



# 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**

**July/August  
2023**

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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.

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Members and Friends of Zion's Union Church  
Maxatawny,

Somehow the summer is already here and we are in full-swing for our summer activities! Recently, we had our Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival – a huge thank you to all of those who volunteered and made the event a success! And, we have a lot more going on in the summer months yet to come.

I've been busy at work working alongside our Worship and Music Team as well as with the Sunday School teachers to create a summer sermon series for worship and a VBS-themed Sunday School. In July we will be doing a summer series focused on outreach and community connections. Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements about what we'll be doing to connect with our wider community for this series.

In August we will be celebrating VBS in a new way – during Sunday School! I am excited at what this can look like and am working in collaboration with our Sunday School leaders to make it a fun and memorable experience for all. Volunteers may be needed – so keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming announcements.

Also in August we'll be having our Rally Day the last Sunday of the month – mark your calendars now for a morning of faith, fellowship and fun!

I want to end my newsletter by expressing appreciation to each of you. You continue to show up and care for those in your community in so many ways– making sure the building is beautified (inside and out!), our fire alarms are in working order, the internet is working, the flowers are on the altar, the children have snacks, and so much more. Thank you for being the Church!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Jess  
Interim Pastor, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny

## JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

July 2	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
July 9	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
July 16	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
July 23	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
July 30	9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
August 6	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
August 13	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
August 20	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
August 27	SS Rally Day & Picnic at Longswamp Park			10:00 A.M.
September 3	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 10	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 17	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 24	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15

### ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of June 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$99,174

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

Checking Account Money Used for Expenses - \$23,000

Investment Gains - \$63,600

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$339,754.13

### ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$16,628.86

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$0 – PAID IN FULL

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - **\$27,021.17**

## 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.

## **READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SHEPHERDS**

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

## **RELAY FOR LIFE**

Thank you to all who supported our fundraisers and the donations made to the American Cancer Society. Thank you to all who helped serve or donated food for the food stand. Our Relay for Life team raised \$3,125 so far and the Kutztown & Eastern Berks Relay raised \$103,300 as of the end of our relay night. Thank you to all team members, friends, family, and especially our survivors that participated in the relay, even those who couldn't join us that day. We continue to walk to support all of the survivors and in memory of our loved ones.

## **STRAWBERRY AND ICE CREAM FESTIVAL**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival by your help, your donations, or your attendance.



## **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. Upcoming outings are **12:15 P.M. July 12<sup>th</sup> at Hometown, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Jaks, and September 13<sup>th</sup> at Airport Dinner.** These social times will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Notify Ellie Merkel or Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

## **NURSING MOTHERS**

The health room on the same floor as the sanctuary has been designated as a room providing privacy for nursing mothers during the worship service. A cover for the window in the door indicating “do not disturb” is available to prevent others from entering.

# OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 11, 2023, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny honored our graduates for the year 2023 including late 2022 graduates. Congratulations graduates!

## KUTZTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

*Maisy Anna Maria Kellum*, daughter of Michael and Courtney Kellum. She will attend Delaware Valley College majoring in Conservation & Wildlife Management.

*Julia Grace Perella*, daughter of John and Renee Perella.

## BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

*Ashley Nicole DeLong*, daughter of Travis and Stacy DeLong. She will be attending the University of Delaware to study Biomedical Engineering.

## FLEETWOOD AREA HIGH SCHOOL

*Sarah Christine Grim*, daughter of David and Wendy Grim. She will attend RACC to study Psychology.

*Andrew Gregory Haas*, son of Gregory and Patricia Haas. He will be attending St. Joseph University for a degree in Financing.

## NORTHWESTERN LEHIGH HIGH SCHOOL

*Jonah Allen Shorette*, son of Amanda Essig and step son of+ Terry Essig. Received his heavy equipment certification from LCTI, competed in Skills USA, and intends to pursue a career as a heavy equipment operator and was recruited by M&J Outdoor Services.

## KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

*Mary Beth Weidman*, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Weidman. Graduated in December 2022 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts, concentration in Photography. She is working at Dan's Camera City in Allentown as a photo processing technician and continues to grow her independent photography business.

## THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

*Steven Eric Gehringer*, son of Shane and Traci Gehringer. Graduated with an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences, Metal Fabrication, and Welding Technology. Cum Laude and member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Working at Rose Corporation in Reading in contact manufacturing.

# CHURCH BOARD MEETING

May 30, 2023

1. Once a month, praise music will be sung in lieu of the first hymn. The first Sunday will be June 11.
2. CPR and AED training will be held here at the church from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, September 16. Church members will be offered the courses first.
3. We will be installing a security camera for the front door of the gathering area. It will offer Karen, our administrative assistant, a layer of protection.
4. There will be a pot luck dinner on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Be sure and sign up for fun and fellowship and to hear the “70 Something” band.
5. The second Wednesday of the month, Snack and Chat will gather for lunch at an area restaurant. This month on June 14<sup>th</sup> we will be at the 1760 House in Trexlertown. Plan to wear your Zion Maxatawny shirt!
6. Tracey and Tanya will be on hand Sunday to show how to make mats from plastic bags and what the final product looks like.
7. Seeders and Sow-on will be beautifying our landscape around the church and across the road.

