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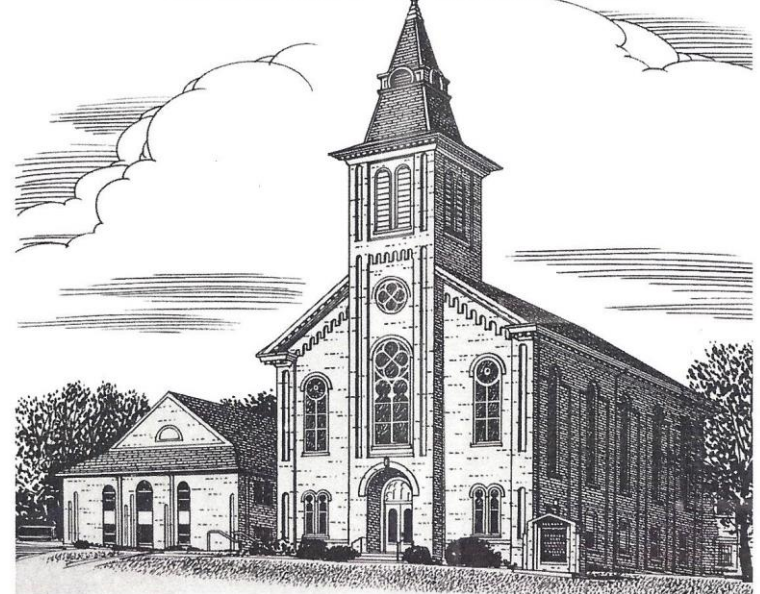
Website: www.ziegelschurch.org

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Rev Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Interim	484-523-3039
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David Grillo, 2018 Lutheran Council Pres.	610-928-3506
Don Peters, 2018 UCC Consistory Pres.	610-398-0828
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ZIEGELS UNION CHURCH



Breinigsville, PA

***April 2018
Newsletter***

Volume 18, Issue 4

Holy Week

The deadline for submissions for the May 2018 newsletter
is Friday, April 13.

Please contact Michele Quier directly or send information
by email to MichM7270@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. – Way of the Cross and Soup Meal. There will be about 20 experimental sites, set up across the sanctuary. Each has a scripture reading and a short response. Each has something to “do” to steer our spiritual response to the reading. The readings themselves follow Jesus through his mission, to the cross and beyond, and invite us into the story. A child friendly event will also be offered for the children to experience the journey.

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. – Ziegels Church will observe Maundy Thursday with a Union Agape Meal (a form of “Love Feast”) in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be arranged followed by an informal Communion around the tables in the Fellowship Hall and a teaching for children (and adults) about the Stripping of the Altar. Finally, we will devotionally process upstairs to the church sanctuary where all are welcome to participate in the Stripping of the Altar. **The Agape Love Feast will begin at 6:30 p.m.** We will be serving baked chicken, and we will need side dishes of vegetables and potatoes, and deserts. If you are planning to attend, please let Lori know how many people will be coming and what you can bring. We need to have numbers for attendance for the food preparation.



Good Friday Worship will be held March 30 at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m. The Good Friday 12:00 Noon service will be a meditation on the passion of Jesus focused on eight different objects which will be presented in the church. Patterned on a “Stations of the Cross” service. Scripture passages will be read, a hymn will be sung, and a prayer will be offered relating to each object. The whole service will last no more than 45-50 minutes. The focus on objects will make it easier for children to relate.

On Good Friday Evening, at our Tenebrae Service, we will share readings from all four gospels and a reading from

the prophet Isaiah. Following each reading, the reader will extinguish a candle, symbolic of the coming gloom. We will respond to each reading by singing selected hymn verses, hoping to discover ourselves within the story. It can be a deeply spiritual and moving service that prepares our hearts for the new dawn of Christ’s resurrection, on Easter morning, when the light of God’s renewing love will burn away all shadows.

