

CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

**329 Church Road
Kutztown, Pennsylvania
610-683-7485**

a Federated Church of
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and
The United Church of Christ

March 2020

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$18.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in one of the flower/bulletin envelopes found in the Gathering Area and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ Any checks written out for the offering, altar flowers, or bulletins should be made payable to **Zion's Union Church Maxatawny**.
- ◆ **Any checks for the cemetery should be made out to Maxatawny Zion Cemetery Company, Inc. not to the church.**
- ◆ We have DVDs of the worship services available for use at home. Contact the church office if you would like to borrow one.
- ◆ Let the church office know if you have been admitted to the hospital. The hospitals **DO NOT** notify the church if members have been hospitalized.
- ◆ Zion's Union Church Maxatawny's website is www.zionsunion.org. Check out our website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Marion Angstadt at 610-683-3918.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ After church refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Since not everyone gets a copy of our Church Yearbook (a/k/a Annual Report) I am including my annual report to the congregation in this month's newsletter for all to read. If anyone who is not able to get to church would like a copy of our 2019 Yearbook please call the church office and we will be happy to send one to you.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

It is hard to believe that as of the end of 2019 I have now been your pastor for five years. Time really does fly! As I look back, I find it truly amazing how much this congregation has accomplished in this half-decade. Here are a few of the main highlights from just this past year:

- One of the biggest events was our "Mortgage Shredding" celebration in September. It was a joyous day as we celebrated a truly remarkable feat of good stewardship—paying off the half-million dollar loan taken out for our building addition in a little over ten years.
- Our new Mentoring Program has been a great success with many of our long-time members volunteering to mentor our new members and greet and guide visitors to our church.
- A new Shepherding Program from our Disaster Committee was instituted to see that all our members are prepared in case of any kind of emergency or natural disaster.
- Our Good News Committee (Evangelism Committee) is now providing Welcome Bags to our visitors to share all kinds of information about our church and its ministries. This committee has also made it possible to stream our services to the new TV in the Gathering Area, and plans are underway to make streaming of our worship available to college students and shut-ins.
- Our Safety Committee has provided Active Intruder training to our members and has now placed 22 walkie-talkies in all classrooms and throughout our building in case of an emergency (thanks to a generous donation from Randy and Adam Noll).
- Our Mission Outreach Committee instituted a new "Yes We Can" campaign during Lent that surpassed our goal of giving 1,000 canned goods to our local food bank (Friend, Inc. in Kutztown). This year's goal is 1,500 cans!

- Our Strategic Planning Committee has narrowed down our future priorities to three immediate goals: energy independence (via windmill or solar panels), fostering more use of our expanded facilities by outside groups, and increasing our Sunday School attendance (which has dropped off in our lower age classes over the past few years).

The many reports that follow provide more detail on these accomplishments and many more. The founders of Zion's Union Church chose the name "Zion" because they had a vision for what this church should be. In the Bible, the name Zion is an alternative name for the capital city of Jerusalem that sat on top of Mt. Zion—the "shining city on a hill." Sitting as it does on top of a hill in Maxatawny, our church is one of the most visible in the area. But what is most important is not that our church is physically visible, but that our ministries and outreach are visible and known in our surrounding communities. And thanks to all of you, they are! From all that I have seen you accomplish over the past five years; the future looks very bright for continuing the growth in Christian ministry that you and your ancestors in the faith have worked so hard to achieve over almost two centuries. I feel truly blessed to have been called to be your pastor and I look forward to working together with you in the years ahead to guide this church into a future that holds so much promise.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Jeff

AUDIT NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS

Please remember: All organizations in the church should do an internal audit of their books as stated in the Federated Constitution by the end of March.

CHURCH DOORS

As part of our on-going commitment to providing a safe environment to joyfully worship the Lord, we will be keeping the front doors locked on Sunday mornings from 9:15 A.M. on. Greeters will be on duty to open the doors and welcome you to your morning worship. This recommendation came out of the intruder training by the Kutztown Police Department. Thank you, everyone, for your cooperation and understanding.

MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP

March 1	First Sunday in Lent HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 4	Mid-Week Lent 1		7:30 P.M.
March 8	Second Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 11	Mid-Week Lent 2		7:30 P.M.
March 15	Third Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 18	Mid-Week Lent 3		7:30 P.M.
March 22	Fourth Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 25	Mid-Week Lent 4		7:30 P.M.
March 29	Fifth Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 1	Mid-Week Lent 5		7:30 P.M.
April 5	Palm/Passion Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service		7:00 P.M.
April 10	Good Friday Service		7:00 P.M.
April 12	Easter Dawn Service HC		6:00 A.M.
April 12	Easter Service HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 19	Second Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 26	Third Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15

INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill bags with food staples for needy children and their families in the Kutztown, Brandywine, and Fleetwood School Districts. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



single serve size macaroni and cheese	peanut butter	fruit cups
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
single serve cereal	granola bars	fruit snacks
oatmeal packets		

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2019 Annual Reports are now available. If you are unable to get to the church to pick one up, call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



YES WE “CAN”

Since our Yes We “Can” project from last year was such a success it was decided at the January Church Board meeting to do it again this year. Instead of giving something up for Lent, we are going to *give back for Lent*. Starting **March 1st and running through Easter** we will be collecting canned **vegetables, fruit, meat, and fish** to be donated to Friend. Our goal is to collect **1,500** cans. There is a container in the Gathering Area to drop off your cans and we will be keeping a tally on how close we are to our goal. Let’s all rally together and help out our neighbors in need.



MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES

“Christianity and Other Religions”

Beginning on Wednesday evening, **March 4th**, we will again have our popular mid-week time of fellowship, devotions, and study. The evening begins with a soup supper and fellowship from 6:30-7:30. Then at 7:30 we will have brief devotions followed by Bible study. This year’s topic will take us away from exclusively looking at our own faith, to examine the faiths of our non-Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. We will be focusing on the other four of the world’s “great religions”: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. You will be surprised to find out just how much these seemingly very different religions share in common. Could these religions all have been inspired by the same God? Join us and find out!

SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

We will have soup suppers prior to the Mid-Week Lenten Lecture Series **Wednesdays March 4th through April 1st**. The soup suppers will begin at 6:30 P.M. The lecture and discussion will begin at 7:30 P.M. If you would like to make a pot of soup for one or more of our soup suppers, a sign-up sheet is posted on the second floor bulletin board.



KID’S CHOIR

Kid’s Choir rehearsals will be **March 8th, March 22nd, April 5th** at 8:45 A.M.

HELPING HAND FUND

On **March 8th**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins **March 8th**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, March 10th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs. You can also sign up online at giveapint.org (Group ID: 3303).



THE BLOOD DONOR'S CREED

I believe in my fellow man, and his desire to live.
In his right to hope and believe that I will be, a help in his hour of need.
That I will be at his side giving the miracle fluid from my veins,
to speed his recovery.
And then - may I go my way knowing that even though He was a
stranger – I had helped him to live again.
All this I believe – because I am a Blood Donor.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will serve the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 1st**. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP



ALL flower arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3rd Saturday of March. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **March 14th** (weather permitting).



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:
www.wfmz.com (click on “storm center update”) (**note:** worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and not on Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A message will be on the answering machine.



EASTER FLOWERS

We will be decorating our church with flowers for Easter. Prices are \$8.00 for tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths and \$10.00 for lilies. Any checks should be made out to Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny. See Karen Warmkessel to pay for your flowers. Deadline for orders and payment is **March 29th**. A tear-off order form is below for your convenience. It may be returned to the church in the offering plate, given to Karen Warmkessel, or mailed to the church office with payment.



EASTER FLOWER SIGN UP

NAME PHONE

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (*circle one*)

NUMBER OF FLOWERS: *Please place number of each on the line.*

..... TULIPS

..... DAFFODILS

..... HYACINTHS

..... LILIES

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Team will make their visits after the **April 5th** Communion Service. If you know of anyone who is temporarily unable to come to the service for communion and would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic ministers, please notify Grace Haas at 610-683-3910 as soon as possible.



