



# Christ Church Chronicles

## Volume 9 Issue 3, April 2018

316 E. High St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

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### Interim Rector

Rev. William Rex

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Rev. Andrew Kline  
(Spanish ministry)

Rev. John Houghton  
(Hill School)

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People's Warden

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### Class of 2021

Stephanie Laidig-  
Rector's Warden

Olin Mittan

Candace Woessner



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday (25 March)

8am Holy Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms - Rite I

9:15am Adult Forum and Coffee Hour (nursery available)

10:30am Holy Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms - Rite II



### Wednesday (28 March)

Healing Service (Chapel)



### Thursday (29 March)

7pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist



### Good Friday (30 March)

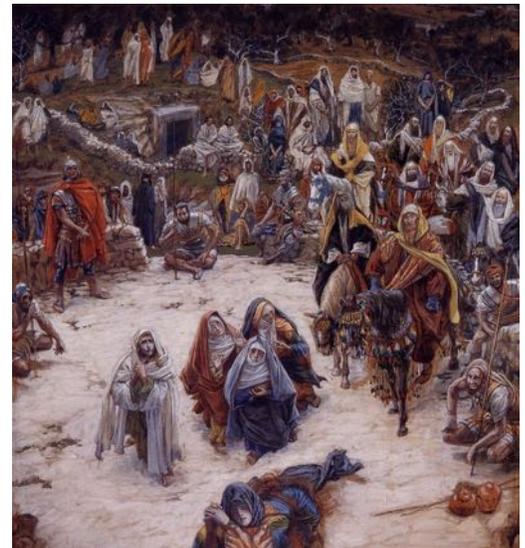
7pm Good Friday Eucharist



### Easter Sunday (1 April)

8am Holy Eucharist I

10:30am Holy Eucharist (Choral) II



The View From the Cross - James Tissot

### What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, going from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday. It is a time of recalling and reenacting the Passion and death of Jesus through various special forms of worship, ending with the Triduum, meaning three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. That's four days long, but Holy Saturday is a sort of blank day - remembering Jesus silent in the tomb. There is no Eucharist and no communion then, except that given to the sick and dying. Easter is the high point. The name in English traces back to proto-Germanic meaning "dawn" or "to shine." Most countries use a term derived from "pascha," tracing back to "passed over" or "protected."

## From the Rector

It is with both sadness and excitement that I write this last message to you. Sadness because it is my last message and soon I will be away from you on a new path. The time we have spent together has been a precious gift from God and I will be sad to say good bye.



But excitement heals my sadness. A blessed new Rector is preparing to lead you, by God's grace into the future evolving by God's Holy Hand to be a blessing for all. The Search Committee and Vestry, following the Holy Spirit's leading, has chosen wisely. I give God all praise and thanksgiving for this his chosen leader for the congregation.

You know that I am a cheerleader for Christ Church of Pottstown PA, and I will be looking for the light of that bright shining star as time goes on. Keep the light of Christ at the center of all that you plan and do! Don't give up or give in to the temptations that will draw you backward rather than the call of God which will motivate you forward. There is nothing that you and God can not do to bring glory to his name and hope to all. God and you are an overwhelming majority. And your zeal for the Lord should always be a consuming force within you. Your energy is our Lord's gift of grace to you, use it to build the kingdom and he will bless you abundantly. His promise is forever and his love for you is eternal.

My love extends always to you, I will always be your servant in Christ our Lord,

Rev. William Rex†

## From Fr. Kline



*You cleft the earth  
and streams broke forth....  
You went forth to redeem your people,  
to rescue your anointed one.  
You tore the roof from the house of the wicked  
and laid bare their foundation. (Habakkuk 3:9,13)*

Dear Friends,

In the middle of the night the Word arose and signs occurred which became the message of unlikely prophets and the testimony of transformed witnesses.

