

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

**Sunday Worship Hours**

**10:15 a.m. – Sanctuary**

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

**9:00 - Intergenerational Sunday School,**

**September 10th and 24th**

**Special Services & Events**

**Virtual Worship Available on Zion’s Facebook Page at** [**www.facebook.com/zionsucc**](http://www.facebook.com/zionsucc)

**Backpack Sunday and Phoebe Home Special Offering – September 10**

**Consistory Meeting –**

September 11, 7:00 p.m.

**Starting September 13 –**

Bible Study, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

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

**Handbell Choir Rehearsal –**

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

**Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran –**

September 22 at 12:00 p.m.

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

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Dear Congregation:

I love the old song “See You In September” (The Happenings 1966), in has such a happy anticipatory theme—and besides, I love the month of September!

So we look to September at Zion’s UCC as we anticipate all the happy, life-giving and grace-filled things God has in store for us.  And I believe, by the way, these are always, ***always***, the things God has in store for us if we can pay attention and see aright!

Besides Labor Day(!) weekend, September 3 looks to be a wonderful Sunday of worship.  We plan to celebrate our 15th Joint Worship Service with Trinity Reformed UCC as we gather at their facility to worship, commune, sing and fellowship together.  I will be preaching (Lord willing) on my favorite scripture.  [I know, I have a lot of “favorites”!]

September 10 we will celebrate “***Backpack Sunday***” and collect offerings as well as backpacks for children returning to school.

On Wednesday, September 13 we begin a new Joint Ministry program with Trinity!  From 12-1 PM we will meet to pray and study the gospel of Mark.  This***Bible Study*** program will feature a light lunch with refreshments for the participants.  Please plan to come and join the fellowship and enlightenment of this time together.  We will begin this ministry by meeting at Trinity.

An exciting addition to our ministry at Zion’s is the ***after school program*** administered through the CCLU which gathers in the basement of the Chapel Building.  We are blessed to be hosting this successful program in Pottstown.  Several leaders of the CCLU have been worshipping with us and we are so pleased by their presence.  We are providing scriptures and sermon outlines in Spanish to invite more members of the Spanish-speaking community in our midst.  This is not only a sign that they are welcomed, but offers them an opportunity to learn more English as they experience our worship service.

Please be sure to welcome guests from the CCLU community to make them feel at home and part of our family of God.  Indeed, this may be an opportunity offered by the Holy Spirit concerning the future of Zion’s Church.  Please keep this in prayer.

Finally, I must look ahead to the first Sunday in October.  October 1, we celebrate World Communion Sunday as we worship with Trinity at Zion’s.  This will also be our all-church Neighbors In Need offering Sunday.

Continued on page 3

***The Tymes* – September 2023**

**Those serving this month**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Altar Guild:**  **TBD**  **Financial**  **Secretary:**  **Joan Miller** | **September 3**  **Joint Worship at Trinity**  **Communion**  Lectionary Readings:  Exodus 3: 1-15 (Pastor Marti or a Trinity Reader)  Romans 12: 9-21 (Pastor Marti or a Trinity Reader)  Matthew 16: 21-28 (Pastor Marti or a Trinity Reader)  Sermon   “Favorite Scripture!” | **September 10**  **Backpack Sunday**  **Phoebe Home Special Offering**  Lectionary Readings:  Ezekiel 33: 7-11 (Joan Miller)  Romans 13: 8-14 (Joan)  Matthew 18: 15-20  Sermon   “Summation” | **September 17**  **Just Peace Sunday**  Lectionary Readings:  Psalm 103  (Sharon Moser -Responsive from Hymnal)  Romans 14: 1-12 (Sharon)  Matthew 18: 21-35  Sermon   “70x7…O Boy!” | **September 24**  **(American Indian & Samoan Ministries Sunday)**  **Pastor Kris**  Lectionary Readings:    Jonah 3: 10- 4:11  (Bambi Eschbach)  Philippians 1: 21-30 (Bambi)  Matthew 20: 1-16  Sermon:   “What is Life?”   (Pastor Kris) |
| **Financial Assistants** | Diane Andres | Sharon Moser | Brenda Ross | Jen Young |
| **Head Usher/ Ushers** | No ushers needed. | Craig Strunk | Susan Embody | Jim Miller |

