



THE VOICE

FALKNER SWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Fall PSEC Meeting

Ursinus College

Bomberger Hall

601 E. Main St., Collegeville

November 17th

2:30 pm—5:30pm

See Brenda Semach or Rev. Frances for more information and if you'd like to attend.



The Education Wing/Choir door will be locked at 9:50 AM on Sundays. Please come through the main door for worship after that time.

Flu Shot Clinic

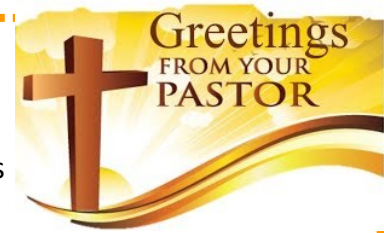
October 20

1-4 PM

@ Falkner Swamp



Complete a consent form (available on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall) with your insurance info prior to this day and give to Brenda Semach. Medicare covers 100%. Other coverage either free or low cost.



Dear Friends,

After months of nurturing our spring-time baby chicks, we got a surprise. One Saturday morning I heard Barry call from the kitchen, "It's a double-yolker!" Sure enough, the sunny-side up egg in the frying pan looked like a bright yellow figure eight, revealing two yolks from one egg. From no eggs at all to two yolks in one – surprise!

A couple days later our neighbor, who we've given some eggs to from our newly-laying pullets – that's like a tween-aged chicken – texted us a picture of *her* frying pan, with "Congratulations on your wonderful eggs! First one was a lucky double!"

Our family is new to backyard free-range chickens. So I did what anyone would do when faced with the unknown: I googled. "Why does a chicken lay a double-yolker?" and learned that pullets – those adolescent hens – while firing up their egg production, can overproduce for a bit before settling into a regular one-yolk, one-egg pattern. Sure enough, within a couple more weeks, the hen's system calmed down to release one yolk per egg like her backyard companions.



After months of nurturing those chicks we got this fun surprise. The profligate wonder of new life emerges, often out of dry, parched places. The dry places of life are before us, in the physical as well as the spiritual realm.

Our scripture readings from the lectionary cycle for Sundays in October speak to this ongoing reality. The prophet Joel offers a vision of God who will quench those parched places: "... be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; ... he has poured down for you abundant rain ..." (2:23) and "...I will pour out my spirit on all flesh..." (2:28).

As Jesus travels with his disciples, the Gospel of Luke reveals dry places that spring forth with surprising ways that God shows up in people's lives. Out of ten lepers who are healed by Jesus, one returns to give thanks (Luke 17:16); a hardened judge gives justice to a persistent widow (18:5); one thought by self-righteous folks to be beyond God's reach sees himself for who he really is and comes closer to genuine peace (18:13).

Ancient characters and settings yes, but the unfolding drama is often the same then as now. In our personal lives and the collective life we share as a community, a nation, and as a global speck among an expanding universe, the dry places will be watered by God's ever-present love and forgiveness that is available to us all.

God will quench our parched spirits with tumbling waters, these stories of faithful people remind us. Autumn approaches with the land closing down for a season. Our spirits may feel like it, too. All the more reason to come together, and experience the surprise of God.

With you on the journey,
Rev. Frances

Colossians 1:6 New Living Translation (NLT)

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace

God's Grace and peace to you,

The Consistory met on Monday September 16th @ 7 pm.

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 , Women's Ministries, and 300th Anniversary.



I am a Christian

When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry

on.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

Give the respect you want to receive; embody the grace you hope to encounter; and help others with no expectations whatsoever. ~ Cory Booker

"You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read." ~John MacArthur

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

"Demystifying Mental Health"

October 5, 2019

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Location: Falkner Swamp UCC

2077 Swamp Pike

Gilbertsville, PA 19525



Falkner Swamp hosts "Demystifying Mental Health" with Pastor Zack Jackson. Zack is pastor of Community UCC in Reading, and adjunct professor of theology at Palmer Theological Seminary. Zack is passionate about deepening the conversation in faith communities between religion and science so we can be better equipped and informed.

Many of us live with mental health challenges. Our own, or those we love, live, and work with. It can be hard to see God working through these challenges, and yet, as Christians, we hope with patience those things we cannot see (Romans 8:25).

Our time with Pastor Zack will give us opportunity to ask questions and deepen our understanding of mental health challenges.

A brief outline:

9:30-9:45 – Gather in Fellowship Hall for snacks, coffee & nametags

9:45-10 – Move to sanctuary and get settled in

10-11:30 – Presentation intermingled with small group discussion

Spread the word! This is free and open to the community.

Registration is appreciated but not required by calling 610-323-4053.

OCTOBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 AM Women's Ministries	2 7 PM Choir	3	4	5 9:30—11:30 AM "Demystifying Mental Health"
6 World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering	7	8 7 PM Property	9 7 PM Choir	10 7 PM 300th Anniversary Mtg.	11	12 4—6:30 PM 300th Anniversary Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
13 Anniversary Sunday	14 7 PM Music & Worship	15	16 7 PM Choir	17	18	19
20 Youth Sunday 1—4 PM Flu Shot Clinic	21 7 PM Consistory	22 7 PM CE Meeting	23 7 PM Choir	24	25	26
27	29	30	31 7 PM Choir			

Sundays at Falkner Swamp: ♦ 9 AM Sunday School ♦ 10 AM Worship ♦ 11:30 Fellowship Time ♦ 7 PM AA Meeting

October 6 — Communion, Neighbors in Need Offering

October 13 — Boyertown High School Show Choir, Communion, Potluck Luncheon

October 20 — Joyful Noise Offering

October 27 — Mission Church

Rev. Frances Hours: (generally) Mondays, varies Tues & Wed mornings & by appt.	Secretary Hours: (generally) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9AM-2PM
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PASTA AND SAUCE COLLECTION

A huge thank you to the congregation for all of your contributions toward the breakfast item collection! Your generosity will make a big difference in our community.

October 17 is National Pasta Day! To celebrate, the Music and Worship Committee is sponsoring a collection of pasta and sauce for the month of October. Please bring your donations of any kind of pasta and sauce, noodle mixes, boxed macaroni and cheese, and/or parmesan cheese to church and put them in the collection boxes in the narthex. Help us to continue spreading God's love by feeding our neighbors!



A.R.K means Acts of Random Kindness. To help us celebrate our 300th Anniversary, we have set a goal for ourselves to see how many times we can complete a set of 300 Acts of Random Kindness. Each week all who cross through our doors here at Falkner Swamp will visit our ARK display. There you will find two bowls containing pom-poms. The idea is to take pompoms from the first bowl and place them into the GOAL BOWL. Each time the GOAL BOWL is filled (with 300 pompoms) an animal will be placed on "the Ark" display. How many animals will we see by October 2020?!!!



FALKNER SWAMP UCC'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

HONOR THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, EMBRACE THE FUTURE

It's almost time for our 299th Anniversary celebration! Please join us on Sunday, October 13, 2019, for a very special service which will include music by our choir and the Boyertown Area Senior High School Show Choir as well as the kick-off to a year of exciting events leading up to our 300th Anniversary celebration in October 2020.

There will be a luncheon following church on October 13. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to contribute food. All are welcome!

We still have some tickets left for our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, October 12. Please see any member of the Committee for tickets (\$10 for adults; \$5 for kids ages 4-10; kids 3 and under are free).

We are also currently selling canvas tote bags with our 300th Anniversary logo on them for only \$10. The bags zip closed and have a pocket on the outside as well as a pocket on the inside. Please see Deb Gruver if you would like to purchase one (or more).

As a reminder, our History Subcommittee is requesting photos of important and/or memorable church events from over the past 45 years (1975-2020). Sue Dickey would love it if you would share photos that you think are important! If you can send her a scanned and/or electronic copy, that would be very much appreciated! If not, Sue has access to a scanner. Please make sure that all photos submitted, either by email or at the church office (for scanning) have the year, the event, and the names of those involved within the photo. If you are dropping hard copies off at the office, please put them in a well-marked envelope with Sue's name on it and also include your name so the photos can be returned to you after scanning. Sue's email address is susan.dickey@temple.edu.

Also, Wayne Gruver is collecting memories about Falkner Swamp. Memories are the most precious thing we have and we need to share them. You can give them to Wayne on a piece of paper or if you want to tell the story yourself during worship, please see him for available Sundays.

Look for details in the near future regarding our 300th Anniversary t-shirt sale. And check out page 6 for our "Acts of Random Kindness" program.

God is good!

Committee Members: Robin Zerr, Chair; Laura Brown; Rev. Frances Chester; Sue Dickey; Barb Geary; Debbie Gruver; Wayne Gruver; Donna Hoffman; Susan Mercer; Karen Miller; Kim Shaak; Arlene Umstead.



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

(Benefits 300^h Anniversary)



Menu:

- Spaghetti
- Marinara Sauce and Meatballs
- Garlic Bread and Plain Bread
- Salad with Dressings
- Dessert (Assorted)
- Coffee and Water

Date:

- Saturday, October 12, 2019

Time:

- 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Location:

- Falkner Swamp UCC
2077 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-323-4053

Cost Kids:

Kids 0-3 Free

Kids 4 - 10 \$5.00

Cost Adults:


11 and Older: \$10.00

Tickets: 100 Available

First come first serve.

No Take Outs

**Christian Education and
Faith Formation**



Growing In Faith Together

Join us

Sundays



at the
Swamp

9AM

Ages 2-100

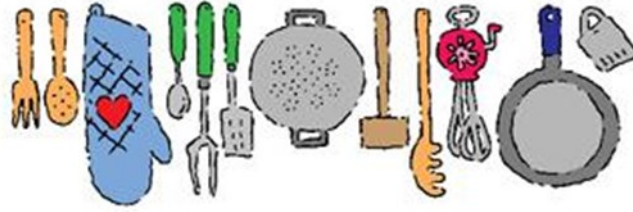


Mission Church
OCTOBER 2019

October 13-No Mission Church for
Anniversary Weekend!

