

**Contact Information**

**You can reach us:**

**e-mail address: [ziegelschurch@gmail.com](mailto:ziegelschurch@gmail.com)**

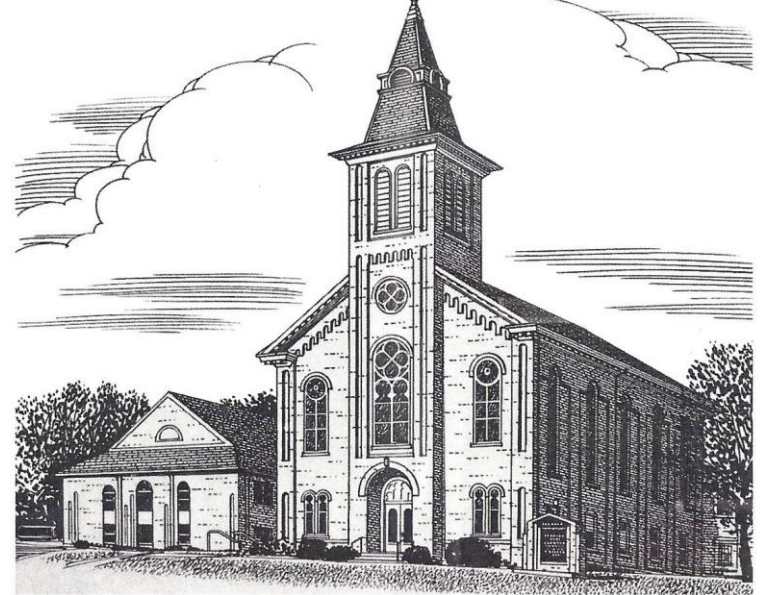
**Website: [www.ziegelschurch.org](http://www.ziegelschurch.org)**

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

**Phone: 610-285-6157**

<b>Rev Jeff Kistler, UCC Interim Pastor</b>	<b>484-788-3743</b>
<b>Rev Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Interim</b>	<b>484-523-3039</b>
<b>Lori Brawn, Lutheran Administrator</b>	<b>610-573-9764</b>
<b>Marlene Frantz, UCC Admin. Assistant</b>	<b>610-285-6631</b>
<b>Diane Moyer, Church Caretaker</b>	<b>610-285-4751</b>
<b>Jill Bruckart, Director of Music Ministries</b>	<b>610-419-0461</b>
<b>Kristin Folck, Director of Christian Education</b>	<b>484-860-2549</b>
<b>Andrew Graff, 2018 Union Church Pres.</b>	<b>610-349-0359</b>
<b>David Grillo, 2018 Lutheran Council Pres.</b>	<b>610-928-3506</b>
<b>Don Peters, 2018 UCC Consistory Pres.</b>	<b>610-398-0828</b>
<b>Michele Quier, Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>484-661-6049</b>

# ZIEGELS UNION CHURCH



***Breinigsville, PA***

***May 2018  
Newsletter***

***Volume 18, Issue 5***

The deadline for submissions for the June 2018 newsletter  
is Friday, May 11.

Please contact Michele Quier directly or send information  
by email to [MichM7270@gmail.com](mailto:MichM7270@gmail.com)

# FIXING STUFF



I have a problem in my home and I want you to help me fix it. (I know you're good at this stuff.) But, well, here's the problem: the part of my house that the thing is that needs fixing is in a dark room and there's no light at all. But I've got some tools in a box, there, so you can choose whatever tool you want to fix it. And, well, I'm not really sure what it is that's wrong, but I do know that the house is not working the way it used to work, like, twenty years ago. Okay – go!!

The difficulty in the “directions” above, of course, is that it's impossible to fix something if you don't know what needs to be fixed. Plus, without being able to see what one is doing, it's almost more likely that things will be made worse rather than better through whatever action is taken. Moreover, not knowing what kind of tools and replacement parts you'll need makes your work impossible. A hammer, for instance, is a very fine tool, unless you're taking out a screw. A screwdriver is a fine tool, unless you're changing a sparkplug. A wrench is a fine tool, unless you're sanding a wall.

Along with most of the Christian churches in North America, we are troubled by demographic shifts in our country that have led to “declining membership” in churches. (It's fair to say that “declining membership” is a problem experienced not just by churches, but by every kind of social organization.) We worry about how the Church will continue, how our children's children will experience faith, about how we can possibly fund the institutions we have lived within and gained so much from. We worry about our individual congregations and about Ziegels as a Union. And as part of our anxiety, we are concerned whether the model of the “Union Church” itself is limiting in our ability to survive, much less to thrive.

