

Zion’s United Church of Christ

209 Chestnut Street

Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 323-3637

Rev. Dr. Martha Smith – Bridge Pastor

Keith Clattenburg – Organist/Choir Director

Laura Clattenburg – Music Coordinator

Kimberly Kulesa - Office Administrator

Frank Moser - Custodian

﻿ ***Getting to Know You by Pastor Marti Smith***

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

**Last Monday, I met with Pastor Austin to begin my service as your bridge pastor. I** am so pleased to be among you again but sad to say goodbye to Pastor Austin and Diane. As they say in show biz—He’s a hard act to follow!  But church is not “SHOW” business, but “DO” business with our living God in the lead.

**What a joy to be with you to continue the legacies of Zion’s rich history and to prepare for the future and new pastoral leadership.** The first step in the process is a time of the reflection on the present church as we explore visions and realities for the future. I look forward to getting to know you better and sharing the process of documenting our hopes and intentions as you prepare for a pastoral search.

**Officially, according to my call agreement as your half-time, Bridge Pastor**, my focus will be on worship and spiritual growth; pastoral care, especially visitation; confirmation; our relationship with Trinity; Association and Conference activities, and our many outreach ministries. I also plan to sing in the choir and will be dedicated to improving my ping pong skills. Below are a few details about me to fill you in on my background and on the light side. Tell me about you. **Let’s share.**

***Getting to Know Pastor Marti***

***Personal:*** *Martha M. (Montague) Smith, born in Jacksonville, Florida, to Gilbert and Martha Montague, One brother, Jim (Deceased). One Daughter, April Elizabeth Wilson Smith, born in Durham, North Carolina. Lives in West Philadelphia and works for Ceasefire PA*

***Church Related:*** *Ordained clergy in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference since 2001; First ordained in the UCC in 1983 in North Carolina (Southern Conference);**First ordained in United Methodist Church (North Carolina Conference) in 1972*

***Seminary and Graduate Education in Biblical Studies:*** *Duke Divinity School (M. Div. 1970; Ph. D. 1980)*

**A Few Favorites** --Color: **Green;** Number: **Four (4);** Older movies: **The Seventh Seal, E.T.;**

Recent TV/movies: **Barbie, Oppenheimer, Game of Thrones, This Is Us; NCIS**

Bible personality (besides Jesus): **Moses;** Book of the Bible: **Romans**

Foods: **turkey, shrimp, tomatoes, peaches, eggplant, Key lime pie, frozen gummy bears**

Sports and exercise: **swimming and yoga**

**(To be continued)**

**Sunday Worship Hours**

**10:15 a.m. – Sanctuary**

**9:00 – Confirmation Class only**

**May 5 - Worship with Trinity at Trinity, 10:15 a.m.**

**Special Services & Events**

**Blanket Sunday Special Offering – May 12**

**Consistory Meeting -**

May 13, 7:00 p.m.

**Strengthen the Church Special Offering – May 19**

**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 -**

May 24 at 12:00 p.m.

***The Tymes* – May 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Altar Guild:**  **Louise Griffiths**  **Financial**  **Secretary:**  **Elaine Richards** | **May 5**  **Joint worship at Trinity**  Lectionary Readings:  Acts 10: 44-48  Ps 98  1 John 5: 1-6  **John 15: 9-17**  **Sermon**  **Friends Together** | **May 12**  **Mother’s Day**  Lectionary Readings:  Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26  Ps 1  1 John 5: 9-13  **John 17: 6-19**  **Sermon**  **Guided in Prayer** | **May 19 Pentecost Sunday**  Lectionary Readings:  Acts 2: 1-21 or  Ezek 37: 1-14  Ps 104: 24-34, 35b  Rom 8: 22-27 or  Acts 2: 1-21  **John 15: 26-27;**  **16: 4b-15**  **Sermon**  **Spirit for All** | **May 26**  **Trinity Sunday**  Lectionary Readings:  Isa 6: 1-8 and Ps 29  Rom 8: 12-17  **John 3: 1-17**  **Sermon**  **Mysterious Encounter** |
| **Financial Assistants** | Susan Embody | Craig Strunk | Jen Young | Audry Leister-Stengel |
| **Head Usher/ Ushers** | No ushers needed, service at Trinity | Susan Embody | Julie Rhoads | Craig Strunk |

