

July 2018
For Members and Friends of
St. Paul's UCC Fleetwood

Beautiful Things

I've been spending a whole bunch of time in my flower beds lately. Planting, weeding, trimming, and mulching followed by ample time to step back and appreciate what has been created can be a pretty cathartic endeavor. For much the same reason as I love trimming bushes and mowing grass, I enjoy whatever time I get to spend in my flower beds - it's a distraction. It is time to focus on things over which I have full control in a world of things that I have little or no control, it's calming, and most importantly, it is something that brings joy and satisfaction into my life.

I'm particularly enjoying it this year because I am coming to the end of a time of purging the beds. The weeds were out of control and the plants were struggling, so last year I decided to strip them back, pull it all out, and start fresh with empty beds covered in weed fabric and mulch and not a blessed thing green. I left it like that for a full year to ensure that anything that might still be trying to make its way to the surface would be truly gone before I moved back into a stage of filling them with beautiful things.

Which brings me to this year and the tough choice of what to plant and whether to commit to perennials or just have fun with a few annuals and so I made my way to the greenhouse down the street with some ideas and some concerns and after I arrived, I made the decision to leave the decision to someone else. Rather than going to the isle of ferns for my shady spots and day lilies for the sunny patches, I decided to talk to the owner. I told him about the space that I had and how I travel for weeks at a time over the summer so I need things that will fend for themselves and how there is this crazy hole on the edge of my patio meant to have something planted, but it will rarely get sun and almost never get water and finally asked, "What do you think?" I was halfway expecting him to tell me to go to A.C. Moore and pick up some pretty artificial flowers, but that was not his reply. He pointed and said, "for the sunny spots, you can get this one, this one, or this one. Pick." We repeated the process with the shady spots and then talked about my hope to grow asparagus (for which his response was to throw in some extra roots for free since he knew that at best half of them might survive).

Before I knew it, my beds were filled with beautiful things. The once barren mulch is filled with plants and flowers that are, for the moment, thriving and growing and working out just as Dieter promised they would.

Sometimes I think that the same is true for our relationship with God. We often come with grand ideas of what we want or need. We ask God and sometimes God says no and sometimes God says yes, but I think that the most interesting moments are when God responds with things that we never expected or does something that changes our perspective on the situation entirely.

The next time I think I know what I want or need from God, I think that maybe just maybe, I'll start off by just telling God what is going on, what sin I'm struggling with or tough decision lies before me or what suffering I've witnessed that is filling me with anxiety and then just say, "so, God, What do you think?" I have a feeling that something beautiful might happen.

Submitted by Pastor John Folk

Thomas Agnew 07/01
 Ashley Fox 07/01
 H. Joel Herb 07/01
 Taylor Pavlick 07/01
 Kendall Spangler 07/01
 Rosemary Davies 07/02
 Cortney Gordon 07/02
 Christina Leshar 07/02
 Sherri Mckently 07/02
 Paul Schoellkopf 07/02
 Matthew Siggins 07/03
 Anna Mae Diehl 07/04
 Andrew Hagginbothom 07/04
 Christy Hetrick 07/04
 Benjamin Mell 07/04
 Curtis Olinger 07/04
 Fay Absalom 07/05
 Harper Collins 07/05
 Allen Fox 07/05
 Ethan Makovsky 07/05
 Stephen Bleiler 07/06
 Julie Fisher 07/06
 Julie Fisher 07/06
 Lyle Greiss II 07/06
 Richard Hicks 07/06
 Justin Hill 07/06
 Sue Kline 07/06
 Heidi Pierce 07/06
 Kaitlyn Pytleski 07/06
 Brian Schumacher 07/06
 Robert Schwartz 07/06
 Jordan Strause 07/06
 Audrey Agnew 07/07
 Dale Dietrich 07/07
 Jackie Gauker 07/07
 Brandon Boyer 07/08
 Gary Eberly 07/08/
 Valerie Frey 07/08
 Tyler Absalom 07/09
 Frederick Kerling II 07/09
 Steve Walters 07/09
 Steven Wentz 07/09
 George Endy 07/10

Chris Nasados 07/10
 Evan Blickley 07/11
 Ashten Rolon 07/11
 Merrill Schaeffer 07/11
 Carrie Wentz 07/11
 Melissa Williams 07/11
 Jessica Keck 07/12
 Stephanie Negri 07/12
 Aiden Soumas 07/12
 Jan Williams 07/12
 Carolyn Christ 07/13
 Jane Folk 07/13
 Traci Hicks 07/13
 Ian Houck 07/13
 Donald Krout 07/13
 Sandra Ott 07/13
 Jenna Schumacher 07/13
 Mary Boeshore 07/14/
 Allen Gracely 07/14
 Carin Milesosky 07/14
 Marsha Anderson 07/15
 Herbert Dunkelberger III 07/15
 Todd Gruber 07/15
 Brielle Mark 07/15
 Angela Pell 07/15
 Hannah Sell 07/15
 Lynda Shenk 07/15
 Phyllis Zimmerman 07/15
 Courtney Eisenhofer 07/16
 Jody Laverdure 07/16
 Micah Barlet 07/17
 Susan Bigg 07/17
 Gwyneth Trafford 07/17
 Terry Smith 07/18
 Andrea Kurzweg 07/19
 Hannah Luckenbill 07/19
 Nevin Miller 07/19
 Sarah Moll 07/19
 Christine Phillips 07/19
 Chad Smith 07/19
 Daniel Dietrich 07/20
 Derek Geisinger 07/20
 Alex Plucker 07/20

Allison Souders 07/20
 Michael Sunday 07/20
 Rose Kurzweg 07/21
 Lauren Nahrgang 07/21
 Thomas Weir 07/21
 Debra Fink 07/22
 Robert Hagginbothom 07/22
 Tyler Lance 07/22
 Lindsay Schaeffer 07/22
 Linda Speece 07/22
 Wendy Strohl 07/22
 Julie Feldman 07/23
 Kermit Knerr 07/23
 Miriam Seifrit 07/23
 Ryelee Bowman 07/24
 Andrea Gracely 07/24
 Colton Plucker 07/24
 Jarren Valick 07/24
 Brandi Hill 07/25
 Joseph Ludwig 07/25
 James Milesosky 07/25
 Jeffrey Miller 07/25
 Conor Noll 07/25
 Alex Weeast 07/25
 Samuel Kemmerer 07/26
 Courtney Posey 07/26
 Mark Power 07/26
 John Reinkemeyer 07/26
 Molly Robison 07/26
 Aleesha Fritz 07/27
 Mary Keck 07/27
 Carl Wink 07/27
 Leah Gurney 07/28
 Kyle Leshar 07/28
 Eva Melochick 07/29
 Lisa George 07/30
 Savanna Major 07/30
 Yolanda Schaeffer 07/30
 Janet Koller 07/31
 Anna Mae Weiss 07/31
 Bruce Weiss 07/31

**If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect,
 please call the church office at 610-944-0406 or
 send an email to
churchoffice@stpaulsfleetwood.org so it can be
 recorded for future birthday lists.**



3
Weekly Volunteers

July 1st : Readers: 8:55- Catharine Delcamp Acolytes: 8:55- Stella Koch, Megan Eberly	10:25- Melissa Ruemmler 10:25- Tristin Farr, Chase Reifsnnyder
July 8th : Readers: 8:55- Sharon Dreibelbis Acolytes: 8:55- Ian Miller, Zack Fry	10:25- Jim Goldman 10:25- Cassandra Batz, Colin Snyder
July 15th : Readers: 8:55- Dale Hollenbach Acolytes: 8:55- Katelin Pytleski, Stella Koch	10:25- Sue Creswell 10:25- Megan Eberly, Aidan Strohl
July 22nd : Readers: 8:55- Nancy Boyer Acolytes: 8:55- Chase Reifsnnyder, Ian Miller	10:25- David Balmer 10:25- Zack Fry, Tristin Farr
July 29th : Readers: 8:55- Laura Walizer Acolytes: 8:55- Colin Snyder, Katelin Pytleski,	10:25- Andrea Batz 10:25- Stella Koch, Cassandra Batz

The deadline for news and information to be included in the August Tower Tymes is July 15th.

SCHOOL: Summer Camp is Sizzling

We are in full swing registering for next year and we are excited to report we are filling up quickly. If you or someone you know is interested in our school, please give them our name and number. We have programs for 20 months- 6 years old. We have one to five day programs as well as Playgroup, both Half and Full Day Kindergarten, and Extended Care. Don't lose out, grab a spot. Call the school office at 610-944-5808 for information or visit us on the web at www.stpaulsfleetwood.org.

Kindergarten and Advanced Pre-K - Our kindergarten and Advanced Pre-k program will run Monday through Friday. It will provide a positive school experience for your child. Our unique curriculum prepares your child for the primary grades in a personalized private and nurturing environment. **We will offer Full Day and Half Day Kindergarten and Advanced Pre-k**

Extended Care – Before and after school is provided for families of students of St. Paul's UCC Church and School. If you are having difficulty matching school hours and work hours, this is finally your answer. It will be supervised and maintained by the school and provide loving care for your child when you are not available. Please give us a call.

We hope that everyone has a great, safe and enjoyable summer!!!

Respectfully Submitted, Ms. Peggy Brown-School Director

Confirmation Parents Meeting:

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, August 26th** following the second service for the parents of both first and second year confirmands. This will be a time of explaining the program, establishing strong lines of communication, and answering any questions that you might have. If your child is going to be involved but you cannot make the meeting, please contact Pastor John by email (folkjw@gmail.com) to get added to the distribution lists and to get the materials from the meeting.

DIRECTORY PHOTO DATES

July 24-26	2 p.m.-9 p.m.
July 27-28	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

To make an appointment go to <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/yccn7dq6/>.

There are still dates in July open if you have not made an appointment yet. **If you need help making an appointment, please call Sandi Stern-610-944-9143 or Gail Noll 610-944-0319.** Please park on Green St, Arch St. or the Municipal Parking Lot across the street. Since there are no events planned for the church during the day the **Parking Lot doors WILL BE LOCKED!!** Bring a school supply and receive a \$5 coupon off your purchase. On the day of your pictures, please arrive 15minutes early. Thanks, Sandi

Food Pantry:

Fleetwood Food Pantry On Thursday, June 7th there were 72 families who attended the Fleetwood Food Pantry. It was Fleetwood Bible Church's turn to serve unfortunately there were very few volunteers. Our loyal St. Paul's UCC volunteers worked incredibly hard to fill all of the bags in time and also managed the line of handing out the grocery bags to the families. The Shop of Fleetwood surprised our families with soup and sandwiches to take home that evening. The owners of The Shop, Jim and Summer Gaskin also volunteered their time in helping to pass out the food. On Thursday, July 14th it will be Maiden creek and Harvest Church's turn to serve. Please note this date change because of the Greater Berks Food Bank being closed for the week of July 4th; we will hold our pantry date a week later. All of the families of the pantry will have to register again at the July pantry date so additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed from 3:30-6:00. Lately we have had difficulty finding volunteers to work the 4:30-6:00 shift so if you are available at that time we could use your help!

Pantry Shopping Cart: The shopping cart in the narthex has been feeling a little left out lately. The donations for the pantry have been dwindling. If you could help us replenish with some canned good donations such as vegetables, fruits, and soups our pantry Families would be extremely grateful! July is also the month that we try to help our families with picnic food condiments such as ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressings, etc.

Is your garden overflowing with extra vegetables? Keep our food pantry families in mind! Feel free to drop off your extra produce at our next pantry date of Thursday, July 14th. Don't worry if you have small amounts, we will bag them in ziploc baggies for the families. Every little bit helps!

Is your local business looking for a team building activity? Sign up your group to volunteer at the Fleetwood Food Pantry in 2019. Currently, November, April and June are months that we are in need of additional groups. Email Laura Walizer if your group is interested walizerL@gmail.com.

School Donations for Fleetwood School District students of low income families: Did you know that the Fleetwood School District requires the students to bring in their own school supplies and sends a list of supplies needed for each student at the beginning of the school year? For families on a limited income, this list can be quite overwhelming. St. Paul's is working with the district to provide a "School Store" for students who are of low income families to "shop" at the store prior to the school year starting but we need your help in filling it with supplies! Bring school items for Fleetwood students in need? Help us fill the book bags in the narthex with school supplies that will be added to a special "school store" for students who can't afford the long list of school supplies that are now required for all students to bring in themselves. These items include: Texas Instrument Calculator TI-15 (can be found at Wal-Mart) 8x5 plastic crayon box Small Crayola Crayon box Zipper pencil pouch Yellow Highlighters Rectangle block erasers One subject 3-ring binders (each child needs 5) Spiral bound notebooks Pack of expo dry erase markers Boxes of tissues and disinfectant wipes *we will continue to collect these items all summer until the school year begins. Thank you for supporting our local community and children in need.

5.

The Fleetwood Friends Relay for Life Team will be selling pizza at the Fleetwood Carnival on July 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th. Please come and stop by to support the relay team. Any questions call at 610- 507- 4559

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the prayers, well wishes and cards during my time of sorrow with the passing of my sister.
Sandi Stern

St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry Information

Our "Hook and Needles Crew" will not meet on Monday, July 2, 2018. We will meet on Monday, August 6, 2018. New members are always welcome!

Helping Hands

17 calls, 3 emails, and 16 transports.

Thanks for the Fun!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the church for the great experience that I had as your Coordinator of Educational Ministries. I love your children dearly and have enjoyed working with them each week. This experience has helped me grow as a Christian, as an educator, and as a person.

July 1st marks the end of my job here at St. Paul's. If you have any educational concerns after this time, please contact either of the pastors or Barb Hoffman, Chairperson of the Educational Ministries Committee.

Thanks again for the wonderful opportunity to serve you!
Stacy Laucks



SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, September 9, 2018

St. Paul's UCC Grounds

11:30-2:30

The Philharmonic Band: Will be giving a free concert in the Fleetwood Park on Sunday, July 29th at 6:00 pm. The Rain date for the event is Monday, July 30th at 6:00 pm. The concert is sponsored by the Fleetwood American Legion. Refreshments will be available at 5:00 pm. The band is being conducted by St. Paul's member Jay A. Smith.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Starting June 24th 2018 this year we are trying something different! All classes will meet in the junior department for a joint opening. This means that Primary drop off and pick up will be in the junior department for the summer (Nursery will keep drop off/pick up in their classroom). After opening, the children will split up for classes within their departments (K-3 and 4-7). We need parent volunteers to help with the combined classes. Please let Barb Hoffman know if you are interested in helping:

bobbilee53@yahoo.com. We Hope To Continue Seeing You In The Summer!

6.

Alekay! (Hello from Ghana). Although I know you will be reading this well after we have returned, I want to convey the overwhelming sentiment that was conveyed to us, "You are Welcome!" To put it in a more local dialect, "Wilkommen!"

I signed on to this adventure as another Mission trip, a personal journey to be part of a wider ministry. In recent months we/I have been so consumed with the needs of our own church that the Ghana mission trip took on a purpose of centering and refocusing for me. After a few days on the villages, I am moved to share what is on my mind and in my heart with you.

I have heard more than a few of you voice your concern recently that travel and missions afar are not where we need to place our focus; there are needs at home that require tending, and you are not wrong. There are definite needs and situations at our St. Paul's that keep me up at night.

To those of you voicing this concern and directing your support to anything but our travelling missions I say thank you. Thank you for keeping the needs of our local, home community and church in our priority. Thank you for bearing the mantle of ensuring we are doing enough to honor our roots, support our church family and prepare for our future. Thank you for being the voice of temperament and reason, the wise elder who acknowledges our duty to self so that we may serve others. Thank you for creating the time and space and confidence that we, as we are moved by God, can venture out into the world to see and to share and to be in God's love.

We are blessed as a congregation and a people. Where others are closing their doors, our pews are worn from use. Where others long for the sounds of children, our halls ring with their noises 6 days a week. Where others struggle with indecisive leadership we are blessed with many capable hands to lead the willing where they are called. Where others struggle to find a purpose we argue about how to pare ours down.

I know that in recent years every expenditure has been under scrutiny. Too often we find ourselves expounding on what we are sure we know, although the complete factual picture may elude us. During our visits to various churches and communities in Ghana we were welcomed, multiple times, as we worshiped together. We shared our bounty of crayons and Band-Aids and hotel soaps and in return they shared their bounty of mango, banana, pineapple and pawpaw fruit. Certainly they are struggling as we are, yet we each found something we could share with the other that was necessary and needed and generous. This is the essence of being the church as Christ commands us to be. We count our congregation at about 200 members on a Sunday and over 600 on the rolls.

There are many of us available to be stewards to our hometown needs, allowing each of us to be moved to also serve any mission and any ministry as we are called. Whether the calling is to rebuild homes out of state with the teens, go Over The Edge for our children at Bethany, bag groceries at the Fleetwood Food Pantry or serve dinner in Reading or set up schools and worship centers in rural African villages or share the word of the Lord with children in our church classrooms or recycling your bulletins as you leave service on Sunday, Akpe! Thank You! for your stewardship that makes these and all things related to St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood possible.

Jenn Hoffman, 2018 Consistory President and Ghana Mission 2018 member

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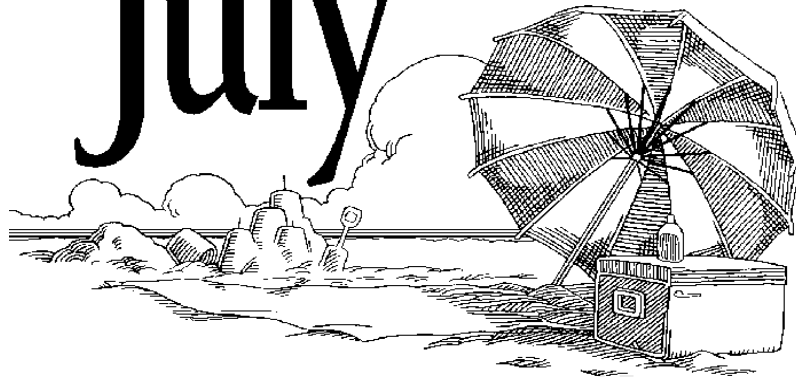


2018

Our Staff

Rev. Patrick W. Morris	Pastor
Rev. John Folk	Associate Pastor
Miss. Samantha Wolf	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Sue Creswell	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Greta Ertel	Organist/Accompanist
Mrs. Jill Haley	Coordinator of Music Ministries
Ms. Peggy Brown	School Director

July



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Youth Mission Trip July 1-8	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Young Adult Mission Trip July 8-14	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	15	17 Guild Meeting 7:00 SR	18 Regional Youth Event July 18 th - 22 nd	19	20	21
22	23	24 Directory Photos through 28 th	25	26	27 Youth Germany Trip July 27 th - August 14 th	28
29	30	30				