



June/July 2019

THE VOICE

FALKNER SWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Dogs of Falkner Swamp



The Dogs of Falkner Swamp will be the featured entertainment at Zion Union Church's Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival on Friday, June 7th. The entertainment, and the festival, run from 7 to 9 pm. Zion's address is 329 Church Road, Kutztown, PA 19530. The public is invited. Food and beverages are available, including, of course, strawberries and ice cream. The event is being held rain or shine. There is no admission charged. Please join us for an evening of entertainment, music and food.

new MEMBER SUNDAY

We welcome new members to our congregation on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. If you are interested in joining, please see Rev. Frances.

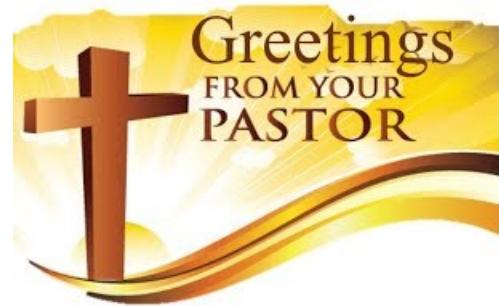
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKETS

Twenty buckets were delivered to a drop off center in Harrisburg on Monday, May 20th. We were approved for a \$250 grant from the UCC in order to complete 10 more buckets. Thank you for your support of this mission project!



Dear Friends,

It's that time of year when many celebrate graduations and early summer wedding anniversaries. Younger children step up to the next grade or school. Many look forward to annual family vacations and gatherings.



We celebrate our connectedness to a certain community or person, and in the case of vacation, often to a special place. I'd like to piggyback on this good time to celebrate our connectedness as a church.

Churches in the United Church of Christ denomination are connected geographically to an Association, and Associations belong to a Conference. Falkner Swamp is part of the Covenant Association, and the Covenant Association is one of five Associations that make up the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. In a business model approach, there is no direct line of reporting; rather, there are "dotted lines" connecting each church to its Association, and each Association to its Conference.

The "dotted lines," to use church language, represent our connectedness known as *being in covenant together*. In other words, we all claim Jesus Christ as head of our church; therefore, through Christ we are in covenant relationship to support one another and help each other in ministry.

I'm grateful a number of people in our church travel the dotted lines to be in covenant as the wider church. For example, see the front page of the VOICE as the Dogs continue to sing and play their music. Both Bobs have found that sharing from their strengths and gifts – playing guitar and singing tenor (and a mighty fine harmonica too, Bob Erb) – is holy work to enrich others' lives. They are humbly grateful to spread love & hope.

A number of Falkner Swamp folks are similarly living out this covenantal relationship beyond our church walls:

-Rev. Mary Etta Mest, Visitation Pastor (and Pastor at Zion's UCC in Womelsdorf) is on the Worship Team for the Conference. She also serves on the Nominating Committee for the Covenant Association and invited these three:

-Ellen Whitfield, now also serving on the Nominating Committee for the Covenant Association.

-Becky Comer, now serving on the CCC or Congregational Collaboration Committee.

~continued from page 2

-Me, Rev. Frances, now serving on the Committee on Ministry, Covenant Association.

And check out how these others are reaching out across the dotted lines, connecting ministry from our church to others:

-Laura Brown, volunteer Faith Formation/Christian Education director, recently attended a regional gathering of mid-Atlantic church education leaders for new ideas and to connect with her fellow educators.

-Consistory President Brenda Semach pursued the formation of the Gathering of Consistory Presidents across the Penn Southeast Conference. Two meetings have been held at Falkner Swamp and they will meet again at the upcoming PSEC Spring meeting held at West Chester May 31/June 1.

-Becky Comer & Barb Geary heard the cry for more emergency buckets through Church World Service, and the accompanying UCC Grant opportunity. Through donations, and lots of shoe leather and persistence, they filled 20 buckets and delivered them to Harrisburg.

-2 delegates from our church will also attend, for the first time, the PSEC Spring meeting. Wayne Gruver & Luke Schwenk will be introduced to our wider church, be exposed to new opportunities for mission, and learn from innovative Christian thinker and presenter, Brian McLaren.

I am excited that a number of our church members are forging new paths in ministry and learning. What stories do you have to share about being connected to the wider church, in learning, mission, worship and service? Looked at another way, what stories would you like to make happen for yourself and others?

Our covenant with the wider church highlights our connectedness.

Our connectedness reminds us we are in this together.

The God that calls us into covenant is the Spirit of Pentecost, whispering, shouting, howling and burning to keep us dancing to a new song.

May you be drawn into the “dotted line” as you celebrate all that God has gifted us with in church,

Rev. Frances

P.S. You probably noticed on the front page that we welcome new members to our congregation on June 9, Pentecost Sunday.

What a joy! The color for Pentecost is red. Wear red to celebrate!

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." -Maya Angelou

God's Grace and peace to you,

The Consistory met on Monday May 20th at 7pm.

Change can be a lifesaver. Change can create a new person. Change can bring in new ideas, different and better ways of living and doing things. Change can bring promise of transformation, a fulfilled life and hope for the future.



What is one thing you feel God is inviting you to change in your life right now?

The Consistory team continues to support the ministries of our church, working together with these committees: Property, Endowment, Kitchen, Visitation, Faith and Formation (formerly Christian Education), Music and Worship, Cemetery, and Reaching New People.

We live in a fallen world, and we are fallen people. That means inevitably conflicts will come, personalities will clash, and disappointments will happen. But we become stronger when we learn to stay because the strands of rope depend on each other. What happens to one happens to all of them. We're told, "*Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep*" (Rom. 12:15, ESV). We're to share the happy and the hard of life. Community means we win together and we lose together. We cheer each other on, hold each other up, and keep Jesus at the center of it all.

Colossians 3:13

13 *Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them.*

Who will you choose to forgive?

God's Grace and peace be with you,
Brenda Semach
Consistory President

Breakfast Wrap-Up

Thank you everyone who came out and helped. I can't thank you enough; if it wasn't for you there would not be a breakfast. We served 3 breakfasts this year because March was cancelled.

We served 41 people who had never been to our breakfast before and 363 helpers & returning guests for a grand total of 404 people served in 2019.

We had a lot of donations in the form of gift cards and money from different stores and individuals.

Hopefully we can continue this mission next year.

Thank you!

Robin Zerr



We raised \$3,851.12 for our peanut butter egg fundraiser thanks to the efforts of everyone who helped and supported this project!

JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3 7 PM Music & Worship	4	5 7 PM Choir	6	7	8
9 Pentecost New members joining	10	11 10 AM Luke Bible Study 6:30 PM Property Mtg.	12 7 PM Choir	13	14	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 7 PM Choir	20	21	22 Day @ the Park 10 AM-1 PM Fellowship Hall Rental 2-4 PM
23 BYOBB *see page 13	24 7 PM Consistory	25 10 AM Luke Bible Study 7 PM CE Meeting	26 7 PM Choir	27	28	29 ItalFest In Boyertown
30 Baptism		Rev. Frances' vacation July 17-23				

Sundays at Falkner Swamp: ◊ 10 AM Worship ◊ 11:30 Fellowship Time ◊ 7 PM AA Meeting

June 2 — Communion

June 9 — new members joining, Strengthen the Church Special Offering

June 16 — Father's Day

June 23 — Peter Detterline preaching (outside, weather permitting)

June 30— Baptism, Future of Falkner Swamp Special Offering

Rev. Frances
Hours:
(generally)
Mondays, varies
Tues & Wed
mornings & by
appt.

Secretary
Hours:
(generally)
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays,
Thursdays
9AM-2PM

JULY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 PM Music & Worship	2	3 Sharon's Vacation July 3—13 7 PM Choir	4 	5	6
7 Communion	8	9 10 AM Luke Bible Study 6:30 PM Property Mtg.	10 7 PM Choir	11	12	13
14	15 7 PM Consistory	16	17 7 PM Choir	18	19	20
21	22	23 10 AM Luke Bible Study 7 PM CE Meeting	24 7 PM Choir	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 7 PM Choir			

Sundays at Falkner Swamp:

◊ 10 AM Worship ◊ 11:30 Fellowship Time ◊ 7 PM AA Meeting

July 7 — Communion

July 14 — Service of the Word

July 21 — Service of the Word

July 28 — Service of the Word

Rev. Frances
Hours:
(generally)
Mondays, varies
Tues & Wed
mornings & by
appt.

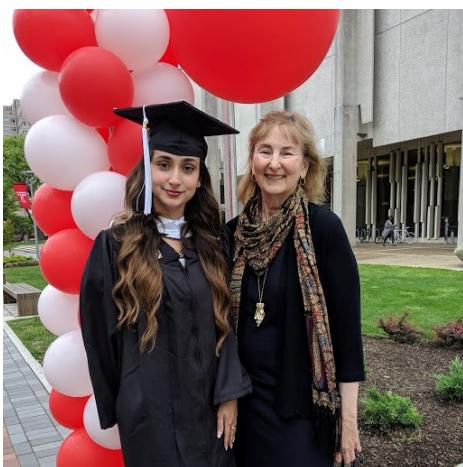
Secretary
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Tim Keebler graduated from Millersville University, majoring in Meteorology and minoring in Mathematics and Heliophysics & Space

Weather. During his undergraduate education, he participated in a number of research projects, including flying in a research aircraft and a summer internship at the University of Michigan for space weather. Tim will be continuing on for his PhD at the University of Michigan in the fall.

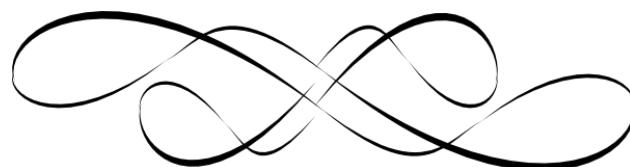
Sarah Taylor received her honor cord as a member of Sigma Zeta Mathematics & Science Honor Society at Chestnut Hill College. Sarah was inducted into the honor society two years ago. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Biology.



Elizabeth Isaacs (pictured at graduation with mom, Sue Dickey) is currently in LA & will be working at FOX Entertainment's casting department for the summer. She graduated with a BA from the School of Theater and Film at Temple University.



This spring I graduated from Boyertown Area Senior High School and Berks Career & Technology Center. I went to BCTC for dental occupations since I started high school. The past 3 years at BCTC I've worked extremely hard to get several certifications and awards. My biggest accomplishments were getting my radiology certification and student of the quarter. Now that I have graduated I plan on looking for a job as an orthodontic assistant. In a couple years I might go back to school to become an EFDA which is an expanded functions dental assistant.



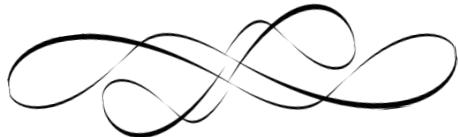
Congratulations to Brenda Semach & Ed Thierolf on their recent engagement!

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR A YEAR PROGRAM

We will be sponsoring two area children via Boyertown Area Multi-Service. They are a 15 year old girl and her 13 year old brother who has a learning disability. Their mother recently died and they are now living with their father who has not been a large part of their lives.

We will help by purchasing birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, Easter baskets, school clothing and supplies, etc. Lists of the things they want and need will supplied to us by Multi-Service.

Envelopes will be available for you to contribute to this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Comer or Brenda Semach.



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

This financial information is for the month of May.

Total general fund intake and outgoing is:

General Funds In: \$11,430.62

General Funds Out: \$10,534.85



Restricted and Other Funds In: \$8,230.50

Restricted and Other Funds Out: \$1,855.87

For more information see Vivian's Treasurer's Report on the bulletin board outside the church office.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

— Winston Churchill

Christian Education and Faith Formation



Growing In Faith Together

SAVE THE DATE

Christian Education and Faith Formation
invite you to enjoy God's Creation.

A DAY AT THE PARK

Green Lane Park
Saturday, June 22
10am-1pm

Parachute, Games, Crafts,
Nature Scavenger Hunt,
Mission Project, and more!

