Zion’s United Church of Christ

 209 Chestnut Street

 Pottstown, PA 19464

 (610) 323-3637

 Rev. Austin Chinault, II - Pastor

 Keith Clattenburg – Organist/Choir Director

 Laura Clattenburg – Music Coordinator

 Kimberly Kulesa – Office Administrator

 Frank Moser - Custodian



**Those serving in July**

**Sunday Worship Hours**

**10:15 a.m. – Sanctuary**

**July 2** – Worship at Trinity, 10:15 a.m.

**August 6** – Joint worship at Zion’s

**Special Services & Events**

**Ping Pong and Pizza – Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

**Summer Ingathering Special Offering** **–**

Month of July

**Reading Phillies Game** – July 27

**National Night Out –** August 1

**Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran –**

July 28 & August 25 at

12:00 p.m.

 

Dear Congregation:

As we approach the Summer of 2023, I share with you for this July/August edition of the *Tymes.*

First,I am struckbythe number of exciting things happing at Zion’s!  It is amazing to me that we have begun to normalize Joint Worship with Trinity.  This is historic in that our congregations are worshipping together on Sunday morning on a regular basis for the first time in 150 years!  And the people love it!  The music is wonderful with Keith and Bill playing organ and piano together.  Worship is enhanced as members of each congregation enjoy praising God together as they learn to know one another.  The support and outreach of each congregation is strengthened as we promote and participate in the others’ programs.  All of this is very good as we continue to pray and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit together.

July 2 we worship together at Trinity and August 6 at Zion’s, which will be our **14th** Joint Worship Service since we began this experiment.   Amazing!

July 27 we will partner with Trinity by attending a Reading Phillies baseball game.  Please save the date and join us if you are able—it will be a fun night out!  (Watch for details.)

August 1 we will again participate in National Night Out in cooperation with Trinity Reformed UCC and Emmanuel Lutheran Church.  Last year this was an awesome community building event.  We anticipate a similar experience this year which we hope to enhance by inviting the CCLU to join this celebration.  Speaking of which, the CCLU, (Spanish-speaking community) under the leadership of Rita Paez, is now headquartered in our Chapel Building.  They conduct an effective after school program to help our neighbors from Latin America succeed and thrive in Pottstown.  This ministry has been instrumental for over 26 years in Pottstown and, now, Zion’s is pleased to partner with the CCLU in this worthy cause.  Zion’s long history (through the ‘Old Brick Church’ congregation) from the origin of Pottstown in 1752 continues to make a positive impact in our community.

I hope you have a wonderful Summer with some restful, renewing, and relaxing vacation time!

God bless you all,

Pastor Austin

***The Tymes* – July/August 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Altar Guild** Audry Leister-Stengel**Financial****Secretary –**Julie Rhoads | **July 2****Service at Trinity****Communion**Lectionary Readings:Genesis 22: 1-14Romans 6: 12-23Matthew 10: 40-42Sermon:  “A Cup of Cold Water” | **July 9****(Pastor Kris)**Lectionary Readings:Zechariah 9: 9-12 (Susie Hayden)Romans 7: 15-25a (Susie H.)Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30Theme:“Chosen Journeys” |  **July 16**Lectionary Readings:Isaiah 55: 10-13 (Mary Cresswell)Romans 8: 1-11 (Mary C.)Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23Sermon:  “Spirit of Life” | **July 23**Lectionary Readings:Psalm 139 (Dusty Rhoads)Romans 8: 12-25 (Dusty)Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43Sermon:“Know My Heart!” | **July 33**Lectionary Readings:Genesis 29: 15-28 (Laura Clattenburg)Romans 8: 26-39 (Laura)Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52Sermon:  “Everything for the Best” |
| **Financial Assistants** | Joan Miller | Diane Andres | Sharon Moser | Brenda Ross | Jen Young |
| **Head Usher/ Ushers** | No ushers needed, worship at Trinity | Susan Embody | Craig Strunk | Jen Young | Jim Miller |

