

 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

﻿R**ecap 2017- 2024, Zion’s UCC**

**April 1, 2017**

 I began my ministry as pastor of Zion’s UCC.  Diane and I had met twice with the Search Committee consisting of Sharon Moser (Chair), Joan Miller, Mary Cresswell, Audry Leister-Stengel, Bob Witmyer, Betty Leister and Dick Frantz.  They were a wonderful committee and we clicked right away. This proved to be a sign from the Holy Spirit.

 After the congregation issued a call, but before I officially began, we experience the sudden death of Gary Moser, husband of the Search Committee chair.  I wanted very much to reach out to Sharon, yet needed to allow the interim pastor to complete her duties before stepping in.  The most I could do was to offer prayers and written condolences in this newly budding relationship.  This was quite difficult while everyone was very gracious and I believed good spiritual care was received.

 In those first years of my ministry at Zion’s we were blessed with the services of Rev. Mary Etta Mest as organist and choir director.  It was a joy to work with Mary Etta who provided wonderful organ music along with direction of our bell and choral choirs.  When Rev. Mest was called to serve as pastor of her own congregation we wondered about the future of our music program because it is difficult to find an organist and choir director.  Yet God provided and before we knew it Keith and Laura Clattenburg were in our midst and providing excellent music, bell and choral choir leadership.  We are truly blessed.  Praise the Lord!

 And then 2019 rolled around.  This year marked the 250th Anniversary of our first Pastor’s report to the Reformed Coetus (Meeting) in Germantown.  With the help of Keith, Laura and a group of committed volunteers we had a year-long celebration of this Anniversary with memorable services re-enacting mock funerals for Washington and Lincoln which were originally commemorated in our sanctuary.  We held a wonderful anniversary celebration with Conference Minister, Bill Worley, preaching as he led us in a spontaneous acapella rendition of *Amazing Grace* that brought tears to our eyes.  The Boyertown High School Select Choir led us in an Anniversary Choral Christmas worship that was breathtaking in beauty.  It was the capstone to a whole year of celebrating 250 years of Zion’s ministry in Pottstown.

 Additionally, during those early years of my ministry at Zion’s we conducted special services during Sunday School at Christmas and Easter with drama, music and fellowship.  Those, along with Rally Day and Holy Humor worship experiences in the auditorium, were meaningful and spirit-filled times.

 Then, after my return from a pilgrimage to Israel sponsored by the Knights Templar and our local Lodge in Pottstown in February 2020–COVID hit.  And that began another adventure in our spiritual journey together.  This is where I will pick up in the April Tymes.

Thanks for your partnership on the journey, Pastor Austin

**Sunday Worship Hours**

**10:15 a.m. – Sanctuary**

**9:00 – No Sunday school this month, only the Confirmation class will meet.**

**March 3 - Worship with Trinity at Trinity, 10:15 a.m.**

**March 28 - Maundy Thursday at Zion’s 6:00 p.m. Soup and Salad supper, Communion service starts at 7:00 p.m.**

**March 29 – Good Friday service at Trinity, 7:00 p.m.**

**March 31 – Easter service 10:15 a.m.**

**Special Services & Events**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering** – March 10

**Consistory Meeting -**

March 11, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Handbell Choir Rehearsal -**

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

**Choir Rehearsal –** Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

**Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran -**

March 22 at 12:00 p.m.

