



**MAY
2024**

Forty Fort United Methodist Church

26 Yeager Avenue
Forty Fort, Pennsylvania 18704
(570)287-3840

10:00 a.m. Service



FortyFortUmc@gmail.com
<https://www.fortyfortchurch.org/>



Forty Fort UMC has been a beacon of faith in Luzerne County for over 150 years.

It's a place of prayer, peace, joy, and friendship for all.

Our congregation includes people of various backgrounds,
and we welcome all who seek God's love. Invite Jesus into your hearts through
personal experiences, worship services, Bible study, and community outreach.



FAMILY FUN FAIR

*A Day of Fun for the Whole
Family!*

Celebrate Forty Fort United Methodist Church, Beyond
Behavior Consulting, and local community vendors for a
day of FOOD, FUN, GAMES, and excitement!

Meet your neighbors, support local businesses
FOAM PARTY, FACE PAINTING, YOGA, BASKETBALL
This event is perfect for families with children of all ages



SATURDAY,
MAY 18 2024



12:00-4:00 P.M.



1089 WYOMING AVE
BETTY MASCELLI PARK

[JOIN US](#)

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

Saturday

May 18, 2024

12 - 4:00 p.m.



May 19, 2024

Click the link below for a video on Pentecost

<https://youtu.be/xv4CP4MzVBM>

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. **Red** is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). **White** was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

— *This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*



Click on the link below for a video about the Flame of Pentecost

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/flame-of-pentecost>

Mother's Day Prayer

May 12, 2024 - Mother's Day



This day we gather with eager hearts, hungry for your Word, yearning for the joy you promise in love. O God, together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share. You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the mercy of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us great blessing.

On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey. We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children.

We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And, so we lift to you our mothers, *so imperfect, also so wounded by this world*. We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us. We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who has been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost.

We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.

— **"Mother's Day Prayer" Copyright 2008 Rev. Jane Sommers**

From a tall, old tree, local craftsman Chris Bogdon carved this amazing cross for the glory of God and in honor of a dear loved one.



Pictured are Linda Martin, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee chair, and Sue Keller, long-time member and past officer of FFUMC, who helped to plant this tree many years ago!!!



THANK YOU !

Memorial Day - May 27, 2024

On this Memorial Day, we would like to remember those who lost their lives to war along with the many who are no longer with us that served and loved others well.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

— Matthew 5:4

Memorial Prayer:

Almighty God, before whom stand the living and the dead,
we your children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth,
give thanks to you: For all those through whom you have blessed our pilgrimage,
whose lives that have empowered us, whose influence is a healing grace,
we lift up thankful hearts.

For the dear friends and family members whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us forever . . .

For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth, and for the members of our household of faith who worship you now in heaven...

For those who sacrificed themselves, our brothers and sisters who have given their lives for the sake of others...

That we may hold them all in continual remembrance, and ever think of them as with you in that city whose gates are not shut by day and where there is no night...

That we may now be dedicated to working for a world where labor is rewarded, fear dispelled, and the nations made one, O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage.

Day by day we magnify you, and worship your name, for ever and ever.

Amen.

- Prayer: UMPH Methodist Publication. The United Methodist Book of Worship. The United Methodist Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

If any members of the congregation have macular degeneration, please speak to Pastor Rich because the **Congregational Care Team** has obtained some page magnifiers that they would like to give to you to keep.



BIBLE VERSE DEVOTIONALS

The devotionals with contributions from the congregation and the Care Team are on the table in the Congregational Care Corner. Take one and one for a friend — enjoy!



Inspiration for Your Inbox!



Click below to

<https://odb.org/digital-options/>

- *Sign up for the "Our Daily Bread" Daily Devotional Email*
- *Try something new! Subscribe to the daily VIDEO devotional*

Coins for Lent



On Easter Sunday, we collected the Coin Boxes for Lent. We raised over \$450.00 (THANK YOU!) which was matched by a very kind and generous member of our congregation for a grand total of almost \$900!

