

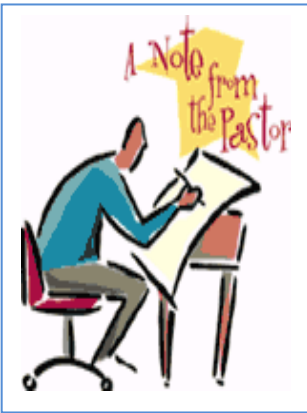


The St. Paul's Spirit

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

April 2020

From Our Pastor



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church!

I want to begin by saying how much I miss seeing each of you as the gathered body of Christ on North Franklin Street. Along with everyone else, I am feeling the isolation that comes with the so-called “social distancing” that is being recommended by the CDC. I was watching the Rabbi from Tree of Life Synagogue talk about some of the similarities of the feeling of isolation following the shooting in the synagogue in Pittsburgh. One thing that he said resonated with me as I have been reflecting on the term “social distancing.” He said that he prefers the terms “physical distancing” and “social connecting.” I have been trying to stay connected with each of you as I provide sermons and prayers, thanks to Andi sending them out via email and, I hope, by snail mail for those who don’t have access to the internet. I have come to cherish the people of St. Paul’s and hope that we will be connected once again in a more physical way soon.

It is vitally important that we practice “physical distancing” during this outbreak, but we can hope for a better day. God is with us in the midst of this crisis, as God always is! We must keep faith that God will work through the doctors and scientists who are working diligently to provide a vaccine and cure for the Covid-19 virus. In spite of the President’s desire to have full churches on Easter Sunday, I believe that would be unwise, if not downright dangerous! In the meantime, I will continue to send sermons and prayers through Andi, and will continue to make phone calls to check-in on the health of each of you. Know that you are in my prayers and will remain so throughout this ordeal. Please know that I am here for you. Most of us are uneasy with the unknown. I would appreciate it if you would let me know what changes you are experiencing related to this pandemic or your life in general. If you feel the need to contact me for any reason, please feel free to email me at rastheo1951@msn.com or call me at 610-413-7567. May God bless each of you in this unsettling time.

Peace,
Pastor Stewart

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
927 North Franklin Street
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464
Church Office: 610-323-2295
Church E-Mail: StPaulUCCPtn@aol.com
Fax: 610-323-0178
Website: www.StPaulsPottstown.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.
Social Hour – beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Robert Stewart,
Stated Supply Pastor
H: 610-775-2836 C: 610-413-7567

Andrea Shollenberger, Secretary
484-333-2640
Andiatchurch@aol.com

Barbara Faison, Director of Music,
Yoga Instructor

Barbara Stouch, Sexton

Consistory 2020

President – Vince Kehrer
484-256-1455
Frank Chesney – Vice President
484-236-1085
Secretary – Dave Risko
610-326-7834
Treasurer – Barbara Toroney
610-323-6927

Deb Cooper
Trudy Perretta
Dottie Yocom – Fellowship

St. Paul's United Church of Christ was founded in 1884 by members from Zion's Reformed Church in Pottstown. Our first church building was located at Penn and Walnut Streets.

In 1957, we relocated to our current site. Our Christian Education wing was built in 1962 to meet the needs of our expanding congregation. In 1978, our present sanctuary was begun; it was dedicated in 1980.

2020 is our 136th year of ministry. St. Paul's continues to grow in faith and service with an expanding ministry to its members, to our community, and to the world. We invite you to join us and to make St. Paul's your church home.

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The St. Paul's Spirit
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St. Paul's United Church of Christ
927 North Franklin Street
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

NOTES FROM ANDI IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hi all. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!
Just a few things I wanted to relay to you:

I will be working in the office one day a week –
Tuesdays for now. I will be taking care of mail,
emails, answering phone messages, and recording
and depositing any monies coming into the office.

On days when I am not in the office, I can't always
retrieve messages from the church's voice mail. If
you need pastoral care or need something from the
church office, please email the church at
StPaulUCCPtn@aol.com (I check it several times
daily), email me directly at ShortAndi@aol.com, or
call/text me at 484-333-2640.

I will continue to send out Pastor Stewart's
scriptures, prayers, and sermons for each Sunday. If
any of you have an uplifting thought, prayer, article,
or anything you would like to relay to the rest of the
congregation, please contact me through one of the
above methods.

Even though we are not currently worshipping, the
church's bills still go on. Please feel free to mail
your Sunday contributions, your donations to the
Bakeless Cake Sale, One Great Hour of Sharing,
etc., to the church office. They will be taken care of
on a weekly basis.

Please note that all dates listed in this newsletter are
what we had originally scheduled on the church
calendar. Of course, as we continue to deal with the
Corona virus, things may need to be cancelled.
Watch for continuing information.

I hope that each of you is practicing "social
distancing," and washing your hands often. As
some of you know, I am also employed as a cashier
at Redner's in Douglassville, so I am considered
"essential," and am working. I am doing all I can to
stay healthy, but would also appreciate your
prayers. Please stay safe, and I hope to see you all
soon!

---Andi

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**Sunday
April 5th**

**Tickets
Adults \$6
Ages 6 – 12 \$3.50
Age 5 and Under - FREE**

POT PIE DINNER



FOR YOUR REFLECTION

The following are the lectionary scriptures for this month:



April 5 – Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11; Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philomen 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14 – 27:66 or Matthew 27: 11-54

April 12 – Acts 10: 34-43 or Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18 or Matthew 28: 1-10

April 19 – Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31

April 26 – Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

May 3 – Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Celebrate with these members and friends of St. Paul's family having birthdays in April. If we missed your birthday, notify the office.



