



**APRIL
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.*



The Chi Rho Singers

Thursday - April 25 - 7:00 P.M.

- Free admission & parking at FFUMC
- Sponsored by the Luzerne Cluster of the Susquehanna Conference of the UMC
- The choir, accompanied by several different instruments, is composed of 35 active & retired pastors of the Conference.



APRIL 12, 2024 - Festival of God's Creation

The United Methodist Church designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to **Earth Day (April 22), as a Festival of God's Creation, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the earth and all living things. Many congregations recognize the day in worship; others have special events or projects to observe it.**

www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/church-civic-holidays/festival-of-gods-creation

Genesis says it was God who created the very first Earth Day: "The second day God said, 'Let there be space to divide the waters into two parts.' And it was so. God called the space Sky. 'Let the waters under the sky be

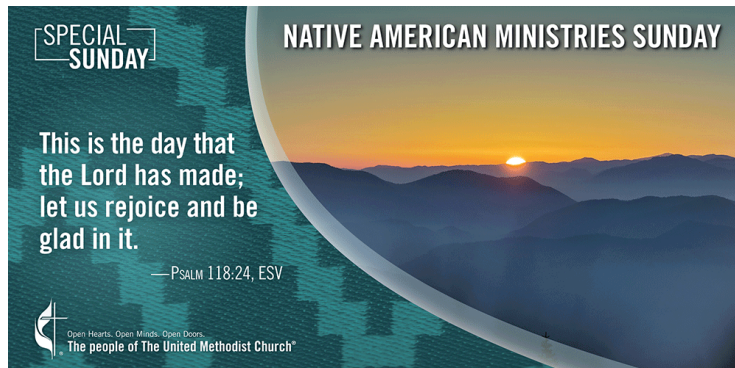
gathered together into one place and let dry land appear.' ... God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:9-10, New Revised Standard Version

On April 22, 1970, the United States began celebrating Earth Day annually, creating a movement that now motivates people around the world to use the day to consider the planet, demonstrate their love for it and enact ways to protect it. Organizers anticipate more than one billion people around the globe will take part in events this year engaging in environmental issues.

The General Board of Church and Society works with ecumenical partners through Creation Justice Ministries to rally Christians on behalf of protecting God's creation.

The United Methodist Church is among 37 national faith bodies, including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions, as well as regional faith groups, and congregants working with [Creation Justice Ministries](#) to protect and restore God's Creation. Resources to mark Creation Justice's Earth Sunday (the same day as Festival of God's Creation) can be found online.

— *Adapted from an article by Jeneane Jones posted at www.umc-gbcs.org on April 14, 2016.*



APRIL 14, 2024 - Native American Ministries Sunday

This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world . . .

The Rev. Bob Coombe, a member of the Eastern PA Conference's Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM), attended a rally on the Pennsylvania State Capitol steps. Led by Chief Chuck Gentlemoon Demund and Clan Mother Shelley DePaul, the rally addressed the "documentary genocide" faced by the Pennsylvania Lenape. The Lenape, rooted in the woodlands of eastern North America, called for an end to erasure and a restoration of their identity.

Pennsylvania is the only Eastern state without recognition for its indigenous people. Throughout the event, the call and response "We are... Still here" echoed, symbolizing the tribe's determination to overcome historical neglect and gain the recognition they deserve . . . and to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to church and society.

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

Coins for Lent



On Easter Sunday, we collected the Coin Boxes for Lent.
Thank you for your participation!
We'll donate the money to the church's Congregational Care Fund,
which *directly* benefits members of our congregation.
(If you forgot yours, please give it to an usher on Sunday
or take it to the church office during the week.)

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.



Getting
to know **US!**



It's one of the most enjoyable areas of ministry because it involves meeting new people, sharing personal warmth and joy inspired by God, and enjoying a fun experience together, especially helping with and cleaning up after our Sunday coffee hour. Hospitality ministry is serving God by welcoming and showing kindness to guests. Christ showed kindness to strangers and welcomed those who accepted Him. It's only natural that a church dedicated to spreading Christ's message would do the same.

If you would like to be a member of the Hospitality Committee, please let Pastor Rich know or call the church office.

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!










Fellowship and

 Worship Opportunities



- Copies of the **Food Pantry Newsletter** are available in the Congregational Care Corner.
- Emergency boxes of food are available; contact Marilyn or Jaka through the church office.
- Open: **WEDNESDAY - April 10 , 2024 - from 10 to Noon**

	<p>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)</p>
	<p>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!</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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>
	<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>



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.



Devotionals from *The Upper Room*. 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.



- *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.

Confirmation class - rafting trips - cooking classes - children's time during Sunday service - and more!



Call or email the church for information.

According to the national organization, United Methodist Women is now called **United Women in Faith!** The move is part of an update of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join. To learn more, visit <https://uwfaith.org/>



United Women in Faith



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.

