



# 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**

**March  
2024**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
Pastor's Corner	page 2
March and April Worship, Service Videos	page 3
Acolytes, Reader, Ushers, Greeters, Shepherds, Annual Report	page 3
Soup Suppers and Lenten Services, Ingathering	page 4
Daylight Savings, Helping Hand Fund	page 4
Street Medicine Team, Plastic Bag Project	page 5
Snack and Chat, Cemetery Clean-up	page 6
Holy Week and Easter Services, Church Board Meeting	page 6
Senior Fellowship, Youth Group News, Women In Zion, Weather	page 7
Save The Date, Senior Ministry, Prayer Shawl	page 8
Time and Talent Information, Audit Notice	page 8
Free Piano, Opportunity House, Relay for Life	page 9
Apple Dumpling/Fall Festival, Mystery Volunteers	page 9
Thank You, Mystery Member(s), Our Sympathies	page 10
Donation for Bells	page 11
From The Mailbox, PA German Zammelaaf	page 12
Rejoicing Spirits, Member Updates, Prayer Requests	page 13
Card Showers, Homebound	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
Board, Staff, March Calendar, Worship Assistants	Lilac Insert
<i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Blue Insert
Synod News	Ivory Insert
Time and Talents	Yellow Insert

## 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.**
- ◆ 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



Our church is having a Christian Family Day this month. As followers of Christ, we believe in sharing our faith with others so they, too, can experience God's love. We have many missions and ministries to help others and show our commitment to our beliefs through service. We also wear our Zion's Maxatawny shirts to events and restaurants, letting others know about our faith and active church involvement. We love spending time together and being a supportive community.

During the Season of Lent, we often actively give up something we love, like ice cream, chocolate, coffee, or even Facebook. Giving up something adored can give us the option (or time) to include another thing that can help us grow closer to God. Starting new habits can be difficult, but experts say it takes about 21 days for a new habit to form. If we need to start, we still have 21 days left in Lent to begin practicing.

Here are some suggestions of what we can “give up” for Lent that includes sharing our faith: Let's give up our fear of talking about our church and faith to invite someone we know who doesn't attend church. Let's not assume that others will do it for us. Let's pray and ask God to show us who we should invite to our worship and activities, they may be so thankful you invited them.

Specifically, on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, there are activities planned to celebrate just this thing with new friends during Sunday School. Many thanks to the Sunday School Teachers and Officers committee led by Timothy and Susan Haas for creating this fun time! Please plan to bring your family and friends to share your love of Christ with others in a fun and engaging way. Stay for worship too as that Sunday will include a baptism and special music. If they cannot attend on March 10<sup>th</sup> – that is okay! There are cards to share that include our Holy Week services, times, and locations, too.

The days are getting longer, and Easter is coming, friends! Each time we gather is an adventure and opportunity to share God's love with those who are new among us!

Respectfully,  
Pastor Melissa

## MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP

March 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 6	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 10	4 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 13	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 17	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 20	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 24	Palm Passion Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 28	Maundy Thursday HC		7:00 P.M.
March 29	Good Friday		7:00 P.M.
March 31	Easter Dawn Service HC		6:00 A.M.
March 31	Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 21	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 28	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 19:15

## 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.

## 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.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2023 Annual Reports should be available the beginning of March. The reports will be available at the church or call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



## SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

We will be having soup suppers prior to the Mid-Week Lenten Worship **Wednesdays through March 20<sup>th</sup>**. The soup suppers will begin at 6:00 P.M. The worship service will begin at 7:00 P.M. If you would like to make a pot of soup for one or more of our soup suppers, a sign-up sheet is posted on the second floor bulletin board.



## 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

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed that Saturday night.

## HELPING HAND FUND

On **March 10<sup>th</sup>**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation or non-members who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund. This confidential fund is administered by the pastor; in the absence of a pastor the board president will make decisions based on the nature of the request. It is hoped that funds donated will be replaced in the future by persons receiving the assistance.



