

Peace Pole Project

The Intermediate Class of Zion's UCC, Chestnut and Hanover Streets in Pottstown hand-crafted and planted a Peace Pole in front of their educational building. The children in third through fifth grade took part in all phases of the project. They chose the languages to place on the pole; English, Hebrew, German and Spanish. They chose German because it is the language of our ancestors; Spanish is representative of one of the many languages in our community. They sanded, stained and hammered the signs onto the pole.

One of the children made the cover for the Sunday bulletins, while all of the children made white peace ribbons. Colorful pinwheels were created to place around the pole. They sold dedications and peace ribbons to raise money to pay for the project. Part of the money was given to a local shelter for abused spouses. The pole was dedicated to a class member's mother who died last October as a result of domestic violence.

On April 26th, 2009 when the temperature soared to ninety-six degrees, the children dug, and measured and dug some more, until they had a hole big enough for planting the pole. They made a time capsule and placed copies of the dedication service, pinwheels and pictures in it, to be opened on May 3rd, 2059. The capsule was buried at the front on the pole. The children then took turns filling the dirt in around the pole while making sure it was level.

The children led the dedication ceremony on May 3rd, 2009. Unfortunately, it rained and the service was moved inside. Everyone in attendance received a white ribbon with the word "Peace" on it as a visual reminder to all that it is everyone's responsibility to promote peace. During the service, the children read the history of Peace Poles. Songs were led by musicians playing acoustic guitars. The languages on the pole were read, and numerous prayers prayed. The congregation was given a chance to voice their thoughts about peace. Everyone prayed the International Peace prayer. The children placed their pinwheels around the pole after the service in the rain.

Many people expressed their gratitude to the children for completing the project. One member stated that it was a wonderful addition to our church. Another thought the service was moving and exemplified the ideal of peace in the community and throughout the world. The entire project took six months to complete and is a welcome addition to the church campus.