The biblical story is a twice-told tale – two testaments that say two principle things – that Christ is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. Every word has been passed on, so that it will be passed on by living witnesses, for the sole purpose that we will in turn bear its testimony through our lives. Many words, many stories, but one message in stereo, turning what we believe into the obedience of our daily lives.

Indeed, every Sunday we proclaim in the Nicene Creed that:

*For our sake [Jesus] was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures.*

That all these things happened “according to the scriptures” is worth pondering. It has long been noted that Jesus death and resurrection do not take place in response to some straightforward prophecy or simple reading of the Old Testament plot line. It is true that the early Christians noticed many striking verses of scripture that illumined the manner and meaning of Jesus' death. The passion story is filled with these allusions. But it is also true that these references do not paint by numbers what we see on Easter morning or predict, as in hindsight, what we see.

Our earliest brothers and sisters rather made a discovery. They starting telling others what happened and inviting them to come and see. They started to tell the story “one more time with a difference” — and then the sense of fulfillment and confirmation overtook them. They began to realize that Jesus has not just mindlessly walked in the footsteps of the prophets and sages of old, but that he has understood Israel's story in a way no one else had. Moreover, he has forgiven them and set them free. If the prophet Habakkuk glimpses a vision a new Moses, even more does he look for someone who may lay bare the foundations.

To put it in a nutshell, Jesus has acted out the inner connection between the Exodus and the Exile, the

cont. p. 3

In an era of  
corporate restructuring,  
try an organization where  
top management hasn't  
changed in 2000 years.



Fr. Kline cont.

perennial plight of Israel's bondage and struggle for freedom. Every child of Abraham was aware that Israel had failed in fulfilling its destiny — that after all this time they were not free. Jesus, however, would heed the twice told tale of attempted liberation and transform it from the other side of the grave. The mystery is this: as long as death reigns, so will sin, and everything that divides us one from another. If forgiveness is real, and follows us into eternity, then would we not truly be free? It would be Jesus who would say that all important third time: Shalom. You are forgiven. Let my people go!

Thus, it is not surprising that this realization came first and most strongly in the vehicle that celebrates a new people permanently delivered to God in a lasting Exodus and Return. It is in the early church's liturgies — in the ancient baptismal service in particular — that Christ's death and resurrection is connected with the way God has always been trying to tell this story. In the parting of the waters, in the darkest moment at the end of a Holy Week, long after the cruel tale of the victim's passion has been sung, when the vigil has run its course, after we have gone over the stories one more time — it is precisely here we see what God was aiming at all along. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

What a discovery indeed! May you and yours hear this twice told tale one more time — with a difference. May you come to a living faith, a wider love, and a greater praise of God's eternal purposes. May you know real forgiveness and a lasting freedom. May you know that you belong to Jesus' people and thus to God. And may it be no small thing that you understand that all this is done "in accordance with the scriptures." That, after all, means that God has made you an everlasting part of that story as well...

Therefore, let us keep the Feast!  
Happy Easter!  
Rev. Andy Kline†

## Simnel Cake

The Simnel cake is an Anglican tradition from the Middle Ages, eaten on the 4th (Laetere) Sunday of Lent as a relaxation



from the Lenten fast. Laetere ("gladden/rejoice") is the first word of the Introit for the day — "Laetere, Jerusalem..." It has several other names, "Mothering Sunday," "Refreshment Sunday," and "Sunday of the Five Loaves." It is a light fruit cake, colored yellow

## Greetings from your Rector's Warden



It's an honor to be part of the leadership of this church, and I'm looking forward to assisting Fr. Joshua with his transition and new ministry at Christ Church. I want to share some thoughts with you about time, and a prayer that I cut out of the Anglican Digest many years ago, by Fr. Michael Quoist. We all wish we had more time, and sometimes wish we could turn back the hands of time. Time flies by! The seasons of our life and the church seasons -Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent — are going by quickly. But Lent is a time of reflection, and perhaps allows us to think about using our time to honor God. Here's the prayer that I love and go to often:

