Zion News

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June, 2023

The church in the heart of Penn Hills that is the heart of Penn Hills

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:1-5

In the early days of "Mommy-hood," I was taught what I can only call the "shushing-technique" when it came to consoling my fussy son. My in-laws were staying with us that first week home from the hospital in order to give us an extra hand (and of course to meet this newest member of the family!) and I was a sponge ready to absorb any newborn techniques that I could.

And, as Edward would enter his "witching time" in those first evening hours, my mother-in-law, cradling him in her arms, started to make a "shushing" sound as she swayed and lightly bounced him in her arms. She said it was to mimic the sound that a newborn hears in the womb (that of the mother's heartbeat) and is thus a comfort to them. And, sure enough, it worked as he became calm in her arms.

So much so, that I went out to purchase a white noise machine to have in our room, in hopes that it would help him to fall asleep in his bassinet (which he had been fighting against). Another way of communicating peace and comfort in a different language (in this case, without words) that would resonate with this tiny life who is finding his way in this world outside of the comforts of the womb.

Given that we are in season of Pentecost and then Time after Pentecost, I've been thinking a great deal about this ability to communicate in new ways. Ways that we did not know before but that were learned while walking alongside of another, whether that other is one only a few days old or one that is wise beyond their years.

And how the Church is such a place where words meet feelings and emotions and senses and things that cannot even be described by such measly words even in a newsletter article. Church, a place and time and a gathering of people which allows each of us a moment of rest against a hectic and weary world, a balm of life amidst a culture of stress, consumption, division and death. It is so easy to forget that beneath the bills and ads, activities and jobs, there is a great and profound stillness, a love that runs throughout every moment of our being.

The Church cannot be a stage, or a social club, or a political party. We have plenty of those already. We are awash with them, in fact. The Church can only be the Body of Christ; the place where God meets each person, where the divine enters into the profane, where the everyday is revealed as mysterious and glorious and awash with new life. Where a new reality is communicated not just in words but in experiences and stillness and only things that can be revealed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Because, we cannot describe this reality merely in words. And so we preach it. We sing it. We taste and drink and eat it. We feel it in the waters. We enter into it in liturgy, the great and holy mystery at the heart of everything. And so we are transformed—resurrected!—drowned and raised again.

On Sunday we are invited into the Sacred Mysteries of the Church of the Resurrected Christ. And the more we enter in, the deeper the Mystery grows. Come to Church this summer. Come to Christ, who comes to you. Come to the Font and the Altar, the Word and the water, the Body and the Blood. Come confess your sins and hear the sure promise of forgiveness. Come meet the living, Risen Christ—then go out so that others may find Him in you.

Peace, Pastor Martha

Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry last month! We ended up serving over 100 household clients through drive-through and it was thanks to all of your efforts setting up, serving, and cleaning up that it all happened!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, June 10** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, June 9th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 10th from 8:30am-12:00pm, that would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for all of your time, efforts, prayers and support towards making a difference in our local community and beyond!

Food Pantry Donations: We all know the price of food has increased. You've also probably noticed that the price of health and beauty products has risen too. While the food pantry gets most of its food from the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank at a reduced cost (cheaper than what you could buy it at the store), we don't get shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, etc.

Food Pantry Donation for June: We will be collecting cleaning products. This has been the most popular item offered to food pantry recipients. Again, this could mean dish detergent or tub cleaner or anything in between. As always, thank you for your gifts!

Prayer & Healing SERVICE

Are you interested in assisting with our Healing Services? This service consists of praying for a person and anointing their head with oil in the sign of the cross as a blessing. Ideally we would like to have 5 volunteers for this service so that we can have two "teams of two" stationed at the foot of the stairs (one for prayer and the other for anointing) and another person who can walk into the congregation to serve anyone who cannot come forward. These services are usually scheduled 4 times a year on the 5th Sunday. The future dates are April 30th, July 30th, and October 29th

Newsletter Deadline: Do you have an idea for an article, update on a project, or a photo from a Zion event or a shout-out or thank you? We would love to have it! All articles are due by the 20th of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: julie@zionpennhills.org.

