

Zwingli United Church of Christ

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

Zwingli Hill News

May 2021

Vol. 59 No. 4

I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, the Lord may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. Ephesians 3:16

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Recently I ran across these lyrics from Leonard Cohen's song "The Anthem":

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

These are words of hope I think we all need, or at least I need them. The past year (and more) has been filled with grief and loss, struggle and division, violence, a pandemic, the loss of innocent lives and major changes in how we do things. Public health directives for the safety of all are turned into political debate, which is insane. Some of those called to serve and protect have literally extinguished the breath of citizens in the black community - and until recently, have suffered little or no consequences. Arkansas legislators have passed laws targeting the LGBTQ community, making a public witness to their belief that LGBTQ people are less human and less worthy of compassion and care – sickening. Many have lost loved ones to COVID or in other ways but have had to rely on unfamiliar ways to grieve and mourn. OK, I could go on, but we all get the picture.

However, spring has come with warmer weather and new growth promised in the budding trees and flowers that grace our landscape. We see glimmers of justice and hope - small, but important steps in seeking a society where equality and diversity and humanity flourish. Yes, there will always be a crack in everything, but there will also be bells that can still ring. I hope that we at Zwingli are a people who will ring the bells of diversity and justice. I hope we will seek to look honestly at ourselves and the situations in the world so that we, and perhaps the world around us, can be transformed by God's mercy and grace. I hope we will continue to embrace the light of Christ and the presence of the Spirit to strengthen our inner spirit so that we are indeed rooted in love of God and neighbor. I hope, as it says in the recently written covenant for our ONA process, we will "aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination" (see article, p. 3).

In the midst of our hopes and dreams, there are already glimmers of light to celebrate at Zwingli. We will attempt once again limited in person worship beginning May 16 and hope to gradually expand opportunities to gather. We have baptized seven youth, children and infants in the last few months. Dedicated members continue to care for those in our community that are in need, or are lonely or suffering. Though small in number, our prayer circle continues to pray without ceasing each week. The Opening and Affirming process continues and many hope the congregation will affirm our covenant in the future as a witness to Christ's light, love and inclusion – a counterweight to the major cracks of hatred and exclusion.

This summer, the United Church of Christ will gather for the 33rd General Synod, which will be virtual for the first time. I will be a delegate from the PSEC, my second and last stint in that role. The theme for the Synod is "Rooted in Love." It's a great theme, and I hope as a United Church of Christ congregation, we can continue to live into that vision and way of life. We won't be perfect at it, and we may even have a few cracks in how we do things, but if truly rooted in God's love, we will do all we can to ring the bells and share the light of God's purposes and Christ's way. May it be so.

Peace,
Butch

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RETURN TO CHURCH

It's likely that many of us are more than ready to return to church. In light of current information about vaccines, cases, hospitalizations and other factors, the RTC Team is looking to begin limited in-person worship on **May 16**. More information will be sent out in the next week or so as we prepare and plan.

If you have any questions, please send to Lisa at office@zwingli.org and she will direct them to the pastors or RTC Team. Again, we ask for your patience and prayers.

PASTORAL CARE VISITS WITH PASTOR ALAN

Pastor Butch and Pastor Alan will be in touch for visits in the near future. Though Pastor Butch would love to introduce Pastor Alan in person, pandemic restrictions do not allow or limit that possibility. So, please do not be surprised to receive a call from Pastor Alan!!



SAVE THE DATE: GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 20th

Are you (or do you know of) a member of Zwingli that graduating this year? If so, we want to celebrate your success! Join us on June 20th, during worship, when we will recognize your hard work! Please contact the office, office@zwingli.org, by May 30th with your name, where you're graduating from, what your plans are after graduating (are you continuing your education? Is there a job calling your name?) and anything else you'd like to share with your Zwingli family!



Healthy Moments **Internet Safety for Children and All of Us** **By Karen Kispert, Ph.D**

"But this is what the LORD says: "Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save. "Isaiah 49:25

The following material is presented courtesy of the victim assistance center of Delaware County (Delaware County Women Against Rape), where Karen Kispert works as executive director.