On Easter morning, April 1, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Services will be held at:

- 6:00 a.m. – Union Sunrise Service begins in the cemetery then moves to the sanctuary for worship and Holy Communion.
- 8:30 a.m. – Lutheran Festive Worship with Holy Communion
- 11:05 a.m. – UCC Festive Worship with Holy Communion

The Easter Dawn Service / Easter Vigil will begin in the cemetery with, “The Lighting of the New Fire”. Led by the Christ Candle, people will proceed into the church. (Those for whom being outside is challenging are encouraged to gather at 6:00 a.m. in the church.) Reading and preaching of the Word will be followed by remembering our baptisms, and Holy Communion. This deeply inspiring service is filled with actions and experiences, besides words, that help make Christ’s resurrection come alive.



Please be with us on this day as we celebrate the risen Christ!

A Union Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 22. Following the service, a Union Gathering will be held. Topics will include the Exploratory Committee Report. At 11:00 a.m. we will provide brunch for those who are planning to attend. An activity table will be set up for the children in attendance. The activity table gives parents a chance to listen to the meeting and members of the committee the chance to answer any questions that come up during the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to help at the table please contact Kristin Folck.

Mother's Day Hanging Basket Sale!



Purchase a basket for delivery to the church or a coupon for baskets or flats to be picked up at Lehigh Valley Garden Center, Routes 22 & 309. Cost of \$15 for a basket or coupon; \$11 for flat coupon. Pickup at the church is on Thursday, May 10, between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. We cannot guarantee colors for church pickup. Coupons allow you to choose from a wide variety of colors and plants. **Firm deadline April 30.** Order forms are located at the organ door and narthex windowsills and in the Fellowship Room or you can use the form included in the newsletter. Money must accompany the order.

A Union Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. A 20' by 20' space (you must provide your own table) to sell your items can be reserved for \$10.00 for non-members and free to members, or the church will accept donations that will be sold on the "Church" table. The items may be brought to the church beginning on Sunday, April 29. All proceeds will be given to our Family Promise Coordinators for purchase of items needed to house families, and to our Wreaths Across America Team. Help is needed to set up and prepare for the Yard Sale (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.), food prep, and to clean up after. Donations of baked goods and other food items would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Loch at 610-285-6212.

Ziegels Union Sunday School "Mother's Day" Canvas Painting Fundraiser on Saturday, May 12. Come join us in the grove. What a great way to have some fun with your Mother or make her a great gift! Painting starts at 1:00 p.m. \$35 includes light refreshments. Your payment reserves your spot and everything you need to create your masterpiece. Contact any Sunday School officer or Michele Quier at 484-661-6049.

Lutheran Social Services invites you to join us on Saturday, November 3 for a bus trip to Sight and Sound Theater for the show, "Jesus." We will leave Ziegels at 10:00 a.m. and have lunch at Shady Maple and have time to do some shopping. We will return home around 7:30 p.m. The cost will be \$130 for adults, \$125 for seniors 60 and over, \$75 for children 4-12, and \$65 for children under 4. Sign up forms are available at the organ door, narthex windowsills, in the Fellowship Room and in the office or you can use the form included in the newsletter. Deadline is October 3.

The Fellowship Hour Needs Volunteers!

Everyone likes to have the drinks and tasty baked goods during the fellowship hour on a Sunday. Volunteers are needed in order for this to happen and not much time is required. People are needed for set up, clean up and for baking the treats. Sign-up sheets are located in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, please contact Doreen Wynn at 610-481-0143 or luvplumeria@yahoo.com. Thank you to everyone that has helped set up, clean up and donated baked goods.

Monthly Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. The group makes Prayer Shawls, Baptismal blankets and scarves. All are invited to attend this group and share your gift, or come out and learn to knit and crochet.



The Boy Scouts will no longer be collecting aluminum cans. Please do not drop off any cans at Ziegels. The Historical Society will take them if you bag them and place them under the barn on their property.