## OPEN HOUSE

The church is planning an Open House on **October 29<sup>th</sup>**. We are asking all committees and groups to write up a few words about what your group does. Individuals may also submit what they like about Zion’s Church. Please give these items to Mandy Graff no later than **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## 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  
single serve size applesauce  
single serve cereal  
oatmeal packets

peanut butter  
canned tuna  
granola bars

fruit cups  
canned soup  
fruit snacks

# SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC AND RALLY DAY



The Sunday School Picnic and Rally Day will be held on Sunday, **August 27<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 A.M. at the Longswamp Park (upper pavilion). Entertainment will be Joe Keppel – Comedy Magician. Bring your lawn chairs. Lunch will be served at noon. The Sunday School provides hot dogs and beverages. You must provide anything else you would like to eat. Games begin after lunch.



## REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County services are at 3:00 P.M., Sundays, **July 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup>, and September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages and the chance to connect with others. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher ([charf1sh@verizon.net](mailto:charf1sh@verizon.net), 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb ([emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com), 610-894-9949).

## LANDSCAPING ENHANCEMENTS

Seeders and Sow-on, with assistance from Carl Flicker and Ted Scaffidi, have removed the old ties and replaced them with new timbers. Plants have been added. The beds in front of the church building have been mulched. Funds from memorials and the budget will be used to cover the cost of this upgrade. Additional funds may be needed to complete the project. Members who are interested in supporting the landscaping project are welcome to contribute.

## PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

**July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>**, the group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to weave plastic bags into mats. Evening classes may be scheduled as desired. Tracey Lutz, Tanya Schnaedel, and Carol Leiby are working on this project. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Plastic bags may be brought to the church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area.



## SOUND SYSTEM/SECURITY CAMERA

A new sound system for the sanctuary has been ordered and a security camera will be placed in the Gathering Area so that persons ringing the bell can be identified. Donations to these projects will be appreciated.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, and September 25<sup>th</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.



## WOMEN IN ZION

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

- July 10            1:00 P.M., meeting and video with Jeff Allen, bring hygiene supplies for Samaritan's Purse.
- August 14        1:00 P.M., meeting and fall/pumpkin decoration for our shut-in members.
- September 8    Friday at 6:30 P.M., Ice Cream Social.



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

## UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

July 23-29        Mission Trip to Blue Knob in Altoona.

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



## HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is still available to be purchased. The cost is \$15.00. Call the church office if you would like one.

## PRAYER SHAWL



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

## BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND ("MOSES") LUNCH AT BIRD-IN-HAND RESTAURANT

Steve Schucker, who attends our services, is organizing a trip on **Tuesday, July 25**. The bus leaves New Bethel parking lot at 9:45 A.M. A stop will be made for lunch followed by the show at 3 P.M. Cost per adult is \$130; children up to age 12 is \$80 (includes lunch, show, bus, and gratuities.) Contact Steve at 610-756-6829.

## CPR AND AED CLASS

The church will be having a CPR and AED class on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Cost is \$50.00 per person. There is a 20 person limit. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board.

## SUGGESTION BAG

Got an EGGS-CEPTIONAL Suggestion? Put it in the bag! A blue SUGGESTION BAG has been placed in the church narthex next to the Prayer Request box. If you have a suggestion for the church or the service, please let your voice be heard! All suggestions are welcome!

## CHIME CHOIR

A Chime Choir has been a special part of the music program. As we recover from the pandemic and work to restore our church activities and programs, hopefully, we will be able to again celebrate with the inspiration offered by the Chime Choir. Anyone interested in assisting with playing the chimes should let the Worship and Music Committee or a Church Board member know.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Lauren Perella made high honors for every quarter and was inducted in the Junior National Honor Society at Kutztown Middle School.
- Andrew Haas was a finalist in the Berks Best Taylor Seitzinger Community Service and Leadership category.
- Maisy Kellum was in Germany the month of June doing some traveling to Berlin, Munich, and Mannheim, as well as living with the Kellum's exchange student and attending school with her in Kassel.
- Andrew Haas received a \$1,200 Good Citizen Scholarship from the Berks Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, Archer Scaffidi was a recipient of the Emory S. Meck Service Award. The award recognizes a high level of conduct, loyalty, cooperation talents above the required expectations of the Brandywine Heights High School band program.
- Archer Scaffidi completed the required training to be a certified lifeguard.
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi are swimming for the Fleetwood/Topton Swim Team for the summer of 2023 season.
- Arden Scaffidi received the following recognition during the Brandywine Heights Middle School year-end ceremony: The Healthy Fitness Award – she met several physical fitness challenges, The Achieving Honor Roll Award – for being on the honor roll the entire year, and The Excellence in Music Award – in recognition of her efforts in learning the guitar.
- Mike, Ethan, and Jonathan Weidman assisted in the ceremonies held by the Topton Legion during the Topton Memorial Day parade.
- Dan Blanchard marched with the local Boy Scout troop at the Topton Memorial Day Parade.
- Archer Scaffidi played the bass drum while performing with the Brandywine Heights High School Marching Band at the Topton Memorial Day Parade.
- Ted, Jen, Arden Scaffidi walked with the Brandywine Heights High School Marching Band as chaperones during the Topton Memorial Day Parade.
- Ashley DeLong was on the Distinguished Honor Roll for the fourth quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi both made Distinguished Honor Roll for the fourth quarter at Brandywine.

