



# 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**

**October  
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



*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven” – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As the seasons change, this verse brings me comfort – reminding me that God has a season for everything we will encounter.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will likely know that I am ending my interim with Zion’s Union Church in October and will be shifting to providing pulpit supply only.

This is a season which I expected would come, and am excited for the possibilities of what my next season of life will look like at Kutztown University as a full-time staff member, but like with the change from fall to winter – it may still be hard to adjust to.

You might be wondering what this new change might look like. So, let me explain.

The things that won’t change:

- I’ll still be preaching on Sunday (or at least most Sundays)
- I will still be working with Worship and Music team to provide meaningful worship services
- I will still be checking in on how our committees are doing

But, there will be a few things that will change:

- I will no longer be in the church throughout the week for meetings/group gatherings
- I won’t be available as much as I am for responding to phone calls/emails regarding church matters

I am hopeful that with all the hard and heart work the congregation has put into the search process, you will have a settled pastor in the near future. And, I am so grateful for the work you have each engaged in to get the congregation ready for that new pastor.

Do not undervalue the hard and heart work you have put in to prepare this space – and yourselves – for this new season that is undoubtedly coming.

We have worked in addressing communication issues, had discussions about the sacraments and the implications for an open or semi-open table, experimented with new ways of doing VBS, and so much more.

We have done a lot together in just a short time.

In the meantime – let us continue the work of the church – in new and old ways alike, because no matter what season of life we are in – God is right there with us.

Peace in this and every season,  
Pastor Jess

## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WORSHIP

October 1	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 8	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 15	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 22	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 29	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 5	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 12	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 19	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 22	Thanksgiving Service		7:00 P.M.
November 26	Christ the King Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## RESIGNATION FROM PASTOR JESS

The church board has received notice from Pastor Jess that she is ending her term as our interim pastor, effective October 8, 2023. She will be shifting to providing pulpit supply only. She has accepted a position at Kutztown University, an opportunity in-line with her long-term career goals and aspirations.

## 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.

## PRAISE SONGS

Our current praise songs are *Lord I Need You* and *The God Who Stays*. The lyrics are in your bulletin. Feel free to check out the songs online so you can familiarize yourself with the tunes. The Worship & Music Committee appreciates the opportunity to bring some new music selections to our congregation. Thank you for your willingness to try something different.

## **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.

## **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.**

## **CARD MINISTRY**

Thinking of you, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, and Blank cards to add your own message are in the Gathering Area waiting for you to send to someone to let them know they are on your mind. Take advantage of this ministry and make someone’s day a little brighter. Cost is \$1 plus a free stamp. **CHECK OUT THE CARDS IN THE GATHERING AREA.**

## **EXCITING NEWS**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, we were able to pay off our Organ Restoration Loan at Fleetwood Bank, having paid Emery Brothers at an earlier date for the restoration. Now all debts regarding the Organ project have been paid. Thank you to the Finance Committee for using our investments wisely, to the memorials designated for this purpose, and for the generous donors who contributed these past few years. Envelopes are still available if anyone is interested in donating funds to replace the money used from Zion’s other resources that were used to pay earlier costs before donations were enough.

## **LANDSCAPING PROJECT UPDATE**

The total cost for this project was **\$4,049.99**. All monies to pay this came from Memorials and Donations for a total of **\$4,595.25**. The extra funds will be used at a later date for mulch and/or future plant purchases.

# SOUND SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

The total cost for this project was **\$11,644.86**. Donation of **\$5,000**, Memorials totaling **\$3,625**, and church account funds of **\$3,019.86** were used to pay this upgrade.

## THANK YOU SHANNA

The Church Board is grateful to Shanna Fegely for reviewing contracts and forms to offer her advice as an attorney and provide guidance to committees and the board.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Sunday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will be receiving the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. The 2023 NIN campaign will focus on economic justice issues.

## 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

# CHURCH BOARD MEETING

August 27, 2023

1. Open House will be on October 29. There will be tours of the church, music inside and outside, food truck, displays from groups like WIZ and others, Pet Blessings. Mark your calendar!
2. The Thanksgiving Eve service worship leader will be Nathaniel Haas.
3. The board approved December 17 as Music Sunday and December 10 for the Sunday School pageant.
4. Vicar Jeremiah Heydt is visiting home bound folks. He is also available for weddings and funerals.
5. The security camera for the front door is installed. Thank you to Ray Schell and Jim Laub.
6. Thank You to Kevin and Lisa Krause for coordinating the relief effort of flood disaster.
7. Thank You to Shanna Fegely for lending her legal expertise on contracts, etc. any time we need it.
8. T-Shirts are for sale the month of September. We hope everyone helping at the Open House will consider purchasing and wearing one. Someone will be in the Gathering Area Sunday to take orders and answer questions.
9. In September, we are accepting gently used clothing for Hope Rescue Mission. Any size, any gender clothes are needed.
10. Apple Dumpling sale orders are due in by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
11. Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes – Volunteers will be needed to man the collections of boxes from other churches during 2 weeks in November as we are a drop off site.
12. Contributions to the \$2,200 balance for landscaping is appreciated.

