

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 5 West Arch Street, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania 19522 610-944-0406
 Email: churchoffice@stpaulsfleetwood.org
 Website: www.stpaulsfleetwood.org

Rev. Patrick W. Morris	Senior Pastor	610-370-7226 (Home) 610-207-7361 (Cell)
Rev. John Folk	Associate Pastor	484-926-2546 (Home) 610-468-8200 (Cell)
Jill Haley	Music Ministry Coordinator	jilhaley@ptd.net
Greta Ertel	Organist	ertelb@msn.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, September 17– Saturday, September 23, 2017

Hospitalized: *If you or someone you know is hospitalized or ill, please call the church office at 610-944-0406. If you do not want the name listed in the bulletin, please notify the church office as well. Thank you for your help.*

On-going Prayer Needs: Ross McKenty, Fern Shankweiler, Steven Sutherland, Elizabeth Ressler, Jane Folk, Bruce Schutt, Eleanor Wanner, Roger and Lilli Simon, Dennis Raudenbush, Brian Arndt, Mike Berg, June Wanner, Karen Shollenberger, Emily Mast, Richard Knoll, Pastor Pat

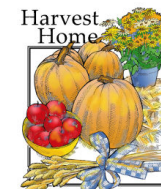


Leroy Fies... Please sign the “Thinking of You” card in the Narthex. It will be mailed tomorrow.



For the month of September, we will be collecting snack items for the families to pack in their children's school lunches such as snack packs of crackers, applesauce squeezeables, small bags of pretzels, etc. If you have a garden that is overflowing with produce, please consider dropping it off for our pantry families. We will take donations two days prior to our distribution date. Thank you for your continued donations for our families each month.

*****FYI.... Pastor Pat's home address is 10 Christman Road, Reading, PA 19606.**



We will celebrate **Harvest Home** on Sunday, September 24th at both services. The #10 cans of food will be taken to Bethany Children's Home and the small cans will be taken to the Fleetwood Food Pantry. We are asking the Sunday school children to bring a can to church that Sunday. If you would like to tape a dollar bill to the can, all dollars will be collected and sent to the Greater Berks Food Bank. If you would like to bring your cans to church anytime during the week of September 18-23 bring them during office hours and put them in the Sanctuary.

“Forgive your
 brother or sister
 from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV



I'm sure many of you have been watching the news in horror at the images coming from Texas and Louisiana. Our congregation will be collecting supplies for Clean Up Buckets and Hygiene Kits as part of our initial response. Pastor John and Pastor Megan Huesgen are in the beginning stages of possibly organizing a trip to an effected area when volunteers are able to begin assisting the victims. At this time, financial contributions can be made for this trip and the supplies needed for the relief efforts. Please mark envelopes for Hurricane Relief Project. Below is a link for signing up to donate specific items for the Clean Up Buckets. All items are due Sunday, September 23. Any questions, please feel free to email me.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084fabab2aa5fc1-clean> Thanks! Laura



Youth Group

Support St. Paul's Youth Ministry and get all of your Christmas Shopping done EARLY!

Purchase gift cards for family, friends, teachers and business associates from over 375 retailers such as American Eagle, iTunes, Game Stop, Toys R Us, Starbucks, Panera, Red Lobster, Staples, Lowes, Home Depot, Amazon, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble and Shutterfly. Cards from Weis, Giant, Walmart and Target cards can help with your Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and entertaining. The complete list of retailers can be found in the social room or at www.shopwithscrips.com. Each card has a rebate of 2% to 16% that comes back to the Youth Group. Cards can be ordered at any time and there will be some on hand.

Contact Kim Levan 610-823-7677, klevan@comcast.net or John Folk for more information or to place an order. This will be an ongoing fundraiser.



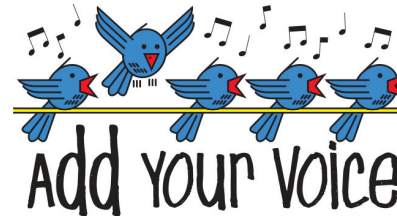
Open and Affirming:

October 1, 2017 Vote on Statement by Congregation

A statement is a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing. So, why do we write an "open and affirming statement"? Our statement is a description and expression of the people who are welcomed and affirmed as part of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Fleetwood, PA. Our statement is far more than about sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Our statement reveals our beliefs about such things as racial matters, physical and/or mental abilities, ethnicity, class, age, and marital status. Our statement will be our words, our thoughts, our feelings, and most of all an example to the world of what this Christian community believes. Please continue to pray for our church as we discern the words we use that will help write this next chapter in the life of our congregation. As always our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and are held after the 10:25 services on the third Sunday of the month. A light lunch is served prior to our conversation.



