



May 14, 2023

Honoring All Women

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." - Proverbs 31:25

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue" – Proverbs 31:26

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her; 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'" – Proverbs 31:28-29

As these bible verses lift up women and mothers, we likewise take time today to honor all women who have touched our lives. Women who have showed us strength, love, and compassion. Not just mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, foster mothers but all women who have nurtured us, taught us, and most importantly been there for us when we needed them most.

Today we lift up these women and remember what Proverbs 31:31 taught us: "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate"

Happy Mother's Day!



"Diaper Bank" - A New Ministry Fund Grant Recipient

The congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Pottstown, very gratefully received a generous grant from the PSEC's New Ministry Fund for \$5,000 in 2022. This grant was used to launch the *Diaper Bank* on November 2nd, 2022. It is the first of its kind for Pottstown. This initiative provides free diapers, wipes and other essentials to Pottstown families. With the grant, we purchased shelving, reusable tote bags and our initial supply of diapers, wipes and rash cream.

The Diaper Bank is open every Wednesday from 10am-12pm and operates out of a reclaimed storage room inside the church. Each week, the Diaper Bank is staffed by 2 volunteers who divide up and pack our 'diaper packets'. These packets are gallon-sized zip lock bags stuffed with diapers and organized on our shelving according to size. When families arrive, our volunteers give them 2 packets of diapers *per size, per child* and one packet of wipes. Most families who utilize the Diaper Bank have multiple children. We also offer them a number of bonus items depending on what's been donated and this can include baby shampoo, baby food and formula.

We have given away 978 packets of diapers and 269 packs of wipes thus far. As of May 2nd, we have served 300 families to date. Statistically, our average is 12.5 families each week but the trend over recent weeks has seen 25+ families each week utilize the Diaper Bank. We advertise on Facebook, by word of mouth and via our church sign. We continue to look for additional sources of funding and hope to expand our hours to include evening hours. By expanding our hours, we would reach more working families who cannot attend in the morning.

Our deep gratitude to the PSEC for providing us with this funding. We are confident that we are helping many families in Pottstown care for and provide for their children, all to the glory of God.

Faithfully submitted,

Rev. Lauren Cain, Pastor St. Paul's UCC, Pottstown