***The Tymes* – March 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Altar Guild:** **Bambi Eschbach****Financial****Secretary:** **Joan Miller** | **March 3** **Third Sunday in Lent**Lectionary Readings:Exodus 20: 1-171 Corinthians 1: 18-25John 2: 13-22Sermon:The Word | **March 10****Fourth Sunday in Lent****Pastor Kris**Lectionary Readings:Numbers 21: 4-9Ephesians 2: 1-10John 3: 14-21 | **March 17Fifth Sunday in Lent**Lectionary Readings:Jeremiah 31: 31-34Hebrews 5: 5-10John 12: 20-33Sermon: New Covenant | **March 24****Liturgy of the Palms and Passion****Sixth Sunday in Lent** Lectionary Readings:Isaiah 50: 4-9aPhilippians 2: 5-11Mark 11: 1-11Sermon:New Day | **March 31****Easter Day**Lectionary Readings:Isaiah 25: 6-91 Corinthians 15: 1-11John 20: 1-18Sermon: New Life |
| **Financial Assistants** | Dusty Rhoads | Jen Young | Diane Andres | Sharon Moser | Susan Embody |
| **Head Usher/ Ushers** | Service at Trinity, no ushers needed | Julie Rhoads | Jim Miller | Susan Embody | Jen Young, Head usher; Brian Miller, Dusty Rhoads, Jim Whisler, Diane Andres |

 Happy Easter

**Consistory Highlights**

Consistory met on Monday, February 12th. Pastor Chinault took a moment to explain to Consistory his decision to retire at the end of April. It was a hard decision for him to make but he and Diane are ready for the next chapter in their lives. We wish them all the best!

It was decided that Zion’s would host a soup and salad dinner prior to the Maundy Thursday service which Trinity will attend with us here at Zion’s. Soup will be served at 6pm with the service starting at 7pm. Joan reported that receipts were submitted by Janet Nash for 2023 for food items purchased for the Community Meals @ Emmanuel Lutheran and Zion’s will be reimbursing her with designate memorial funds of $168.95 and the $500.00 in the 2024 budget set aside for the meals. CCLU has asked if they can use our kitchen facilities to serve a continental breakfast. This was approved by Consistory. Consistory will be meeting again very soon to discuss what we plan to do to fill the position of Pastor here at Zion’s.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Ross, Secretary

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

There will be no Sunday School during March. We will be using this time to help our youth with their Confirmation education. We will meet in the Chapel building in the classroom next to the office at 9:00 am.

Joan L Miller, Superintendent

**Cancellations**

We are still in the season of snow and ice. If church has been cancelled you can check by calling the church number (610-323-3637) and listening to the message. Cancellations will also be posted on WFMZ Channel 69 TV. Please remember, it is often impossible to properly clear snow and ice from the sidewalks and the parking lot in time for Sunday morning service.

**Lenten Schedule for Zion’s in our partnership with Trinity:**

Sunday, March 3, Joint Worship at Trinity 10:15 am (Third Sunday in Lent)

Wednesday, Mar 6, Lenten Devotions at Zion’s 12-1:00 p.m. (Soup and Bread)

Wednesday, Mar 13, Lenten Devotions at Trinity 12-1:00 p.m. (Soup and Bread)

Wednesday, Mar 20, Lenten Devotions at Zion’s 12-1:00 p.m. (Soup and Bread)

Palm Sunday, Mar 24, Worship Service at Zion’s 10:15 a.m.

Thursday, Mar 28, Joint Maundy Thursday Communion at Zion’s Soup and Salad dinner, 6:00 p.m. Service at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Mar 29, Joint Good Friday Worship at Trinity 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, Mar 31– each congregation will conduct a Service at 10:15 a.m.

 **Pottstown Happenings**

What is happening in the borough and a Pottstown newsletter can be accessed at [www.Pottstown.org](http://www.Pottstown.org)

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Special Offering**

Would you like to put your love for others into actions? Putting love into actions is a call to us to help our neighbors, near and far, as we have the ability. The Apostle Paul reminds us, just as he did the Corinthians so long ago, that the greatest expression of our connection to others is the way we love them. Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities. We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, that love remains.

This special offering is on March 10th. Envelopes are enclosed.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

 March 1 - Julie Rhoads

 Betty Hawthorne

 3 - Mary Frantz

 5 - Diane Chinault

 7 - Gene Weaver

 10 - Doris Evenstad

 14 – Rita Paez

 16 - LuAnn Yerkes

 18 - Samantha Lewis

 20 – Keith Clattenburg

 23 - Norma Bechtel

 28 - Jim Whisler

 **Happy Anniversary !**

 Gene and Tina Weaver

 42 years on March 27

 Michael and Jean Gauger

 37 years on March 28

**Child Sponsorship Update**

Zion’s Sunday School is continuing to sponsor 2 children in the Philippines through Global Ministries with monthly donations. This program serves children who live with their parents or close relatives who are under or unemployed. The children participate in church classes, Vacation Bible School, camp, literacy programs, field trips, and cultural activities. The program’s activities encourage children to grow as a whole person: mentally, physically, socially and spiritually.