*Lord, I have time  
I have plenty of time  
All the time that you give me,  
The years of my life,  
The days of my years,  
The hours of my days,  
They are all mine,  
Mine to fill, quietly, calmly,  
But to fill completely, up to the brim,  
To offer them to you, that of their insipid water  
You make a rich wine such as you made once in  
Cana of Galilee.*

*I am not asking you today,  
Lord, for time to do this and then that,  
But your grace to do conscientiously, in the time  
that you give me,  
What you want me to do.*

Faithfully,  
Stephanie Laidig

with saffron and covered almond icing. It has eleven marzipan balls representing the eleven true Apostles (no Judas.)

*Laetere, Jerusalem...Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation.*



**YOU ARE INVITED**  
to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**  
**When: April 14, 2018, 5:00pm**

**What: Baked Potatoes and Bingo -**  
**Neighbors gathering for baked potatoes**  
**and all the fixings, plus Pineapple Bingo**  
**night.**



**Bring your favorite topping or side – potatoes are provided**

**Who: All are welcome.**

**Come and enjoy!**



**Where: Christ Episcopal**

316 East High Street, Pottstown, PA 19465, 610-323-2895

Entrance in rear off Queen Street parking lot

Bring your family and friends!

**Church**



From the Bishop

"We experience here great contrasts in the life of our society, in economic, political, and cultural marginalization. In a word, injustice. The church cannot remain silent in the face of such misery, for to do so would be to betray the gospel, it would be to become complicit with those who here trample human rights." Oscar Romero

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

As a bishop in this Church, I am called to a sacred responsibility. It is the heritage of prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have looked to God in hope. I said holy vows to proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ boldly. To enlighten the minds and stir up the conscience of the people of God. I will be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper.

Thus, I must write this letter to encourage our Church to embrace the cruciform life and to enter into the suffering of those who suffer. As followers of Christ, we are called to be bold, courageous and willing to confront the multitude of sins and pain tearing at our sisters and brothers.

For it is only at the foot of the cross that we find

the promise of Easter.

Next week, people from around our country will walk for peace. Their witness honors the vision of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered 38 years ago on March 24, and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was murdered on April 4, 50 years ago. Both of those sainted martyrs inspire my profound belief in the reconciling and transformative love of Jesus Christ. Nothing in our world can change without Him. I have faith in the goodness of humanity made real through the cross of our Lord.

Because of our faith, the world needs Jesus Christ, and the world needs us.

We are journeying through a time of unease and uncertainty. Fear, hate conflict, violence, marginalization, and blame are increasing and becoming acceptable. Families and communities are being divided, and walls are being erected among God's people. Origen of Alexandria wrote, "Where there is division, there is sin." Jesus Christ gathers while sin attempts to scatter and divide.

The Kingdom of God is at hand. If we do not name the sin and meet the pain, then we own it and we become complicit in this sinfulness. Some may be

uncomfortable and believe politics must be separate from the pulpit. The question we must ask is, "Are we faithful to the Gospel?" This call to action and raising our voices will hurt. But we cannot live with a spirit of fear. Christianity has never been a comfortable and easy journey.

From the time of the disciples through history, Christians have died for the Gospel. Complacent and idle Christianity is not our faith. When St. Mark wrote, "This is the Good News ..." he was writing from the valley of death. Through the center of power, Caesar and his Kingdom had murdered Jesus, Peter, Paul and all those that God has raised up. Yet the message resonated in the hearts of those seeking God.

We are called to the same faith, voice and courage. There are sins tearing at the Body of Christ. We must be bold; we must live outside the boundaries of our comfort and complacency. Those who endure hate, violence, and marginalization will probably never hear this message from the pulpits. They are suffering, hurt or excluded. Our lives and actions may be the only message of Jesus Christ that they experience. How can they trust us if we will not walk with them? We follow the one who entered into our sin and suffering of the world.