RELAY FOR LIFE BRUNCH

Zion's Relay for Life Team will hold a brunch immediately after the worship service on **April 19th (change of date from previous newsletter)** to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Donations are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 6-12, and children under age 6 eat free. Join us for breakfast items, lunch items, and yummy desserts! Everyone is welcome.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2020, MAY 29TH AND MAY 30TH AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Held over a 24 hour period, the Relay for Life involves teams of 10-15 people, asked to raise \$100 each for the American Cancer Society, who take turns walking, running, strolling around the track. Relay for Life will begin on Friday, May 29th at 3:00 P.M. Anyone interested in being a part of the team please see Sue Haas or Enos Bleiler for a registration packet.



D.E.A.R.

An emergency preparedness calendar and cards are included in this Church Key to help you build your home emergency kit and "bug out bag" during the month of March. More information can also be found on the church's 1st floor bulletin board and balcony display area. It is our hope that every family would build at least one bag. Anyone who brings a completed bag to church by March 29th will be entered into a drawing for a selection of prizes.

EMERGENCY CONTACT CARDS FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (white inserts)

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Ensure contacts for relatives include familiar names (grandma, aunt, etc.) as well as actual names when making cards for children.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING January 25, 2020

1. Organ repair – There is water damage on the swell reservoir (west side). Repairing it will be very labor intensive. In addition, this remedy is a very small part of the organ's issues. The organ is 92 years old and in need of restoration.
2. Route 222 Sign – We are finalizing details regarding sign replacement. Over 80% of the new sign cost has been pledged. In the near future, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the fund.
3. Food Drive For Lent – Last year we collected over 1200 cans for the Food Pantry. This year, we are setting the goal at 1500! We CAN do it!
4. We are getting a Knox Box for the front door. The box will house a master key to all the doors of the church accessible only by the fire department in case of emergency.
5. We approved two requests for building use:
 - a. April 18th – Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jonathan Weidman
 - b. May 24th – Baccalaureate Service for Kutztown High School


SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **March 23rd and April 27th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are welcome.



WOMEN IN ZION

*A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.
Meetings are open to all women of the congregation.*

March 9	Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Prepare cards for graduates and college students.	
March 19	Prepare food and serve at Bern Church.	
April 25	Saturday 9:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M. Retreat at the church, serving breakfast and lunch. Rev. Lori Esslinger, Leader, "Caregiving of yourself and others".	

*For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson (484-553-1981)
or Loretta Flicker (610-683-3627).*

SAVE THE DATE

April 25th from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Women's Retreat at the church hosted by WIZ. Theme "Caregiving of Yourself and Others". Led by Rev. Lori Esslinger. Breakfast and lunch served. Cost TBA. Sign-up starting the end of March. Watch the bulletin for more details. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. See Loretta Flicker for more information.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room. See Ellie Merkel if interested.

PRAYER SHAWL



Comforting wraps are still available to all who are in need. Please alert the church office or talk to Loretta Flicker or Karen Howard if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Youth Group meetings are open from age 10.
Schedules are on the upstairs bulletin board.*

Activity Schedule:

March 1	Progressive meal. Leave church at 4:00 P.M. and return to church at 7:30 P.M.
March 15	Potato cutting (all welcome)
April 5	Color eggs from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt
April 19	Discussion on the Lenni Lenape Indians – Elder Uhma Ruth Py 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. All are welcome.



Offering Schedule:

March 1	Jewel Karaisz and Adam Noll
March 8	Madison Held and Zachary Haas
March 15	Jonathan Weidman and Katelyn DeLong
March 22	Sydney Sheetz and Caleb Krause
March 29	Ethan Weidman and Cayden Ciccone-Haas
April 5	Nick Perella and Lizzie Schell
April 12 (6:00)	Volunteers Needed (please notify the church office if you are able to help)
April 12 (10:15)	Emily Bortz and Kelly Leiby
April 19	Connor O'Neil and Carson Sheetz
April 26	Sarah Grim and Autumn Edelman

EAGLES DONATION – The Youth Group has received a \$500.00 grant/donation from the Kutztown Fraternal Order of Eagles. These donations are, in part, based on the activities of the Youth Group for their church and community service.