Do you know what your children are doing while they are on the internet? Are they safely navigating through all of the apps and programs that are available to them? Do you have their password or know what picture they are using to represent themselves? The internet can be used for many positive reasons and has been such an important tool during this past year, but the internet can also be filled with unfiltered potential for kids to be exposed to harmful interactions like bullying and harassment, as well as inappropriate content. This is why it is so important for parents/guardians to have open communication with children about using the internet.

Talk to them about the apps they are using and what they are searching for online. Let them know that you will be monitoring their pages and apps – not because you do not trust them, but because there are others online who are not always honest and could potentially be dangerous. Know their passwords, and what pictures are being

used and shared. Keep the communication open and honest. Understand that mistakes can and will be made. However, having that door open to speak with their parents or guardians will let children know that they can share what is happening. Assure your children that they can rely on you to be trusted guides through any situations that may come up online.

Technology Tips for All Ages

Protecting your information

1. Keep your passwords to yourself.
2. Check your location settings and your privacy settings often and keep them private.
3. Don't share your personal information online or any of your friends' or family's information, including names, phone number, location, school district, grade, age, birthday, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, credit card info, etc.
4. Be aware of any personal information that may be given away by the background in your photos.
5. Any pictures you share online could be used by others.
6. Be careful and responsible with your webcam, keeping it turned off and covered when not in use.

Encountering strangers

7. Only accept or follow people that you know and trust.
8. People aren't always who they present themselves as.
9. If you make a friend online, and you're thinking about meeting them in person, always talk to an adult you trust who can help you plan safely.

Respecting boundaries

10. Remember to respect personal boundaries on technology (as well as in person).
11. Remember that some people don't always respect personal boundaries and may share something you expected to be private.
12. If anyone sends you an inappropriate message: block them, report them, and talk with an adult you trust.
13. Don't take or share any inappropriate photos or videos.

Communicating with others

14. Be respectful when interacting with others online.
15. Don't join in when you notice others being disrespectful online.
16. Misunderstandings are more likely to happen through text. Have serious conversations in person whenever possible.
17. Make sure you want to send or share something before you do so. Even if you delete it afterward, there is always a digital record.



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OPEN AND AFFIRMING

On Sunday, April 25, the Covenant Creation Committee and the Open and Affirming Team introduced the Open and Affirming Covenant to the Zwingli members who attended our special presentation during Adult Electives. Below is the covenant that we are praying will be adopted by Zwingli in the near future.

ONA COVENANT - OUR JOURNEY

At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges.

We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. It is our commitment that all members should feel and be safe, as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community and daily lives.

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During the presentation, Ed Bibic, reviewed the Zwingli Values, the Zwingli UCC Mission Statement and the Zwingli 2020 Vision to

demonstrate how well this covenant fits Zwingli United Church of Christ. He also shared how the two greatest commandments (love of God, and love of neighbor and self) were followed in the covenant.

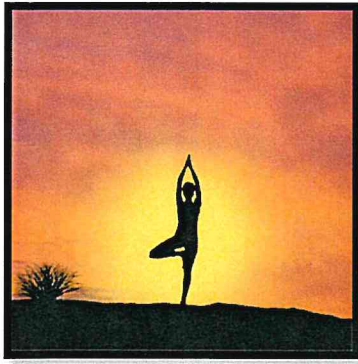
So, what are our next steps in this process?

1. We will send the covenant to the United Church of Christ ONA Coalition for review and suggestions.
2. The CCC team and ONA team will meet to review the ONA Coalition suggestions for any final tweaks.
3. The final ONA Covenant will be presented to Council and the congregation.
4. If the covenant is adopted by Zwingli, we will then forward it to the ONA Coalition for final approval.
5. When approved by the ONA Coalition, we will join over 1500 United Church of Christ churches to become Open and Affirming.
6. An Implementation Team will be created to help and guide Zwingli to live into the Covenant.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Cinciripini at office@zwingli.org or 215-723-1186.

ONA Team: Lisa Cinciripini, Ed Bibic, Lois Hunsicker, Sue Wack, Joan Yeager, Gene Moyer, Rhonda Moyer, Earl Ludwig. Pastor Butch Kuykendall, Pastor Alan Miles and formerly, Pastor Elaine, served as ex officio members

CCC: Ashley Scovronski, Obie Ralphs, Billy Leake, Carolyn Leake, Julie Neff.