**Pastor’s Message continued from first page –**

Additionally, we will be blessed by the presence of Missionaries Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson!  They are home in Pennsylvania on leave and eager to share their call from God and ministry in Costa Rica with us.  You may recall the new Mission Truck with which they have been blessed after just one month of appeal.  God is working strongly in their lives and mission.  Recently Crosby received an award from the African Caribbean Society for his life-long commitment to community and the betterment of peoples’ lives in Limon, Costa Rica.  It will be an exciting time to meet the Johnsons and hear all about what God is accomplishing in their lives.  Please be sure to save the date!

See you in September!

Blessings,

Pastor Austin

**Consistory Highlights**

There was not a summer Consistory meeting so no highlights. There will be a Consistory meeting September 11.

**Attention singers and ringers:**

If you love music, we’d like to encourage you to sing or ring for the Lord. No experience necessary. We’re a fun group and would love for you to join us.

Bell Choir and Choir resume on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 and 7:30, respectively. We have a wonderful season upon us as we learn new songs and techniques, as well as breaking out some familiar songs from the past. We hope you’ll consider!

Please email Keith or Laura at [bsharpprod@gmail.com](mailto:bsharpprod@gmail.com) or text Laura at 215-880-2839 for more information.

***Confirmation 2023 at Zion’s:***

Confirmation classes will begin during the Sunday School hour at Zion’s on

September 17.

Typically, young people begin this program around the age of 12.

Please contact Pastor Austin if you are interested in this program.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday School for youth and adults will begin on September 10th from 9 – 10 am.

September 17th Confirmation Class will meet and there will be no Sunday School.

September 24th Sunday School for youth and adults will meet from 9-10 am.

We will continue as an intergenerational class as we have been doing. We will meet in the classroom upstairs next to the office. Our curriculum usually follows the weekly lectionary and we have great discussions! All are invited. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Joan Miller, SS Superintendent

**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.

**School Days**

***Do You Remember?***

School Days, School Days,

Dear old golden rule days,

Reading’ and writing’ and ‘rithmetic

Taught to the tune of a hick’ry stick.

You were my queen in calico,

I was your bashful, barefoot beau,

And you wrote on my slate,

“I Love You Joe”

When we were a couple of kids.

*Written by Will Cobb and Gus Edwards*

*In 1907, looking back sentimentally on their school days.*

**Phoebe Home Special Offering**

Phoebe Home Special Offering is September 10. Phoebe provides over $14 million annually for our residents who have exhausted their own resources to pay for their care.

Your involvement and partnership can have an incredible impact on the people we serve. Get involved…share what you have in a meaningful way today. With God’s grace and your continued support, we will stay true to the course that was set by our founders in 1903.

Charitable giving continues to be an essential part of the formula that keeps Phoebe on course and true to its mission: “A community of faith, called by God, to enrich the lives of our seniors, their families, and the communities we serve.”

Phoebe Ministries is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, multi-campus organization specializing in healthcare, housing and support services for senior adults throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania.

Every gift to Phoebe Ministries benefits the residents and others who receive our services.

Your envelope for September 10 is enclosed.

**The Care Bag Project**

The Care Bag Project began in March of 2022 when Pastor Austin shared the idea with Consistory. Rev. Phyllis Baum, a friend and colleague of the Chinault’s, formerly from York, PA, posted a blog about care bags. She received a care bag when she was going through chemotherapy and was hoping that other churches might take on this ministry since it meant so much to her.

