

# NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC



## *See inside for:*

- *Letter from Laura Brown*
- *Update from 300<sup>th</sup> Committee*
- *Consistory highlights & financial info*

As a reminder, we stream live every Sunday, 10 AM, on Facebook. Contrary to popular belief, you don't need a Facebook account to watch. Here's how to access it: Type: [facebook.com/falknerswampucc](https://facebook.com/falknerswampucc) in your computer browser. Scroll past the opening screen that asks for a log in. The livestream should be the first, and you can keep scrolling to see past videos. They look like boxes with a triangle in the middle.

Upcoming ....

-All Saints' Sunday, Nov 7

We will mark those in our congregation who have gone to their eternal home with God in the past year: Erma Frye, Bob and Margaret Kline, Louis Magyar, and Irvin Smith.

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.

-Annual Congregational Meeting, Nov 14, following worship. Vote on the 2022 budget and 2 amendments passed by Consistory.

-Then Sings My Soul, a worship service dedicated to our faith through song, Nov 21.

Warm Greetings Falkner Swamp Friends and Family,

Despite some of the muggy days that we've recently had, Autumn is officially upon us, and with it creation's gorgeous display of change and transition. Christine Valters Paintner shares the following reflections on the season in the article, *The Invitations of Autumn: Spiritual Practices for the Season*, "Autumn is a season of transition, reminding us that our lives are constantly in flux. Of course change is always with us, but autumn brings us to a deeper awareness that we live in a continual cycle of dying and rising. In the Benedictine tradition, one of the commitments is to conversion. Essentially it means being open to the surprise of God throughout your life and therefore open to change. It means believing that God is far bigger than anything you can ever imagine, and so there will always be more dimensions of the sacred to discover." She continues, "Autumn also invites us to gather in the harvest, to name and celebrate the fruit of the seeds of dreams we planted months ago."

This Autumn season I find myself both at a moment of transition, as well as at a moment of harvest, which I can only attest to my desire to be open to God's surprises, and believing that God's vision and call *are* more vast than anything I ever would have imagined. After years of discernment, prayer, and reflection, I have taken the first steps to entering the MID (Member In Discernment) process. This means that I, as a lay member of a United Church of Christ Congregation, am entering into the process to prepare for authorized ministry.

Surprisingly, even to myself, this transition has converged with a moment of harvest in my life, "the fruit of the seeds of dreams" planted not months, but years ago. I have recently been offered and accepted the position of Director of Christian Education at Glenside United Church of Christ, which will regrettably take me away from the Faith Formation program at Falkner Swamp.

This transition, like many of life's transitions, has me reeling in a plethora of feelings. Joy, overlapping with sadness, excitement, fear, doubt and hope. The excitement of getting to serve in the position I have been hoping for, is also tinged with sadness, as I will miss the people I love at Falkner Swamp, and who have been integral in my faith journey. However, like a tree dropping its leaves, this is only a transition moment in my life as a congregant of Falkner Swamp, not the end of a lifecycle. There will be rebirth as a new chapter arises in our shared journey as God's People, my heart forever grateful that it was here at Falkner Swamp that my roots were first planted.

Grace and Peace,  
Laura Brown



	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		Polling Site @ FSUCC  Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
10 AM/Worship w/Communion  11:15 – 12:45 Confirmation Class  7 PM/AA Mtg.	Covenant COM meeting 1-3:30 PM	Rev. Frances's & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM		
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
10 AM/Worship/ Congregational Mtg.  2 PM – 5 PM PSEC Fall Mtg.  7 PM/AA Mtg.	Consistory 7 PM	Rev. Frances's & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM		
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
10 AM/Worship  7 PM/AA Mtg.		Rev. Frances's & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM	Office Closed	Happy Thanksgiving!		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
10 AM/Worship  7 PM/AA Mtg.		Rev. Frances's & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM				



*Prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for 3 weeks.*

- Angela Q., granddaughter of Ed and Jane, upon the death of her father Oct 9.
- Betsy B., for ongoing health concerns

Friends of Falkner Swamp,

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Anniversary Committee held its first meeting in over a year. Sadly, all the plans that the committee had come up with for the anniversary we were not able to make come to fruition last year. There were a couple of decisions that were made during this meeting, and the newsletter is a great way to let all of you know what transpired.