Thank you! A big thank you for the wonderful turn-out of volunteers for our Zion Work Day. Despite the rainy weather, we got a lot accomplished inside.

The Congregation Council's Call for Special Congregation Meetings

Sunday, June 11 – A special meeting of the congregation is called for the purpose of adopting the updated Constitution and Bylaws for this congregation. The updates are posted in the narthex and are recommended for adoption by the Congregation Council.

Sunday, June 25 – The Annual Meeting of this congregation will be held after the service.

Please note these dates on your calendar so that you are present to participate in the various actions necessary for the functioning of our congregation. Thank you.

WHO'S WHO OF ZION LEADERSHIP

Church Council 2022-2023:
Pastor Martha McCreight (President)
Kathy Gaberson (VP)
Lauren Fitzroy (Secretary)
Charlotte Murray (Treasurer)
Tony Lamorte (Financial Secretary)
Sue Clydesdale (Stewardship Secretary and Budget and Finance Liaison)
Kathy Conrad (Parish Nurse)
Tom Felmley (Communications Chair and Music and Worship Liaison)
Chris Dippold (Youth Ministry Liaison)
Joe Balaban (Parish Life Liaison)
Marc Schuler (Property Chair)
Mark Mauro
Ashley Faas (Christian Education Chair)
Jeannette Christensen (Executive Committee Member at Large)
Rhonda Pope (Health Ministry co-chair and Liaison)

Budget and Finance Committee
Pat Pope
Charlotte Murray
Gail Snyder
Mark Mauro
Tony Lamorte
Sue Clydesdale

Christian Education Committee:
Ashley Faas
Deb Rall
Chris Dippold (Liaison)

Health Ministry:
Kathy Conrad
Rhonda Pope (Liaison)
Rachel Dolney
Sandra Short
Shirley McClure

Property Committee:
Marc Schuler Ray Rall
Joe Balaban
Tom Felmley
Pat Pope
Carl Haftl

Music and Worship Committee:
Andrew Sabol
Gail Snyder
Cindy Pierce
Tom Felmley
Pat Hauser
Debbie Marks
Brenda Wolfe
Pastor

Parish Life:
Tammy Belohlavek
Joe Balaban (Liaison)
Debbie Marks

Stewardship:
Sue Clydesdale Pastor Martha
Charlotte Murray
Jeannette Christensen

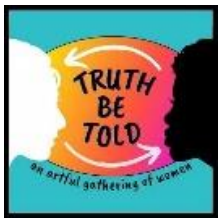
Mutual Ministry Committee (Pastor):
Kathy Gaberson (Council VP)
Mark Mauro
Tony LaMorte
Brenda Wolfe
Gail Snyder
Cindy Pierce

Mission Endowment:
Kathy Gaberson Linda Neumann
Charlotte Murray Pastor Martha

ZION BOOK CLUB

Book club meets the third Monday of every month at 1:00 pm, usually in the Gerhard Lounge. However, in the months of January, February, and March, we will meet from home via Zoom. Feel free to read with us and join us for discussion any time you choose; bring a friend as well. If you need information, contact Rhonda Pope.

6/19: *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride & Joe Piazza
7/19: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
8/21: *Radium Girls* by Kate Moore
9/18: *The Real Minerva* by Mary Sharrat
10/16: *South to America* by Imani Penny
11/20: *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* by Ingrid Rojas Contreras



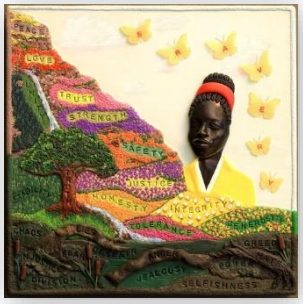
Fourteen women artists came together for more than a year and shared stories and life experiences around the topic of racism. Each artist chose a word of importance to her and designed a 10" X 10" canvas around that word. Many of them created additional artwork being displayed around the country.

