

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:

- *July/August Calendars*
- *Financial Update through May 2024*
- *Summer Vacation for staff*
- *Community Book Study*

Faith Formation Children's Outing

Join Ms. Becky, Ms. Susan and Rev. Frances for a fun day out.

Who: children of Falker Swamp (parents are welcome to stay & children can invite a friend)

What: craft, lesson, lunch (bring your own sandwich & dress for painting a craft)

Where: Boyertown Park (near the playground)

When: Saturday, August 17 from 11 am - 1 pm (rain date Aug. 24)

Why: to get together over the summer for fun & fellowship

Please bring your backpack for a blessing!
Drinks, chips, dessert, and paper products provided.

Remember to
RSVP to Ms.
Becky's text.

Any questions, please see Becky, Susan or Rev. Frances.

Dear Falkner Swamp Family in Christ,

On Saturday, June 22, thirteen people gathered with Pastor Ann and me to unpack our beliefs around healing and experience healing prayer with each other. The group initially reflected on the question, “What does healing mean to you?” Towards the end of the morning, looking back at the list recorded on a flip chart, people were struck at what *wasn't* on the list: “There’s no magic wand.” “No one mentioned the word ‘cure’.”

Using the book Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer, by Tilda Norbert and Robert D. Webber, as a resource, Ann and I handed out descriptions of what Christian healing is – and isn’t.

From page 26 of the book, “What Christian Healing Is Not”:

1. Christian healing is not magic. It is not manipulating God to do what we want; rather, it is surrendering to God’s healing work in us.
2. Christian faith for healing is not a prediction of what God will do; it is simple trust that God loves us and is at work in us already.
3. Christian healing is not to be sought as a spiritual thrill for the healer or the person healed but is a way to grow as a Christian.
4. Christian healing is not proof that we are faithful or holy but a sign of God’s love.

“What Christian healing is” didn’t come in a list format; it is more complex. But to offer the first two sentences, “Christian healing is a process that involves the totality of our being – body, mind, emotion, spirit, and our social context – and that directs us toward becoming the person God is calling us to be at every stage of our living and our dying. Whenever we are truly open to God, some kind of healing takes place, because God yearns to bring us to wholeness.”

The concluding activity involved pairs taking turns to pray for one another for some aspect of healing they shared, whether for themselves or another person. When they drifted back into the room, the energy was palpable. The talking and laughing grew as each group returned, feeling lighter, more loved, more heard and understood. No magic wands. No instant cures. But healing. Oh yes, there was healing.

Pastor Ann and I will be discerning how to widen this experience for our church based on Saturday’s mini-retreat. We will use the book mentioned above, which several people purchased at the retreat. If you are interested in a copy, and being part of whatever comes next, please let me know.

With you on the journey,
Rev. Frances



Thank you to our Cleaning Crews! They keep all our church spaces sparkling & fresh. We are in need of cleaners for July. Becky will be recruiting some helpers. For August we thank Becky Comer, Barb Geary and Lee Heffner.

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

Financial Update through May 2024

Update from the budget committee:

Total funds available for general use at the end of April:	\$63,957.16
Total Income received in the month of May:	+ \$12,306.54
Total Expenses paid in the month of May:	- (\$9,689.85)
Total funds available for general use at the end of May:	\$66,573.85



Rev. Frances Away:

- Wed July 17-Tues July 23 (July 21, Rev. Paul Jones preaching)
- Aug 3- Aug 10 (Aug 4 Rev. Tyson Frey preaching and serving Holy Communion)
- Aug 11 Apostolic Sunday, (Susan Mercer leading worship)

Sharon Away:

- July 5 - July 14

JULY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 PM M & W mtg.	Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM			
7 10 AM Worship w/Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
7 PM/AA Mtg.	No office hours for Sharon this week.					
		Rev. Frances' office hours 9 – 2 PM 7 PM Property mtg.	6 PM Stewardship mtg.	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
14 10 AM Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
7 PM/AA Mtg		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	Meal Ministry @ First Pres. Pottstown	Rev. Frances vacation July 17 – July 23.	
21 10 AM Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
Rev. Paul Jones leading worship 7 PM/AA Mtg		Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
28 10 AM Worship	29	30	31			
7 PM/AA Mtg		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM			

** 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.



				1	2	3
				**Rev. Frances' office hours		Fellowship Hall rental (Zerr)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 AM Worship w/Communion Rev. Tyson Frey leading worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	Rev. Frances vacation August 3 - 10.					
	7 PM M & W mtg.	Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 10 AM Women's Ministries	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 AM Worship Apostolic Sunday Leader TBA 7 PM/AA Mtg		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 7 PM Property mtg.	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 6 PM Stewardship mtg.	**Rev. Frances' office hours		Faith Formation Children's Outing 11 AM – 1 PM Boyertown Park
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg	6:30 PM Consistory	Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		

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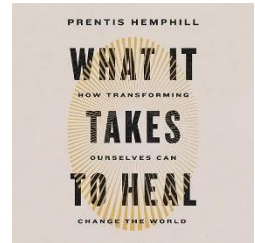
A Community Book Study, on Zoom, beginning Sept 18.

The First Baptist Church of Pottstown organized a book study on Zoom in 2020-21, bringing people together during COVID. So many people liked the gathering, they kept going!

Hear are the details on the book planned for Fall.

Sept 18, again on Zoom, from 7-8 pm. We will plan on meeting the first and third Wednesdays. As in the past, we will read the book in sections, discussing as we go.

Our first read next fall will be [What It Takes to Heal: How Transforming Ourselves Can Change the World.](#) by Prentis Hemphill



What's great is that a church budget at FBC pays for your book! See Rev. Frances or Sharon in the office for details on how to access.

Here's a condensed description about the book: “Now more than ever, we must learn to heal ourselves, connect with one another, and embody our values. In this revolutionary book, Prentis Hemphill shows us how.

What It Takes to Heal asserts that the principles of embodiment—the recognition of our body's sensations and habits, and the beliefs that inform them—are critical to lasting healing and change. ... Hemphill demonstrates a future in which healing is done in community, weaving together stories from their own experience as a trauma survivor with clinical accounts and lessons learned from their time as a social movement architect. They ask, “What would it do to movements, to our society and culture, to have the principles of healing at the very center? And what does it do to have healing at the center of every structure and everything we create?”

The pastor of First Baptist, Rev. Dr. Marcia Bailey, adds, “I hope you will consider joining us in the fall! This is a critical time in our shared life and being a part of a community matters!

People's Prayers for Peace - the National Setting of the United Church of Christ

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6-7

General Minister and President, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson calls the church to a season of prayer. Prayer undergirds our witness, ministry, and advocacy as we work for peace and a just world for all.

Rev. Leslie Mamas is the pastor of Olivet Schwenkfelder Church in Norristown. Her prayer appeared on June 15:

Holy One, be present wherever there is hatred, bigotry, terror, violence, war, or occupation. Wrap your arms of love around everyone, be they victim, perpetrator, or both. Transform our hearts into sanctuaries of compassion for all. Amen.

-Rev. Leslie Mamas, Norristown, PA

Want to read others? Or submit your prayer for peace? Do that here:

<https://www.ucc.org/peoples-prayers-for-peace/>