Union Church Picnic August 25. A meeting will be held



on April 8 at 10:15 a.m. to continue planning. Anyone that would be interested in helping to plan this picnic is welcome to attend. Any questions please see Kim Lapp.

Mission

The Mission Response Team will hold their next meeting on Monday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion will be held on fundraising and future work projects. Please join us!

Our next Shrimp Boil will be held on Sunday, April 29 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The menu will include a salad, ½ pound shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn, a drink and a dessert. A children's meal will include a salad, ¼ pound shrimp, sausage, potatoes, half a cob of corn, a drink and a dessert. The cost will be \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children. We will be eating inside! Please call Lori at 610-573-9764 by April 25 to place your reservation. You must preorder! Eat in or take out! Help will be needed in preparing and serving! All proceeds will be used for work in disaster relief recovery.

The Team will return to Camden, New York this summer. They will be working with Cluster 13 Ministries. This trip is open to families and teenagers. We will be leaving on July 15 and we will return home on Friday, July 20. If you would like to work with us for a week or even a half week, you are more than welcome. If you are interested in traveling with the Team, please speak with Lori Brawn.

The 12th Annual Mission Team Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, August 4 at Allentown Municipal Golf Course with a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start. The fees are \$90.00 per golfer, which includes greens fees, lunch, and prizes. Donations of raffle prizes are needed as well as tee sponsors (\$50.00) and business sponsors (\$25.00). Foursome forms and sponsor forms are available in the main office or call Terry Oplinger at (610) 462-5324 for more information. Help is also needed the day of the Outing.

Raffle Tickets for the Golf Outing will be sold for \$10.00 per ticket, and the drawing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on the day of the outing. Prizes will be announced very soon. If you would be willing to sell tickets for the Team, for every ten you sell you will receive one free ticket. Please call Diane Hemerly at 610-767-5198 or e-mail her at jhemerly@aol.com.

Family Promise is moving forward in their mission to house homeless people in our churches. There are some items we will need to take care of our families if anyone would like to donate any gently used or new items. Twin sheet sets, blankets, pillows, washcloths, hand towels, drying racks, mattress pads, infant bathtub, 2 "pack and plays", alarm clocks, night lights, diapers and sippy cups, and small travel toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes. Any questions, please contact Kim Lapp.



Sunshine Center Preschool is accepting new students for the 2018-2019 school year. Classes include two and three-year-old, three year old, and four year olds. If you would like more information or would like to register a student, please contact Diane Hemerly at 610-285-6297 or Pat Elliot at 610-395-8034. All children are welcome!

Union Soundz 20th Anniversary edition of "I Saw the Light" in CD format is available to purchase at \$15 per copy. If you have been wondering how you can listen to that 1996 "I Saw the Light" cassette you have, here's your chance to remember those great timeless songs from a classic Ziegels gospel group Union Soundz. If you weren't around to hear this gospel group back then, you're going to love these beautiful harmonies and familiar melodies sung by this talented men's quartet. Get your copy now from the church office or call Glenn Hoffman at 610-217-3819 to reserve your copy. All proceeds will go towards the projection system for the sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

"Seasons of My Life", a collection of devotional insights written by Daryl Wolf for our newsletters from June 1986 through November 2005 is available for purchase. The cost per book is \$15.00 and all proceeds will benefit the Mission Team. Please see Lori if you would like a copy.

Message from Lori.....

***"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."
Isaiah 55:8***

Has there ever been one day when you have looked into the mirror and been completely happy with what you see? Most of us will look at ourselves and think "if my nose were just a little smaller", "if my ears didn't stick out quite so far from my head", "if I just could get rid of that gray hair once and for all," or maybe, "if I could just lose five pounds". Who invented mirrors anyway? And why? Wouldn't we be much happier if we didn't have to look at ourselves every day, if we were oblivious to the way we appear in the mirror?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could see ourselves only in God's mirror? We could see ourselves as God made us, perfect. Each of us uniquely formed. We could look at ourselves and not see what is on the outside but what is on the inside. God loves us during those "bad hair days", when our eyes are puffy in the morning, and when our bodies are tired in the evening. He loves us when we gain ten pounds, lose our hair, gain an attitude that makes our children run and hide, **and** even when we lose our way.