I believe in the people who journey with the suffering. Christian prophecy requires an integrated and integrating vision, a structuring principle, a way of life rooted in Christ. Only Jesus Christ can change the world. His death upon the cross, redemption and resurrection are the light that shines in the darkness.

We must show a different way. Every person is held in the palm of God's hands and created in God's divine image. Every person has dignity. We will be sacredly present and sacramentally listen to those who oppose us. We must speak the truth, forgive, love, forgive and love again.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, we say, "To know Jesus and make Him known to the world through prayer proclamation and peace. Come and See." Thus, when we pray "thy kingdom come" we need to mean it.

While hands are raised in prayer, our voices must proclaim a living gospel. When people are marginalized, our legs must run toward their pain. If tears of lamentation are shed, our arms must fully

embrace everyone within our reach. When individuals and institutions are proclaiming division, we must gather and strengthen the Body of Christ. Each hour that one person suffers is the hour of trial for the church.

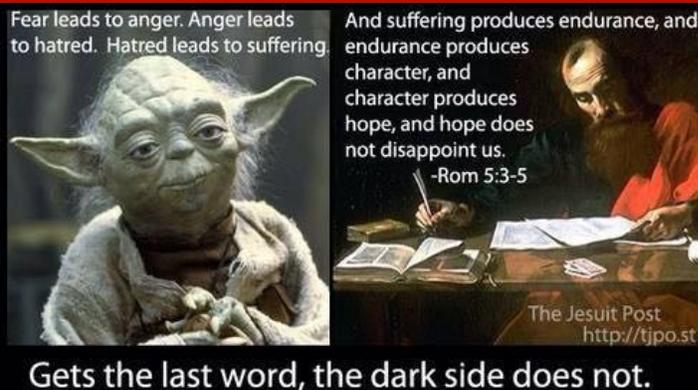
How can we answer the call? Numerous sins are burdening our community. Gun violence, poverty, institutional and individual racism, childhood hunger, substance abuse and the opioid crisis, sexual harassment/assault against women and men, the marginalization and hatred toward immigrants, hate and hate crimes against those because of who they love, how they look or who they are.

My brothers and sisters, we are facing these issues in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Chester Counties. We live with this suffering daily.

When we encounter these sins, I ask the people of this Diocese to counter all cases as individuals, churches and as a Diocese. Pray, speak out, march, name the sin, give all of your life to demonstrate the love and peace of Jesus Christ. I will use my voice and life as Bishop and invite you to join me.

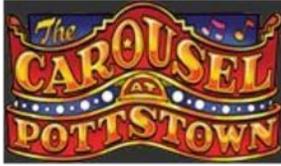
Let us dispense of living nationalistically, ideologically, politically. We must painfully find our way back to the foot of the cross. We must lovingly find our true identity in Jesus Christ. It is there, where the cross meets the earth that the love of Christ will radiate outward toward the world. Let us recover what is beautiful - Jesus Christ. Let us go forth in peace and in His name.

Look, lift up your eyes and see, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Together, let us take the hand of Jesus of Nazareth and grasp the



## OUR GANG ACTIVITIES in 2018

(Subject to Change)



### APRIL – CAROUSEL TOUR WITH LUNCH

#### The Carousel At Pottstown

30 West King Street, Pottstown, PA 19464  
[pottstowncarousel@gmail.com](mailto:pottstowncarousel@gmail.com), 610-323-6099

### May – St. Peter's Village Bakery For Lunch

This bakery is so cute and has a great atmosphere. Spacious seating for the size of the place with an outdoor deck that overlooks a creek. They have a wide selection of baked items and drinks to choose from, as well as a decent lunch...