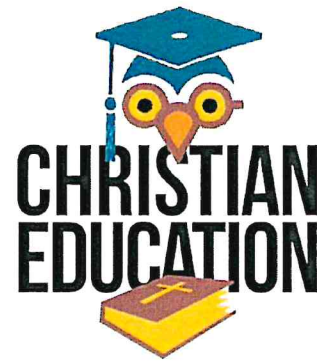


YOGA

Yoga is good for the mind and body. Join us on zoom Wednesday evenings at 7 pm each week. All are welcome! Contact Eleta Hittinger if interested via text or Email at 267-663-8137 / cota11158@gmail.com . Eleta will provide you with the link. Hope you'll be joining us.

STRETCH

Karen Kispert, who is a certified personal trainer and certified group fitness instructor, has offered to lead a 6-week series of stretching sessions on Friday mornings from 8:00-8:30 a.m., April 9 through May 14, via Zoom, at no charge. The sessions are for any fitness level. The focus will be flexibility and balance. The only equipment needed will be a chair (such as a folding chair, kitchen chair, or dining room chair), a floor mat or thick towel for stretches on the floor, and loose or yoga-type clothing. If you have any questions, please email Karen: KHKispert@verizon.net. This is open to all Zwinglians and their families and friends! All ages are invited.



ADULT EDUCATION AT ZWINGLI BY ZOOM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We meet every Sunday morning via Zoom at 11:30 am (except the first Sunday when we join Adult Electives at 10:30.) We will be studying traditional Sunday School themes based on the Standard Sunday School Commentary. Our teachers are Larry Moss, Jonathan Widgins, and Charlotte Kramer. The Spring theme will be *Prophets & God's Covenant*.

Join our Sunday School Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82617259547?pwd=dXMvRGptNjQ1dEpXK2pxTFQyNjQ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 826 1725 9547

Passcode: 7231186

Or dial 1-646-558-8656 or 1-301-715-8592

Follow the prompts. The Meeting ID: 826 1725 9547, Password: 7231186. This link is good through August 28.

ADULT ELECTIVES CLASS SCHEDULE

May 2

Inclusive Language and the Church

Using inclusive language is a movement in the UCC, wider church and secular world that's been around for decades. It typically refers to using "language that avoids the use of certain expressions or words that might be considered to exclude particular groups of people" (Inclusive

Language Guide: Definition and Examples @ online.rider.edu). Inclusive language has implications for how we refer to people and God, and how it affects hymns and liturgy. Join us on May 2nd to explore Inclusive language a bit more, both the positive ways it can promote inclusion and justice as well as some of the criticisms regarding its use. Pastor Butch will lead the class and welcomes your conversation and questions.

May 9, 2021

International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

Did you know that 2020-2021 is the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife? As we celebrate Mother's Day, we invite you to join us as we take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the role and dedication of the Nurse and Midwife during the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom for this session.

May 16, 2021
Community Policing

Would you like to know what is going on in the Souderton/Telford community these days? We have a special guest who will enlighten us with what the future holds for Ecumenical Service in the park, Third Fridays, the Food Bank, Concert Sundaes and if we will have Fireworks this year. Yes, our dear friend and neighbor, (former Police Chief) Jim Leary will provide updates on this and much more. Come join us via Zoom for a delightful session!

May 23, 2021
Mental Health in the Time of COVID-19

How has COVID-19 impacted you? Now is the time to focus on our mental health and how the pandemic has impacted our lives. Join us as we hear from a panel of mental health professionals who share their

experience on this very important topic, led by Jane Pauley, Anchor of CBS News.

May 30, 2021
Pastor Alan Miles, "Shares his Journey."

Join us as we get to know Pastor Alan a little better. Since we can't meet in person, this is a great time to hear his story and ask him questions to get to know him better.



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Children's and Youth programming resumed in-person classes April 25 and will continue through the end of May (May 30). Children and youth will meet outside (weather permitting) on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Everyone should wear masks and bring something to sit on. Beach towels and blankets work well! Weather cancellations will be communicated through email by 9 am on Sundays and will also be announced during our live Sunday service.

