



September 2019

# 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.



September 8, 2019

9 AM: 1st day of Sunday School

10 AM: Worship

PND Meal following worship

Dear Beloved Community of Falkner Swamp,

A hymn fragment keeps rumbling in my head.

“Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, for the living of these days,” from *God of Grace and God of Glory* written by Harry Fosdick in 1930.



A glance at American history tells me faithful people living when Fosdick penned the hymn needed these words. Much like we need them today.

We live in the heightened arena of bewildering violence, cruelty from our highest government officials, raging disparity between those who have much and those with too little, changes in our climate bringing devastation, all the while the institutions upon which we’ve built our society – family, capitalism, church, government – continue their shape-shifting, leaving us scrambling for a foothold.

For the living of these days requires people of Christian faith to dig deeper into the Gospel truths. Jesus points to the truth that the joy we seek in life is bound up in the security and well-being of others.

I still have the image of a middle-aged, clean-shaven man with a prosthetic leg, sitting in downtown Philadelphia not long ago and holding this sign: “Help Army Vet.” I feel shame that I did not. His well-being is tied to my own. Until he and so many others receive dignity deserving of their humanity, my joy is limited.

Jean Vanier was a leader in the development of L’Arche communities, which is a global initiative begun in France that provides a loving home for people with intellectual differences (<https://www.larche.org/en/what-we-do>). A philosopher and Catholic theologian, Vanier developed these 10 rules for living:

Accept the reality of your body. Talk about your emotions and difficulties. Don’t be afraid of not being successful. In a relationship, take the time to ask, “How are you?” Stop looking at your phone; be present. Ask people, “What is your story?” Be aware of your own story. Stop prejudice; meet people. Listen to your deepest desire.

Remember that you’ll die one day.

For the living of these days, these are good words spilling over with gospel truths of love for God, self and neighbor.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Frances

**We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.**

*~Anne Frank*



God's Grace and peace to you,

The Consistory met on Monday August 19 @ 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.

Jesus knows we cannot follow him without a power beyond ourselves. And that is why he sent the Holy Spirit to empower us.

It is only through the indwelling Holy Spirit that we can obey the teaching of Jesus and follow his example. He assures us of the Father's love, he makes the things of Christ real to us; he makes the gospel precious to us; he convicts us of sin and assures of forgiveness when we repent; he transforms us from glory to glory, into the likeness of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:16–18). That is why we are taught to earnestly seek to be filled with the Spirit each day (Eph. 5:18) and to be led by him in all our ways (Gal. 5:16–25). When we do, we will find that we can live in newness of life. Not perfectly and not immediately. But day by day, as we walk in faith and obedience, the Spirit will produce in us the character of Jesus: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22–23).

## **2 Corinthians 13:14**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.

"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.*

# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 	3	4 7 PM Choir	5 10 AM Luke Bible Study	6	7
8 Rally Day PND Meal	9 7 PM Music & Worship	10 7 PM Property	11 7 PM Choir	12	13	14
15 Bible Study Group leading worship	16 7 PM Consistory	17-22 Rev. Frances' vacation Sept 15-22			20	21
22 Apostolic Sunday	23	24 7 PM CE Meeting	25 7 PM Choir	26	27	28
29 Future of F.S. Offering	30					

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

**September 1** — Communion

**September 8** — The Mustard Seed Special Offering

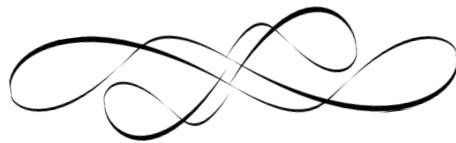
**September 15** — Bible Study Group leading worship

**September 22** — Apostolic Sunday, Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel preaching

**September 29** — 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
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You may have noticed the collection cans on the steps leading to the sanctuary. We encourage you to take a can and put spare change (and bills) in the can and return to the church at a later date to be determined by Christian Ed. As many of you know, on August 10th we had "A Day in Malawi" Vacation Bible School. The children and adults learned about how life is in Malawi. As a church we have supported the Mustard Seed School in Malawi for the last several years. Angela (Jane Harvey's granddaughter) and her husband Alex started the preschool and are directors of the school. Jane's daughter Janice Lee will be going to Malawi in March 2020 and plans to bring a container of supplies for the school. We would like to collect money (\$200) to ship this container to Malawi. Any additional money collected will go to support the school and possibly help to buy needed supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Brown or Becky Comer.



## BREAKFAST FOOD COLLECTION

Do you enjoy a good breakfast as much as I do? Let's think about our neighbors in need who may not have enough to eat. September 26 is National Pancake Day and September 29 is National Coffee Day, two days that most of us can enjoy celebrating. Let's help others do the same!

The Music and Worship Committee is sponsoring a collection of breakfast items for the month of September. Please bring your donations of pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to church and put them in the collection box in the entrance hall. Help us to spread God's love by feeding our neighbors!

## FALKNER SWAMP UCC'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

*HONOR THE PAST, CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, EMBRACE THE FUTURE*

The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been busy making plans—there are lots of exciting things in the works for the next year! But first, we will celebrate the 299<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our congregation's first meeting this October. . .

Sunday, October 13, 2019, will not only be our celebration of 299 years, but it will also be our kick-off for a year of honoring the past, celebrating the present, and embracing the future here at Falkner Swamp. Please join us for worship that day as we introduce our celebration to the congregation and begin some of the special moments that we know you will look forward to. The Boyertown Senior High School Show Choir will be here to help us commemorate this special day where we think about our past, celebrate our 299th anniversary, and look forward to our big 300th anniversary next year.

Our History Subcommittee is planning to update a pamphlet that was distributed for our 275th Anniversary in 2000. We are requesting photos to possibly be included (digital photos would work best, but we can scan them if you only have a hard copy). Sue Dickey, from the History Subcommittee, is collecting the photos of important and/or memorable church events from over the past 45 years (1975-2020). She would love it if any of 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](mailto:susan.dickey@temple.edu).

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Activities/Fundraising Subcommittee will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, October 12. We will be selling tickets ahead of time (\$10 for adults; \$5 for kids ages 4-10; kids 3 and under are free).

We are also looking into having t-shirts made with our anniversary logo. More on this when we have the details set.

Watch for our Did You Know. . .? moments beginning on Anniversary Sunday. You'll learn lots of interesting tidbits about our church.

We will keep updating you as more plans are finalized.

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<sup>h</sup> 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.**

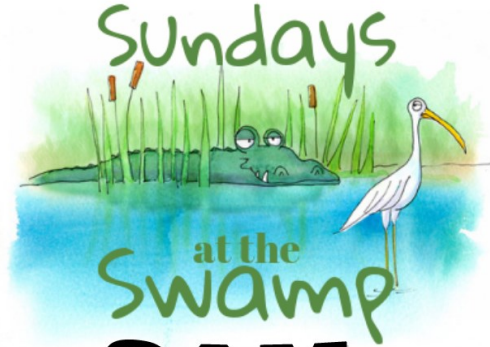
**No Take Outs**



**Christian Education and  
Faith Formation**

*Growing In Faith Together*

**Join us**



**9AM**

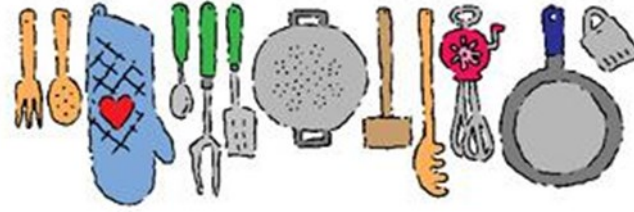
**Ages 2-100**

**Mission Church**  
SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS

**Fall/Winter 2019**

September 22
October 13
October 27
November 10
November 24
December 8
December 22

## FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



PND Meals are starting up again on September 8th. The menu is ham and string beans, etc. Come and join us. An update: We are in the process of getting a new freezer.