THANK YOU FROM MARY'S SHELTER

Zion Union Church – Maxatawny Youth Group,

Thank you so much for your support of Mary's Shelter. We really appreciate your donation of the 6 hand-made blankets. They are beautiful and will be a warm comfort this winter season. Thank you so much for your kindness! Our moms, babies, and children are grateful to everyone who care about their future. We look forward to continuing our partnership, loving children from the beginning, changing lives forever!

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your youth group's volunteer efforts at the Holiday Distribution and your donations of carts of Holiday Box items and food, gift cards, and a sock drive for our Food Pantry. Your generosity helped to make this past Holiday season a little brighter for those in need. This December we served 808 pantry individuals in 291 households. And with your help we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 264 local children residing in one of the 3 local school districts of Brandywine Heights, Fleetwood, and Kutztown. From the clients, staff, and Board of Directors of Friend, Inc. Community Services, we sincerely thank you.



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our **FEBRUARY** singers acknowledging their "Sunday School Spirit" by singing their favorite song, "*Love, Love, Love*" were Lee Miller, Cooper Kellum, and Lila Berger. Other students in this 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade class are Andrew Schucker, Asher Ginsburg, and Penelope Zoccola. Grace Haas and Julie Karaisz are their teachers.

This is what we learned during our Sunday School Spirit Opening:

- **Each week we come to Sunday School to learn God's Word:**
 - After a visual appreciation of our BIBLE stained-glass window in Fellowship Hall, we noticed that the Bible image has clasps on either side. Those clasps remind us to always ask God to "*Open our eyes that we may see glimpses of His truth.*" Also, to ask God to "*place in our hands the wonderful key that will unclasp His Word to set us free.*" (These lyrics are from the famous hymn, "*Open My Eyes That I May See.*")
 - We read from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "*The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true, and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.*"
 - All those attending Sunday School are memorizing this Bible Verse: Psalm 100: 2 - "*Serve the Lord with gladness; Come into His presence with singing.*"

Please join our Sunday School on March 1st at 9:00 A.M. for our next Sunday School Spirit Song. The 4th and 5th grade class will sing during the opening.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Carson Sheetz plays basketball for Kutztown High School.
- Andrew Haas and Zachary Haas are members of the Fleetwood High School Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America.
- Zachary Haas took 1st place in Insurance and Risk Management at the Future Business Leaders of America Regional Leadership Conference.
- Loretta Sterner won second place in the state for her Angel Food Cake during the Pennsylvania Farm Show.
- Samantha Hassler was wished a “Happy Birthday” from the WFZM morning crew.
- Sydney Sheetz presented library books to the Kutztown School Board in honor of the Pennsylvania School Board Association’s School Director Recognition Month.
- Archer Scaffidi qualified for the Mid-Atlantic Junior Olympic Swimming Championship in the 100 Breast.
- Archer Scaffidi was recognized at the Brandywine Heights Middle School for recently being Student of the Month. Students are chosen by demonstrating certain character traits. Archer’s was respect.
- Steven Gehringer plays Cogsworth, Zachary Haas plays Gaston, and Andrew Haas is in the pit orchestra for Fleetwood High School’s presentation of Beauty and the Beast.
- Mary Laub was one of the PA German Zammelaaf organizers of the Groundhog Day celebration at Midway Diner in Bethel, PA.

HONOR ROLL

If you would like a name included please email the church office or put a note in the secretary’s mailbox in the Gathering Area of the church.

Archer Scaffidi

Katelyn DeLong

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **March 10th and April 14th** from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.

MYSTERY MEMBER

This month's mystery person is very visible on a Sunday morning and throughout the week as she contributes to various functions of the church.