## APPLE DUMPLING SALE

This year's Apple Dumpling fundraiser will be held **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Apple Dumplings will be \$5.00. Pick up will be from 12 noon to 2:00 P.M. **Deadline for orders is October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Any questions, contact Traci at 610-349-8434.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

The next Worship and Music Committee Meeting is scheduled for **October 15<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 A.M.

## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will provide the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

## 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 **October 11<sup>th</sup> at Macungie Dinner (formerly Bear swamp)**. These social times will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

## WOMEN IN ZION

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

- October 9 Meeting at 12 noon. Pollyanna reveal, choose a new one, and pack Samaritan's Purse boxes.
- November 12 Thankoffering Service.
- November 13 Meeting & Bible Study at 1:00 P.M.
- Week of November 26<sup>th</sup> – Cookie Baking for sale.



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

## PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on **October 4<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and November 22<sup>nd</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 20<sup>th</sup>** to weave plastic bags into mats. Evening classes may be scheduled as desired. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 or Carol Leiby at 484-695-8318. Plastic bags may be brought to the church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area.



# SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 27<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

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



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## OPEN HOUSE at ZION'S

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 from 12 NOON UNTIL 3 PM**

- Food truck - Top of the Hill Grille
- Music
- Tours of the church building
- Displays from organizations, committees
- Activities for children
- Pet blessings at 2 p.m. (Photos or live pets)
- TV screening of a service

**We hope you will plan to have lunch, attend, and invite friends and neighbors to enjoy this special day!**

**Mandy Graff, Chairperson**



## 2024 CALENDARS

There is a box in the Gathering Area for any 2024 calendars that you don't want. They will go to the Lutheran Home.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

WIZ is asking you to prayerfully consider helping with their Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. Shoeboxes will be shipped to children all over the world as an expression of God's love. You can help in one of three ways.

- 1) Pack your own shoe box (or a WIZ box) with items listed below. Mark your box for either a BOY or GIRL and the age group (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years old) and place it in the Gathering Area by **October 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- 2) If you don't want to make a box, you can simply purchase items from the list and deposit them in the container in the Gathering Area marked Shoe Box Items.
- 3) Make a monetary donation. The shipping cost for each box is \$10. Make checks payable to WIZ or designate your gift in the offering plate.

WIZ appreciates your support for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project!

### *Items to include in a Shoebox*

\*Pack a shoe box for either a GIRL or BOY that is age appropriate (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years of age). All items should be new. Include items like:

Personal Care: comb/brush/compact mirror, toothbrush, washcloth, adhesive bandages, reusable cups/plates/water bottles/bowls/blunt utensils, non-liquid lip balm, nail clipper/file, washable/reusable menstrual pads, stick deodorant, flashlights (with extra batteries)

Clothing/Accessories: socks, hat/scarf/mittens, sunglasses, wristwatch/bracelet, hair accessories, sunglasses, bandana

Crafts/Activities: coloring book/crayons, watercolor set, building blocks, playdoh, stickers, paper, puzzles, small tool set, compass, sewing kit, gardening kit (gloves/trowel-No Seeds), playing cards, work gloves, binoculars

School: pencils/cases/manual sharpeners, colored pencils/pens, markers, picture books, notebooks, glue stick/tape, solar calculators

Toys: Foam balls, finger puppets, slinky, play cars/boats/trucks, plastic tools, plastic toys & action figures (dinosaurs), harmonica, yo-yo, jump rope, small Etch-A-Sketch, kaleidoscope, marbles, playing cards, hacky sack, playing cards

**Please NO toothpaste, gum/candy, war-related items, food, glass or other breakables, liquids, lotions, cans.**

Any questions can be directed to Lisa Krause [lkrausewbpt@gmail.com](mailto:lkrausewbpt@gmail.com) or 610.488.0289.

If you are interested in assisting with this WIZ sponsored project, please  
(Continued on next page)

email Lisa Krause at lkrausewbpt@gmail.com. Help is also needed calling area organizations to invite additional box donations and staffing the church during various hours from November 13-20 as a drop site.

## CEMETERY CLEAN UP



**ALL** flower/wreath arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **November 18<sup>th</sup>** (weather permitting).



## FROM THE MAILBOX

To Zion's Union Church,

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! My summer in New Hampshire was so wonderful. Getting to see all of God's glory and all the different ways he moved and worked was wonderful! I have a newsletter that I am working on and will send out to y'all. It has more details and fun stories about the summer! I would love to also talk to anyone who wants to talk as well! Give me a text or call! 610-739-4301.

Love,  
Jewel

Zions' Union Church,

Thank you so much for the gift card. It means so much to me, as does the unwavering support get from the community here.