Please bring a packed lunch and a
friend!

Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvXCa83uxw2GeRzbCxhALwo_IXbE4JeU2Nn4q8fC9BJPmmLA/viewform



A DAY IN
Malawi
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

A One Day Children's Camp
Connecting Kids Across Cultures.

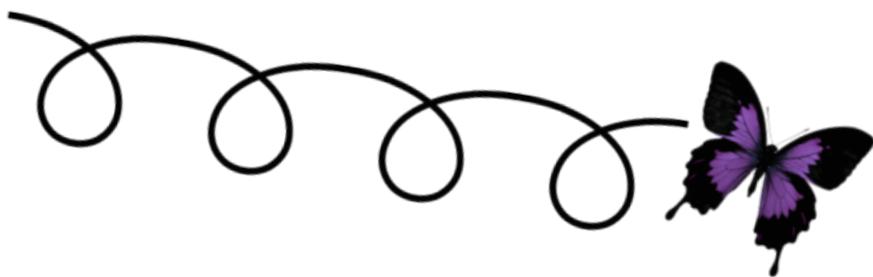
Children 3-12 will have the opportunity to spend the day
Learning about the games, clothing, stories, music, and food
of our Malawian Friends at The Mustard Seed School.

Falkner Swamp UCC
2077 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA

Register at : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdY-XnAOyUhJtTFavOh2saYif8t7G7r2sipgDGTyjPynPKQgg/viewform>



On Sunday, June 30 Lola Wenk, daughter of Mark and Danielle Wenk will be baptized during worship. Their son Forrest was baptized at Falkner Swamp in 2017.



JUNE
BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Louis Magyar
- 11 Kim Shaak
- 16 Bob Kline, Sr.
- 16 Judy Miller
- 22 Barbara Geary



JULY
BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|---------------|
| 3 | Isaiah Baez | 19 | Wayne Gruver |
| 4 | Jane Harvey | 21 | Luke Schwenk |
| 7 | Deb Bingham | 23 | Jake Semach |
| 9 | Peggy Straub | 24 | Ken Berkowitz |
| 15 | Brenda Becker | 25 | Aidan Wentzel |
| 18 | Meghan Weller | 30 | Vic Umstead |





SUMMER'S ALMOST HERE!!

The Music and Worship Committee would like to collect donations of sunblock and insect repellent for Boyertown Multi-Service during the month of June. The items can be a little pricey for families in need, and we would like to help as much as we can so they can stay protected. Any sunscreen/sunblock and insect repellent would be appreciated. Let's help folks enjoy the summer with a little less worry!

We want to thank the congregation for the continuing support of the collections for Multi-Service. Falkner Swamp is making a difference!



This year's summer picnic is a "BYOBB" (Bring Your Own Brown Bag) for lunch following worship on Sunday, June 23. Ice cream will be provided, and we plan to hold the service outside, weather permitting.

Property Committee



The Property Committee has been very busy the last 2 months (see list below). We had a lot of volunteers helping on workday. Many, many thanks! If you see something that needs to be fixed, please let someone on Property know; Ron Becker, Bob Erb, Lee Heffner, Rob Krause, Sharon Schnaars, or myself.

I also want to thank the members on the Property Committee for their efforts to keep our church and the grounds in good working order.

Robin Zerr

Jobs completed on workday:

- * Bushes trimmed
- * Weeds pulled
- * Mulched
- * Filled in holes in cemetery
- * Dry wall cleaned up
- * Upper cemetery trimmed
- * Rose bushes at the arbor trimmed
- * Fan in fellowship hall cleaned

Jobs completed since April:

- ◆ Men's toilet installed
- ◆ New C.E. door completed (looks good)
- ◆ AED unit hung & working (hope we never need to use it)
- ◆ Fixed benches upstairs
- ◆ Remotes for air conditioner/heating units are hung (they are set to 70° and will adjust automatically)



Thanks kitchen help!



Our entertainment, Jeff Krick!



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Facebook: [@falknerswampucc](https://www.facebook.com/@falknerswampucc)

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- June/July Birthdays
- Ladies Night Pictures

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