This month, we feature Dianne Quarles. Her chosen word is "BRAVERY." She created a canvas that shows hate, lies, division, greed, etc., mired in mud and a hill to climb for unity, fairness, justice, etc. Dianne is primarily a jewelry artist and two of her pieces are featured. See the attachment for a more detailed description. Large photos of Dianne's art will be on display in the Gathering Space for the month of June. This display will advance our goal to be more inclusive in our artwork here at Zion.

DIANNE QUARLES
BRAVERY

Amanda Gorman's poem *The Hill We Climb,* delivered at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, resonated with Dianne. Amanda stated, "My hope is that my poem will represent a moment of unity for our country" and "with my words, I'll be able to speak to a new chapter and era for our nation." Bravery is what America needs in order to climb out of the foul swamp of systemic racism, division and all that it embodies in this country. To stop the hate, lies, division, and greed they have embraced, people will have to face and deal with the pain of the truth of our history of racism. To climb the hill to "a new chapter and era for our nation" of unity, fairness and justice, it will require bravery from all of us.

Dianne Hayes Quarles is a jewelry artist and designer who works primarily in polymer clay. She began sculpting faces in polymer when she saw many elegant, beautiful cameos but only one with the face of a Black woman. In a time of division, chaos and diversity issues in America, she uses her series, *Maruvian Women* and *Remember Who You Are,* to explore the positive images of people that are unapologetically black.



Dianne crafts her own molds for the faces then enhances and modifies each face into a unique individual. Then she designs a setting that reflects the character of the individual making each piece a one-of-a-kind work of art.

"I am inspired by the beauty I see in the women of African descent. The vibrant colors, unique designs, energy and creativity is so positive. How our African features and cultures became so demonized astounds me when there is so much beauty in our features and cultures. I try to capture that beauty and spirit in the jewelry I create."

Financial Status on April 30, 2023

On April 30, the General Operating Fund (which is used solely for budgeted expenses) had a balance of $63,896 which is a $5,314 gain from last month. Easter attendance played a big part in that! Donations toward budget expenditures through April 30 were $77,816. The Thomas Child Care & Learning Academy (TCC&LA) contributions also go to the General Operating Fund. Those contributions as of April 30 were $16,600 which helped us meet our budget expenses of $85,976 as of April 30. Otherwise, our donations would not be keeping pace with our expenses.

Donations to ULLA, the Food Pantry Fund, memorial funds, the Anniversary Fund, the Guest Musicians Fund, the Youth Ministry Fund, the Zion Mission Trip Fund, etc., are special funds that reside in our Thrivent Brokerage account to protect them from being used for budgeted expenses. Zion also has separate assets to hold our Mission Endowment Fund and our Original Endowment Fund.

As of April 30, the amount owed on the line of credit is $10,730 and the amount owed on the interest-free Lutheran Church Extension Society loan is $8,737. Therefore, our total debt is $19,467. Both are paid off with your donations to the Major Maintenance Fund.

As we move into the summer months, please don't go on vacation without fulfilling your faith promises first!

June Birthdays

4	Chrissa Clark	17	Pat Pope
6	Craig Stover	21	Mary Lou D'Ambrosio
9	Laura Patchen	23	Jeannie Meyer
11	Ashley Faas	23	Marie Dixon
12	Ed Rickus	23	David Ford
12	Lori Smith	25	Doris Meyers
14	Jeannette Christensen	29	Debbie Marks
16	Matthew Fabrizi	30	Brenda Wolfe
16	Jeffrey Durick	30	Mike Patchen

Anniversaries

6/13/2009 Lauren & John Fitzroy

6/19/1964 Pastor Bill and Patricia Hauser

6/21/1969 Alice & Robert Bartley

6/24/1960 Evelyn & Fred Ross

6/28/1997 Pat & Ed Pope