## STREET MEDICINE TEAM

The Plastic Bag Group is partnering with Valley Health Partners (VHP) Street Medicine Team which focuses its efforts on unsheltered persons living outside and does outreach to those persons 4-5 days out of the work week. Clinics are also offered at eight designated centers, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. Street medicine serves all patients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. The Plastic Bag team would like to support the Street Medicine Team not only by donating our mats but also by collecting some of the other items on their wish lists. Items will be collected **through March 10<sup>th</sup>**. A collection bin is located in the Gathering Area for any items you would like to donate.

Wish lists: \$5 gift cards to Dunkin, WaWa or McDonalds.  
(please only \$5 increments)

Batteries: AA, AAA, D

Hair brushes, Hair ties, Nail clippers, Hand warmers

Surviveware Large size wet wipes (Surviveware biodegradable wipes found on Amazon in boxes of 40)

Insulated waterproof gloves (Men, Women, or Unisex)

Battery operated radios

Adjustable belts (military style)

Cash donations are also accepted and should be given to Carol Leiby or Tanya Schaedel. The Street Medicine team will use the money to buy tents, tarps, sleeping bags, clothing, and other necessary essential items. See or contact Carol Leiby (484-695-8318) with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your support.

## PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. **March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>** 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.

Plastic bags may be brought to church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area. **ONLY plastic bags that are used at the register when leaving are wanted. We are unable to use produce bags, plastic from cases of water, toilet paper plastic, etc.**

The ladies and gent bag team needs your help. If anyone can flatten the bags and cut at home, please find a weaver and we will show you after a church service how quick the bags can be prepared. It's a great activity while watching tv, relaxing. Thank you!!

## 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 outing is **March 13<sup>th</sup> at Jaks at 12:15 P.M.** Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to join.

### CEMETERY CLEAN UP



**ALL** flower arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of March. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **March 16<sup>th</sup>** (weather permitting).



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, **March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 A.M.**

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, **March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.** Holy Communion. (Fellowship Hall)

Good Friday Service – Friday, **March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

Easter Dawn Service – Sunday, **March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 A.M.** Holy Communion.

Easter Breakfast – After 6:00 A.M. service.

Easter Service – Sunday, **March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 A.M.** Holy Communion.

## CHURCH BOARD MEETING

January 30, 2024

- Lenten soup supper and studies will held every Wednesday in Lent. Soup supper will start at 6:00 P.M. and studies will begin at 7:00 P.M.
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have bell dedication during the church service.
- Worship and Music would like to take this time, with new leadership, to update the Time and Talent sheets. Please fill them out so we can see where you would like to help out.
- Moving forward, financial statements will be sent bi-annually instead of quarterly.

# SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 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.



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

**Pizza and Soup Sunday** --- (We'll eat the pizza and make the soup) **March 10, 2024**. Join us on **Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>**, we'll eat pizza after church around noon, and after that make soup for the soup kitchen in Reading. We expect to be done by 2:30 P.M. For ages 12 and over. Parents – plan on having kids here by noon and plan to pick them up around 2:30 P.M. We expect the young people to do the work so they can get proper credit if needed. **EVERYONE – sign up on the church bulletin board if you'd like to help by bringing veggies for the soup. Veggies should be brought in the morning of March 10<sup>th</sup>. All vegetables should be fresh, not canned or frozen, wherever possible.**



# WOMEN IN ZION

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

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 11 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Meals on Wheels Craft, Bring clothes and accessories.                    |
| April 8  | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Bible study with Lori Arndt, bring crafts for Operation Christmas Child. |



*For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson (484-553-1981)*

# INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation: [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) (click on "storm center update") or call the church office (610-683-7485).



## SAVE THE DATE

WIZ will be offering a woman's retreat on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. – 12 Noon**. The retreat will be led by Rev. Lori Esslinger and the theme will be *The Many Hats A Woman Wears*. Cost is \$10 per person. Continental breakfast will be served. The event is open to all women. Sign up begins in April. Please plan on joining us.

## SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry Committee will meet Wednesday, **March 13<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 A.M.

## 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.

## TIME AND TALENT INFORMATION

Please help your Worship & Music Committee! It has been many years since our congregation completed Time and Talent information, so please check out the yellow insert. We'd like to get to know you better! What do you like to do? What are you good at? Where do your interests lie? Completing this information does not commit you to anything. We're simply gathering information as you may see something that strikes your fancy that you didn't even know about! We'd love if your time and talents matched needs and activities among our wonderful church family now or in the future. Simply complete the form and drop it in the basket at the back of the church or email it to [zionsunion@verizon.net](mailto:zionsunion@verizon.net) or text to 484.955.5473. THANK YOU, in advance, from your W&M Team.

## AUDIT NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS

Please remember: All organizations in the church should do an internal audit of their books by the end of March as stated in the Federated Constitution.

## FREE PIANO

FREE PIANO to a good home! The church has been gifted a new piano for the sanctuary. The 'old sanctuary piano' is in the Gathering Area and is FREE to anyone who would like it. Please see Steve or Lisa if you are interested.

## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will provide the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Volunteers are needed to supply the meal. Look for the sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

## RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life of Kutztown & Eastern Berks will be held **May 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 A.M.** at William DeLong Park in Bower's. Anyone interested in being a part of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny Relay Team can sign up online at <http://www.relayforlife.org>, then click on "Join A Relay", and click on Relay for Life for Kutztown and Eastern Berks or call 1-800-227-2345 and someone will walk you through the process.

## APPLE DUMPLING/FALL FESTIVAL

We will have our apple dumpling sale along with a fall festival and open house on **October 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will start a committee in April that will meet before church once a month until August, then bi-weekly. If you would be interested in helping with this fun event, please sign up on the bulletin board upstairs. Any questions, reach out to Traci Gehringer at 610-349-8434 or [thegehringers4@verizon.net](mailto:thegehringers4@verizon.net).

## MYSTERY VOLUNTEERS

**The February Mystery Volunteers were Lisa and Kevin Krause.**

## THANK YOU

The Search Committee would like to acknowledge and thank Lisa Krause for all she did as our Chairperson. Lisa did all that was asked and required but she also did so much more. We are grateful for her dedication to our church and for the countless amount of time she directed to help Zion move forward. With much appreciation.

Rachel, Traci, Andrew, Ben, Sharon, Peggy, & Mike

## MYSTERY MEMBER(S)

**The February Mystery Member was Traci Gehringer.**

*Can you identify the March Mystery Members?*

They were both born in Allentown. They both grew up within walking distance to the church and have pictures and videos of playdates together as young children.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree at West Chester University and his Doctoral Degree at Widener. She earned her Bachelor's Degree at Penn State and her Doctoral at Arcadia University.

They were married at Zion's Union in September 2015.

They started a close friendship through Youth Group and started dating while in high school remaining a couple through college and graduate school before getting engaged the day they moved into their first home.

He works in Wayne, PA part time and per diem for Lehigh Valley Health Network out-patient physical therapy. She works full time with Lehigh Valley Hospital; pediatric physical therapy.

Both of them have large families active in the church and local community. They have no children.

His hobbies include house projects, plays golf with his uncle, and participates in triathlons. She likes yoga, skiing, and spending time at the beach.

He has served on the Church Board and both were active with the Youth Group.

## OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Frederic Schearer.

... the family of Bill Scholl.

## DONATIONS FOR BELLS

The bells will be dedicated on March 3, 2024 during the worship service.  
Thank you to the many donors.

Names	Dedication
Linda Ballew-Johnson	Memory of parents: Howard & Alberta Slotter; Frank & Nora Johnson
Trevor & Melissa DeLong	Memory of loved ones
Dave & Tina Ehrig	Honor of family and friends at Zion's
Kevin & LaRee Fegely	Memory of Janet & C.R. Fegely
Nancy Fulton	Memory of Ron Fulton
Traci Gehringer	Memory of beloved mother & Nana, Patty Stevens
Ben & Desiree Haas Family	Honor of loved ones
Greg & Patty Haas	Honor of music in our church ministry
Eric, Elizabeth, Samantha, Bradley Hassler	Memory of loved ones
Paul & Elaine Heffner	Memory of parents Percy & Verna Heffner; Stanley & Verna Ely
Liz Jones	
Julia Karaisz, Cindy O'Neil	Loving memory of Donald & Diane Peters
Kevin & Lisa Krause	Memory of grandparents: Oscar & Leona Leiby; Wayne and Mamie Haas
	Honor of Richard and Grace Haas
	Honor of Jim and Mary Laub
George & Sandy Leiby	Memory of Oscar & Leona Leiby
	Memory of Henry & Marie Zimmerman
Kim Miller	Memory of her father, Ron Fulton
	Honor of Nancy Fulton & Barry & Ann Miller
Dave Merkel	Honor of Ellie Merkel
Sherie Mohn	Appreciation for music program at Zion's
Dorothy Moyer	Memory of Rev. James H. Moyer
Cindy, Casey, Maddy O'Neil	Loving memory of Steve
Steven & Elizabeth Schucker	Honor of Andrew & Barrett Schucker
	Honor of our parents
	Honor of all those who make a joyful noise unto the Lord!
Michael & Jennifer Weidman	Memory of Jayne Siegfried
	Honor of Lavonne Weidman
Dean Wetzel	Memory of Jeanette Wetzel