**Those serving in August**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Altar Guild** Julie Rhoads**Financial Secretary** Louise Griffiths | **August 6** **Joint Worship at Zion’s****Communion**Lectionary Readings:Isaiah 55: 1-5 (may be a Trinity reader)Romans 9: 1-5 (Trinity reader)Matthew 14: 13-21Theme:  “Face to Face” | **August 13****(Pastor Kris)**Lectionary Readings:Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 (Susie Hayden)Romans 10: 5-15 (Susie H.)Matthew 14: 22-33Theme:  “When All Seems Lost” | **August 20**Lectionary Readings:Genesis 45: 1-15 (Bambi Eschbach)Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 (Bambi)Matthew 15: 21-28Sermon:  “Great Faith” | **August 27**Lectionary Readings:Exodus 1: 8-2:10 (Joan Miller)Romans 12: 1-8 (Joan)Matthew 16: 13-20Sermon:  “Holy Moses” |
| **Financial Assistants** | Audry Leister-Stengel | Craig Strunk | Dusty Rhoads | Susan Embody |
| **Head Usher/****Ushers** | Craig Strunk – Head Usher; Dusty Rhoads, Jim Whisler | Julie Rhoads | Jim Miller | Jen Young |

**Consistory Highlights**

Consistory met on Monday, June 5th. Pastor Chinault reported on his visitations and communion for Zion’s homebound members. Prayers are being said for Kim Kulesa on the loss of her brother. Three new church members, Pastor Kris and Susie Hayden, and David Bartolini, joined Zion’s on Pentecost Sunday. Another joint planning meeting with Trinity is scheduled to discuss continued collaboration with our services and special programs throughout 2023. Trinity, Emmanuel and Zion’s will participate in National Night Out on August 1st.

At the PSEC spring meeting, there was a preliminary discussion regarding the possibility of merging the 4 PA UCC conferences (Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast, and Penn Southeast). It would be a big undertaking and approval would be required by the Synod. Our discretionary fund balance remains at $647.05.

A reminder - the Summer Ingathering will go towards replacement of the Church PA system.

It was reported that CCLU is very pleased with their new home at Zion’s. Their office and program room are very well maintained, and they are thankful to Custodian, Frank Moser, and everyone who has contributed toward successful resumption of their programs.

The next Consistory meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Andres for Branda Ross, Secretary

**Sunday School Classes**

Sunday School for youth and adults is suspended for the summer months of

July and August.

**Redner’s Receipts!**

Please place your **Redner’s Save-a-Tape** **receipts** in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Also it has to have the words Save-a-Tape on it. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church. These funds are deposited in the General Fund.

Placing your grocery receipts in the box is an easy way to help Zion’s!!

**Redner’s and Giant Market**

 **Gift Cards Sales Returns!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchase price.

Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Christian Education building or during the week through the church office.

**Summer Ingathering Special Offering**

The Summer Ingathering will be received for an upgrade of the sound system equipment in the church basement. Our current equipment is showing its age and dates back to the days of using it for WPAZ broadcasts. We received an estimate from Audiobahn to remove the existing equipment and install a digital system processor with the appropriate cables, hardware, and labor. The Installation estimate is $8,998.00. Zion’s Consistory appreciates the continued support of our members in helping to make improvements and we greatly appreciate your support for this upgrade. Donation envelopes are enclosed in this newsletter for supporting this project.

*Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.* Ephesians 1:3

Joan L Miller, Finance Chairperson

**Cluster News**

Our current needs are:

Gently used (or new) and freshly laundered sheets (twin and queen sizes)

Bleach surface cleaner, Lysol spray, sponges, cleaning cloths, paper towels, toilet plunger, dust pan and brush, rubber cleaner gloves, mop, broom, laundry detergent

Donations are accepted at our Outreach Center located at 57 N. Franklin Street in Pottstown Monday – Friday

Please call 610-970-5995 to schedule a delivery date and time.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the September 2023 issue of the Tymes is August 20th. Please send articles to: zionsuccoffice@comcast.net

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Church folks are crocheting, sewing, kitting and diamond painting items for the Pottstown Infusion Cancer Center. There is a display in the narthex of the sanctuary of a sample CareBag. Some of the items included are prayer shawls or lap blankets, knitted hats, scarves, word searches, journal books, coloring books, colored pencils, nail clippers, angel key chains, travel size hand lotion, travel size Biotine mouthwash, chapstick, and inspirational notes.

Monetary contributions are also welcome to purchase supplies. There is a bin in the narthex as well as one in the entryway ofthe Chapel Building for contributions.

