being a tour guide, I'm also an actor. But who isn't in New York?" As we continued off the boat, the man said, "People in New York are a lot nicer now." I was about to find that out for myself: After several phone calls to the Taxi Commission that included a conversation with Lenny who gave me his direct number to call back (which I then lost – sheesh what is UP with this?!), then a call next day with Gloria who was able to use the last 4 digits of my bank card to locate the cab, followed by a call to the cab driver who said in this 3-way conversation that the next passenger found the phone, which he dropped off at our hotel later that day handing it to the doorman, who then brought it up to the front desk, from which Barry picked it up that night as he remained in New York for work while Abby and I had taken the train home later that day, I received my phone from Barry after he returned home on Wednesday July 13. Thank God for nice people.

Another lost phone story came to me that Friday night. I sat next to Jeff and Marlene, cousins of the mother of the bride, whose wedding I was officiating the next day. I happened to mention my phone scare from earlier in the week and Marlene piped up, "Oh! I lost my phone last weekend too!" She had been on a retreat with church members and lost her phone at the center. Having returned home already, she called the place from church to see if they could find it, listing her pastor as the one to call if it was found. Her pastor told her the next day, "I was praying for your phone when mine rang. It was the retreat center. They found your phone."

Marlene then turned to her brother Jeff and said, "he's got an amazing God story." Jeff shared that when he and his wife were getting ready to go to Korea to bring home their adopted infant daughter, the adoption agency called them. "There's a problem with her. She suddenly seizes up, gets stiff. We're not sure what this is, and it could be a life-long issue. Do you still want her?" Jeff and his wife were in tears. They were torn. This would be their only child. What do they do? Jeff said his wife was looking to him to make the final decision, as she simply couldn't. Jeff explained, "I'm a pacer. So I went outside on our driveway, and paced up and down, down and back, over and over, into the night. I kept saying, 'Lord, what do we do? God, help me! I have no idea what to do. None. You've got to tell me.'" Jeff said he paced and talked to God, over and over. Out of nowhere he felt a stiff wind cut through him, from side to side. He pointed, showing me the path from his right rib cage and out his left. "There hadn't been any wind at all," he insisted. "And I knew. That was my answer. It was God saying it was okay to bring her home. But I also knew that I was taking a big risk. My wife was completely depending on me, so if my understanding was wrong, then....but I went with it. I just knew God said it would be okay. And it was." Jeff's daughter is in her late 20s, married and an artist. And in perfect health.

God doesn't answer prayer like we order off a menu or delivers as if we've purchased from Amazon. And yet Scripture affirms that we are given what we need (all the Psalms, Luke 11:1-13, Matt. 7:7-11). Sometimes, the lost things find their way back. And sometimes God's voice is unmistakable.

See you the week of August 8, in worship on Aug 14. With you on the journey,

Rev. Frances



	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM			
Rev. Frances vacation July 25 – Aug. 7						
7 10 AM/Worship Communion – Rev. Paul Jones Congregational Meeting following worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	8	9 **Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	10 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir	11 **Rev. Frances' office hours	12	13
14 10 AM/Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	15 7 PM Consistory	16 **Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 7 PM Music & Worship	17 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir	18 **Rev. Frances' office hours	19	20
21 10 AM/Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	22	23 **Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours	24 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir	25 **Rev. Frances' office hours	26	27
28 10 AM/Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	29	30 **Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours	31 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir			

Please note vacation –Rev. Frances: July 25 – Aug. 7

** Times vary, please call or text for an appointment: 484-995-2705.

Rev. Darryl Cruz will provide pastoral care in case of urgent need while Rev. Frances is on vacation, from July 25-Aug 7. He can be reached on his cell phone, 610-308-6167.



*Prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for 3 weeks.
Please contact Rev. Frances if the prayer request should be extended.*

-the Mercer family, upon the arrival of baby Max on July 5 to parents Caitlin & Jordan

ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER AT BOYERTOWN ICE CREAM AND WATER ICE FACTORY



DATE AND TIME
AUGUST 20TH

5:30-9:00

LOCATION

835 E PHILDELPHIA
AVE BOYERTOWN
PA 19512



Boyertown Area
Multi Service Inc.
Helping People, Strengthening Communities

25%
OF ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT THE
BOYERTOWN AREA
MULTI-SERVICE



The Women's Ministry of Falkner Swamp: We're More Than Just Ladies' Night!

- The Women's Ministry is a serving ministry of women currently numbering just over a dozen.
- We are a very active group extending our nurturing skills, craft skills, cooking skills, and many other skills in order to serve our church, our pastor, and the community of all God's children, near and far.

Come join us!

We have seen that every little bit really does make a difference, especially when there are lots of "little bits".

We produce an awesome quiet explosion!

Though meetings are held during the day (the first Tuesday of the month), don't let that stop you from becoming part of a wonderful community of Falkner Swamp Women.

Members, friends and neighbors are all welcome!

- You can be part of creating "birthday bags", Easter baskets, Thanksgiving baskets, and other "baskets" and donations to Boyertown Area Multi-Service.
- Take care of our homebound and other members in need through visits, goodie bags, cards, soup...
- And many, many more opportunities to spread God's love to others.
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If you would like to be part of this explosive force, just talk to any member or leave your name and contact info with Sharon Sgriccia in the office (610-323-4053). We will keep you in the loop of upcoming meetings and resulting minutes and of opportunities to serve.



Summer Schedule for Vacation Sundays

Aug 7 (Vacation): Rev. Paul Jones

Rev. Frances will be on sabbatical Sept 1- Oct 31. The Rev. Ann Few will provide pulpit supply on most Sundays. More details to follow.

Summer Newsletters

Monthly newsletters for August, September & October

If you have any submissions for the newsletters, please get them to the office by the last Tuesday of the month. If you miss a deadline, we can email announcements/information separately.



Thank you to our Cleaning Crew this month! They keep all our church spaces sparkling & fresh.

For August, we thank Becky Comer, Barb Geary, and Lee Heffner.

Always room to add more cleaners and cleaning teams! Contact church office if you have some time & can help out: 610-323-4053 or falknerswamp@comcast.net

Pollinator Garden – July 26, 2022





Angela has asked for SIMPLE 14" x 14" easily washable sitting mats. The children in the school sit on concrete floors so it would be wonderful if anyone who crochets or knits, could make them. Use scrap yarn, don't worry about knots, wild colors, and not too heavy of yarn, just normal ply for easily washing and air drying. Janice (Angela's mother) plans a trip to Malawi in October and can take them with her. Please let the church office know if you are able to provide any mats so we can let Janice know.

If you would like to make any donations to the Salvation Army's back to school drive, please place your items in the bin at church. They will be delivered on August 11th.



Back to School Wish List

Due by August 10th



Backpacks: Pre-K & K can be character, all others Plain please

Yellow highlighters

Pencils

Mechanical Pencils

Black or Blue Pens

Colored Pencils

Colored Markers

Washable Colored Markers

1 subject spiral notebook (wide & college rule)

Composition books (no picture)

2 pocket folders (plastic and paper)

3 ring binders (2" & 3")

Index cards

Glue sticks

Pencil erasers (top of pencils & squares)

Pencil boxes or zippered holders for binders

Pre-school to Kindergarten activity and learning books.

Crayons

Sticky notes

Hand sanitizer

Small box of tissues

Subject divider

Loose Leaf Paper (wide & college)