October 27-Wear Old Clothing (We
will be staining the memorial arbor at
the front of the church)

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



We purchased a new freezer (finally) since the old one was icing up. We are looking into a dishwasher next, if possible. PND Meals started again with many coming out to enjoy lunch together. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for the October 13th potluck meal. You can come even without bringing something to share, we always have plenty.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Donna Hoffman
- 10 Gerald Reinhart
- 16 Erma Frye
- 20 Vivian Wentzel
- 26 Todd Stevens
- 27 Grace Erb
- 29 Stacey Brennan



Sunday, October 13th @ 10 AM

- Boyertown Area High School Show Choir performing with our choir
- Potluck Luncheon to follow

Property Committee



The committee has been very busy. We ordered a new toilet and sink for the downstairs men's room and a new sink and paint for the upstairs men's room. A new door for outside the office is coming soon. As always we are trying to keep up with the every day things that go with running a building.

If you see a problem, please let someone on the committee know or just drop a note on Robin's desk in the office. Thank you to everyone on the Property Committee for their time and dedication.



The Women's Ministries group plans to do some extra cleaning inside the church at their meeting on October 1 @ 9 AM. Please bring some cleaning supplies, if you are able to join us.

Update from the Cemetery Committee

- 1 Bob Erb Sr is planning to retire from mowing the Falkner Swamp Cemetery (adjacent to the New Hanover Fire Company). This will be effective as soon as a new mower is purchased.
- 2 Rob Erb Jr will take over mowing the Falkner Swamp Cemetery, and Shelby Erb Gey will replace her dad in mowing the Hollowbush Cemetery and Church grounds.
- 3 The Grasshopper mower has seen better days, is a slower moving mower, and doesn't maneuver well around tombstones. For this reason, both cemeteries have been mowed with the eXmark for the past few years, with Rob driving back and forth on Swamp Pike to move the mower. We are looking to trade the Grasshopper in on a new zero turn eXmark mower from Passmore. The new mower's cost is approximately \$5000, and it will be housed in the shed at the church, and the eXmark will stay where it is, in the block shed at the F S cemetery. This will eliminate the need to drive down Swamp Pike to mow, and then drive back up Swamp Pike to put the mower away. I think everyone agrees on how dangerous Swamp Pike can be, and the lives of our mowers aren't worth risking on the highway when the mowers can each be housed at the respective cemeteries they are cutting.
- 4 These changes will take place as soon as we purchase the new mower (funds are available in the cemetery funds, it is not coming out of the church budget.)
- 5 We want to thank everyone who volunteered their time to trim the Falkner Swamp Cemetery. We are hoping to finish out 2019 with the volunteers, and then fall back and regroup during the winter months, checking our options.
- 6 Last but not least: we have scheduled a Cemetery Work Day for Saturday, November 2nd, at this time I am uncertain if the workday will include work in and around the church, but we will definitely be working outdoors at both cemeteries. We've also lined up Nov. 9th in case of inclement weather. Jobs include cleaning the gazebo, a grave to be cleaned up, topsoil dressing and grass seed over an area where a pile of dirt was moved, leaning tombstones, and the inevitable need to trim.

We plan to have a physical meeting of the cemetery committee, but I don't see that happening until at least November.

Mary Ann Erb, Secretary/Treasurer

The Mustard Seed

Donations Needed:

*Coloring Books (large simple pictures)

*Crayons (small boxes:10-12 in a pack)

*Toys :

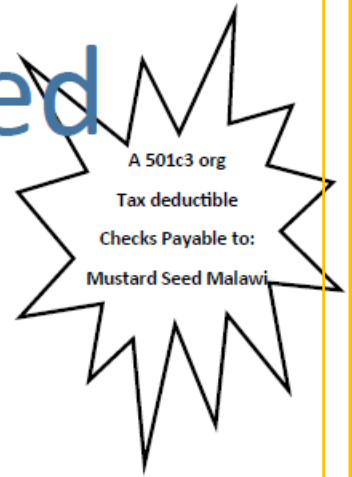
*Small trucks and cars-matchbox size

*Small dolls with simple clothes (no small pieces)

*Hard Page Books (simple pictures, colors, shapes)

*Sweatshirts (used okay-sizes T3 to T6)

Any Questions call or text **484-942-8934** Janice Lee



Follow on:



Mustard Seed Malawi



Web: <https://mustardseedmalawi.org>



*And all at once, summer
collapsed into fall.*

~ Oscar Wilde

Falkner Swamp U. C. C.
2077 Swamp Pike
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Phone: 610-323-4053
E-mail: falknerswamp@comcast.net
Website: www.falknerswamp.org
Facebook: @falknerswampucc



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Acts of Random Kindness
- October Birthdays
- Anniversary Sunday
- Mustard Seed Collection

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