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**Consistory Highlights**

Consistory met on Monday, April 8th. Pastor Austin expressed his appreciation to the Consistory members for all their work, for sharing their talents, and for their dedication in supporting Zion’s and keeping it a vibrant and thriving church community. He noted that the current Discretionary Fund balance is $507.05. Pastor Marti has signed the contract to serve as our Bridge Pastor. Updating the sound system was discussed and Consistory gave approval to proceed with the purchase. It will be financed from the UCF Special Gifts Fund. Consistory voted in favor of helping to sponsor a summer camp experience for CCLU students the week of August 5th to 9th. The cost is $300 per child. The amount of Zion’s contribution to be determined after CCLU confirms the results of their appeal letter. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 13th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Andres for Brenda Ross, Secretary

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for the June issue of the Tymes is May 20th. Please send articles to: [zionsuccoffice@comcast.net](mailto:zionsuccoffice@comcast.net)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

There will be no Sunday School during May. 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

**Pastor Marti’s Contact Information**

Martha M. Smith

Pottstown, PA, 19464

Home Landline: 484-624-3739

Personal cell:  610-772-1632

Personal email:

[martismith419@gmail.com](mailto:martismith419@gmail.com)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

May 4 - Patti Whisler

6 - Joanna Hylan

7 - Debbie Houck

9 - Bill Ross

Tina Weaver

12 - Louise Griffiths

15 - Eleanor Jones

24 - Logan Griffiths

28 - Shirley Supplee

29 – Kris Hayden

31 - Kira Bartolini

**Happy Anniversary !**

Michael and Pamela Moss

52 years on May 6

Jim and Bambie Eschbach

57 years on May 28

Kris and Susie Hayden

47 Years in May 28

**Announcement**

We are looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday morning services online.  We will need camera operators and computer operators.  It is our plan to create a schedule that rotates through the month.  If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Brian Miller at 484-941-4842 or [bmiller121611@gmail.com](mailto:bmiller121611@gmail.com).

**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.

**Strengthen the Church**

**May 19**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.   By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body ofChrist.  Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.  An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.

**Cluster News**

Please call 610-970-5995 to schedule a delivery date in advance to dropping off donations.

Donations are accepted at our Outreach Center located at 57 N. Franklin Street in Pottstown Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are currently only accepting the items listed below. If you have questions, please call 610-970-5995.

Our housing team is in need of move-in items:

toilet paper  
paper towels  
trash bags  
trash cans  
linens (twin and queen sets)  
bath towels and wash clothes  
laundry detergent  
dish soap  
dish towels  
cleaning supplies  
pots/pans, utensils  
broom/dust pan  
mop/ mop bucket

**Tomato Soup Cake**

In a large mixing bowl, cream 1/3 cup shortening with 1 cup granulated sugar. Stir in 1 ½ cups flour, sifted, 1 cup raisins, and ½ cup chopped walnuts. Dissolve 1 teaspoon baking soda in one 10 ¾ ounce can tomato soup. Add to batter, stirring well. Stir in 1 teaspoon cinnamon and ½ teaspoon cloves.

Pour batter into greased and floured loaf pan. Bake in a preheated 325-degree oven for about 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Frost cake with Cream Cheese frosting, if desired.

Submitted by Louise Griffiths

**My Cherry Tree**

**The birds have found my cherry tree.**

**Their songs are sheer delight;**

**They flutter mid the greening leaves**

**And blossoms snowy white.**

**Each year my feathered friends return**

**And claim my cherry tree.**

**This lovely sight and musicale**

**Awakens spring in me.**

**Their happy tunes proclaim that spring**

**Has cone to bless the earth,**

**And I join in with joyful praise**

**For spring’s gift of rebirth.**

**Oh, thank You, God, for singing birds**

**And lacy cherry trees**

**That give a weary heart new hope –**

**My special thanks for these.**

***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.

**Pottstown Happenings**

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

**Blankets + Program**

**Special Offering Sunday, May 12**

When disaster strikes, CWS works with partners on the scene to provide shelter, food and water, blankets, recovery kits, counseling – the basics needed to ensure the survival of individuals and communities at risk. In addition to rapid emergency disaster response, CWS also provides long-term development initiative, helping vulnerable families and communities prepare for and recover from natural and human-caused calamities.

In the United States, CWS dispatches disaster response specialists where needed in order to provide assistance to local interfaith groups assessing and responding to the material and the spiritual needs of their communities.