We cannot hide ourselves from God. Who knows us better than the One who created us?

God sees us as we are. And God loves us in spite of ourselves. We may not love ourselves today, but God still loves us. We may feel weak and powerless, but God is here with us. Paul was given a thorn in his flesh to keep him from becoming proud and the Lord told him, three times, *"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV)

Whether we are unhappy with our physical self or even our inner selves, God is still there. He forgives us when our guilt and our humanness takes control of our lives. He forgives us even when we have trouble forgiving ourselves. Every day is a new beginning with God.

And so this Easter Season, rejoice in the gift you have been given as found in 1 John 4:9-10, *"God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."*

We cannot begin to imagine or understand just how much God loves us. His love is not our love. His ways are not our ways. If He, who knows us so well, can love us, should we not love ourselves and each other with the same love we have been shown?

Easter Blessings,
Lori

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School

Classes are held each Sunday for children and youth ages 1 through 8th grade. Children are asked to be in their classrooms by 10:00 a.m. and class is dismissed at 10:55 a.m. Please remember that children should not be sent to their classrooms before 9:55 a.m. and should be picked up by 10:55 a.m. Our schedule allows just enough time for our Sunday School teachers and helpers who attend early service to get to their classrooms and for our teachers and helpers who attend late service to get to their service on time.

Our Adult Sunday School Class is offered every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Ralph Wilhide leads the class and they meet in the Matthew Room.

On Sunday, February 18, the children "Buried the Alleluias" in preparation for Lent. The Alleluias will be released on Easter Morning.

Our annual Lenten Loose Change Offering began on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and will end on Easter Sunday. Collection containers are located outside of the elevator on the first floor and next to the water fountain on the second floor. Proceeds will be sent to the Snack Pack Program at Lowhill Food Pantry.

Like us on Facebook! Christian Education is now on Facebook! Our page was just launched and holds all of the information for upcoming events, camps, and pictures of all the fun we are having! We also have a new e-mail address ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com.

Post Confirmation Class

Our first post confirmation class will meet on April 8 in the Mark room at 10:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

Confirmation Class Happenings

The class will meet on April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Our lessons for this month are "Daniel and Job," "Psalms of Praise, Help and Trust, and Creation," and "Proverbs & Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes".

Important Upcoming Events:

- The Final Retreat for second year students will be held on Friday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m.
- Lutheran Council Interviews will be held on May 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- UCC Consistory interviews will be held on May 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner – May 19
- Confirmation Day – May 20

Did you know that the Learning Ministries Committee has calculated that it costs \$220.00 per student per year for the Confirmation Program? Each family in the program is asked for a donation of \$100.00 per year, but for some this is a major financial hardship. If you would like to sponsor a student, a donation in any amount may be made out to your congregation and marked Confirmation Program. Any support is greatly appreciated!

Christian Education

Our next scheduled Christian Education meeting will be held Monday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. If you have an interest in the Christian Education of our members and would like to be involved in future events, please join us. A Sunday School teacher or helper from each class is asked to attend.

Mark your Calendars!

- Sunday, May 6 – Youth Sunday Service at 11:05 a.m. and Sunday School Program at 10:10 a.m.
- Hero Central VBS – June 18 to 22
- Bear Creek Day Camp – July 16-20
- Ziegels Music & Drama Camp – to be determined

Registrations for our Summer Camps will be available online this year! Links will be on our Facebook page as well as in the next newsletter!

