

February 21, 2021 – First Sunday in Lent



Let's Talk! *Sundays throughout Lent, beginning February 21*

All are invited to view a pre-recorded weekly message from Pastor Kat, posted every Sunday throughout Lent. The video will be shared via email and the Friends and Family Facebook page. You are encouraged to pray, discuss, and reminisce. A summary of thoughts from the community will be shared anonymously on Wednesdays.

Let's Talk LIVE! *Wednesdays at 7 p.m. during Lent, beginning February 24*

Join the conversation via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Led by Pastor Kat, we will take time to discuss, share, and pray with one another. The link to join the meeting will be sent from the church office prior to Wednesday evening.



The Shepherding and Parish Life committees continue to look for ways to keep us connected with each other and one new way is the start of a Zion Prayer Partner Program – a year-long journey with a prayer partner, which kicks off this week with the start of our Lenten "Let's Talk" devotion series this week. So, let's partner up and be strengthened by the power of prayer!

Please continue to support the ministries of Zion with your offerings and prayers.

Financial contributions can be mailed to the Parish Office at P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



Faith Kitchen Annual Coffee Drive – a Zion tradition continues! Let's support our friends at Faith Kitchen, who continue to serve meals to 70-100 people each day, even during the pandemic. Please drop off your cans of coffee at the CEB any time between now and the end of February. Thank you for your support of Faith Kitchen.

Flemington Area Food Pantry donation list for February & March – Supporting the "Food2You" program.

The Food2You program represents a partnership between the Flemington Food Pantry and the Hunterdon Healthcare System. Social workers identify people who are being released from the hospital after surgery/illness and refer them to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry assigns a "driver" to identify an individual's food needs and deliver food to them. They often have different food needs given they are mostly elderly, live alone and have simplified diets. Please see the list below for the items that are most needed. **During the pandemic, it has been even more critical to ensure that these clients receive the nutrition they need. Currently there are 30 clients in this program.**

Food2You Donation List

- Single pack tuna fish pouches
- Half-sized canned vegetables
- ENSURE – vanilla and chocolate
- Small plastic bottles of cranberry or orange juice
- Individual servings of applesauce



We will continue to deliver ALL donations for the Flemington Area Food Pantry, including items from the broader list on their website.

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Kaitlin Brokaw Costello and Joseph Costello**, on the birth of their son, Connor Staats Costello on February 16th. Connor is the 9th great-grandchild of Lysod Kunkel.
- + **Linda Herder**, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- + **Donna Hunter**, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- + **Eleanor Kover**, who is recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- + **Bonnie Summer**, who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.
- + **Ted Talis**, who is recovering at home.
- + **Paul Zerfas**, who is undergoing his second stem cell transplant.

Friends and Family

- + **Joe Capobianco**, cousin of Barbara Polhemus, who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- + **Ralph Cortese**, brother of Angela Sztuk, who is struggling with cancer and recovering from surgery.
- + **Marianne Evanouskas**, sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from intestinal surgery.
- + **Marianna Evanouskas**, sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from a mastectomy.
- + **Chris Fetner**, friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has cancer.
- + **Joey Giambrone**, friend of Susannah Allen, who is in critical condition following open heart surgery.
- + **Bill Gibbs**, relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.
- + **Rita Gorky**, mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke, is limited in verbal expression and needs daily assistance.
- + **Judy Graham**, friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has breast cancer.
- + **Nancy Kastrup**, friend of Kathy Rustwick, who is recovering from surgery.
- + **Sally Kohl**, mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is recovering from COVID-19.
- + **Susan Miluk**, sister of Jim Dierking, who is recovering from COVID-19 and will soon resume treatment for multiple myeloma.
- + **Lonn Mullen**, friend of Eric Evers, who will be undergoing surgery for bile duct cancer.
- + **Jim Price**, friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who is recovering from surgery for a malignant melanoma.
- + **Pat Thompson**, friend of Sandy Matsen, who is hospitalized.
- + **Deb Wojtysiak**, friend of Cheryl Rodrick, who is battling stage 5 kidney disease.

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.