



# CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE  
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION  
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

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**329 Church Road  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania  
610-683-7485**

*a Federated Church of*  
**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
*and*  
**The United Church of Christ**

**January  
2024**

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## REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$10.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ Any checks written out for the offering, altar flowers, or bulletins should be made payable to **Zion's Union Church Maxatawny**.
- ◆ **Any checks for the cemetery should be made out to Maxatawny Zion Cemetery Company, Inc., not to the church.**
- ◆ We have DVDs of regular worship services available for use at home. Contact the church office if you would like to borrow one.
- ◆ Let the church office know if you have been admitted to the hospital. The hospitals **DO NOT** notify the church if members have been hospitalized.
- ◆ Zion's Union Church Maxatawny's website is [www.zionsunion.org](http://www.zionsunion.org). Check out our website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ Refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WORSHIP

January 7	Baptism of Christ HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 14	2 <sup>nd</sup> Epiphany/Installation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 28	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 4	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 11	Transfiguration	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 14	Ash Wednesday		7:00 P.M.
February 18	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 21	Mid-Week Lent		TBA
February 25	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 28	Mid-Week Lent		TBA

## PASTORAL CARE

Jeremiah Heydt, Vicar at Mt. Zion's Lutheran Church, will continue to do hospital visits, home visits/communions, and other services. Families should let the church (610-683-7485) know of health concerns of members, so that support can be offered to them. Jeremiah may also be contacted directly; his cell phone number is 1-972-839-9363.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:  
[www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) (click on “storm center update”) (**please note:**  
 worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and  
 not on Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather  
 conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A  
 message will be on the answering machine.



## SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website ([zionsunion.org](http://zionsunion.org)) by early Sunday afternoon and can be viewed for the rest of the week. Prior services can be viewed on Youtube — type “Zion’s Union Church” into the Youtube search bar.

# NEW SOUND SYSTEM/ VIDEO SYSTEM / SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

December, 2023

Amount paid to Schlegel Electric for work -	\$ 9,288.15	
Amount paid to Ray Schell for supplies -	\$ 5,142.22	
<b>TOTAL COST -</b>	<b>\$ 14,430.37</b>	
<i>Funding used:</i>		
Contribution		\$ 5,000.00
Contribution		\$ 500.00
Memorials:		
M. Christman	\$ 50.00	
A. Oswald	\$ 430.00	
C. Seidel	\$ 475.00	
E. Fenstermaker	\$ 420.00	
B. Faust	\$ 275.00	
R. Graff	\$ 100.00	
C. Freeby	\$ 250.00	
L. Thomas	\$ 25.00	
J. Heffner	\$ 475.00	
M. Stettler	\$ 75.00	
B. Gehman	\$ 75.00	
A. Moyer	\$ 475.00	
J. Zajac	\$ 500.00	
<b>TOTAL MEMORIALS</b>		<b>\$ 3,625.00</b>
Church Account -		\$ 5,305.37
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 14,430.37</b>

## ACOLYTES, READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SHEPHERDS

Schedules for acolytes, readers, ushers, greeters, and shepherds are on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule is also included in each newsletter.

## MUSIC THANK YOU

“Thank you” to all our talented singers and musicians for their songs for the Christmas season, and to Steve for putting it all together.

## FLOWER/BULLETIN

The new book for 2024 is available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates. You may also call the church to sign up or leave a message on the answering machine. The price to sponsor Altar Flowers will be \$20.00 per vase (\$40.00 for both vases.) The price to sponsor bulletins will be \$10.00 (\$20.00 to sponsor both.)



## FROM THE SEARCH TEAM

The Search Team and Church Board are pleased to announce the approved call agreement between Zion Maxatawny and Rev. Melissa Burkhart. Thank you to all who attended the social, service, and vote on the pastoral candidate's weekend. Pastor Melissa will assume the pulpit on February 4, 2024. We are filled with joy, praise, and thanksgiving for the Spirit's leading. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Melissa and her family to our church.

## INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill backpacks with food staples for needy children and their families in the area. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



single serve size macaroni and cheese	peanut butter	fruit cups
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
single serve cereal	granola bars	fruit snacks
oatmeal packets		

## CHURCH BOARD

Newly elected members of the Church Board are Lori Arndt, Gregory Haas, Peggy Morgan, and Raymond Schell. Their term is for three years with the option of continuing for an additional three-year term. Completing their second term as members of the Board are Linda Ballew-Johnson, Nathaniel Haas, and Sandy Leiby. Kay Weidner also had been on the board prior to her passing away on December 4, 2023.

# CHURCH BOARD MEETING

November 28, 2023

1. A huge thank you to Lisa Krause and the Search Committee for doing due diligence and finding our next pastor, Rev. Melissa Burkhart.
2. The Operation Christmas Child from Samantha's Purse organization was very successful for our first year as a drop off station. We had 13 volunteers and collected 248 boxes. The Berks/Schuylkill area collected 13,097 boxes. We will reevaluate things in January.
3. The 2024 budget was approved by the Board. It will be voted on by the congregation on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. We will be welcoming 7 new members on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. Happy to announce that all the bells are paid for by donors.
6. Snack and Chat will be Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Ozgoods.
7. Plans to establish a committee for the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church. The anniversary will be December 2026.
8. The board approved Jake Fegely as a member of the Cemetery board.

## SNACK AND CHAT

We will have lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. The upcoming outings are **January 10<sup>th</sup> at The Quality Shoppe** and **February 14<sup>th</sup> at Jaks**. Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The installation of new board members and officers for 2024, Sunday School teachers and officers, and committees and group officers and leaders will be **January 14<sup>th</sup>** during the worship service.

## HOLIDAY BOXES

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and truth”  
1 John 3:18. Thank you to every one who generously provided donations to fill 34 Holiday boxes. The spirit of Zion's Maxatawny Church will cascade far into our community making Christmas a little brighter.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

As the year comes to an end, so does the time for all organizations, groups, and committees to get their annual report information into the church office. All information for the annual report **MUST** be in the church office by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group meets from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to weave plastic bags into mats. All are encouraged to participate. Contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 or Carol Leiby at 484-695-8318. Watch for dates in the bulletin. Plastic bags may be brought to church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area.

## WOMEN IN ZION

*A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 8   | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Trip to Normandy, Introducing Lenten Challenge |
| February 12 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Wear Red! Tea Party, Games                     |



*For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson (484-553-1981) or Loretta Flicker (610-683-3627).*

## PRAYER SHAWL



Comforting wraps are still available to all who are in need. Please alert the church office or Loretta Flicker if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



## YOUTH GROUP

\*\*\*Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin\*\*\*



**ADVENT SOCIAL** – Thank you to all who came to the Advent Social. We appreciate the continued support from the congregation.

**NUT SALE** – The Youth Group would like to thank everyone that purchased nuts and dried fruit during the Youth Group’s Annual Nut Sale. Your support of Zion’s Youth is overwhelming.



**YOUTH GATHERING** – July 16 to July 20, 2024. All Zion’s youth who, by the Gathering date, will be age 14 to 18, or going to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up to those who have just graduated from high school will be eligible. It will be held in New Orleans. Almost all costs covering air fare, hotel stay, and meals will be paid. We need to know if there is sufficient interest by **the end of January 2024**. Also, volunteers to chaperone will be needed. If interested, please contact Sharon Leiby or Richard Haas.

## FAMILY PROMISE

A total of \$1,012.00 was donated to Family Promise to support their program to assist families who potentially or are already homeless in Berks County. Loose plate offering of \$355.55 was matched by WIZ (\$356.45). The Youth Group contributed \$300.00.

## ZION’S WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, the following persons joined as members of our congregation: Shanna Fegely, Griffin Fulton, Noah Kayhart, Wanda Scarl, Steven & Elizabeth Schucker and sons Andrew and Barrett, and Dean Wetzel. We welcome them in worship services and other activities of our church.

## REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M. **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** at St. Paul’s UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak St. Kutztown, PA.



## GROUNDHOG LODGE FOR YOUTH

The Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf organization will sponsor a Grundsau Lodsch fer Yunge (Groundhog Lodge for Youth) on **Sunday, January 28 2024** from 1:30-3:00 P.M. at the Midway Diner, Route I-78 Exit 16, Bethel, PA. This event is perfect for youth ages 5-12 and is free, with donations being accepted. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Note that this year there will be a special groundhog guest! Safety guidelines will be observed. There is limited availability. For reservations contact [pgalice2@gmail.com](mailto:pgalice2@gmail.com) or 717- 933-5511 by **January 14, 2024**. Snowdate is Sunday, February 4, 2024. Check the Facebook page at [zammelaaf@gmail.com](mailto:zammelaaf@gmail.com) for information and updates in case of inclement weather. A virtual event will be available on the Facebook page from February 2-16, 2024. For more information contact Mary Laub.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*We ask God's blessings upon those who are ill, recovering from surgery, homebound, or have asked for our prayers:*

Marilyn Quinter, Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Elaine & Paul Heffner, Irene Isamoyer, Loretta Flicker, Jamey Webb, Sharon Weigle, Julia Mohn, Liz Jones, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Randy Warmkessel, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, John Laird, Sherry S., Joseph Karaisz Sr., Jeremy Crum, Chad, Chris, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Colid Hollin, Vera, Bruce Fritzinger, Paige Sechler, Sherri Gehringer, Leila, Linda Menges, Ely, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Mary Jane Schlenker, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Victoria Slotter, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Regen Zimmerman, Karen Ames, Elia, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christy Ryan, Mary, Betsy, Christopher Mercado, Michele Rodriquez, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, family of Arlan Kamp, family of Kay Weidner, family of Ronald Dengler, family of Anita Christman.

**If anyone can be removed from this list, please notify the church office.**

If you know of other persons in need of prayer and you wish to have a name included on the list please email the church, call the church office, or leave a message on the answering machine. If you want a name included on Zion's Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

MANY THANKS to the Operation Christmas Child participants. Whether you provided items for shoeboxes, did a shoebox on your own, donated funds to ship the boxes, or volunteered for hours during Collection Week, THANK YOU!!! Through WIZ, our church contributed 66 boxes toward the 248 total collected from other donors. The collection week was a beautiful ministry that allowed us to witness to others and share God's goodness at Zion Maxatawny. Please continue to pray for the journeying shoeboxes and those receiving them. A meeting will be held in January to recap and regroup in an effort to decide how this project moves forward in 2024.

## OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Arlan Kamp.  
... the family of Ronald Dengler.

... the family of Kay Weidner.  
... the family Anita Christman.

## FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Kathryn "Kay" Moore Weidner*, 68, of Mertztown, died December 4, 2023. A memorial service was held December 16, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown, by Vicar Jeremiah Heydt.

## CARD SHOWERS

We are listing those couples married 50 years or more and those people 70 years or older. If we are missing anyone, please call or email the church office.

January 1	Glenn Bennecoff
January 2	Joan Stettler
January 4	Marian Stettler
January 14	Irene Isamoyer
January 17	Walter Dietrich, Jr.
January 20	Mary Haas
January 22	Kyle Koller
January 30	Elaine Heffner





February 4	Irene Stauffer
February 17	William Bird
February 19	Ted Silliman
February 19	Carol Bauman
February 20	Carol Kane
February 20	Jacqueline Ziegler
February 20	Elizabeth (Liz) Jones
February 21	Theresa Grim
February 22	Wilfred Radcliffe

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Energized by the Spirit! Humbled by Christ's Grace! Working for God's glory!

## **UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNION**

You are invited by Jesus Christ to this awesome feast of the Children of God.

January 7

Altar Holy Communion

February 4

Pew Altar Communion



## **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning February. If you have any information to be included in the February newsletter, please have it in the church office by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.