

# NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC



***See inside for:***

- Zoom Book club*
- Ladies' Night info*
- Scriptures for Sunday*
- Letter from Property Committee*



Sunday, September 19 after worship to hear details about and vote on removing old heater, installing new heaters, and removing asbestos.

Time to  
Update  
the  
Directory!

The office plans to print copies of the church directory and have them available starting Sept. 12. If you have any contact updates, please let Sharon know.

Thank you!

Dear Falkner Swamp family,

In church on Sunday one of our “veteran pray-ers” thanked God for our church pews filling up again, to see a number of people he hadn’t seen in a long while, and added “what joy, what a treat” to be in the presence of those who “share our worship with you.”

When people come together in worship, it makes a difference. The presence of your presence matters!

As much as I am eternally grateful for our livestream capacities, it cannot replace the fleshly reality of the body of Christ. Our faith claim is that God chose to come to us *as* one of us, in a body. This means we gather as a body, with our bodies, in all our frailty and vulnerability.

I am face to face with my craving to be with all of you when we gather for worship, to gather for Fellowship, to beat the drum and shout: “Come back, come back, come back!” Because I too feel the truth of “what a joy to share our worship with you,” Holy God.

And yet, our bodies require careful care, especially in these times. I know a number of you reading this are not joining in worship for reasons of health and care for the vulnerable bodies of those you spend time or live with, and perhaps for your own body. You are showing compassion for yourselves and those who don’t have the layers of protection many of us now have, with vaccines being chief among them. (Remember those under 12 still do not have a vaccine available.)

For those of you who have been coming to worship week after week, your presence is a true gift. To me, to others worshipping with us. To those who are watching week after week online, your comments and your “hearts” and “likes” that show your presence in worship fill the livestream space with your spirit.

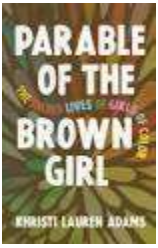
Please know that wherever you are on this journey, your body is sacred and it matters. Take care of it as best you can, join in person when you can, join on line if you cannot be in person and let us know you are worshipping there with us.

Finally, after 3 weeks away, which was filled with activity and family and beautiful landscapes, I am here for you. Please know I am available to talk & to meet with you, as we continue navigating COVID living, and following Christ in all we do and say.

With the blessing and strength of Christ’s Spirit, I remain with you on the journey,

Rev. Frances

## Zoom Book Club, *Parable of the Brown Girl: The Sacred Lives of Girls of Color*



First Baptist Church of Pottstown is hosting this discussion.

Becky Comer and Rev. Frances joined the first session Monday night, Aug 30, which had about 20 people. One zoomed in from Australia, where it was morning on the following day!

Author Khristi Adams, who is Chaplain, Instructor of Religious Studies, and Dean of Spiritual Life and Equity at The Hill School, joined us as well, answering questions and speaking openly about her experience writing the book.

- Two more sessions will follow on Zoom, Sept 13 and 27, at 7:15 pm.
- For Sept 13, please read up to Chapter 4, but if you haven't, still join in!
- A free book is available to mail to you or for you to pick up.
- Contact FB Church at:  
First Baptist Church – 301 King Street, Pottstown, PA 19464  
610-326-2273      [office@FBCPottstown.org](mailto:office@FBCPottstown.org)  
Office hours: Office will be open on Thursdays 10am – 1pm. Please call before you come by the office. Voicemails are checked weekly on Thursday. Email us instead!
- To join the Zoom calls: The Zoom link can be found at [fbcpottstown.org](http://fbcpottstown.org). You will see a tab just for this book group! Or click here: <https://www.fbcpottstown.org/parable-of-the-brown-girl.html>



**Ladies' Night ~ Tuesday, Sept. 21st**  
**6 PM ~ doors open**  
**6:30 PM ~ dinner**  
**Entertainment ~ "Chalk Talk" by**  
**Rev. Gerhart**

\$15/adult, free for children ages 12 & under  
payment due by Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>  
to Barb G., Beth, or Olga  
**Cash only please**

### **Ladies' Night "Titanic Tea Party" is shaping up to be a good time!**

In conversation with Rev. Frances, Women's Ministries will follow this protocol:

- All Guests are asked to please bring your mask. Extras will be upstairs in the sanctuary just in case.
- Guests will gather for snacks and dinner in Fellowship Hall beginning 6 pm. Masks are not required in Fellowship Hall during this time.
- When it's time for Chalk Talk with Rev. Gerhart, all guests are asked to wear a mask as they head upstairs to the sanctuary for this 40 minute presentation.
- For those interested in Chalk Talk but not coming for dinner, please arrive at 7:15 and head to the sanctuary.