We donated the money to the church's Congregational Care Fund which *directly* benefits members of our congregation. Stay tuned for news about how the Care Team will use the money to benefit our members.



The Food Pantry Committee

Emergency boxes of food are available; contact Marilyn or Jaka through the church office.
Hours:

**WEDNESDAY
May 8, 2024
from 10 to Noon**



Free at lunchtime? We'd love to see you every Wednesday at noon in the lounge for our Bible study led by Pastor Bradshaw & Rev. Santos. (no Bible study if there is a vesper service that week)









Our choir sings beautiful music to praise God and to edify the congregation. Led by Mary Scheib (organist and director), they practice every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome!



Please call the office if you want to be a member of the prayer chain or added to the list of people for whom they pray.



Church bulletins are available each week on our website: look for the tab at the top right corner (computer) OR click on the three-bar menu on the top right corner (cell phone).

	<p>Printed church newsletters and calendars are available in the <i>Congregational Care Corner</i>. They can also be found on our website and Facebook page. We have been sending them to those with email addresses. (Monthly calendars will no longer be attached to the newsletters; they can be found separately in the Care Corner.)</p>
	<p>To show encouragement & support to parishioners, the Congregational Care Team can help with the following: visitations; Meals That Heal; rides to an appointment, when possible; and special projects at the direction of the pastor.</p>
	<p>This group meets on Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. to make prayer shawls for those in need of comfort; they also make hats and scarves to donate during the wintertime. Call the church office if you'd like to help.</p>
	<p>This group meets on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. to recycle plastic grocery bags and repurpose them into waterproof mats for the homeless. Call the church office if you'd like to help.</p>
	<p>Devotionals from <i>The Upper Room</i>. You can follow the link on our website, too. https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals If you would like a copy of daily devotionals for your home, call the church office.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHECK OUT our website: https://www.fortyfortchurch.org/ • Events; calendars; bulletins; sermons; meetings; & newsletters • Youth ministry information

Forty Fort United Methodist Church



TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE THE RIGHT PATH TO FOLLOW IN LIFE, AND AS THEY GROW UP, THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE THAT PATH.

Call or email the church for information!



This group helps with the following: visitations; "Meals That Heal"; rides to an appointment, when possible; and special projects at the direction of the pastor. Call the office or Pastor Rich for assistance OR to join the Care Team. Stop by the **Care Team's table** to check the many resources we have created for our church members and visitors; church newsletters & calendars are here as well.

- **CEO - The Commission on Economic Opportunity:** Any member or visitor of our church who has daily living needs (rent, food, heating oil, etc.) should contact the CEO, a great local organization that responds to basic, material needs of children, adults, and seniors in poverty.
- **Dial 211:** PA 211: Get Connected. From help with a utilities bill, to housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, and more, you can dial 211 or text your zip code to 898-211 to talk with a resource specialist for free.
- **Dial 988:** If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis, a new phone number was recently implemented to connect you with mental health and behavioral services. People who call, text, or chat with 988 will be directly connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Callers will receive phone-based support and connections to local resources based on their specific needs. For more information, go to dhs.pa.gov and search for 988.
- **Family & Caregiver Support Group** - Alzheimer's Association (Greater Pennsylvania Chapter)
 - Offers peer or professionally led groups for caregivers and others dealing with Alzheimer's
 - All support groups are facilitated by trained individuals.
 - Meetings are held once per month on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
 - 4 East Center Hill, Dallas, PA 18612 (*The Meadows*) - (570)675-8600
- **Veterans** - The Care Team has created a [Veterans Support Services booklet](#) for its parishioners and their families. It contains vital information that is not specifically medically related. Veterans and their families may not be aware of these services if they haven't had any direct association with the VA Hospital, or if they don't have online access to any of their resources.

Welcome
Spring



*"What we know not, teach us.
What we are not, make us.
What we have not, give us."
Old Anglican Prayer*