We're already, however, one step ahead of my first paragraph scenario, because we (kind of) know what the challenge is. Allow me the liberty of stating it in my words: *“What is the best way for us to sustain the proclamation of the Christian message in the changing world around us?”*

As we launch into the process of the Exploratory Committee, we have been actively pursuing some answers for that question. We want to develop a recommendation (or maybe more than one!) for the Union Council, and for the joint congregations, for what models of church life are best suited for our unique gifts in our particular setting. That is – what tools do we need to use, what parts, and for what purpose? And while one of those tools is the style of church we are (a Union of UCC and ELCA congregations at this point), it is not the only tool and not the only aspect of our life that makes us who we are.

We started here: what are the tools we have? Or in this case, we talked about the resources that make us who we are. We began lists of four different kinds of resources – physical resources, people resources, program resources and partner resources. Copies of those lists are now up in the Fellowship Hall begging for additions. (Go ahead – write in other resources we have that we were not able to list.) We will keep those lists in front of us. They are the tools we have in our tool box to fix or build the right kind of ministry for our situation.

We next began to explore a bit what the unique challenges are that we face, along with our neighborhood. We have really just begun teasing out the needs of God's many people who live close by, who also might be touched by our mission or become engaged with us in it. Certainly, there are ways that people are facing trials in our neck of the woods; and certainly, we have discovered spiritual strength to face those trials through our life in the church. Hearing the gospel has stabilized our lives in times of disruption. We are called to find ways to share that stability with those around us, whether or not they then join us in our proclamation.

Now. We do keep, in the backs of our Exploratory Committee files, a rather exhaustive (though maybe not complete) list of possible futures for our congregation(s) in this place. There are fifteen or sixteen possibilities on the list, some of which look more likely than others. But just because we're not grabbing on to one and saying “This is the Right One!” does not mean we're not working on it. Choosing a tool before knowing what job needs to be done is

foolish. It's like sitting in the dark and grabbing a hammer to tighten a screw.

It is, then, less helpful for people from the congregation to state that the results from the Committee should be this or that or something else; it would be more helpful to consider questions such as: What are the challenges faced by the people who live in this area and who are moving here? What needs do they have that we can respond to? Or even: What other resources do we have, that we haven't thought of, that might be important to us? How can we use who we are to touch the lives around us? Bringing answers to questions such as these would help us as we explore who it is that God wants to be. There are many ministries needed by the world around us, but we have many tools in the toolbox given us by God.

-- AWM



**The sacrament of Holy Communion** will be offered on the first and third Sunday of each month at both the 8:30 a.m. Lutheran service and 11:05 a.m. UCC service. The dates for this month are May 6 and May 20.

**We are happy to share that our Saturday Family Friendly Services will begin again in May.** Our time together begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room and will end by 7:00 p.m. We begin with a lesson and enjoy singing child friendly songs, then we have a family project or activity, and close with music and prayer, followed by light refreshments. All are invited, ages 0-100! Our dates are May 26, June 16, July 28, August 18, September 22 and November 20. We are happy to offer a time of worship to those who may not be able to attend summer Sunday worship due to other commitments. Please mark your calendars !

**Beginning on Sunday, July 1, we will have one Union**

**service at 9:00 a.m.** On Sunday, September 9, we will return to two Sunday services with the UCC worship at 8:30 a.m. and the Lutheran worship at 11:05 a.m.

**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.



### **Ziegels Sewing Mission**

We are beginning a new sewing ministry at Ziegels. We will be making (sewing) dresses for little girls for "Dress a Girl Around the World." This ministry began with the belief that every girl deserves at least one dress and they have provided dresses to well over 800,000 children in 82 countries. Our Sewing Ministry will also be making pillow cases for children who are ill at our area hospitals. If you are interested in helping with this new exciting mission work, please contact Shelley Daniels at [seashell246@gmail.com](mailto:seashell246@gmail.com) or 610-704-4500 or call the church office at 610-285-6157. You do not need to know how to sew !! Come out and see how you can help

and learn about these two important missions. Our first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

**A Property Workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 19** from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. All are welcome to come out and help with cleaning up the property.



