

# ZION NEWS

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

## Give Plus

Online giving is here! You can download the "Give Plus" app on your phone or check out the "Give Now" page on our website!

[zionpennhills.org/give-now](https://zionpennhills.org/give-now)

## Storytime

Storytime is every week day at 3:15PM on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills/> We are working our way through the Spark Picture Bible.

## Sunday School

Each week Spark House Publishing has a family Sunday School lesson that goes along with the Sunday Text. So after you experience virtual worship as a family and you continue with a family activity. If you are unable to print the materials please let the office know so that we can get them to you.

## Pastor's Page

"What then are we to say about such things..."

Romans 8:31a

As I sit here writing this, it has been a chaotic, anxious, and very painful week in our country. From the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, to the subsequent riots and fires spurred on by outrage and deep pain which occurred not only in Minneapolis and St Paul but all across the country (including our own city of Pittsburgh), to the politicizing and hijacking of this time for ones own selfish gains.

"What then are we to say about such things," the Apostle Paul might ask today in light of recent events, and I, myself, feel the need to ask the same question. "What then are we, am I, am others to say to such things...?"

Because the truth of the matter is that George Floyd is not the first black person killed in recent memory. There was Breonna Taylor. And Ahmaud Arbery. And every other black and brown child of God who came before them. "What then are we to say about such things...?"

One might answer "look to the church," in response to such a question. And they would be right in a way but, I think, not before said church looks inside of itself, at its own history and the ways and means in which both

intentionally and unintentionally our brothers and sisters of color have been treated and viewed as anything less than beloved child of God. For example, this year we as the ELCA commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women. Along with that we also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color. Whoa, you think, why the lapse of 10 years between the two? "What then are we to say about such things...?"

This month, on June 17th, we in the ELCA will commemorate the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9, the people shot and killed on June 17th, 2015 during a Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. Nine martyrs whose lives were taken by Dylann Roof, a white supremacist and member of his local ELCA church. A reminder of our own church body's complicity in matters of race and racism along with our calling to listen, to stand beside our brothers and sisters, and to act. "What then are we to say about such things....?"

## Newsletter Deadline

Have an idea for an article? An update on a project? A photo from a Zion event? A shout-out or a thank-you? We'd love to have it!

**All content is due by the 20th of every month.** You can email anything you have to:

[DianeSantoriello@gmail.com](mailto:DianeSantoriello@gmail.com)

**The deadline for the July newsletter is June 20th.** Please help us get the Zion newsletter out in a timely fashion so that we can all stay in the loop!

## Book Club

While we are keeping physical distance our book club will maintain social closeness. We will meet using the Zoom application. You can access Zoom from a computer, laptop or smartphone. Please contact Diane Santoriello for an invitation. All are welcome! We meet at 1pm

6/15 Grandma Gatewood's Walk  
by Ben Montgomery

7/20 The Pianist from Syria  
by Aeham Ahmad

8/17 The Soul of America  
by Jon Meacham

9/21 Where the Crawdads Sing  
by Delia Owens

10/19 Dying to be Me  
by Anita Moorjani

11/16 The Testaments  
by Margaret Atwood

The Apostle Paul's question rings not only when we look to the past and history to recognize our sins in matters of race but also as we look to the future. A future that can only be scripted by listening to the cries emanating from the depths of creation in the present. In the fire and flames that we see in images on 24/7 cable news. In the peaceful protests. In the words and tears, in the sighs too deep for words as members of creation groan in labor pains.

To listen and repent. Repent of ways, of thoughts, of words known and unknown. To do as we as clergy did this past Monday while at an ecumenical prayer and protest gathering from Freedom Corner to the city/county building, where we walked behind our African American colleagues who are leaders in their own faith communities, who are already leading the way towards this new future and new hope.

But this means that things as we know it will be... different. Brand new. Not the good ol' days. Or the way we've always done it. "What then are we to say about such things," we might ask in our anxiety and fear. And the Apostle Paul, like he is wont to do, gives the answer, albeit in the form of another question: "If God is for us, then who can be against us?"

Who can be against us, when we listen to the cries coming from all corners of creation, especially when the truths being spoken are uncomfortable for us to listen to? Who can be against us when instead of taking the lead role, we follow behind those who are marginalized? Who can be against us when we stand besides, raise our voices, and be put to action in order that all of creation (and God's intends for all of creation) to be reconciled to himself?