### June 9 – Lou Steffenhagen's Ordination

### July - Picnic At Towpath Park.

**Towpath Park** located at 1597 New Schuylkill Road Pottstown. Boasting 15 acres of land, a pavilion for picnics and cookouts, grills, electric, restroom facilities, volleyball net, playground equipment, and boat launch affording.



### August –Valley Forge Carillon Concert

[2017 Carillon Concerts | Washington Memorial Chapel  
wmchapel.org/2015-carillon-schedule/](http://2017CarillonConcerts|WashingtonMemorialChapel.wmchapel.org/2015-carillon-schedule/)



For sixty-four years, **Washington Memorial Chapel** has presented the world's finest carillonners. This magnificent music in the pastoral setting of Valley Forge National Historical Park continues to be a source of great enjoyment and inspiration for area residents and visitors from all over the world.

### September – Bus Trip To Jim Thorpe In Fall

**Jim Thorpe** is a borough and the county seat of Carbon County in the U.S. state of PA. The town has been called the "Switzerland of America" due to the picturesque scenery, mountainous location, and architecture; as well as the "Gateway to the Poconos." It is in ...Pennsylvania. The population was 4,781 at the 2010 census.



Things to do in Jim Thorpe, PA - Asa Packer Mansion, Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, Old Jail Museum, Lehigh Gorge Glen Onoko Access, Glen Onoko Falls, Jim Thorpe Borough, Jim Thorpe Sidecar Tourz, Jim Thorpe River Adventures, Chamberlain...



### October – Boyertown Auto Museum Tour With Dinner At Greshville

★★★★★ This was one of the most worthwhile museums I have visited in a long time. Its holdings were extremely varied, from vintage penny-farthings, tractors and a Conestoga wagon to twentieth century Duryea's, Model T's and a fantastic 1948 woody Chrysler. To top the collection off, there is an original Sunoco gas station and a beautifully restored 1938 diner! Everybody we talked to was exceedingly kind and accommodating, and I would visit the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles again!

**November – Bazaar** Our Gang members help as they are able.

**December – Steel River TBD** (to be decided)

A person should be more concerned with spiritual than with material matters, but another person's material welfare is his own spiritual concern."--- **Rabbi Yisrael Salanter**

## Our Commitment Box and Stewardship

We offer Commitment Cards in the pews, to be used by parishioners at any time, year round, to confidentially offer their own personal promises of prayer, service and/or resources to God. The cards may also be used as pledge cards if desired. The Stewardship team feels that the fact that giving normally exceeds pledges supports the concept that planning should be based instead on known and projected expenses versus an estimated income that reflects actual income of recent years.

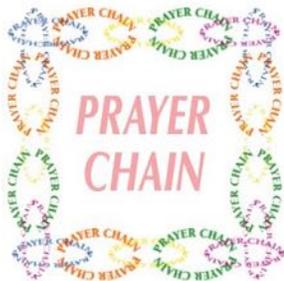
You can put your Commitment Card in the box at the bottom of the steps



## Prayer Chain

*HELP WANTED We need someone to take over the Prayer Chain from Stephanie. She's been doing it for over 4 years and would like a replacement. Requirements are a commitment to prayer, an open ear to the need in the church, and a good familiarity with the use of email.*

Also, we need you on the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is a voluntary email set in motion as soon as a request is received. The request goes out to a large number of people from Christ Church who have signed up to receive prayer chain requests. Prayer chains get their name from the idea of a phone chain or phone tree. The advent of e-mail and other forms of messaging has caused us to adopt an easier method of an e-mail chain. You can ask for prayers for whatever you need. Some people ask for guidance, others ask for healing for an ailing loved one. At Christ Church, we believe the prayer chain is another way to be of service to others and fulfill one of our core values experiencing God's love and grace. To join, send an email to Stephanie Laidig, [stephanielaidig@aol.com](mailto:stephanielaidig@aol.com).