She was born in Allentown and continues to live in the same home where she lived with her parents and sister. She remembers lots of bike riding, kickball, and an annual trip to Dorney Park.

She is a graduate of Kutztown High School, Moravian College (BA in Psychology), and Kutztown University (MA in Counseling Psychology).

Her life's work has been with children in the foster care system.

She is married to another well-known member of our church community. They were high school sweethearts and dated for 10 years before they were married in Longswamp UCC Church to honor her parents who were married there in 1960. She recalls that it was raining and windy for their outdoor wedding reception at Blue Falls. A tent had blown down before they arrived. They honeymooned in Aruba and had some family members frantic because hurricanes were reported in that area. They were oblivious to weather reports because the weather was beautiful in the spot where they were vacationing.

They are the parents of two "amazing" children, both of whom are married or soon-to-be married to "fabulous" spouses.

An animal lover, she has had numerous cats and some dogs over the years and also a pig that walked on a leash and rode in the car. Their "precious naughty dog" went to doggie heaven several years ago. She has a soft spot for foundlings and currently cares for 13 – 15 cats that come to the house regularly for a good meal. She catches and spays or neuters all of them.

Among her hobbies she lists gardening, knitting (she is a beginner), traveling, and sitting on the beach in Ocean City, New Jersey with family and friends.

She is a lifelong member of Zion's and in that time she has helped with Vacation Bible School, served on the Church Board, was a member of the Call Committee for Pastor Werley, served on the Building Committee for the new addition, and continues to contribute to numerous other committees.

Do you know who she is?

KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

Usually the third Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. a Community Meal is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. There is no cost. All are invited. Parking is in the rear of the church on Sacony Alley.

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **March 24th and April 21st** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. On **March 24th**, Dr. Greg Carey will present “*Parables in a Fake News World*”. On **April 21st**, Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks will present “*Songs of the Earth and the Celtic Soul*”. For more information, contact Dr. Harry L. Serio at 610-944-7032 or HLSerio@aol.com or Dr. Robert Stewart at 610-775-2836 or rastheo1951@msn.com.

PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF

There will be a special event on Saturday, **March 21st**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trainer’s Midway Diner, Bethel, PA, to learn more about the PA German (Dutch) language and culture. The PA German word Zammelaaf means ‘social gathering’. At the Zammelaaf, participants can learn about the PA German history, genealogy, and language. There will be traditional PA German crafts and artists, children’s activities, and old-fashioned toys. Lynn Otto, local historian, will present, ‘A Walk With Conrad Weiser.’ Also Doug Madenford and Chris LaRosa will present, ‘Ask a PA Dutschman.’ In addition, choral music sung in the PA German dialect will be performed by ‘Die Schwadore Schalle’ and ‘Der Dolphock Sanger Chor’. Delicious PA German food will be available for purchase and a silent auction will be operating all day. Trainer’s Midway Diner is easily accessible, located along Interstate 78, Exit 16. The event is free and everyone is welcome! Contact Mary Laub for more information.

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during each year. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented at the register prior to checking out for the rebate to be valid as indicated by the "Save A Tape" notation on the receipt.** Radcliffe's does not require a card for Zion's members to enroll in the program. Tapes for both Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited on the second floor in the boxes in the rear of the sanctuary.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM REV. WILLIAM WORLEY, PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE MINISTER

Dear Pastors and Parishioners,

Thank you for the difference you have made in the lives of people, communities, and pastoral leadership over the last year through your support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Whether you offered what you collected or included OCWM in your annual budget, you and your church extended the reach of the United Church of Christ to both local and global neighborhoods.