No one. The answer is no one. For God did not even withhold his only son from us but gave him up for all of us, every tribe, every nation, and every tongue. God who will give us everything else that we need in this journey, in this future together.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Peace,

*Pastor Martha*

## June Birthdays

---

6/4 Chrissa Clark  
 6/5 Robyn McKee  
 6/6 Aiden McKee  
 6/8 Marlene Gumbert  
 6/10 Bob Saffler  
 6/11 Ashley Faas  
 6/12 Ed Rickus  
 6/12 Lori Smith  
 6/14 Jeannette Christensen  
 6/16 Matthew Fabrizi  
 6/16 Jeffrey Durick  
 6/17 Pat Pope  
 6/19 Madelyn Snyder  
 6/21 Mary Lou D'Ambrosio  
 6/23 Ann Morris  
 6/23 Jeannie Meyer  
 6/23 Marie Dixon  
 6/23 David Ford  
 6/25 Doris Meyers  
 6/Chris Hermann  
 6/29 Debbie Marks  
 6/30 Brenda Wolfe

## June Anniversaries

---

6/4/1970 Diane & Neil Santoriello  
  
 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  
  
 6/25/2005 Joel & Amanda Durick  
  
 6/28/1997 Pat & Ed Pope

## Deacon's Desk

Last night, after watching the national evening news, I needed an escape. The bombardment of information on protesting, and looting, my own physical limitations to be part of the protest, and the personal stories of friends just leaves me crying and with a sense of hopelessness. Nick and I looked for a movie On Demand, something uplifting, and we landed on *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

If a movie about our beloved Mr. Rodgers couldn't help nothing would. At one point during the film, Lloyd, the reporter following Fred Rodgers around asked why he chose to tackle such hard and dark topics with kids, death, divorce, racism.... Mr. Rodgers explains that he talks with children about the issues they are dealing with. Our children are hurting and need a place to process those big feelings and emotions.

In any time of civil unrest, natural disaster, or crisis, a meme of Mr. Rodger's quote "to look for the helpers" floats around social media. And yes, this quote got me through a number of tragedies working with young children. But how do we tell children to look for the helpers when the people in the helper uniforms are the people our children see hurting others? Who are the helpers and how are we joining that team. What are we doing to fight systemic racism? How are we showing up, listening, being an ally? These are the big questions that we all struggle with. And I'm not sure there are answers. I know I'm angry and need to do something. I think we start by asking the hard questions and listening to the answers.

After the movie, I prayed over the phone with a friend for a safe labor and delivery for her and her child, but after talking to her, I said a prayer just for her child, her child of color. I prayed that he may never feel the oppression of a system that is against him, just that he knows of the love of God, who sees him, and listens to him, and loves him.

Blessings,

*Deacon Amy*

## Worship at Zion During the Time of Distancing

While the Zion Lutheran Church building is closed for the time being, we would still love for you all to join us for virtual worship on Sundays at 9:30am! For those with access to a computer, you can access the church's Facebook public page by entering in the following link: **<https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills/>**

For those with access to Facebook already, you can also access the church's group page (in addition to the public page) by entering in the following link: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ZionPennHills/>**

For those without access to a computer or email, you can still join us for worship through your telephone. Simply dial **(978) 990-5000** and enter in the access code **#701301** and you should be all set!

We will be emailing out a copy of the bulletin in the Zion E-News each week that we are unable to meet in person and physically mailing out a copy to those without access to computer/email as well. The church has plenty of ELW hymnals here if you would like to borrow one. Please contact Pastor Martha at the church office and she will get one to you!

If you have prayer requests during this time to be added to the prayers of intercession and/or OREMUS, please continue to send those in to the office either over the phone or email.

You can also mail in your offerings or make use of online giving at **<https://www.zionpennhills.org/give-now>** during this time of social distancing.

May we continue to worship together (even in our respective places) as we eagerly await and anticipate the morning in which we will all be gathered together (in-person!) around Word and Sacrament, in honor and praise of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain whose blood set us free to be people of God. And where it will be on that day as the psalmist sings in the 122nd Psalm, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!'"

## Education for Ministry, EfM, might be for you.

Rhonda Pope and Chris Dippold are graduating from EFM. Congratulations to them both. They spent four years as outstanding members of the Calvary Thursday morning seminar.