## Effortless Fundraising

We continue to offer two ongoing fundraisers - the **Giant Gift Cards** and **Redner's Receipt Program**. The purchase of Giant Gift Cards has dwindled over the past year and we are at risk of losing this opportunity. Please note that even if you do not do your grocery shopping at Giant, the gift cards can be used to purchase their gas. We receive 5% return on the Giant Gift Cards. For Redner's shoppers, remember to place your receipts in the box outside the ladies choir room and we will receive 1% back on the purchases. Goodness knows, everyone at Christ Church loves to celebrate with food so let's capitalize on these opportunities!

Thanks to Erma Magee, Debby Metz, and Jean Davidheiser for their commitment to these programs.



Serving Our Local Communities Since 1970

## Nursery Help Needed

*Due to the departure of Linda Nabozny to accept a full-time job, we are in need of added nursery help. For the time being*



*we are looking for volunteers. We would like more than one volunteer to rotate duties. Please contact Georgine Takach if you*

*are willing to help.*

## **HELP NEEDED!!!**

***We need a Car Show sales director for next year. Please contact the office, Keith Bricker or Bob Gross.***

***We need someone to manage the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. Please contact the office, or Bob Gross.***

## Useful Links

### Affirming Catholicism

[www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk](http://www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk)

**Alpha** [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org)

### Anglican Communion

[www.anglicancommunion.org/](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/)

### Anglican Communion News Service

[www.anglicannews.org/](http://www.anglicannews.org/)

**Anglicans Online** [anglicansonline.org](http://anglicansonline.org)

**Anglicans Online USA** [anglicansonline.org/usa](http://anglicansonline.org/usa)

**Bible Gateway** [www.biblegateway.com/](http://www.biblegateway.com/)

### Bishop's Bible Challenge

[www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/](http://www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/)

### Christ Church, Pottstown

[www.christpottstown.org](http://www.christpottstown.org)

**Church of England** [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

### Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

[oremus.org/index.html](http://oremus.org/index.html)

**Diocese of PA** [www.diopa.org](http://www.diopa.org)

### Diocese of PA Parish Events

[www.diopa.org/parish-events](http://www.diopa.org/parish-events)

### Episcopal Church Foundation

[www.episcopalfoundation.org/](http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/)

### Episcopal Church in the US

[www.episcopalchurch.org/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/)

### Episcopal News Service

[episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens)

### Episcopal Questions and Answers

[stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/episcopal-q-a/](http://stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/episcopal-q-a/)

**Generous Orthodoxy** [www.generousorthodoxy.org/](http://www.generousorthodoxy.org/)

**Glossaries** [www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary)  
and [www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/](http://www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/)

**Habitat for Humanity** [www.habitatmontco.org/](http://www.habitatmontco.org/)

### Liturgical Calendar

[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

### Online Book of Common Prayer

[www.bcponline.org/](http://www.bcponline.org/)

**Oremus** (Liturgical resources) <http://www.oremus.org/>

[www.oremus.org/](http://www.oremus.org/)

### Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

[anglicanhistory.org](http://anglicanhistory.org)

**SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and**

**Sender** [www.sams-usa.org](http://www.sams-usa.org)

**Society of Archbishop Justus (Anglican information and documents)**

[justus.anglican.org](http://justus.anglican.org)

**SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian**

**Knowledge** [spckusa.org/](http://spckusa.org/)

**Recycling in Montgomery County** (incl.hazardous waste) [www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637](http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637)

## Don't forget your Giant Gift Cards

When you buy a Giant gift card at church, you get the whole value of your purchase, and Christ Church receives 5% of your cost. It does not expire and purchases with it earn Giant Rewards Points, which can be redeemed for gas or food discounts. As an easy fundraising mechanism, it's hard to beat. They are available from Debbie Metz between services.



### Thanks to Houck and Gofus - Sponsors of the Newsletter



*Houck & Gofus Funeral Home*

*55 N. Charlotte St.*

*Pottstown, PA 19464*

*(610) 323-8220*

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