**Help is needed for the Soup Kitchen** Wednesday, May 30th. Please contact Kim Lapp at 484-268-8845.

### **Save the Date:**

**Ziegels Union Church Picnic - Saturday, August 25,** from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.. Anyone that would be interested in helping to plan this picnic is welcome to contact Kim Lapp.

**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 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](mailto: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 AM 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.

### **Special Music During the Summer**



**Share Your Talents** during the summer months by offering special music for worship during July or August. Sign up sheet located on the choir room door or call Jill Bruckart at (484-456-6701) or e-mail [jillbb22@gmail.com](mailto:jillbb22@gmail.com). Thanks for

sharing your gifts to praise God!

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Contact Diane Hemerly at 610-767-5198 or [jhemerly@aol.com](mailto:jhemerly@aol.com).

### Family Promise

Ziegels is still in need of some items (new or gently used) to house Family Promise: pillows, drying racks, 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!

### A message from Lori

A few weeks ago, the father of a very dear friend of mine passed away at 95 years old. John was a wonderful man



who lived a very active life. Until two weeks before he passed away, he went to the gym every day to work out. He did woodcarving, loved fishing and clamming, and he maintained a huge garden in his back yard. After his wife, Kitty, passed in 2011, he took tomato seedlings to the office of her Cardiologist. After his passing, a remembrance was written on the Morning Call condolences. My friend, Janice, shared this at his memorial

service, "About 10 years ago, he brought in a couple of tomato seedlings he said he grew from seeds he "smuggled in from Italy". Who knows? In any case, that plant produced enormous heart shaped delicious tomatoes. I have since regrown that tomato every year and have given seeds to many people. When asked, -"What tomato is that?" all I could say was that it was a "Mulzet". The seed has since reached the MidAtlantic Giant Pumpkin Growers Association annual seed package to be grown competitively for weight. All the growers just love that tomato."

Such is the seeds of our faith. Although we don't always see the faith seeds that we plant grow in a season, the faith seeds we plant do grow. Years ago, when I was in Christian Education, I realized that as we planted seeds of faith in our children and youth we likely would not see a



sprouting occur immediately. Over time, I have seen these children and youth come back as adults. Graduating from college, marrying and having children.....and walking along their journey of faith.

*"I planted, he [Apollos] watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9, NLT)*

And so those seeds we plant in our friends and in our Church family grow through their journey, not through a season, not as John shared his tomato seeds which grew every spring into the summer. But as we pass the seeds of our faith, our brothers and sisters in Christ become wonderful farmers of the Lord. And our family in Christ grows and grows, and all the growers just love Jesus !

*Blessings, Lori*

"In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, and apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; Butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." ~ "In the Bulb There is a Flower," Natalie Sleeth, NCH #433

## 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.

Our Annual Lenten Loose Change Offering began on Ash Wednesday and ended Easter Sunday. This year we collected \$43.21. Proceeds are being 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 the information for upcoming events, camps, and pictures of all the fun we are having! Our Facebook address is: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristianEdZiegels/> And check us out on Instagram too!

Stay Tuned for more information on our Post Confirmation Class. Work will begin on the basement area and events are being discussed and planned! We look forward to this new venture with our young adults.

### Confirmation Class Happenings

The class will meet on May 6 and May 13.

### Important Upcoming Events:

- UCC Consistory interviews will be held on May 1 at 6:00 p.m.
- Lutheran Council Interviews will be held on May 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner will be held on May 19.
- Confirmation Day is May 20.

## Christian Education

Our next scheduled Christian Education meeting will be held Monday, May 21 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 for these Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, May 6** – Youth Sunday Service at 11:05 a.m. and Sunday School Program at 10:10 a.m.
- **Saturday, May 12** – Sunday School Canvas Painting Fundraiser at 1 p.m. in the church grove. Make a beautiful piece of art for yourself or for your Mom. Or better yet, spend the day with Mom making a masterpiece. Pre-registration is required. You can sign up with any of our Sunday School officers or on our Facebook page, follow the link to purchase your ticket!  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristianEdZiegels/>
- **Hero Central VBS** – June 18 through June 22. Forms are located outside the Sunday School office or register online.  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristianEdZiegels/> or  
<https://ziegleschurch.org/christian-education>
- **Bear Creek Day Camp** – July 16 through July 20. Forms are located outside the Sunday School office or register online.  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChristianEdZiegels/> or  
<https://ziegleschurch.org/christian-education>
- **Ziegels Music & Drama Camp** – More information to come soon!