- 5 Jay Mayberry
- 8 Brenda Chesney, Nancy Huneke
- 13 Russ Davis
- 21 Linda Chesney
- 23 Veronica Brill
- 28 Eric Cicippio
- 30 Lee Stouch

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Financial Snapshot

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| General Fund Income as of 3/24/20 | \$ 21,918 |
| General Fund Expenses as of 3/24/20 | \$ 22,356 |

Year to Date Shortage (\$ 438.00)



ST. PAUL'S VISITATION LIST

Sue Bohner, Magnolia 1308, P.O. Box 498, Frederick, PA 19435-0498, 610-754-0019

Ginny Bernhart – 12 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown, PA 19512, 610-369-1430

Betty Essick – Manatawny Manor, C-318, 30 Old Schuylkill Rd., Pottstown, PA 19465; Phone 610-326-5664 (this is a direct line)

Dolly Gift – LifeQuest #D12, 2450 John Fries Highway, Quakertown, PA 18951

Barbara Lessig - Keystone Villa, Room 126, 1180 Benjamin Franklin Hwy., Douglassville 19518, 610-385-5126

Janet Millard – 872 Crestview Lane, Pottstown, PA 19464

ADOPT A BILL

We recently had **repairs made to our sound system at a cost of \$135**. There were also **additional repairs/replacements** made at a **cost of about \$800**. If you would like to adopt all or part of these bills or any of the church's regular monthly bills, please mark your check appropriately, and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Andi in the church office.

Volunteer
Schedule

Greeters

April 5 --

April 12 –

April 19 – Barb Stouch

April 26 – Donna Risko

May 3 – Lynda Zeleznick

Ushers

April 5 – Kim & Andy Astheimer, Andi Shollenberger

April 12 – Barb Stouch, Carol Eckroth, Tina Ludy

April 19 – Steve & Barb Toroney, Stan & Lynne Sands

April 26 – Mike Faison, Fred Faison, Jackie Turnbach, Betty Turnbach

May 3 – Kim & Andy Astheimer, Andi Shollenberger

Soundboard

April 5 – Nash Ohlinger

April 12 – Terry Hallman

April 19 – Mike Fasion

April 26 – Frank Chesney

May 3 – Nash Ohlinger

Serving Communion

April 5 – Dave Risko & Betty Turnbach, Barb Hurter

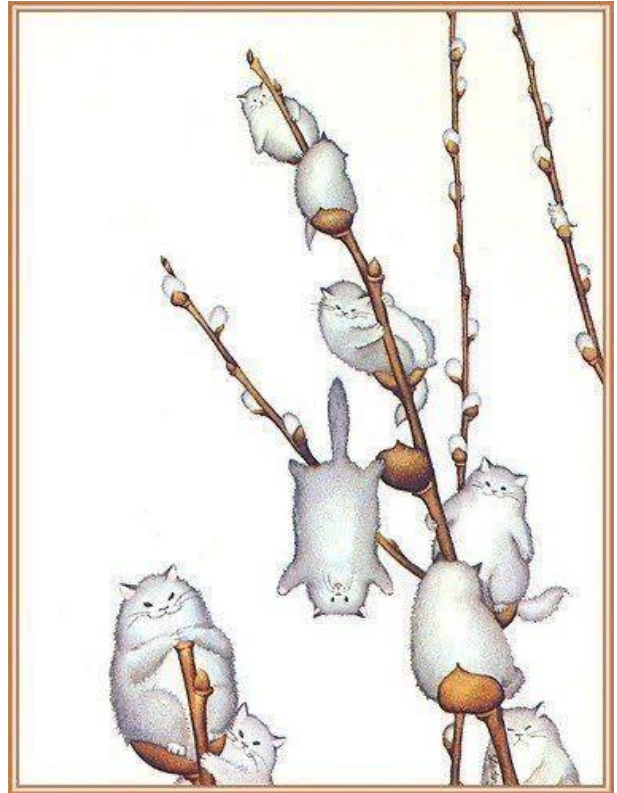
April 9 – Linda Chesney & Dottie Yocom

April 12 – Barb Toroney, Terry Hallman, Betty Turnbach, Rick Moser

May 3 – Carol Eckroth, Dottie Yocom, Barb Hurter

May 31 – Dave Risko, Kim Astheimer, Trudy Perretta

The Legend of the Pussy Willow



According to an old Polish legend, many spring times ago a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning. The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung."



Sunday, April 5th
Morning Worship
9:00 a.m.
Distribution of Palms






Thursday, April 9th
Worship Service with Communion
7:00 p.m.



Sunday, April 12th
Morning Worship Service
with Communion
9:00 a.m.



APRIL 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 Choir 6:30 p.m. NA 8:00 p.m. | 2 FIWC 7 -9 pm Worship Team - 7 pm AA 8:30 p.m. | 3 | 4 |
| 5  Palm Sunday COMMUNION PANCAKES Worship 9:00 a.m. FIWC – 11 a.m. | 6 | 7 | 8 Choir 6:30 p.m. NA 8:00 p.m. | 9  Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7 p.m. FIWC 7 -9 pm Worship Team - 7 pm AA 8:30 p.m. | 10 Good Friday | 11 |
| 12  Easter Sunday COMMUNION Worship 9:00 a.m. FIWC – 11 a.m. | 13 | 14 | 15 Choir 6:30 p.m. NA 8:00 p.m. | 16 Worship Team - 7 pm AA 8:30 p.m. | 17 | 18  POT PIE DINER 4-7 p.m. |
| 19 Worship 9:00 a.m. FIWC – 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. | 20 | 21 | 22 Choir 6:30 p.m. NA 8:00 p.m. | 23 FIWC 7 -9 pm Worship Team - 7 pm AA 8:30 p.m. | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Worship 9:00 a.m. FIWC – 11 a.m. | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |