

CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

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

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

**June
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. 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



¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. – Matthew 5:15

April and May have been very busy months at Zion's Union Church Maxatawny. We have celebrated Music Sunday, the organ rededication is coming up, and we're gearing up for a summer filled with fun with lots of programs and activities!

This past month I met with the Sunday School teachers and officers at their meeting and we discussed how we could try VBS in a new way. We'll be trying VBS-themed Sunday School in the month of August (fingers crossed!). I'm excited at the possibility of what this can look like for our church and how we might be able to invite other local congregations to participate with us in this new way of doing VBS! If you'd like to volunteer to help with this new venture – let me know 😊.

I have so enjoyed having multiple individuals step in to be worship leader on Sunday mornings! It is so important to hear and see the many people that make up our congregation (both for those who are in-person and those who join us online). I would love if you (or your child!) would want to be worship leader some Sunday. If you're interested, just sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway upstairs.

I had the opportunity to go to the Topton Home and meet with the staff there in April. They are interested in individuals or groups coming to provide fellowship for the residents and would also welcome an invitation to speak about nursing home/personal care to congregations.

I continue to welcome conversation around what you are seeing and experiencing in the church – what do you see that has moved you? What has made you stop and pause? If you'd like to share any of these things with me, I am more than happy to listen!

Here is to another month of faith, fun, and fellowship at Zion's Union Church Maxatawny!

Peace,
Pastor Jess

JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP

June 4	Trinity Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 11	2 nd Pentecost/Graduate Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 18	3 rd Pentecost/Father's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 25	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 2	5 th Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 9	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 16	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 23	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 30	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	Ss 9:00	church 10:15

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of May 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$98,664

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$334,044.13

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$30,196.39

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$18,880

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$27,818.70

Total owed - \$46,698.70

READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY

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

SUMMER MUSIC

Anyone interested in singing or playing instruments for the summer while the choir takes a break, see Theresa.

MUSIC SUNDAY THANK YOU

Thank you to all our very talented musicians, Samantha Hassler, Steven Gehringer, Kyle and Judy Koller, Terese Mertz, Craig Weidner, Kid's Choir, Joe Karaisz, and the Sr. Choir for Music Sunday, May 14th. Also, thank you to Theresa Grim for coordinating all the special music for that day.



SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website (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.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thank you to all our Adopt-A-Highway participants: Cindy O’Neil; Ethan, Jonathan, and Mike Weidman; Logan, Dan, and Lilly Osle; Aaron Beck; George and Sandy Leiby; Patty, Greg, and Andrew Haas; Sherie Mohn; Kevin and Lisa Krause; Ray and Andrew Schell; Richard Haas; Harry Snyder; Jake and Shanna Fegely; Kevin and LaRee Fegely. 29 bags of trash, 2 signs, and 4 tires were collected.



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

STRAWBERRY AND ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **Saturday, June 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.** and feature music by “70 Something”. Donations of vegetable soup and baked goods are needed. See Mike Weidman if you would like to donate anything or would like to help.



WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 11th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2023, including December 2022 graduates. Please write down the name of your graduate, the school from which he or she is graduating or did graduate, their degree (if applicable), and their plans for the future (including name of college, trade school, any continuing education they may be planning, etc.). Place the information in the secretary’s mail slot in the Gathering Area or call or email the church office with the above information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 4TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



POTLUCK DINNER AND BAND

On **June 10th** at 6:00 P.M., Adult Fellowship will sponsor a potluck dinner with a band. “70 Something” featuring our very own Kyle Koller will join with three other musicians to entertain us from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is posted on the upstairs bulletin board. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Children with an adult will be free.

SNACK AND CHAT

The Senior Ministry has initiated a new outreach opportunity for Zion's. We will have lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area that would make the community aware of our congregation. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. Our next outing is **June 14th at 12:15 P.M. at 1760 House in Trexlertown.** 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

As part of the Siegfried Bequest, a higher education fund has been established to offer loans of up to \$1000.00 (based on the number of applicants and availability of funds) for a maximum of 4 years per student to those members of Zion's enrolled in a higher education program. A student loan application has been developed by the loan committee (Nancy Fulton, Grace Haas, Jennifer Weidman) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



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.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee continues to ask for your patience. As of now, we wait on suitable pastoral profiles from Conference and Synod. We would ask that you continue to pray for our congregation, the church's lay leadership, our Search Committee, Pastor Jess, and our next Settled Pastor. "For I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **June 4th**, 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. Rejoicing Spirits meets the first Sunday of each month at St. Paul's UCC. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher (charflsh@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949).

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

April 25, 2023

1. Still looking for 1 delegate to attend the Synod Meeting on June 2nd or 3rd.
2. There have been renovations made to the balcony for a new sound board for our updated sound system.
3. We received a lot of entries for the banner contest. They are currently being reviewed.

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.

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!

OPEN HOUSE

The church is planning an Open House on **October 29th**. 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 1st**.

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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 26th and July 24th** 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.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 12 | 12 noon, meeting, picnic, fun and games, Bingo, create nominating committee, bring school supplies for Samaritan's Purse. |
| July 10 | 1:00 P.M., meeting and video with Jeff Allen, bring hygiene supplies for Samaritan's Purse. |



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

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| June 15 | Help at Friend, Inc. anytime from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. |
| June 18 | Father's Day handouts. |
| July 22-28 | Mission Trip to Blue Knob in Altoona. |



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

THANK YOU

A note of thanks to all friends and members of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny for all the beautiful cards that came my way. I've enjoyed each and every one of them and enjoy looking at them every day.