Through the Blankets+ program, more than 8,000 congregations and groups enable

CWS to respond to disasters and assist communities by providing the necessary tools needed to build sustainable lives. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

**Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART)**

Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens!

If you are age 65 or over, you may ride free on any participating local public transportation system. Free rides are available whenever Pottstown Area Rapid Transit (PART) is operating. Senior citizens must register with PART staff to obtain a Commonwealth of PA ID Card by bringing approved proof of age to PART’s office, located on the 3rd Floor of Borough Hall, 100 E. High Street. For more information, please call 610-970-6512 or visit [www.Pottstown](http://www.Pottstown)Rapid Transit.com

**What Mothers Can Do**

**Mothers can do such wonderful things:**

**Make homes seem like castles worthy of kings,**

**Create an adventure by reading a book,**

**Smiling to show us how heaven must look.**

**Mothers can heal when a little heart “breaks,”**

**Banish “starvation” with cookies and cakes.**

**Mothers can judge each disputed case,**

**Forgiving the culprits, the docket erase.**

**Mothers can judge each disputed case,**

**Forgiving the culprits, the docket erase.**

**Mothers are misers who hoard baby shoes,**

**Snapshots, report cards, and things others lose.**

**Mothers can teach in their own special school, “Follow yellow brick roads and the wise golden rule!”**

**Surely mothers are angels sent here from above**

**To help us to soar on the wings of their love.**

**From Ideals Magazine**

**Submitted b Louise Griffiths**

**Food Security**

Every Monday at 4:00 p.m. balanced meals food boxes are distributed free to anyone in need.  The location is Bethel Community Church of Pottstown, 575 N. Keim St. Pottstown. This ministry is supported through the Pottstown Ministerium.  Please pass the word to anyone with a need for food.

**Register now: Annual Meeting in State College**

For the first time, all four UCC Pennsylvania conferences will gather for a shared Meeting, June 7-9, 2024, at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will examine the exciting possibilities of our four Conferences uniting as one. We will share worship, workshops, and meals. Each conference will also meet Saturday morning to conduct their own separate business meeting.

You must register for the event and for a hotel room, separately.

Registration for the meeting is at: penncentralconference.refox.com. Conference Consistory has authorized Conference funds to defray the high cost of registration. To receive a 75% discount on your meeting registration, when the prompt to enter a Financial Assistance Code appears, enter PSECAnnual75. Once entered, hit the APPLY button to receive the discount. Make sure this is complete before entering your credit card information. The deadline to register for the meeting is May 3.

To reserve a hotel room, call the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center at 814-863-5000 or online at: thepennstaterhotel.com. Use group code PENN24B to get our rate of $139.99 per night. If you would like to reduce your hotel costs by sharing a room, indicate that you're looking for a roommate on the event registration. The last date to get the discounted hotel rate is May 5. Rates jump significantly after this date!

Make sure to check out the PSEC Annual Meeting page: [psec.org/annual-meeting-2024](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010AO7tPMVKF_vaN8S3z2pSRH_j6nq6ScMHtuuklz276RkPlLOgcwDSTfM0ZExkAAlLIAbB6rLKdxN7gFlDeVt4_iIwmHSDFL0oPrEr_lXxFRe7OtLv9xsho6OeVI_p1ht0LN06y1tKHYTHzW3wAX7ld2xIgKUnB3T&c=ri_kGfRv6fpe2HZLRsSakAcIYiyWdDSrJ4PHl1VuuR6GWYcOQbhF2A==&ch=EDGX0JZGSTSfpOM88bOY5YLSBIb6IymXmV7O3dH6YnBBeWDPYZ82mQ==). There you'll find information on the shared mission project, an agenda, and more. Additional information, including reports, will be added as the meeting gets closer.

|  | **May 2024** | | | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  | 1  Wednesday Crew, Quilters  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5  Worship with Trinity at Trinity  Communion | 6 | 7 | 8  Wednesday Crew, Quilters  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12  Blanket Sunday Special Offering | 13  Consistory Meeting, 7:00 pm | 14 | 15  Wednesday Crew, Quilters  CCLU Board Meeting, 5:30 pm  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  Strengthen the Church Special Offering | 20  June Newsletter deadline | 21 | 22  Wednesday Crew, Quilters  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 23 | 24  Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 pm | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

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**Newsletter**

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14: 1