We will let you know before the fall what you can expect when Sunday School resumes in September.



SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

Summer Youth Group activities will happen periodically June through August, so come to Sunday school prepared with ideas of fun things you would like to do this summer. Then stay tuned for a calendar of events in your email inbox. You can contact Jason Burns (Jason_b164@yahoo.com) or Pastor Alan (pastoralan@zwingli.org) with any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns you might have.



JOIN US ONLINE EACH SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

Prelude music will begin at 8:45 am.
Worship will begin at 9 am.

To join us on Facebook Live, go to:
www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc

Don't have a Facebook Account? No problem –below are directions to watch

the worship service without a Facebook account.

1. Click on
www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc/live
at 8:45 am.
2. If video is not playing, click the word "videos" in the left column, then look at the first video thumbnail under "all videos". This should be the most current Live video. If you are early, you may need to refresh the page by hitting F5 on your keyboard.
3. You DO NOT need to log in or sign up to be able to view the service.
4. Remember, if you load the page before the stream starts, the stream will not pop up. You will need to refresh the page.

To view the worship service at a later date:

Go to www.zwingli.org or
Go to [Facebook.com/Zwingliucc](https://www.facebook.com/Zwingliucc) or
Go to Twitter [#Zwingliucc](https://twitter.com/Zwingliucc) or
Check your weekly Z-News on Monday.



ZWINGLI ZOOM ROOM FELLOWSHIP!

Join us on Sundays following worship for fellowship through Zoom! To join in, follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82617259547?pwd=dXMvRGptNjQ1dEpXK2pxTFQyNjQ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 826 1725 9547

Passcode: 7231186

Or dial 1-646-558-8656 or 1-301-715-8592
Follow the prompts. The Meeting ID: 826
1725 9547, Password: 7231186.

This link is good through August 28, 2021.

Adult Electives Class will immediately follow
fellowship on the same Zoom address.

REFLECTIONS

FAITH REFLECTION ON FACEBOOK LIVE!

Tuesdays at 12 noon of each week, Pastor Alan or Pastor Butch will provide a short 6-8-minute faith reflection on Zwingli's Facebook page. Please join in with other friends and members as we strive to make connection and share our faith. You can simply go to Zwingli's Facebook page at the appropriate time.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

*We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Butch or Pastor Alan **each Wednesday** of the month from 12:00 to 12:30. The zoom invitation will be sent ahead of time. We feel that heartfelt communal prayer is especially needed on a consistent basis as we continue to deal with individual, family and church concerns, the pandemics of*

COVID 19 and racism, as well as other societal issues and direction.

MISSIONS



THE UCC STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING- MAY 30

We are amid a crisis that is demanding that we remain physically distant at a time when so many need the love and hope of a strong church to walk with them through the extraordinary global emergency. As many of us now present our ministry online, we pray that our love is being felt across technology, reaching those who need us most. Being church in new ways has demanded much of us as we have faced this challenging time together. This special offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. The world of the church is changing as we seek to reach out in different ways. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Pentecost Sunday, May 23, is the recommended day for the offering but before and after is quite acceptable.



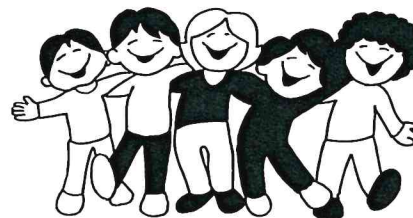
ANNUAL PLANT SALE

It's May and time for the Zwingli Annual Plant Sale! All gardeners who are digging up their perennials, please pot your extras and drop off at Pam Myer's home, 40 Cherry Lane, Souderton. The Plant Sale will go the entire month of May.



INSTAGRAM VOLUNTEER WANTED

Zwingli needs a better presence on Instagram to share God's love and Zwingli events. If you use Instagram and would be willing to post for Zwingli, please contact Lisa in the church office at office@zwingli.org or 215-723-1186.



CELEBRATING 51 YEARS!

WE STILL HAVE OPENINGS!

Zwingli Nursery School is now accepting registration for the 2021-22 school year!

Reserve your spot today!