Penny Zerr, Kim Shaak, Brenda Becker,  
Doris Moser, Robin Zerr

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1	Caitlin Becker	21	Betsy Basile
1	Kenneth Sell	23	Rev. Frances Chester
4	Carol Stevens	23	Bob Erb, Sr.
4	Frank Straub	23	Evelyn Schwenk
5	Marguerite Fronheiser	23	Justin Wentzel
5	Beverly Ream	29	Alexandria App
13	Jim Kooser		
13	Deb Taylor		

## WORSHIP HELPERS COORDINATOR CONTACTS

Just to let everyone know, there has been a small change to the folks that make up the Worship Helper Coordinators Schedule. If anyone needs to contact a coordinator regarding their "job" listed on the schedule...or if anyone wants to volunteer for any of these jobs within the church (ie, usher, greeter, lay leader, nursery, etc), please contact one of the following coordinators: Karen Miller

([karenmiller811@aol.com](mailto:karenmiller811@aol.com)) Phone #267-329-8207; Fran Berkowitz ([flberko@aol.com](mailto:flberko@aol.com)) Phone #610-323-4450; Sharon Schnaars ([rdschnaars@comcast.net](mailto:rdschnaars@comcast.net)) Phone #610-845-3523.



I want to thank Becky Comer for the work she did on heading up the coordinators and for making up the schedules for the past number of years. As always, Becky did a great job and we do appreciate the time she has dedicated to putting this together. The baton has been passed to Karen Miller, who has volunteered to step into this position. We want to extend a huge thank you to Karen as well! We certainly appreciate the time and work folks put in to help our church run smoothly.

Bob Schnaars, Music & Worship



We are in the process of updating the church directory for distribution in September. If you have any edits, please get them to the office before September 3rd. Thank you!

The Dogs, Bob Schnaars and Bob Erb, just completed a very successful performance for The Senior Center, at Boyertown Multi-Service. The Senior Center had requested that the Dogs sing for their Boardwalk themed luncheon entertainment. The Dogs were asked for music and 'dress' to compliment the Boardwalk theme.



Coming up in September, the Dogs have three shows. The first, on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> is a private engagement for a church senior group, "The 59'ers," at St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Wayne, PA.

The second (and third) are at The Red Church at Orwigsburg, on Route 61 on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, is for their 10:30 am worship service. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, or later show, is on the same day at 2 pm. The 2 pm show is open to the public. This later show is being advertised in and around Orwigsburg to other churches and businesses and will showcase The Dogs in a one hour musical program. The Red Church is a "repeat" customer and they have sponsored The Dogs on four or five occasions in the past.

For the Red Church's performances, the Dogs will have a third Dog joining them, Jim Kooser, who has often played "the gut bucket" and sung with Bob and Bob, but due to his work schedule [he's younger than the two other dogs who are retired], he's only been able to perform with them at a Dogs gig once previously.



We'd love to see our family and friends from Falkner Swamp at the 2 pm concert! If your schedule is open, please join us. The easiest directions are Route 73 to Route 61 (N). Once you go through Deer Lake, the Red Church is on the right. Their driveway into their parking lot is on the right, but it's very narrow. If you miss it, there is a road immediately past the church on the right which takes you around the back of the church and gives access to the parking lot.



# A DAY IN Malawi

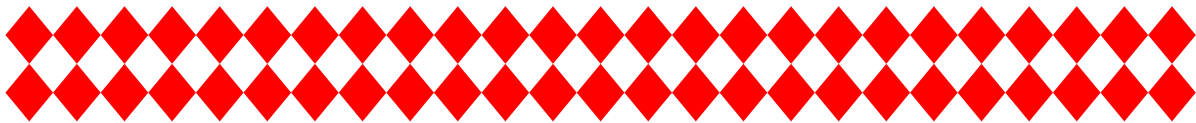


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2077 Swamp Pike  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Rally Day
- September Birthdays
- The Dogs News
- A Day in Malawi 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