

NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF FALKNER SWAMP UCC

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT (adopted 11/13/2022)

as printed in the Constitution & By-laws

We, the Congregation of Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ offer this mission to all members, friends, and neighbors near and far:

1. To be a place of welcome and a peaceful spiritual retreat for all of God's children.
2. To strengthen and share our relationship with God through the Holy Word, prayer, music, worship, and service to others.
3. To spread God's love by modeling our daily lives as examples set before us by Jesus Christ.

See inside for:

- ~Summer Events*
- ~Keeping You in the Loop*
- ~Prayer Requests*
- ~June calendar*

Summer Events – More information & sign up in Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday June 17th 10 AM – noon,
Civil War History & Artifacts,
St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown
Can carpool from church**

**Friday July 17th @ 7 PM,
Reading Fightin' Phils Baseball game,
Faith Night event
\$15/person**

The USA is turning 250...**how are you feeling about our country?**
Let's gather & talk, **after worship June 14** (Flag Day)
Conference Room (or Fellowship Hall if big group).



Dear Falkner Swamp Friends,

My head is spinning. I know much of this has to do with family life, and the fact that my youngest is graduating high school and heading to college in the fall. Outwardly, all the fun exciting stuff fills the hours and edges around work, day and night: the end of year activities, graduation events, family visits. Underneath the hubbub, the tectonic plates of family life are shifting into new alignment; it's going to take time to regain solid footing in this new geography.

Many of you can likely recall similar "hinge" moments in your life, when the aperture of what's next is widening. Maybe you've been at a threshold like the one I described. Other crossings could be retirement, the anticipated death of a loved one, the birth of a child, a marriage, releasing an adult child to marriage, receiving a life-altering diagnosis. Some are welcome while others are not.

Depending on the hinge moment, the mixture of emotion takes up more energy than we realize – if happy then it's joy and excitement that is nevertheless laced with anxiety and anticipatory grief over inevitable change. That same grief takes on a different shape and urgency when the hinge moment opens to a path you never wanted.

While this season is unique in my life, I've faced other hinge moments and the accompanying emotional hailstorm. Through the fog of memory, I recall that the emotions rumbling out of sight and in the dark are not foes to banish from consciousness but friends asking for a meet up. Put simply, our emotions, if tended to, help us adapt and grow.

That's the wisdom. Living in to it is another matter. It is easier in the moment to focus on the busy. It's pragmatic to compartmentalize. I confess I may even lean into some spiritual bypassing: "just remember God is with you...." Yes. And.

My family is changing, therefore my life is changing, and this is hard. It is exhausting attending to all the outward moments while tending to what is happening inwardly. So for this season, I'm grateful for a faith expansive enough to hold all of life's experiences — even the horrible ones — and call them part of the 'good' God created. Because God redeems all. I'm grateful for a God who does hold my future, and my family's future, without me or us needing to nail down every last detail.

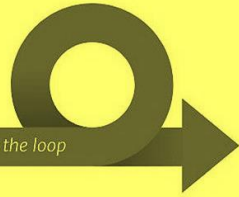
I'm grateful for a God who does not leave us orphaned (John 14:18) but accompanies us (Hello, Holy Spirit).

The ground underneath my feet is shifting uncomfortably. Adjustment will be awkward. So in quieter moments as I name the emotions in the whirlwind, I also name gratitude. And then gratitude for all things – *all things* – envelops me. Not to erase the more difficult emotions but to hold them and whisper: "*... this is the light that shines in the dark, and the darkness did not overcome it.*"

With you on the journey,
Rev. Frances

Be informed

Keeping you in the loop



Consistory is discussing Safety and Emergency Preparedness for our church and congregation. Some of the things that are in the works: CPR/AED/first aid training for interested members and creating a map of the church layout to share with local emergency personnel.



Jim Fahy is participating in a weeklong mission trip with his wife's church, Sanctuary United Methodist Church. 15 youth and adult volunteers are heading to Tennessee from July 5-11 with Appalachia Service Project. ASP is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia.

Jim is looking for donations of unused tools and supplies, specifically, power tools (such as Dewalt 18 or 20 volt, Milwaukee 18 volt or pack outs), wood screws, deck screws and nails.

If you have anything to donate or have questions, please see Jim before June 21.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports/Consistory Minutes

Committee reports that are received by the Church Office, and Consistory Meeting minutes that are approved by Consistory, are refreshed on the board outside the church office after each monthly Consistory meeting, typically the third Monday evening of each month, excepting one summer month.

Financial Update through April 2026

Total funds available for general use at the end of March:	\$81,600.51
Total Income received in the month of April:	+\$15,920.95
Total Expenses paid in the month of April:	(\$13,043.79)
Total funds available for general use at the end of April:	\$91,477.67

The net financial results from general church activity for the month of April reflected a gain in the general fund of \$999.66 (this amount does not include the parsonage rental income).



We gratefully receive your financial offerings for the mission and ministry of Falkner Swamp UCC through our weekly worship and via checks sent in the mail. We can also receive your financial gifts through this QR code to the left. Your donation will be processed through Vanco and is safe and secure. For all the ways you give, our church thanks you!

Prayer Requests

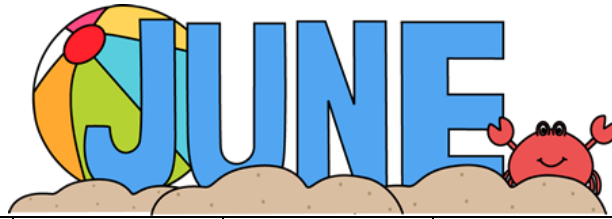
Let us pray for you

The following come in from Val, Doris' daughter, who provides care in her home for Doris and husband Steve:

- for Steve, as his ALS is progressing
- for Doris, as her Alzheimer's worsens
- for the Dolla family, as numerous family members are sick with cancer, MS, and recovering from surgeries

Other prayer requests:

- for Barb C. and Barb G. as they await test results



	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7 PM M & W mtg.	Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study	Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
7 10 AM Worship w/Communion Apostolic Sunday Rev. Ann Few leading worship 7 PM/AA Mtg.	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM 1PM Scripture Study	Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
14 Flag Day 10 AM Worship following worship USA turns 250 discussion 7 PM/AA Mtg	15	16	17	18	19	20
	6:30 PM Consistory	Rev. Frances & Sharon' office hours 9 – 11 AM	Sharon's office hours 9 - 2 PM Civil War History/Artifacts, St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown 10-12 Noon	**Rev. Frances' office hours	Juneteenth	
21 10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM	Sharon's office hours 9 - 2 PM	**Rev. Frances' office hours		
28 10 AM Worship 7 PM/AA Mtg	29	30				
		Rev. Frances & Sharon's office hours 9 – 2 PM				

Please send any newsletter submissions by 9 AM on the final Tuesday of each month (except December & July when they are double month editions), to the church office, falknerswamp@comcast.net.

** Times vary, please call or text for an appointment:



Thank you to our Cleaning Crews! They keep all our church spaces sparkling & fresh. Our June cleaners are Sharon and Bob Schnaars.

We can always use more team members, please contact the church office if you have some time and can help out: 610-323-4053 or falknerswamp@comcast.net

Ladies Night was a wonderful evening! A big thank you to all who helped make it a success: Women's Ministries members who helped plan, decorate, and prepare the meal, the men who helped serve and clean up, those who came out to enjoy the evening, and Carol Spacht, aka Betsy Ross, who entertained us.

