

NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC



See inside for:

- *November calendar*
- *Annual Congregational Meeting*
- *Operation 143*
- *Joyful Noise*
- *Children's Church*
- *Bethany Children's Home Collection*



The 2023 budget and by-laws will be emailed the week of October 31 for your review prior to our annual meeting on November 13. Printed copies will also be available in the foyer starting November 6.



On these upcoming Sundays in November

Nov 6 – Rev. Frances returns, All Saints Sunday - We will mark those in our congregation who have gone to their eternal home with God in the past year: Bev Roth

You are welcome to bring a picture or memento of a loved one, and/or ones who have shaped your faith, who have died. Photos or mementos may be placed on the altar. During worship, you will be invited to come forward to light a candle in their memory, and to say their names.

Nov 13 – Annual Congregational Meeting following worship – vote on 2023 budget and by-laws

Greetings,

I truly like reading the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference weekly newsletter. I always find something that makes me think or educate. This was shared from the conference minister Rev. Bill Worley, I know I'm a super fan of his, but I thought this was appropriate to share with all of you for our upcoming congregational meeting. Let's keep our consistory in our prayers as they piece together a budget for next year.

Blessings ,Brenda Semach

From the Conference Minister:

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. Luke 18:1

Pray always and do not lose heart. This is Luke's introduction to Jesus' parable about the unjust judge in this week's gospel text. Pray always and do not lose heart are the words we need to hear and live always and everywhere. Because there is injustice and unjust judges the world over. Pray always and do not lose heart. The pandemic is still with us. Pray always and do not lose heart. Our country and communities seem more divided than ever. Pray always and do not lose heart. The current economic downturn has touched the lives of all of us. Pray always and do not lose heart. It's stewardship season and church budget season. Pray always and do not lose heart.

Prince Rivers an editor for Alban at Duke Divinity School and Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., shared a helpful reflection about hope vs. fear in conversation about church finances — words I wish I wrote. There are some helpful resources following that I hope you can use. I share them with prayers for your ministry and for your heart.

Pastor Bill
Rev. Bill Worley
Conference Minister

Church finances: Hope vs. fear

By Prince Rivers, Editor, Alban at Duke Divinity

As congregational leaders enter the fall planning season, they likely have more questions than answers, especially as it relates to money. In-person worship attendance is roughly half of what it was pre-pandemic. Consumer prices and interest rates are trending upward. Under these conditions, congregations often take a defensive position. They scale down their plans so they don't take on too much risk.

Risk management is not a bad thing, but too much of a good thing can have unintended consequences. As you make financial plans for the rest of this year and next year, try not to let yourself and other leaders get trapped in fearful speculation about the future. Since God can do a "new thing" (Isaiah 43:19a), even a church that is about to close its doors for good can have hope that their ending has the potential to be a new beginning.

As the world becomes more anxious about money, congregational leaders need to move beyond talking about money as a need for institutional survival and instead encourage people to think about money as a resource for ministry and transformation. It is difficult to encourage generosity when we start from a place of scarcity, because scarcity thinking is often rooted in fear. We sow seeds of hope when we find ways to publicly and frequently make the connections between what people give and what the church is doing for others.

These are challenging times for so many reasons. Speak about financial stewardship with love, grace and hope. Love and grace will help you convince the unconvinced. Hope can inspire those who are afraid.

Altar Flowers can be requested in honor or memory of a loved one or a special event. If you would like to request altar flowers, please call, text or email Becky Comer by noon the Tuesday before the Sunday you would like flowers. The cost for the flowers is \$30 but you can increase this amount if you would like a larger bouquet. You can also request certain colors (if available). If you want to do your own write-up for the bulletin, sent it to Sharon (falknerswamp@comcast.net) by noon on Tuesday. At this point we will not have a signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Becky Comer, Flower Coordinator

Email – beckyo49@comcast.net

Cell – 610.413.3729 (call or text)



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity



Saturday, November 5th @ 9 AM – Cemetery Workday – lunch @ noon – rain date Saturday, November 12th

Sunday, November 13th – Annual Congregational Meeting after worship (budget & by-laws vote)



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

For November, we thank Susan Mercer and Cassandra Krause.

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



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|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|----|--------------------------|
| | | Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM Women's Ministries 10 AM | Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir | **Rev. Frances' office hours | | Cemetery Workday 9 AM |
| 6 10 AM Worship Communion All Saints' Sunday Joyful Noise 7 PM/AA Mtg. | 7 7 PM Music & Worship | 8 Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | 9 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir | 10 **Rev. Frances' office hours | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10 AM/Worship Congregational Mtg. 2 PM – 5 PM PSEC Fall Mtg. 7 PM/AA Mtg. | 14 | 15 Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | 16 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir | 17 **Rev. Frances' office hours | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10 AM/Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg. | 21 7 PM Consistory | 22 Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | 23 Office Closed | 24  | 25 | 26 |
| 27 10 AM/Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg. | 28 | 29 Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM | 30 Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM 7 PM Choir | | | |

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



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

- the Roth family on the passing of Bev Roth
- Ed Thierolf & family on the passing of his sister-in-law, Jeanne



Joyful Noise/Kids Helping Kids

Do you feel your purses and pockets becoming packed with extra coins? Well, the Faith Formation Team will be bringing back our monthly Joyful Noise coin collections. These offerings will be the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sundays) and will begin on November 6th. Please bring your loose change to church on these Sundays. The children will pass the cans throughout the congregation. The offerings received will be divided with half going to The Mustard Seed School in Malawi and the other half going to Operation 143. Contact Susan Mercer or Becky Comer with any questions.

Children's Church in November **Bold For God**

The children will get a peek at the life of the Old Testament prophet, Elijah. Elijah stood up to the evil king and queen rulers, Ahab and Jezebel. Elijah did not give in to peer pressure and sin. He obeyed God, even when it was hard. Elijah told the people God was the one true God. We will listen to his story found in 1 Kings 18 and 19, as well as listen to the Tales That Tell the Truth edition: The God Contest.

Bible Verses

Psalm 27:1 says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Isaiah 35:4 says, "Tell everyone who is discouraged, be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue..."

Become a friend of Jesus

To be friends with Jesus, just talk to him. It's easy. Just remember these 3 things...

SORRY... THANK YOU... PLEASE HELP

...help me be bold enough for You, God, even when it is hard.



@Falkner Swamp

Women's Ministries is overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for this new ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who contributed!



Bethany Children's Home Christmas Gifts - 2022

We are again collecting gift cards for Bethany Children's Home. The collection box is in the church narthex. If you prefer, you can also put a check (made out to FSUCC) or cash in the box and Becky will purchase gift cards for Bethany. If you are not attending church in person, you can mail checks (made out to FSUCC) to the church (2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville 19525). You can also drop checks, cash or gift cards off at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the hours when Sharon Sgriccia is working. Please call the church office (610.323.4053) prior to your visit to be sure Sharon will be there. When purchasing gift cards, please write the dollar value on the cards. Please contact Becky Comer with any questions (call or text 610.413.3729; email beckyo49@comcast.net).

Below is the list of gift card vendors sent to us by Bethany:

WALMART, TARGET, AMAZON, WAWA, McDONALD'S, ROSS, FOOT LOCKER, ULTA, MICHAEL'S, HOME DEPOT, LOWE'S, DICK'S SPORTING GOODS, TJ MAXX, KOHL'S
DUE DATE: Sunday, December 4th