Suggestions were made on the items to be included and a group of volunteers signed on board. Thus, Zion’s Care Bag Project was launched. The “team” includes knitters, crocheters, blanket and neck noodle sewers, diamond painters, purchasers, assemblers, and folks who deliver the care bags to the Infusion Center at Pottstown Tower Health Outpatient Department.

Since inception over 40 care bags have been given to patients at the Center. The outreach has touched many people as witnessed by expressions of thanks and appreciation as well as donations from their family members and friends to keep the project going.

Here is the list of items included in the bags:

Knit hats and baseball caps

Hand lotion, hand sanitizer,

chap stick - travel size

Biotine mouth wash - travel size

Prayer shawl/lap blanket

Neck noodles

Kleenex packs - travel size

Nail clippers/file sets

Diamond painted angel keychain

Care Note (or similar) booklet

Adult coloring, word find, crossword

puzzle, and sudoku books

Journals

Notepads, colored pencils, and

markers

Hard candies

Note tags with church name

Large gift bags, colored tissue paper

and bows to pack the items

Monetary contributions are also welcome to purchase supplies. For the Care Bag donations there is a bin in the narthex as well as one in the entryway ofthe Chapel Building.

Continued –

A huge “thank you” to everyone who has made this project such a success!

If anyone has questions, suggestions or would like to join the “team”, please feel free to contact me.

Diane Andres [dianeandres2003@gmail.com](mailto:dianeandres2003@gmail.com)

(C) 610 914 0736

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

September 1 - Chase Wilkinson

6 - Kyle Moser

8 - Parker Moser

9 – Mackenzie Rhoads

11 - Karen Steffey

14 - David Camacho

16 - David Stout

Theodore Rhoads

17 - Chelsea Mackie

Sandy Schollenberger

19 - Janet Fry

Van Hudick

22 - Ray Heydt

27 - Cole Muth

28 - Michael Gauger

30 - Joan Clouser

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Dave and Elaine Richards

43 years on September 13

Steven and Andrea Selkregg

10 years on Sept. 14

Bruce and Shari Albitz

42 years on September 19

Herb and Deb Houck

43 years on September 21

David and Samantha Lewis

10 years on September 21

Van and Angela Hudick

31 years on September 26

Mark and Kendra Rivoli

32 years on September 28

**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.

**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!!

**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.

**Pottstown Happenings**

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

**From the Conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference UCC**

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! Psalm 133: 1

Dear Friends,

We live in unity with UCC friends in the 117 congregations that make up the Hawaii Conference. Four of those congregations are on Maui. While the island is 4,800 miles away, the suffering there is as close as a next breath or tear. Conference Minister David Popham shared the following thoughts August 11. The latest news on how to help follows that.

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister

“Once again, thank you all for your kind words, prayers, and holding us in the light of God. Many of you have been through disasters before and I appreciate your insights and hard-earned wisdom.

…the fire has become the worst natural disaster for the islands since becoming a state. The Hilo tsunami of 1960 killed 61 people, Hawaii's deadliest disaster. The death toll for Lahaina is now 96 as of today, Tuesday, 8/15. Authorities are letting residents back in. But it's over a dirt road that runs along cliffs. On top of that once you get in there is no electricity, water, or phone service. A few hearty folks are remaining in town. 80% of the town of Lahaina (1700 buildings) were destroyed or damaged.

Waiola UCC, the first church on Maui, is the 200-year-old home to Christian friends who have rebuilt their building in part or whole four times: 1858 following wind damage; 1894 following an accidental fire started by the caretaker; 1947 following a rubbish fire; 1951 following wind damage. This congregation’s DNA is resiliency. Their church campus did burn. The concrete walls of the sanctuary remain. Interestingly the front lawn and historic cemetery were not touched by the fire…All members of the church have been accounted for except for one couple [no update about them was available at the time of eNews publication]. All totaled, four UCC churches were under threat by the fires.