We appreciate Tricia Heydt and Diane Andres who write to our children on a regular basis. We enjoy the letters they share with us about the excitement the children have learning and participating in events that would not be available to them without this support. The children we sponsor are very good students in school and enjoy learning in school. They want to work hard to make their parents and their sponsors proud of them. We are so pleased to be able to offer them many opportunities.

All of our sponsored students (and their families) are very appreciative of our support and always express this appreciation in their letters. Please feel free to read the letters that are posted on the upstairs bulletin board in the chapel building.

We also want to thank those who have supported this program through the years and who continue to do so. If anyone would like to contribute to this program, donations may be put in the church offering plate or sent to the church office. Please make checks payable to Zion’s UCC Sunday School and indicate that it is for “Child Sponsorship.”

This ministry brings hope to children in the Philippines to prosper and grow in God’s love. Thanks be to God!

Joan Miller, Sunday School Superintendent

**Annual Reports Due**

All reports for the Yearbook should be in the church office by March 1, 2024. Thank you for our cooperation.

**Souper Bowl of Caring Update**

Thank you to all who graciously donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring to tackle hunger.

Zion's received $ 402.00 in the soup pot as of February 25 and 23 cans of chunky soup for our 2024 donations.  These donations will be given to the Pottstown Cluster.  Thank you to all for caring to make a difference for our neighbors in need!

**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.

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

**Redner’s and Giant Market**

 **Gift Cards Sales**

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.

**Cluster News**

Our current needs are: Gently used (or new) and freshly laundered sheets (twin and queen sizes) and bath towels

Items for move-in kits:

sponges, cleaning cloths, paper towels, toilet plunger, dust pan and brush, rubber

cleaner gloves, mop, broom, laundry detergent, bleach surface cleaner, Lysol spray

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.

**Beacon of Hope Homeless**

**Shelter 2023-2024 Donations**

Pottstown Beacon of Hope, in collaboration with borough leadership, St. Paul’s UCC, St. James Lutheran, Bethel Community Church, Congregation Hesed Shel Emet, First Baptist Church, Christ’s Episcopal Church, and First Presbyterian Church, will be opening an overnight warming center for the winter season. From November 1, 2023, to May 1, 2024, the center will operate daily from 7 pm to 7 am, providing a warm refuge for individuals experiencing homelessness, rotating between houses of faith and churches each month.

If you interested in volunteering, purchasing merchandise, browsing our Amazon Wishlist, making a donation visit the website: [www.pottstownbeaconofhope.org](http://www.pottstownbeaconofhope.org) or call 424-625-1818 for more information. You can send your gifts to Zion’s (marked homeless donation), made payable to Zion’s UCC. We will forward the donations received to Beacon of Hope to help with this important ministry to our neighbors.

**Weekly virtual Lenten study from PA conferences**

The Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast, and Pennsylvania Southeast conferences of the United Church of Christ invite you to join in this virtual Lenten opportunity! Meeting each Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 p.m., this Bible Study explores the foundations of our identity as Christians and members of the UCC as we explore what the future may hold. Each week is unique so if you cannot attend every date, you can still participate in as many as you are able. If you have questions, or you would like to participate in this study, email pattyr@pnec.org to receive the link.

March 6: Lent in Context

March 13: The Priesthood of All Believers

March 20: Communion

**Easter Flowers Orders**

Enclosed is the order form for Easter flowers.

These orders are due by Friday, March 15.

Thanks!