## Scriptures for Sunday, September 5

Set aside 20-30 minutes this week to read these Scriptures prayerfully.

Open with a brief prayer, such as, “God (or fill in a name for God, such as Jesus, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Father, etc), open my heart and mind to receive these words.” Trust that God is with you as you open your Bible.

### **PSALM 125**

The first two verses of this psalm contain spiritually encouraging reminders to trust in God and to remember that God is always with us.

Prayerfully read this Psalm. Consider: What would it be like ... if we could trust God completely? What would it be like ... if we were aware of God’s presence with us, all the time?

### **MARK 7:24–37**

Jesus heals two people in two very different settings. This text selection, which is called a pericope (pronounced per-EH-ko-pea), raises lots of questions.

Set aside 15 minutes to read the scripture and make note of what questions come up for you. Give yourself freedom to recognize even the basic, “huh?” While some questions can be addressed with a study Bible or online search, others can’t. Allow these questions to “hang,” without immediate resolution.

End this time with a prayer of thanks and intention of what you want to carry forward, perhaps one of the scripture phrases, a picture you formed from reading, or one of the questions you have.

Trust that God will work with you as you read Scripture, each and every time, even if it feels like nothing “clicks.” The ongoing practice of seeking God in the Bible sinks in over time, with the “payoff” seen and felt over time, too.



			<b>1</b> Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	<b>2</b> Rev. Frances' office hours 1 – 4 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10 AM/Worship w/Communion  7 PM/AA Mtg.	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM  Music & Worship . 7 PM	<b>8</b> Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	<b>9</b> Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10 AM/Worship/ Faith Formation Sunday  7 PM/AA Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM  Women's Ministries mtg. 10 AM	<b>15</b> Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	<b>16</b> Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10 AM/Worship/ Congregational Mtg/ Confirmation Field Trip  7 PM/AA Mtg.	<b>20</b> Consistory 7 PM	<b>21</b> Rev. Frances' & Sharon's office hours 9 – 12 PM  Ladies' Night 6:30 PM	<b>22</b> **Rev. Frances' office hours 9:30 – 4 PM  Sharon's office hours 9:30 – 1:30 PM  Choir 7 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

\*\*note change in schedule this week



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

- the Boyertown School District: the children and teens, the parents, the cafeteria and janitorial crews, the office and classroom support staff, the teachers, all administrators, and the School Board
- teenagers in residential treatment centers for mental health
- the US troops returning from Afghanistan and US citizens who still remain
- the Afghan people who remained and the evacuees

Friends of Falkner Swamp,

As most of you are aware, it can be very cold at the church on early winter mornings. We have had an ongoing problem with our heating system for many years. As you've seen in the church's budget and envelopes; there is a line item for donations that have been coming in through the past several years. Well, the time has come; we need to get a new heating system for the church. Covid has not stopped everything in the world, mechanical problems still come even if we are not in church. This past winter we've had an issue with our system and have had to have multiple repairs, and a leak clean up (of the oil) at the church.

The Property Committee has been working over the past year to investigate our heater situation, and to get pricing for a replacement heater. Early in the process we got three quotes for the heating system:

- Gehringer Mechanical, Landes and Good Inc.; all three of these companies come with good recommendations.
  - Due to the quotes being different and not the same, we had Landes and Good Inc. go back and prepare a second quote so as to be similar to what was prepared for by Gehringer Mechanical.
  - Upon second review, Gehringer Mechanical was eliminated due to the low efficiency heater, and two-zone heating system that was actually more money than the quotes from Landes and Good Inc.
  - The quotes from Landes and Good Inc. were comparable, however; the Good Inc. quote was selected as our choice. This system has two heaters, four heating zones, they will do the asbestos removal. The cost for the Good Inc. quote is \$132,156.

The Property Committee made their recommendation of Good Inc. and forwarded this information to Consistory. Consistory held a special meeting to discuss the new heating system. Consistory concurred with this recommendation. Last week, was the first week to announce the heating system and the need for a congregational meeting for the approval in accordance with our by-laws. We will continue to announce this during the next few weeks and on September 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Congregational Meeting to approve this item.

At the meeting, there will be representatives of the committees available for questions and answers; a copy of the quote may be obtained at that time as well.

Meanwhile, Consistory is checking into financing avenues available to the church and this will be reported back to the congregation as well. This is the time, where I make a pitch for donations for our heating fund. If you are so moved, please consider this a worthy project to consider donating to this year.

God Bless You!  
The Property Committee