**Please help us support our youth programs** by prayerfully considering our needs for help noted below email us at [ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com](mailto:ZiegelsChristianEducation@outlook.com) or call Kelly at 484-375-8978 or Kristin at the church office to discuss the opportunities.

- We are looking for VBS teachers and helpers for the week of June 18-22.
- We will be looking for host families for four Bear Creek counselors for the week of July 15-19. Please

consider hosting one or two counselors for a night or for the week. Counselors will need to be picked up at the church between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (Sunday through Wednesday). We will need dinner provided to them that evening and accommodations for sleeping and showering. Counselors can be dropped off the following morning at church prior to 8:30 a.m. where we will provide breakfast for them.

- Food Donations for VBS and Bear Creek Camp will also be needed. Please watch your bulletin and the June newsletter for more information on how you can help donate.
- If you are interested in providing a Day Camp Scholarship for Bear Creek Camper, please reach out to us for details.
- Donations are being accepted to help defer the costs of an online program we are using this year to reach more families and allow them to register and make payments when applicable for our Christian Education programs such as the Canvas Fundraiser May 12, as well as VBS and BCC and Drama Camp. The cost to utilize this online program is \$40.00 monthly.

### Perfect Attendance for March Sunday School

- Pre-K: Eli Yerger, Jaxon Masters, Quinley Hanna, Max Schmoyer
- Kindergarten and First Grade: Alex Taylor, Kylee Rex, Olivia Schmoyer, Dana Yerger
- Second and Third Grade: Emma Taylor
- Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade: Grace Clewell and Makela Frantz
- Confirmation: Charlize Bobbyn, Jenna Frey, Kira Schafer, Joshua Wynn, Evan Anderson, Kaleb Beers, Ryan Cardinale, Dart Delillo, Olivia Wynn

## 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 six classes or \$7.00 per class.

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

**Claussville Garden Club's Annual Plant Auction** will be held on Monday, May 7, 2018, at Zettlemoyer Auction Co, Fogelsville. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Auction begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.. Local Plants – grown by club members! Terms: cash or checks only: NO Credit Cards accepted!

### The Lowhill Food Pantry

Our contribution to the Pantry for the month of March was 200 pounds. Their current needs are baby food, diapers and wipes, jelly, soap, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, and skin lotion. Always keep in mind the need for the item(s) to not carry an expired or soon to be expired date. The needs of the Blessings Room are socks for all ages, any size sheets, towels, and summer type activities for children both indoor and outside. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You. Your gifts of donations are very much appreciated by the clients of the Lowhill Food Pantry.

### Family Promise

Family Promise will serve as volunteers at the Iron Pigs Concession Stands for the 2018 season. Anyone who would like to help will help to raise funds for Family Promise of Lehigh County is welcome to sign up. They will receive \$8.00 per hour for every volunteer. Please contact Kim Lapp at 484-268-8845 for more information.

## *Thank You To Our Sponsors!*

The following people are the sponsors for the month of May:

**Lowhill Food Pantry Sponsor:** Jane and Bob Mason for their anniversary

**Website Sponsor:** Jim and Diane Hemerly in honor of Nate and Melissa Hemerly's wedding anniversary

### Thank you to:

- everyone who attended and participated in our Way of the Cross, our Union Agape Meal, and our Good Friday services. We also give thanks to all who attended our Easter Celebration Services.
- everyone who sponsored flowers for Easter. You made our Sanctuary so lovely!
- everyone who attended the Celebration of Pastor Andy's Ordination Anniversary and to Lutheran Social Services for planning the refreshments.
- everyone who donated to Family Promise through the Banner in the Fellowship Room.
- the Mulzet Family for donations of all the blankets and sheets needed for us to house Family Promise.
- everyone who has donated items for Family Promise.
- Lori Brawn for assisting the children in Releasing the Alleluias on Easter Morning at both services.
- all the Sunday School members, children and parents who donated to Operation Starfish/Food for the Poor, Inc. Your donations help make a difference in the world, one life at a time.

### Union Church Committee Minutes

Highlights from April 10 Meeting include:



- Discussion on Paving of Parking Lot Recommendation from Property Committee.
- Discussion on Exploratory Committee
- Family Worship Starting in May (Saturday evenings)
- Two complete First Aid Kits to be purchased

Next Union Church Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.