**“The best prayers have often more groans than words.”**

—John Bunyan

## WIZ CART LIBRARY

WIZ invites you to take a book or jigsaw puzzle from their WIZ Cart Library, which will be available in the Gathering Area every Sunday. Feel free to keep the item, return it, or add to the inventory. Enjoy reading or 'jigsaw-ing' with others in the congregation who share your common interest. Have fun!

## REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during the year. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented at the register prior to checking out for the rebate to be valid as indicated by the "Save A Tape" notation on the receipt.** Radcliffe's does not require a card to enroll in the program. Tapes for both Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the church.

## 6<sup>th</sup> BILINGUAL PA GERMAN AND ENGLISH BOOK PUBLISHED

Mary Laub published another bilingual book, *Uff der Bauerei: Die Nei Heemet* (On the Farm: The New Home) in the Uff der Bauerei series. In this story, Henny the cat and Spunky the dog are worried when they find out that the farm's owners, Frank and Sarah, plan to sell the farm. What kind of new home could Henny and Spunky have? Will they learn something? This new sequel provides another adventure for these special pets and you will find out how they got their names! There is a Reference Section which includes glossaries, how to count numbers, familiar Pennsylvania German sayings, names of family members, and names of colors. The story is written in PA German with a phonetic spelling and an English translation underneath. An illustration matches the text and there is an audio recording of the story which can be downloaded for free or a CD can be purchased separately. Books and CDs can be purchased from Mary or locally at Dietrich's Meats (they also sell the CDs), Wooden Bridge Dry Goods, and Burkholder's Farm Market on Topton Road or online at Amazon.com and Masthof.com. Books are \$10 and CDs are \$5.

## FROM THE RECORD BOOK

*Betty J. Dietrich*, 93, of Whitehall, PA, died May 23, 2023. Service was May 27, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Vicar Jeremiah Heydt. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

*Roeller R. Dietrich*, 88, of Maxatawny, died June 1, 2023. Service was June 6, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Vicar Jeremiah Heydt. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

*Beatrice K. Bennecoff*, 96, of Hamburg, died June 4, 2023 in Hamburg. Service was June 17, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Rev. Jessica Hainley. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

*Jean E. Strauss*, 91, of Breinigsville, PA, died June 16, 2023. Service was June 21, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Rev. Jessica Hainley. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

An effort is being made to provide additional information for an updated directory. A form is below to gather the information needed to include email addresses and to determine how members prefer to be contacted. **ALL MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO CHANGES.**

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**Please fill in the information below and place in the offering plate, mail to the church, or email the church office with the information. If children no longer live at home, please fill out another form with their information.**

**Name:**

**Family members:**

**Address:**

**Phone numbers: Cell**

**Home**

**Email address:**

**Preferred method of communication (circle all that apply)**

**Email      Phone      Text**

## PRAAYER REQUESTS

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

Ellie Merkel, Jamey Webb, Julia Mohn, Kay Weidner, Bill & Karen Howard, John Mertz, Liz Jones, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Bill & Marilyn Bird, Marian Stettler, Arlan Berger, Anna Bortz, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Vera, Sherri Gehringer, Leila, John Laird, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Rosemary LaFratte, Ukrainians, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Mary Jane Schlenker, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Kim Markham, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Mary, Michele Rodriquez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Betty Dietrich, family of Roeller Dietrich, family of Beatrice Benncoff, family of Jean Strauss.

**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.

## OUR SYMPAHTIES TO:

... the family of Betty Dietrich.

... the family of Roeller Dietrich.

... the family of Beatrice Bennecoff.

... the family of Jean Strauss.

## 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.

July 2

Richard Warmkessel

July 6

Nancy Fulton

July 10

Marlene Costello

July 10

Sandra Leiby

July 12

Dianne Angstadt

July 18

William Howard



July 19	Janet Geiger
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (62 wed)
August 4	Marvin Christman
August 15	Paul & Elaine Heffner (53 wed)
August 27	Walter & Doris Dietrich (69 wed)
August 31	Glenroy & Patricia Miller (55 wed)
September 7	James Laub
September 8	Linda Ballew-Johnson
September 18	George Leiby
September 20	Bettina (Tina) Ehrig
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
September 27	David Ehrig

## **BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS**

There are many books available for reading located in the main Sunday School room (Maxatawny side). Please help yourself.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for recognizing my graduation. I appreciate the support from my church family throughout the years. I am excited for the next chapter at the University of Delaware!

Thank you!  
Ashley DeLong



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNIONS

### CHECK THIS

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



July 2	Altar Holy Communion
August 6	Pew Holy Communion
September 3	Pew Holy Communion

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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