Maisy Kellum

## REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County services are at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. This no-shush worship enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. **October 1<sup>st</sup> they will celebrate the first-year anniversary of Rejoicing Spirits with a carnival atmosphere in the Fellowship Hall following the service.**

## MYSTERY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

*Were you confused by the family members noted by our September Mystery Volunteer? Carl Flicker celebrates having the Scaffidi family as part of his kinship! Thanks to Carl for volunteering!*

Our October volunteer is dedicated to enhancing the church property both inside and outdoors.

She grew up living in a trailer on her grandparent's farm in Birdsboro, PA. with a single parent mom and a brother two years older than her. Aunt, Uncle, Grammy, Pop-Walton style. Was most often found out in the barn with the animals. "Bubba" was her name in her neighborhood gang of boys; she did everything with them - fishing, riding bikes, football, baseball - until "I was 14 years old and they discovered girls".

She played alto saxophone in High School and was in marching, concert, and pep bands. (first chair) Only played solos if she could remain seated and be anonymous. Graduated from Twin Valley HS where she was in the National Honor Society and in top ten of her class. Went to Community General Hospital, Reading, for X-ray School and Lancaster Hospital-Ultrasound School.

Her first car was a metallic, purple, Chevy Nova, with a broken heater, traveling home from school with cold air blasting from the defroster, and riding home with mittens off and on again. Her exhaust pipe broke; she was dragging it home with sparks flying. Always prepared for disaster, she untwisted a metal hanger to tie it up.

She met her husband at age 18 in x-ray school. Marriage took place 33 years ago in the Allentown Court House with a JP at noon on a Wednesday; there were no witnesses and no rings. Lunch at Widow Brown's on the way home followed. He mowed the lawn when they arrived home; they worked the rest of the week and no one knew they had married. The honeymoon was in Cancun the following week, telling their parents after they got back.

She worked at Lehigh Valley Hospital for 33 years as an ultrasound technician and clinical instructor. Her two children include a daughter and a married son. Pets are a dog and cat. Likes to visit Longwood Gardens, hike, garden and do puzzles. Church involvement includes decorating (doesn't decorate at home), former board member, Seeders and Sow On, Mission Outreach, Personnel, Property (helper), and Disaster Committees, and candle filler.

She raised pet geese, Wilbur and Orville, until her Grammy served them for Thanksgiving dinner. Her name is spelled four different ways in the high school yearbook. She worked on weekends at the family sawmill, receiving a Dusty Road Sundae in payment.

Who is our very active, busy, mystery volunteer for October?????

## **MYSTERY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH**

In addition to the Volunteer Mystery, we will be featuring a mystery member(s) each month for your inquisitive mind to be active.

The mystery members for October have been members since 2005. Here are some facts regarding their lives:

- She was born in Reading; he was born in Allentown
- She grew up in Temple; he grew up in Mertztown
- She was on a swim /diving team; he liked Reading Stock Car Races
- Bowling Scholarship to PSU for her (1 year)
- Trombone playing in Brandywine HS for him
- Met while working at Boscovs after he got out of the Army (1 year in Germany); Honeymooned at Polynesian Village, Disney, for \$28 a night. Celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> recently
- Her jobs: school bus driver, Josh Early chocolate hand coater, cake decorator at Sam's, sewing sneakers at Adidas; his jobs: Bell Telephone, Arrow International, transportation director for a school district.
- Retirement provides time for enjoyable activities including reading, knitting, card making, sewing crafts for her; gardening, basket making, baking, and crossword puzzles for him.
- There was always a dog in their home.
- They have both been involved with church activities and committees.

## **OUR SYMPATHIES TO...**

... the family of Anna Bortz.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

John Mertz, Mandy Graff, Irene Isamoyer, Bill & Karen Howard, Elaine & Paul Heffner, Kay Weidner, 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, Mitch Zajac, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Colid Hollin,

Bruce Fritzing, Ely, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Leila, John Laird, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Mary Jane Schlenker, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Karen Ames, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Anna Bortz.

**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.

## MEMBERSHIP 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.**

**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:**

**Communication: (circle all that apply) Email      Phone      Text**

## 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.

October 8	Patti Derr
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (56 wed)
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (58 wed)
October 23	Mary Laub

October 23	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (58 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (58 wed)
November 10	Richard Weigle
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 16	Barry & Ann Miller (55 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim



## **HOMEBOUND**

*Please remember our homebound members who would enjoy receiving greetings from fellow members.*

Dianne Angstadt  
 123 Old Topton Rd.  
 Mertztown, PA 19539  
 610-682-2897

William & Marilyn Bird  
 2525 Hilltop Rd.  
 Mertztown, PA 19539  
 610-398-0946 (B) 484-788-1371 (M)

William & Karen Howard  
 118 Buehrle Center  
 Topton, PA 19562  
 610-780-8868

Mary Kutz  
 PO Box 135  
 Lyon Station, PA 19536  
 610-682-2914



## 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.

October 1

Altar Holy Communion

November 5

Pew Holy Communion



## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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