**A Note from the Conference Minister -** We learned the very sad news that our sister and sibling in faith, Wanda Craner, joined the Saints on June 1. Wanda served as the Minister of Spiritual Nurture with our Conference staff from 1997-2016. From September 2013 to August 2014, Wanda was our Acting Conference Minister and my immediate predecessor. She spent the last years of her ministry in the practice of Gestalt Pastoral Care (GPC). She was a spiritual director, prayer partner, healer, and teacher for multitudes and a friend and source of holy inspiration to all who knew her. Our prayers for her spirit and her family, husband Steve and daughters Tesia and Michaela continue to ascend. A service to celebrate her life will be held at Good Shepherd UCC, Boyertown on Saturday, July 8, 11:00 am. In her departure from us, I am certain Wanda would ask us to remember the words of Jesus, *“So you have sorrow now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”* (John 16:22).

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister

**A Fourth of July Prayer**

Glorious Lord, on this day, we celebrate our nation’s birth and the symbol of freedom it represents to many. We acknowledge that you have been the author of this nation and that it is your great faithfulness that has brought us this far.  We continue to trust that your hand will guide her into her purpose and destiny.

Right now, we take this time to thank you for the many freedoms and blessings that we have been given:

* We thank you for the freedom we have to worship you and share the Gospel without fear of death.
* We thank you for the opportunity to work, study, and play.
* We thank you for food to eat, clothes to wear, and a roof above our heads.
* We thank you for men and women who have sacrificed their lives on the battlefield to secure the freedoms and blessings that we now enjoy.
* We thank you for teachers who work tirelessly to educate the next generation of our nations’ citizens and leaders.
* We thank you for friendships that enrich our lives and for families and loved ones who love us unconditionally.

Most of all, we thank you for freedom from sin and for the grace and power to live for you.

As we celebrate this Fourth of July, however, we continue to remember the millions of people in our nation, and around the world, who are suffering from food insecurity. You care for them always, and this Fourth of the July, may we never forget to continue to think of, pray for, and love them as ourselves.

In Jesus’ Glorious Name We Pray, Amen.

**Keystone Study Group**

The sixth meeting of the Keystone Study Group\* took place Friday, May 12. This group continues to explore the possibility of mutual or consolidated ministry among the four conferences toward the question, “could we become ONE Keystone Conference?” Last month, we answered the question of WHY pursue this possibility and embraced the truth in affirmation, **“Together we are stronger! The Keystone Conference”** and the Spirit is still speaking! We believe a unified Keystone Conference will better serve, support, challenge and unite our diverse faith communities and ministry settings. Our study group focused on the many areas of opportunity to create a more robust and effective connection between the Conference functions/roles and the needs or ministry settings. WHAT is needed, desired, dreamed of for a more vibrant and vital ministry? The WHAT and the larger HOW will be our ongoing tasks in coming months. Learning from the experience of other conferences, we take seriously the task of exploring options and questions around collaboration, accountability, effectiveness and meaningful connections. We looked at continuing with the “status quo,” and encouraging mutuality and sharing of opportunities for collaboration. We discussed merging the 4 conferences to 2. We shared options for church consultation models to deploy support with various expertise for needs, as well as more effectively utilizing part-time persons/clergy in staffing resources. We recognized that a systematic analysis of local congregations and their voices is needed to support strategic missional priority. The Conference serves to empower the work of ministry in many unique and mission critical areas. In all these considerations, we returned again to the power and energy of who we are and could be together. Our consensus remains, **“Together we are stronger! The Keystone Conference.”**

We now come to the WHAT… In what ways would God work with and through us to create that which strengthens our undeveloped or underutilized potential?

What strengths do we possess that will get us to our future? We believe a Keystone Conference can inspire all settings of the Church to thrive in diversity and unity.

Continued - We are exploring the necessary and desired functions of a Keystone Conference and what outcomes we believe you, our shared community, would want to achieve together. We began discussing functions and outcomes around Mission/Social Justice, Oversight/Authorization, Faith Formation for ALL ages, and Generosity. In the coming months, we will discuss Search and Call, Leadership Training, Technology/Digital Ministry, Communication, Ecumenism, Church Futures, Our Shared Voice and Ministry, Spiritual Revival, Crisis/Conflict Response and Transformation, as we identify functions and outcomes. Our partnered work is greater than our individual efforts. We continue to embrace the possibility of our WHY, as we move forward with WHAT we believe God is calling us ALL to become, and being open to HOW the Holy Spirit will create innovation through our shared vision to give voice, strength and greater life to the Body of Christ.