## FROM THE MAILBOX

I want to thank the congregation for the gift certificate honoring my 21 years as Financial Secretary, greatly appreciated. Also a very special thanks to all who sent me the cards and prayers for my hospitalization. It is truly uplifting to have you all as my church family. God is good .....

Richard Warmkessel

Dear Congregation at Zion's Union,

We deeply appreciate your congregation's effort in gathering 34 Holiday Boxes for our pantry clients, and for your youth help at our Christmas Pantry. Your wonderful donations have made a significant impact helping local families enjoy a wonderful year and holiday season!

From the clients, staff, and Board of  
Friend, Inc. Community Services

Dear Pastor,

Please accept our deep gratitude for your donation of \$100.00 and believing and supporting in Bethany's mission of the healing of our community's most vulnerable children.

Jennifer M. Koch  
Development Alumni Coordinator

## PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF

The Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf organization will hold a special event to learn more about the PA German (Dutch) language and culture on Saturday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Trainer's Midway Diner, Bethel, PA. The event is free and everyone is welcome! There will be traditional PA German crafts and artists, children's activities, and old-fashioned toys. Entertainment will be provided by Mike Emery whose topic is, 'Pennsylvania German Gravestones,' and Dr. Harry Serio who will speak on the topic, 'Spirituality & Folk Traditions of Pennsylvania Germans'. In addition, PA German music will be performed by the 'Die Schwadore Schalle' choral group. Also, Mike and Linda Hertzog will perform songs in Pennsylvania German. PA German children's songs and stories will be provided by Mary Laub. PA German food will be available for purchase and a silent auction will be operating all day. Trainer's Midway Diner is easily accessible, located along Interstate 78, Exit 16. For more information, see the PA German Zammelaaf Facebook page or contact Mary Laub.

## REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at **3:00 P.M. the first Sunday of every month** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. This no-shush worship 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.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Nancy Fulton, Richard & Jane Warmkessel, Tracey Lutz, Marilyn Quinter, Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Elaine & Paul Heffner, Irene Isamoyer, Jamey Webb, Liz Jones, Julia Mohn, 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, Linda Carter, Sparky Grace, Chris Pinkerton, Laurel Rudy, Grayson Rudy, Livvy Rudy, Sherry S., Joseph Karaisz Sr., Jeremy Crum, Chad, Chris, Jim, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Colid Hollin, Bruce Fritzingler, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Leila, Linda Menges, Paige Sechler, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Mary Jane Schlenker, Owen Lamendola, Ely, Randy Schlegel, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Victoria Slotter, Regen Zimmerman, Karen Ames, Elia, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Valerie, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Christy Ryan, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriguez, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, family of Bill Scholl, family of Frederic Schearer.

**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.

## 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.



March 9	John Costello
March 11	Donna VanDeCar
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Jerry Schwenk
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (70 wed)
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 27	David Herber
March 28	Sharon Weigle
March 31	Patricia Miller
April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	John & Marlene Costello (68 wed)
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 22	Randy Kane
April 27	Robert Leibold



## 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.



March 3	Altar Holy Communion
March 28 (7 PM)	Table Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)
March 31 (6 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
March 31 (10:15 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
April 7	Pew Holy Communion

## APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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