**Asparagus Pasta**

**4 slices bacon, chopped**

**2 cloves garlic, chopped**

**1 lb. fettuccini pasta**

**12 oz. medium width asparagus spears, trimmed and crosswise into 2-inch pieces**

**1 cp. Heavy cream**

**½ cp. Unsalted butter**

**1 tsp. kosher salt, plus more for pasta water**

**1 tsp. black pepper, plus more for garnish**

**2 cp. Freshly grated parmesan cheese, divided**

**½ tsp lemon zest, or to your liking**

**1 tbsp. lemon juice**

**In a small saucepan over medium heat, cook the bacon, stirring occasionally, until crisp and rendered, 8 to 12 minutes, add garlic the last minute. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon and garlic to a paper towel-lined plate. Wipe the pan clean.**

**Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook the pasta according to package directions, adding the asparagus during the last 2 minutes. Reserve ½ cup of the pasta water.**

**Meanwhile, while pasta is cooking, in the same small saucepan used to cook the bacon, heat the cream and butter over medium heat until hot. Season with salt and pepper.**

**To a large serving bowl, add 1 cup of cheese and the lemon zest. Stir in the butter and cream mixture.**

**Drain the pasta and asparagus and immediately pour them into the bowl with the cream mixture. Toss a few times to coat, then add the lemon juice and the remaining 1 cup of cheese. Toss to combine, thinning with pasta water as needed to make a silky sauce. Garnish with bacon, pepper, and cheese. Serve immediately.**

Adapted from a Ree Drummond recipe

**Saint Patrick**

**Patrick was born to a Roman family in Britian in the year 387. At age 16 he was kidnapped by Irish raiders from his father’s villa and carried into slavery in Ireland. He spent 6 years as a herdsman. Turning to his faith and dreaming that a ship was ready to aid in his escape, he found passage back to Brittian.**

**Known as the Patron Saint of Ireland and the Apostle of Ireland, he was instrumental in bringing the Roamn Catholic belief to Ireland. He preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He traveled for years in poverty, enduring much hardship and suffering. St. Patrick believed that when “every nation” had heard the gospel, Christ would then return. He died in Saul, March17, 471. St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, was constructed between 1220 – 1260 over the site of a well, believed to be used by St. Patrick for baptisms.**

**In the 7th century he became a legendary figure. One legend is that he drove all the snakes of Ireland into the sea. Another is he himself raised people from the dead.**

**The most popular is that of the shamrock, because of its three leaves, St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three is a mystical number in the Celtic religion. Green was introduced into St. Patrick’s festivities in the 18th century when the shamrock became Ireland’s national symbol.**

***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 Care Bag. 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.

|  | **March 2024** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1  | 2  |
| 3 Worship service at Trinity, 10:15 am | 4  | 5  | 6 Wednesday Crew, QuiltersLenten Devotional with Soup and Bread at Zion’s 12 noon-1:00 PMPing Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pmChoir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 7  | 8 Int'l. Women's Day | 9  |
| 10 Daylight Saving BeginsOne Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering | 11 Consistory Meeting, 7:00 pm | 12  | 13 Wednesday Crew, QuiltersLenten Devotional with Soup and Bread at Trinity 12 noon-1:00 PMPing Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pmChoir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17 St Patrick's Day | 18  | 19  | 20 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)Wednesday Crew, QuiltersLenten Devotional with Soup and Bread at Zion’s 12 noon-1:00 PMPing Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pmChoir Rehearsal, 7:30 pmApril Newsletter deadline | 21  | 22 Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 pm | 23 Earth Hour |
| 24 Palm Sunday service, 10:15 am | 25  | 26  | 27 Wednesday Crew, QuiltersPing Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pmChoir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 28 Holy ThursdayMaundy Thursday at Zion’sSoup and salad dinner, 6:00 pm; Service at 7:00 pm | 29 Good FridayGood Friday Service at Trinity, 7:00 pm | 30  |
| 31 EasterService at 10:15 am |  |

**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

**209 Chestnut Street**

**Pottstown, PA 19464**



 **Newsletter**

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,

and that your joy may be complete.

John 15: 11