Along with what's being carried in the news, Maui regularly has brush fires this time of year. It is the midst of our dry season and August heat does not help. On Tuesday [August 8] multiple brushfires broke out across Maui, the four large ones and I've heard about five small ones as well. Living on islands, we cannot call in the fire brigade from the next county over. The fire above Lahaina had been contained and was all but extinguished when the winds picked up - 60 to 80 miles-per-hour gusts. The fires broke out and thinly stretched personnel could not keep up with them.

The magnitude and longevity of recovery is just now becoming a reality for our Maui clergy. The adrenaline rush is fading and grief and a sense of being overwhelmed is on the rise. Pacific Island culture is about pulling together and that is happening across the neighboring islands, but access to Maui is limited to essential workers and residents and much of "pulling together" means "presence" for our folks. I am not sure how this will play itself out.

I will be on Maui on Tuesday [August 15] as part of an ecumenical prayer service. The Catholic Bishop got that declared an essential activity. Woot! Woot! Bisho Silva.

Mahalo for all the kind words and prayers.

Rev. David Popham, Conference Minister

Hawaii Conference, UCC

There are multiple ways to contribute to the response. We recommend:

Donate to UCC Disaster Ministries through the Conference Office. You can either mail contributions to the office (1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100; Pottstown, PA 19464) and indicate "Hawaii wildfire relief" or through the

[Donation](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001aVGIVMkHPTayNfphryeApvWSV_KDlUe01QoiutToFVQdB0f_V-W9QkkTrm_lmf8fOkwMmrO2-QOni4F2zC-buscZFo6ChoSGfc47uemDMLTAGp3naHK1bXUt1oVnL0tImIxFWMd7yPwA4o6c1_Jnhr5ttcSjNqius57LzVFUixDf_NP4YLAmqVtBdU2NwOvYDMW9iDcvnmVEYxrjJh73gPfLsX422n-aGdweI-ZG8YbRoOEtXyEuGKhylR5HF_cAyEnhlgo-wB4eSHM3FBD_soQbhoG07qHRA6PiWIj89qZ--A602-Ig7zUzChlniM_BF76QW6XqVRakXYKlTkTIPkBNyrdG_5MM7Vp3i1Qbjjk=&c=If6bG3u-nP2upexHwUHTVrnvRHEoZmpOcrQIvtFrn7JCcIxukC7C_g==&ch=inSv15i1z2P_xxlgHOQAFa3Y6JkS0Qx9jsBn2gr72jtiYQ6YEZophA==) button on our website (indicate the amount under "OCWM Special Support - Wider Church" next to "Wider Disaster Relief for:" and indicate "Hawaii wildfire relief" in the space to the right.

Gifts can also be made specifically to help rebuild Waiola UCC. Those gifts can be sent to the Conference Office as noted above, but must specify "Waiola UCC" or they will be forwarded for the general Hawaii Wildfire Relief Fund.

|  | **September 2023** | | | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |
| 3  Worship Service at Trinity, 10:15 am  Communion | 4 Labor Day | 5 | 6  Wednesday Crew  Quilters  Bible Study, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10  Phoebe Home Special Offering  Backpack Sunday  Sunday School for all ages, 9:00 -10:00 am | 11 Patriot Day  Consistory Meeting, 7:00 p.m. | 12 | 13  Wednesday Crew  Quilters  Bible Study, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17  No Sunday School  Confirmation Classes begin | 18 | 19 | 20  Wednesday Crew  Quilters  Bible Study, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm  October Newsletter deadline | 21 | 22  Community Meal at Emmanuel, 12:00 p.m. | 23 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox) |
| 24  Sunday School for all ages, 9:00-10:00 am | 25 | 26 | 27  Wednesday Crew  Quilters  Bible Study, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.  Ping Pong and Pizza, 5:30 pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

**Zion’s United Church of Christ**

**209 Chestnut Street**

**Pottstown, PA 19464**



**Newsletter**

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Do not fear, I will help you.”

Isaiah 41: 13