Thanks again,
Ellie Merkel

DID YOU KNOW?

- Katelyn Berger was the winner of the 2023 Safety Poster Contest held each year for children of East Penn Manufacturing employees.
- Katelyn Berger made high honors for every quarter and was inducted in the Junior National Honor Society at Kutztown Middle School.

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.

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!

6th 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.

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. Cooperation to obtain this information in a timely manner will facilitate the process of providing an updated membership directory as soon as possible. **ALL MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO CHANGES.**

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**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Marilyn Bird, Kay Weidner, Ellie Merkel, Jamey Webb, Bill & Karen Howard, John Mertz, Richard & Jane Warmkessel, Liz Jones, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Barry & Ann Miller, Bill Bird, Beatrice Bennecoff, Marian Stettler, Arlan Berger, Anna Bortz, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, 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, Michele Rodriquez, Christy Ryan, Judy

Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Eleanor Sechler.

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

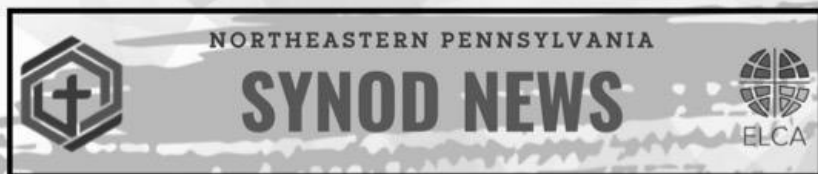
If you know of other persons in need of prayer and you wish to have a name included on the list please email the church, call the church office, or leave a message on the answering machine. If you want a name included on Zion's Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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

PLASTIC BAGS

Persons who are interested in cutting the plastic bags that have been collected are welcome to volunteer by speaking with Tanya Schaedel, Carol Leiby, or Nancy Fulton. Bags can be cut at home. After the bags are cut and prepared, they will be taken to St. Peter's Church in Topton for weaving into mats for the homeless.



WE MATTER TO THE WHOLE CHURCH: A STORY FROM OUR SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Being a member of a congregation council is significant in the life of a disciple. Serving as a leader in a congregation is rewarding, terrifying, awe-inspiring and messy. You are among friends, family and your community of believers, and are chosen to lead in your congregation. It's just a few times a month, but as Barbara Nugent, a synod vice president, shares, "Then life happens, and you find out the reporting required. Situations occur; personalities clash; decisions need to be made. Who do you go to for direction?"

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod provided that direction in February when it offered training to 70 congregational lay leaders that strengthened each person's skills and faith. From evangelism to the ELCA constitution and bylaws, they gathered to meet the passions and needs, offering workshops with special breakouts for presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers that covered such topics as worship and music, communications, advocacy, stewardship and social justice/anti-racism. The day started with Bishop Kurt Kusserow encouraging these valued leaders to keep the focus on our purpose:

“Your leadership in the life of your congregation ought always to bear in mind that your congregation finds its fulfillment in the universal church, and that the universal church exists in and through congregations such as yours. I think this means addressing local questions and concerns in the life of your congregation as if they matter to the whole church (because they do).”

Everyone was hungry to gather ideas, consider future steps but also have an opportunity to connect, be empowered, feel valued and cared for and remember the excitement of being church. Rev. Melissa Stoller, director for evangelical mission, said it this way: “The day was a very visible yet not necessarily quantifiable force that we are church together. Wandering but not alone. Feeling worry, power, uncertainty, and joy as one.” Central to this gathering was living into the mission of this synod “to serve, connect and equip congregations of the SWPA synod to tell the story of Jesus.” Everyone knew that the synod was there for the congregations with staff, volunteers and greater church support, not only this day but in the days to come, and synod staff are supported through the generous mission support of congregations allowing them to be there for our leaders. One leading Scripture for the day reminded each leader of their value: “Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word” (Acts 6:3-4). Hoping each of our synods are seeking ways that work for them to encourage and empower congregational leaders. Knowing that we are church together, church that supports each other across the whole church prayerfully, financially, emotionally and with a hope for renewal.



Our Synod has PRIDE



June is Pride Month which celebrates LGBTQIA+ folk and their many achievements.

Although injustices and prejudices still exist within our society, we have made great strides since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, attaining marriage equality. However, as previously mentioned, we still have a long way to go in the struggle for equal rights. By learning about LGBTQ Pride/History Month, congregational members are more likely to have an understanding and acceptance for all individuals, no matter what they look like, what gender they do or don't identify as, and who they love. Consider celebrating PRIDE in your congregation!

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.

June 1	Diane Herber
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (60 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 21	Dave & Tina Ehrig (54 wed)
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (56 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (68 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (53 wed)
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 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (62 wed)



OUR SYMPAHTIES TO:

... the family of Eleanor Sechler.

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.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNIONS

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

June 4

Pew Holy Communion

July 2

Altar Holy Communion



JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of July. Please note that this is a **combined July/August** newsletter. If you have any information to be included in the July/August newsletter, please have it in the church office by **June 15th**.