I am a co-mentor. I have spent ten years with EfM. EfM is through the Episcopalian Beecken School of Theology at Sewanee University. . Why am I so dedicated to this program? We are all called into ministry through our baptism as our church teaches us. Yet how do we discern our ministry? How are we equipped for our ministry? Do we have more than one ministry?

“Each generation of Christians has the task of building a theology that supports and enlivens faithful living as a person of God.”

EfM, Education for Ministry, explores faith matters. ‘Education for Ministry encourages ongoing examination of beliefs and behavior, and openness to revelation through study, reflection, group interaction, and prayer. (RRG 2018) “EfM participants accumulate a body of

knowledge that comes from systematically studying scripture, Christian history, and theology.” (RRG 2017) In addition participants engage in reflecting theologically on a wide range of subjects and issues. This task of building a theology “supports and enlivens faithful living as a person of God.” (RRG 2017) We meet Thursday mornings from 9:30-12:30 at Calvary Episcopal Church. Of course, since the start of social distancing we meet via Zoom. We meet for 36 weeks each year.

The EfM approach assigns a required reading according to the participant’s year. Year One is The Hebrew Bible, Year Two is the New Testament, Year Three is Church History and Year Four is Theology. Every week engage in theological reflection As a former member once said TRs sound mysterious and “dangerous”! We might “rub elbows” with some provocative ideas challenging some of our long-held beliefs and theories implanted in Sunday School, Bible Camp and other sources. Some of our ideas might get shaken up and a few prejudices discovered.

We have five openings for year one. If you are interested please see Chris, Rhonda, or me. EfM truly offers a unique opportunity. We would be happy to show you our materials and talk about our experience. You may wish to check out their website: <http://efm.sewanee.edu>.

Although it is a four year program, you only sign up for a year at a time!

Submitted by Diane Santoriello

## 100 Years Old!

That is how old Clara Fahnestock became on her birthday on May 9th. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a birthday celebration is planned for a later date.

Clara came to Zion when Advent merged with Zion at the end of 1996. She was very active at Advent and was the Church Secretary for many years. She was no longer able to attend Zion when she moved in with her son and daughter-in-law in Apollo.

In Clara’s earlier years she played the violin with the Veteran’s Hospital Symphony Orchestra with 120 members strong and a Chorus of 150. They put concerts on all over the United States and many countries overseas.

While Clara was at Zion, she often played her violin beautifully for our enjoyment at our Sunday services.

Please keep Clara in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to send Clara a note or belated birthday card, her address is: 329 Evergreen Court, Apollo, PA 15613.

## Oremus

Hospital: Bob Page (VA Hospital)

Rehab Facility: Ann Morris (Concordia, Monroeville, Rm 211), Jon Kojza (St. John Specialty Care Center, Mars, PA)

Prayers Requested For: Claudia Agnew, Deacon Amy Santoriello, Jim Mayer, Carol Hendershot, Marlene Gumbert, Neil Santoriello, Sandra Short, Evelyn Lamm, John Feist, Theodore Stolp, Jr., Ingeborg Booher, Nancy Fabel, Craig Nickol (son-in-law of Paul & Claudia Agnew), Jacquie Avanii (former transplant resident), Ray Hufnagle (brother-in-law of Al Stumpf), Joanne Maguire (friend of the Rickus family), Becky Hessong (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Susan

Higgins & Lindsey Kane (friends of Diane Santoriello), Jeanne Robinson (friend of the Rickus family), Armando Henriquez (friend of the Rickus family), David & Kristen Biscardo (brother and sister-in-law of Marie Dixon), Emersyn Schwartz (friend of Kara Albrecht), Marissa Callahan (friend of Diane Santoriello), Melissa Whalen (niece of Charlotte Fraser), Samuel Biscardo (nephew of Marie Dixon), Jim Henneman (uncle of Diane Santoriello), Lynn Doran (friend of Rhonda Pope), Samara Davis (sister of Diane Santoriello), Aarika Maisak (friend of Kara Albrecht), Gale Strozier (sister of Sandra Short), Andy Schifino (uncle of Ray Rall), Dan Smerker (grandfather of Cassie and Kyra Short), Patrick Taylor, Dorothy DeLuca (sister of Ann Morris and Evelyn Ross), Donna Spinazzola (friend of Sallie Lazar).