Also...The Fleetwood Friends Relay for Life Team has a table at the Bazaar. If anyone is interested in knitting or crocheting scarves for the team to sell at the Bazaar, we would appreciate it. We do not need dish cloths because we have a supply of them. We would need the scarves by October 29th. Please see or call Erin Goldman (610-507-4559) with any questions. Fleetwood Friends Relay for Life team is looking for new members. We need supporters and walkers to help raise funds to fight cancer. We also need able bodied folks to help with set up and taking down of our site on the days of the event which is Friday June 1, 2018 to Saturday, June 2, 2018. As far as preparing for the event, we meet five or six times a year at the church to plan fundraisers such as shoo-fly pie and mum sales. You don't need to attend all the meetings to be a member/helper with our team. The event takes place at Kutztown University. Erin Goldman is the team captain - please feel free to contact her at 610-507-4559 to learn more about this worthwhile event.



Choirs are starting up soon! We are also forming a NEW choir that will sing once a month at the 8:55 service. This is to provide the early service congregation an opportunity to hear a choir once a month and also provide a group for folks who usually attend the early service to sing. Rehearsals will be minimal- we will rehearse for just a few minutes right after the early church service in the choir room. This choir will include folks who sing in the 2nd service as well as any new members who would like to just sing at the earlier service. Please get in touch with Jill if you are interested. Rehearsals for this choir will start Sunday, September 24, and we will sing usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Chancel and bell choir rehearsals start on Wednesday evening, September 13 at 6:15 (bells) and 7 (chancel choir). Children's choir starts Sunday morning, September 17, at 8:30 am in the choir room. We welcome children 4-12 years old. Bells...Chancel... Early service... Children's...lots of choices and we welcome you to any of them! Looking forward to a GREAT year.

Jill Haley

jilhaley@ptd.net

610.823.9087

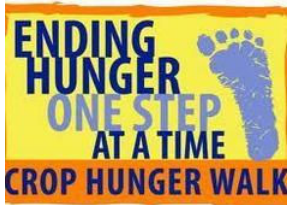


We have begun planning for the Sunday morning gifts to the church for 2018. You may stop by the table in the narthex of call Sharon Dreibelbis at 610-916-4848 to choose the Sundays you wish to sponsor the altar flowers, special flowers, the bulletins, or The Upper Room. For 2018 the cost of the bulletins is \$35.00 per week. The cost of The Upper Room booklet is \$60.00 per month. Both there costs are payable to the church. The cost of floral arrangements is determined by and payable to the florist.



Some people have been asking me for the list of items for the hygiene kits. These will also be due by Sun 9/24. Thank you! Here's what you'll need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
 - One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
 - One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
 - One toothbrush in the package
 - Ten standard size Band-Aids
- All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.



CROP WALK....SAME WALK, DIFFERENT LOCATION!!!!

Come and walk in the 36th Annual Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, Oct 8 at Gring's Mill Recreation Area. 75% of the money raised goes to support Church World Service's mission to feed hungry people around the world by helping them develop self-sustaining methods of growing crops and raising livestock. 25% of the money

raised will go to the Greater Berks Food Bank, which provides food locally for those in need. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. and the walk starts at 1:30. By sponsoring a youth from our church, you are helping someone feed their family.

COME ONE, COME ALL, ANY AGE



Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

After many months of discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit our ONA discernment journey has come to an end.

The ONA Discernment Team has submitted their statement to Consistory who unanimously accepted the statement at its August meeting. A special church business meeting has been called for Sunday, October 1st at 10 AM. This will take place between services much like our annual meeting. The statement we will be voting on appears at the end of this article. If you have any questions please see Pastor John, Steve Wentz or Allen Crockett.

Grounded in God's commandment to love our neighbors and the desire of Jesus "that they may all be one," St. Paul's United Church of Christ Fleetwood publicly affirms the commitment we have long strived to put into practice: to welcome and nurture everyone who comes through our doors as beloved children of God without exception.

Echoing the good news that God's house has room to spare as well as the call for believers to be one body with many members, we seek to journey together as people of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, cultures, faith backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, political orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, marital statuses, family structures, ages, physical / mental abilities and health statuses, personal histories, and many other characteristics. Each person is a vital part of our community with a set of unique gifts and perspectives, and we invite all to fully share in the worship, rites, sacraments, and ministry of this church. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. Regardless of our beliefs or experiences, we seek to treat all people with love. As a forgiven people, we acknowledge that we are all still growing together and do not claim to be perfect or to have "figured it all out". With God's help, we covenant to learn together as a community grounded in hospitality, compassion, justice, liberation, forgiveness, and Christian love.