At the close of 2019, PSEC congregations and individuals contributed \$827,819 OCWM dollars toward the work of our Conference. That is \$819 more than we had budgeted to receive and wouldn't have been possible without a few individual contributors to the Conference's OCWM goal! Thank you and thanks be to God for all blessings! I am excited to state that with those funds, the PSEC:

Supported Clergy:

- Supported our Annual Clergy Men's Retreat, Annual Clergy Women's Retreat and helped support the 25th Annual Clergy Convocation
- Provided scholarship money for seminary students
- Provided support for clergy Communities of Practice
- Provided Boundary, Diversity and part-time ministry Training for authorized ministers
- Offered spiritual growth opportunities via Ventures, Quiet Days, and Walking with God retreats
- Contributed to the UCC Pension Board Campaign in support of new and retired clergy
- Hosted retired clergy event at the Spring meeting
- Continue to support Members in Discernment with training

Assisted Congregations:

- Connected congregations and pastors in the Search and Call process and provided guidance for 40 congregations searching for a pastor
- Hosted training events for church secretaries, administrators, bookkeepers, and treasurers
- Offered church growth workshops and consultations including stewardship training

(continued on next page)

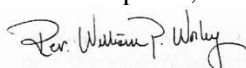
- Provided guidance for congregations who have entered an “end of ministry” discernment process
- Supported ALICE (active shooter) training for our churches
- Facilitated an uplifting Annual Spring and Fall Conference Meeting

Changed Lives:

- Supported two Conference youth retreats and the youth who traveled to General Synod
- Supported delegates representing PSEC at the General Synod 32
- Supported local Disaster Ministries through training for our Disaster Ministries Support team
- Forged a new ecumenical partnership with the Church of South India and supported a team from the PNEC/PSEC Ecumenical Ministries team to visit in February 2020
- Supported ministry partners including the PA Council of Churches, PA Academy of Ministry, Lancaster Seminary, Bethany Children’s Home, E&R Historical Society, Ursinus Campus Ministry, Phoebe Ministries, Locust Lake, and the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia

The Conference has ended the year in a good cash position, and we are very excited to see what good works can be done together as we continue to grow awareness within our congregations of our covenantal relationship with one another and with the wider church. By the grace of God and the dedication of our local churches and individual members, we are blessed to be in this position.

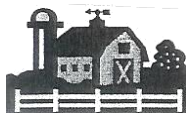
Grace and peace,



Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister

FARM FAMILY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

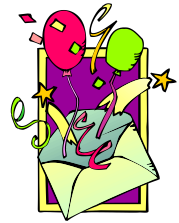
The Farm Family Appreciation Celebration at the Hamburg Field House will be held **March 21st**. Doors open at 6:15 P.M. (but no earlier). Dinner buffet is from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. Music by “The Outlaws” is from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.



Cost: farm families – free will donation at the door; farm family supporters – \$18.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 3-10, and children 2 and under are free. This year’s theme is “trucks”. Any questions, contact Lisa at 610-378-1327 or go to www.nepasynod.org under the events heading. Deadline is **March 6th**.

CARD SHOWERS

We are listing those couples married 50 years or more and those people 70 years or older. If we are missing anyone, please call the church office.



March 1	William Gehman
March 3	Anna Bortz
March 9	John Costello
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Arlene Oswald
March 16	Dorothy Zettlemoyer
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (66 wed)
March 20	Ralph Noll, Sr.
March 25	Sarah (Millie) Christman
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 27	David Herber
March 28	John Mertz
March 29	Betty Dietrich
March 31	Patricia Miller
April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	Jeremiah Heffner
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 17	Ralph & Helen Noll, Sr. (66 wed)
April 18	Joseph Zajac
April 19	George & Irene Isamoyer (62 wed)
April 24	Marion Angstadt
April 27	Robert Leibold

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Rev. Herbert Michel.
... the family of Bruce Baver.
... the family of Eric Wishnick.

... the family of Mildred Merkel.
... the family of Dawn Schwoyer.



MISSION STATEMENT

Energized by the Spirit! Humbled by Christ's Grace! Working for God's glory!

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNIONS

You are invited by Jesus Christ to this awesome feast of the Children of God.



March 1	Pew Holy Communion
April 5	Altar Holy Communion
April 9	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
April 12 (6 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
April 12 (10:15 AM)	Pew Holy Communion

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of April. If you have any information to be included in the April newsletter, please have it in the church office by **March 15th**.