1. The committee unanimously decided to disband the committee, there will be no big celebration. Last year, members of our committee and others did recognize our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during church service. Unfortunately, due to Covid we were unable to prepare the celebration as we all would have liked to have done for this momentous occasion.
2. The committee raised \$3,465.61 and the disposition of those funds will be placed into a "Beautification Fund" for the purpose of painting and clean up after the new heater has been installed. By doing this, all members will benefit from those funds raised.
3. Prior to Covid, our committee was successfully fundraising by selling Wawa Hoagie Tickets. The Committee made the decision to donate the hoagie tickets to our local New Hanover Police and Fire Department; the remaining tickets will be given to Multi-Service. The Multi-Service has a wider network and more opportunity to give those tickets to people that are in need, and we can reach more people that way.

During the countless committee meetings inside and outside of the church, there have been many hours spent by our valued members, researching, planning, selling and preparing countless items. They have done a lot of work on their own and should be recognized for all their contributions. **Thank you!**

Committee Members:

Laura Brown, Arlene Butts Umstead, Barbara Geary, Susan Mercer, Sue Dickey, Karen Miller, Kim Shaak, Robin Zerr, Wayne Gruver, Deb Gruver. Ex-officio, Rev. Frances Chester

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Shaak

Church Family News:  
Congratulations to Doris Moser, upon the birth  
of her 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandchild, born to grandson  
Matt, in early October!



The annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14th immediately following worship. There are 3 votes planned for this meeting. If you are unable to attend, Flocknote voting will be available.

The Congregation is asked to vote:

1. To amend Article IV.15 Powers of Consistory to include the language adopted by Consistory on March 15 2021.
2. To amend Article VII.1 Ministries of the Church to include the language adopted by Consistory on March 15, 2021.
3. To approve the 2022 budget.

Per the by-laws: Operational By-Laws may be proposed by the Consistory or a ministry of the church and with Consistory approval temporarily enacted until the next regularly scheduled Congregational Meeting in order to adopt such measures.

At their March 15, 2021 meeting, Consistory approved temporarily amending the hiring portion of the Constitution and Bylaws (see attached Article IV.15.I and Article VII.30 last sentence) pending congregation approval at the next Congregational meeting.

#### **Article IV.15 Powers of Consistory**

Adding the following highlighted section:

1. The Consistory has the following powers, provided, however, that no power vested in the Consistory shall invade the autonomy of the Congregation: **Article IV.15.I To approve the hiring of paid church staff.**

#### **ARTICLE VII. Ministries of the Church**

Adding final highlighted sentence:

1. All activities of the church shall be viewed in one of two ways. An Outreach (where the body of the congregation goes out and interacts with the world) or an In-reach (where the outside world is invited into the congregation and church to interact with us). Some ministries of the church will fall into both categories. If there are items in the current structure of committees, tasks forces, organizations, councils that do not fulfill one of the two aspects of ministry they will be reevaluated to the need and may be removed, eliminated or modified. If during a regular meeting of the Consistory the name and or the functions of ministries are voted to change no vote is necessary to change this section of the Constitution.

**Ministries of the church may perform candidate searches and make recommendations for church staff positions to be approved by Consistory.**

Please see included 2022 proposed budget.



### **Some Highlights from October's Consistory Meeting**

Full, approved minutes are on the bulletin board outside the church office.

- Consistory approved supporting Laura Brown in her call to become a Member in Discernment in the Covenant Association.
- Consistory accepted the proposed 2022 budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Becky Comer and Laura Brown will be delegates for Falkner Swamp at the PSEC fall meeting.

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

This financial information is for the month of September 2021.

Total general fund intake and outgoing is:  
General Funds Income: \$6,300.54  
General Funds Expenses: \$12,902.06  
General Fund Loss for month: (\$6,601.52)

Restricted Funds Income: \$1,591.37  
Restricted Funds Expenses: \$673.87



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