VBS Helpers! We are looking for VBS helpers for the week of June 18-22. Help is needed in as well as leaders for different grade levels. If you would be interested in helping please email us at ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com.

Perfect Attendance

Pre-K: Jaxon Masters

Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Dana Yerger

Confirmation: Joshua Wynn, Olivia Wynn

Thank you:

- everyone who attended the cupcake youth group event.
- everyone who attended, donated to, or volunteered their time to the Easter Egg Hunt.
- to everyone who donated items for our 120 CleanUp Buckets and all those who came out for the Bucket Assembly Party. The average cost of one filled bucket was \$75.00, which totaled \$9,000.00 for the total number of buckets provided. We are grateful for the many monetary donations and the donation of the items needed to complete the buckets. After the Mission Team donation of just under \$2,000.00 our congregations have given almost \$6,000.00 worth of donations. We are also thankful for the supplies donated by Uline and Tractor Supply. And we also give thanks to Steve Hemerly and Bruce Watt for delivering the buckets for shipping.
- to the Bandit Truck Stop. The office received a call that a truck driver had over 30 cartons of fresh green beans that needed to be donated. We filled two cars with the donations. The next day a volunteer from LCC picked up the vegetables and delivered the items to the Soup Kitchen, the Allentown Rescue Mission and the Sixth Street Shelter. We are blessed to receive those calls and accept the donations that can be given to Lowhill Food Pantry and other organizations !

- our Mission Team members (Pastor Andy, Kerry Merkel, Terry Oplinger, Dave Purugganan, Winona Schappell, Sarah Taylor and Bruce Watt) who traveled to Denham Springs, Louisiana to work with Fuller Center to help rebuild and renew homes damaged by recent flooding. We also give thanks to all of you who prayed for our Team and their Mission.
- to all who donated monies in support of the Annual Farm Family Banquet.
- to the Lutheran Social Services, the Mission Team, the UCC Consistory, the Lutheran Council, Worship and Music and the Staff who provided soup, bread, crackers and desserts for our Lenten Services.
- To Pastor Jeff for covering for Pastor Andy on March 11 when he was sick and March 18 while he was in Louisiana with the Mission Team.

Community News



Zumba classes at Ziegels are held in the Acts Room on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 p.m. Missi Fuggazotto is the instructor. The cost is \$30.00 for 6 classes or \$7.00 per class.

Please bring a towel and water. Childcare is not provided.

The WLTHS 14th Annual Basket Social Fundraiser will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018 at the Zettlemoyer Auction Center in Fogelsville located at 820 Nursery Street. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. to view baskets and place your tickets. The actual drawing begins at 7:00 p.m.

Liberty High School will present "The Wizard of Oz" on April 26, 27, 28 at 7:00 p.m. and 29 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale March 2. Call 1-866-967-8167 or online showtix4u.com.

The Lowhill Food Pantry

Our contribution to the Lowhill Food Pantry for the month of February was 247 pounds. Their current needs are Jelly (no grape), jello, pudding, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, spaghetti sauce, and hamburger helper. Always keep in mind the need for the item(s) to not carry an expired or soon to be expired date.

The needs for the Blessings Room are socks for all ages, any size sheets, pots and pans.

The support of this Union Church for this community program is just awesome. Thank you cannot be said enough for all the food and items given. Please know that all your gifts are so appreciated by the clients of the Lowhill Food Pantry.

Thank You To Our Sponsors! The following people are the sponsors for the month of April:

Lowhill Food Pantry Sponsor: Eleanor Reynard in loving memory of Charlie

Website Sponsor: Maynard and Annabelle Koplin

Union Church Committee Minutes

Highlights from March 13th Meeting include:

- Discussion on Paving of Parking Lot Recommendation from Property Committee.
- Thank you received from Christ Church at Lowhill Food Bank.
- Approved Organist to look for a used piano.
- Summer Union Worship: July 1 through Sept 2.

Next Union Church Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.