



Newsletter of St. Paul's United Church of Christ

The St. Paul's Spirit

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

February 2021



FROM THE PASTOR

Church family,

With the start of February, we find ourselves moving closer to Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year, from which the Church will enter a 40 day period of fasting, prayer and giving in anticipation and preparation for Resurrection Sunday. In the midst of a pandemic, amongst other things, we need the Lenten season more than ever. Yes, Lent brings us face-to-face with our mortality. You might be thinking "Well, the COVID death toll does that...do we really need to hear that in church too?" And the answer is: yes. Lent is not only a reminder that we are finite beings but also that God is infinite. Jesus shows us that death does not have the last word. God does and that word is "Love".

I invite you to join us in observing a holy Lent! There will be various opportunities for you through the exploration of prayer practices during worship and throughout the week, as well as a special giving opportunity. Look below for information about our Lenten giving project.

Wishing you God's peace as we enter a new month and a new church season!

With love,
Pastor Lauren

LENTEN GIVING PROJECT

All throughout Lent, we will be collecting **hygiene kits** to donate to *Ministries on Main St.* You are invited to assemble the kits at home (as many as you'd like to donate!) and then drop them off at the church no later Sunday, March 28th (Palm Sunday). Let's see how many kits we can give to folks in need!

Fill 1 large, gallon Ziploc bag with:

- 1 bar of soap
- 1 15 oz shampoo
- toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Wash cloth
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant
- Tissue pack



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
927 North Franklin Street
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464
Church Office: 610-323-2295
Fax: 610-323-0178
Church E-Mail: StPaulUCCPtn@aol.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccpottstown>
Website: www.StPaulsPottstown.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.
Social Hour – beginning at 8:30 a.m.
and continuing after worship

Church Staff

Rev. Lauren Cain, Pastor
484-297-9707
reverendlaurencain@gmail.com
Andrea Shollenberger, Secretary
484-333-2640
Andiatchurch@aol.com
Barbara Faison, Director of Music,
Yoga Instructor
Barbara Stouch, Sexton

Consistory 2021

Rick Moser, President 484-948-7515
Frank Chesney, Vice President
484-236-1085
Dave Risko, Secretary 610-326-7834
Treasurer – Barbara Toroney
610-721-3605
Deb Cooper
Trudy Perretta
Dottie Yocom

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
began; it was dedicated in 1980.

2021 is our 137th 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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927 North Franklin Street
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464



VIRTUAL WORSHIP CONTINUES

Pastor Lauren and Consistory continue to monitor the coronavirus situation and are evaluating reopening plans for in-person worship. We ask for your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing global crisis. Our priority is keeping everyone safe and healthy. We will continue with virtual worship services only. Pastor Lauren will do the live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on the church's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccpottstown>.

Listen to the sermon – for anyone who does not have access to the internet and/or Facebook, we now have a phone line available for you to “call in” and listen to the sermon each week. Simply dial (206) 737-0945, and when prompted, enter code 712735. Each week's sermon will be available from Sunday – Saturday AM.

If you have any prayer requests (and you have permission from the person to have their name mentioned on the internet), or if you have any announcements you would like to make known to the congregation, please let the office know by Saturday, so your requests can be relayed to the Pastor so that she can include your request in the prayers on Sunday.

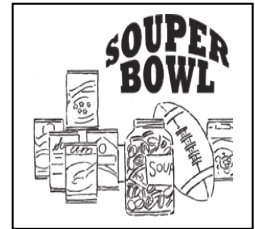
If you need pastoral care you can contact the Pastor at 484-297-9707.



Andi will be having knee replacement surgery on February 19th. She will be in the office on a very limited basis during this month. If you need anything from the church office, please call her cell phone 484-333-2640.

Your contributions can be mailed to the church office. Giving Statements for 2020 have been mailed.

SUPER BOWL SOUP DRIVE



Help us collect canned soup for the Pottstown Cluster's food pantry!

Donations can be dropped off at the church office on Wed., Feb. 3 between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., or on Feb. 10, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to make it during those times, there will be a drop box at the ramp door entrance on Franklin St. Donations must be received by Feb. 10th.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

Copies of the 2021 Church Directory have been emailed. Copies are available on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

COMMUNION FEBRUARY 7



We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on February 7. If you are watching the services online, have your bread and wine/grape juice handy so you can participate.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday services will be held via Facebook on **February 17**, at 7:00 p.m. **Take home packages of ashes** will be available at the church beginning on February 10 after 1:00 p.m.

Pick up your package at the ramp door entrance on Franklin Street. If you are unable to pick up a package, please contact Pastor Lauren at 484-297-9707 to arrange delivery.



FOR YOUR REFLECTION

The following are the lectionary scriptures for this month:

February 7 – Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1: 29-39

Feb. 14 – 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Feb. 21 – Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15

Feb. 28 – Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22: 23-31; Romans 4: 13-25; Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9

March 7 – Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 19-25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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



- 4 Bill Ludy
- 6 Mary Alice Romig
- 8 Angie Hallman, Robert Moses
- 17 Eric Simmons
- 20 Andy Astheimer
- 23 Gabby Frederick, Christine Huneke
- 26 Dave Yocom, Jr.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE



Even though we are not currently worshipping, the church's bills still go on. Please feel free to mail your Sunday contributions to the church office. They will be

taken care of on a weekly basis. Your continued donations are appreciated.

ST. PAUL'S VISITATION LIST



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

Financial Snapshot

General Fund Income as of 1/30/21	\$ 5,695
General Fund Expenses as of 1/30/21	\$ 8,994
Year to Date Shortage	(\$ 3,299)

ADOPT A BILL

If you would like to adopt all or part of 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.

FEBRUARY

2021

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 	3	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION Virtual Worship On Facebook 9:00 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14  Virtual Worship On Facebook 9:00 a.m. 	15 	16	17  Virtual Worship On Facebook 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Virtual Worship On Facebook 9:00 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Virtual Worship On Facebook 9:00 a.m.	25	26	27	28		