Our ministry study continues in the hope and assurance that… **“Together We Are Stronger! – The Keystone Conference.”**

Sharing our progress in grace and hope,

KSG Communications Team: Steve Davis St. John’s UCC, Fullerton (PNEC) Sterling Fritz Redeemer’s UCC, Littlestown (PCC) Robin Hightower Peace In Zion UCC, Zieglerville (PSEC) Deb Long First Trinity UCC, Youngwood (PWC)

\*A study and discernment group of the 4 PA area UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, and Pennsylvania SE

Visit psec.org/keystone for previous meeting summaries.

**Reading Phillies Game**

**July 27 -** Reading Phillies baseball game—sign-up sheet in narthex and Chapel Building (deadline, June 27–cost $14.00)

This is organized by Trinity as a joint activity with Zion’s. There will be carpooling if people would like, contact Pastor Austin.

**Message from Ashley Gail Aquino, one of the Philippine students Zion’s sponsors. Her letter dated April 29th has just arrived.**

Ashley writes that she hopes everyone and their families are doing well and are happy together on special church days. She says that it is getting hotter and hotter because it is summer in the Philippines. Her school continues and her overall average is 90%. She is one of the top students and she received a merit award. She and her mother continue to help her grandmother sell banana cue and buko juice. Even though they have little income, they are happy because it enables them to eat 3 times a day. She has a dog named Oreo. He is 7 months old. He loves to play with them and loves to go on walks. Ashley thanks Zion’s for all the support the Church has given her and her family and she sends her love and God’s blessings for Zion’s and families.

 

 John & Joan Stein

 63 years on July 10

 Jim & Joan Miller

 37 years on July 19

 Bill & Brenda Ross

 45 years on July 22

 Barry & Susan Embody

 58 years on July 23

 Michael & Jessica Albitz

 19 years on July 31

 Fran & Jennifer Young

 27 years on August 2

 Michael & Kelly Kehler

 21 years on August 3

 Gary & Sandy Schaeffer

 22 years on August 4

 Jason & Amy Rhoads

 17 years on August 5

 David Bartolini & Adrienne Andres

 18 years on August 14

 D. Scott & Tracy Camacho

 37 years on August 16

 Bill & Nancy March

 40 years on August 27

 Carroll & Norma Bechtel III

 52 years on August 28

 

 July 1 - Betty Leister

 July 3 - Jonelle Gauger

 July 4 - Marsha Biehl

 July 5 - Sarah Rhoads

 July 8 - Jim Kirkhoff

 July 10 - John Stein

 July 11 - Tori Young

 July 15 - Caleb Rhoads

 July 19 - Dusty Rhoads

 Tracy Camacho

 July 22 - Jan Rose

 July 24 - Joan Miller

 July 26 - Penny Baker

 July 28 - Brian Miller

 August 4 - Tanesha Killgore

 August 8 - Bruce Albitz

 August 9 - Herb Houck

 Pastor Austin Chinault

 August 10 - Faith King

 August 14 - David Lewis

 Nicholas Selkregg

 August 15 - Shennan Janda

 August 16 - Sharon Moser

 August 19 - Bob Mackie

 August 20 - Rochelle Gauger

 August 21 - Kay Bachkai

 Travis Heydt

 August 23 - Janice Kehler

 August 26 - Jennifer Young

 August 27 - Toni Muth

 August 28 - Rachel Rhoads

|  | **July 2023** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1  |
| 2 Worship Service at Trinity | 3  | 4 Indep. Day | 5 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10  | 11  | 12 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19 Wednesday Crew, QuiltersCCLU Board Meeting, 5:00 pmPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 27 Reading Phillies Outing | 28 Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 pm | 29  |
| 30  | 31  |  |
|  | **August 2023** |  |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  | 1 National Night Out | 2 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6 Joint Worship Service at Zion’s | 7  | 8  | 9 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16 Wednesday Crew, QuiltersCCLU Board Meeting, 5:00 pmPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20 September newsletter deadline | 21  | 22  | 23 Wednesday CrewQuiltersPizza & Ping Pong, 5:30 pm | 24  | 25 Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 pm | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |  |

**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

**209 Chestnut Street**

**Pottstown, PA 19464**

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**July/August Newsletter**

**Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.**

**1 Corinthians 16: 13**