Please call the church office, visit

www.zwingli.org/zns

or see Lisa Cinciripini for a registration form.

Classes held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 – 11:30 am.



SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

GIANT, Landis and Shop Rite Gift Cards

By purchasing **store gifts cards** from Zwingli Church, on a Sunday morning, you help contribute 5% of your store spending to the general fund of our church. AND, it doesn't cost you a cent. Purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card to **Giant Stores, Landis Supermarket or Shop Rite** through the

church office during the week. Thank you for your participation in this program!

SUPPORT ZWINGLI BY SHOPPING AT AMAZONSMILE!

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Zwingli United Church of Christ" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Zwingli United Church of Christ" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



2021 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

Would you like to sponsor the flowers in the chancel one Sunday morning or a bulletin?

Chancel flowers are \$39.
Bulletins are \$15.

For either/both sponsorship, please request a form from the church office or pick one up in the vestibule during office hours. Fill out the form and attach a check and place in the labeled box in the vestibule OR mail to 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964. We appreciate your support.



FASAGEO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA FUNDRAISER

We have partnered with Fasageo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, 724 Ridge Rd., Sellersville, PA for an ongoing fundraiser. Fasageo's will return 10% of any food sales purchased to Zwingli. You just need to inform them when placing your order for dine in, pick up, or delivery that you are a member of Zwingli. It's that simple!

BULLETIN MAILINGS

Would you like a bulletin mailed to you on a weekly basis? Please call the church office and we will add you to our weekly bulletin mailing list.



IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

Due to privacy procedures implemented by all healthcare facilities, it is much more

difficult for the church to obtain information about patients than it has been in the past. **If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, or at a rehab or other health facility, please let the church office and the pastor(s) know directly.** This is the only way you can be certain this information will be received.



STAY INFORMED

If you want to stay current on what Zwingli Ministries and Council are doing, pick up a Pre-Council Report in the vestibule or ask the church office to email you one. See the wonderful ideas that are being shared by your leaders!

SPIRITUAL CARE LINE AVAILABLE

In response to the unique challenges presented by COVID-19 to the people of Pennsylvania, the Keystone Disaster Spiritual Care Network has established a Spiritual Care Call Line to provide appropriate and respectful disaster spiritual care to people of all ages, races, and religions. Call 717-303-3538 or 888-255-6520, 24 hours a day/7 days a week. This is offered in addition to individual attention from our pastors.

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

May 16	Laurie and John Reynolds Sue Wack, Joan Yeager
May 23	Sue Wack, Joan Yeager Jen Smeed, Liz Bibic
June 6	Laurie and John Reynolds Joan Yeager, Kristie Lowery
June 13	Lee and Lois Hunsicker Liz Bibic, Erin Chalmers

DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING MAILING ARTICLES FOR
THE MAY MAILING IS
MONDAY, MAY 17
PLEASE INCLUDE ANY
INFORMATION FOR ALL
OF JUNE AND THE
FIRST TWO WEEKS IN JULY.



Zwingli UCC Staff

Butch Kuykendall, D.Min.	Senior Pastor
Alan Miles.....	Associate Pastor
Steve Emery.....	Director of Music/Organist
Linda Cuddahy	Nursery Caregiver
Lisa Cinciripini.....	Office Administrator
Kristie Lowery.....	Office Assistant

Phone: 215-723-1186

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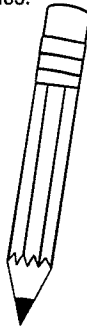


WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

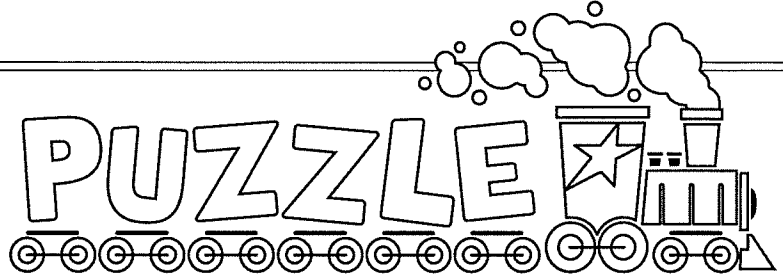
- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.

PUZZLE



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.



Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV