

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

**April
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



⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:4-7)

February went by in a flash! And now we're almost halfway through Lent. And, even though February is the shortest month of the year, we certainly were busy at Zion's Union Maxatawny and have much to rejoice about - for God has made Godself known in our midst!

Along with the Women in Zion (WIZ), we have been doing a variety of Lenten activities to engage our congregation with our wider community. We've collected food for Friends Inc. that was shared with the college student food pantry at Kutztown University. We've shared recipes with one another (if you still need a recipe, they're on the table upstairs before entering the sanctuary ☺!), and we're doing some *creative* things with water and water bottles this week as we enter into our *One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday!* God is here – can you feel our Creator's presence?

We've had a few guest visitors – Moses (the dog), and the woman at the well. We've had new friends come to church, and old friends come back, too. We rejoice in all the voices that join us – near or far, big or small - as we continue to do the work of the church!

And as the season of Lent draws closer to being done, and we look ahead to the new life that comes with the season of Easter, it is my hope that through these activities we have engaged in, that our congregation finds where the life of the Church is leading us.

I want to thank each of you for being willing to engage in these acts of compassion and care – small or big – as we continue to navigate where this Lenten season is leading us as we look ahead to Easter – and new life of the Church ahead.

Peace,
Pastor Jess

APRIL AND MAY WORSHIP

April 2	Palm/Passion Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 6	Maundy Thursday HC		7:00 P.M.
April 7	Good Friday		7:00 P.M.
April 9	Easter Dawn HC		6:00 A.M.
April 9	Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 16	2 nd Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 23	3 rd Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 30	4 th Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 7	5 th Sunday of Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 14	6 th Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 21	7 th Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 28	Pentecost Sunday	Ss 9:00	church 10:15

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of March 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000
 Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13
 Donations Received - \$96,742
 Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570
 Checking Account Money Used for Expenses - \$23,000
 Investment Gains - \$58,000
 Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$332,122.13

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$49,909.45
 Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$18,880
 Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$49,413.76

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, SECURITY

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

KID'S CHOIR

If there are any children who would like to sing with the Kid's Choir for Easter, please see Theresa.

EGG HUNT

The Youth Group is sponsoring an Egg Hunt on **April 1st** at 1:00 P.M. (rain or shine). Children nursery through grade 4 are invited.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, **April 2nd** at **10:15 A.M.**

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, **April 6th** at **7:00 P.M.** Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service – Friday, **April 7th** at **7:00 P.M.**

Easter Dawn Service – Sunday, **April 9th** at **6:00 A.M.** Holy Communion.

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

Easter Service – Sunday, **April 9th** at **10:15 A.M.** Holy Communion.

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

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will provide the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 4th**. Volunteers are needed to supply the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports are now available at the church. If you can't get to church to get one, call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



DESIGN OPPORTUNITY

The Good News Committee is offering an opportunity for artistic members of the congregation to submit potential designs for the banners displayed on the poles in front of the church. The banners should be designed in a 30" wide by 60" tall format. Any questions please see Kevin Fegely. Children and adults are encouraged to offer their inspirations and leave them in the church office by **April 12th**. Those designs selected will be made into banners. Designs may be seasonal or more general in nature.

ORGAN DEDICATION

A concert, **tentatively** scheduled for Sunday, **May 14th** (**this is NOT the set date**) will provide the opportunity to dedicate the organ with a concert during the morning worship service. **Details will be provided in the upcoming months.**

SUGGESTION BAG

Got an EGGS-CEPTONAL 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!

SNACK AND CHAT

The Senior Ministry is initiating a new outreach opportunity for Zion's. Pastor Jess suggested that having lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area would make the community aware of our congregation. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. The next date for a get-together is **April 12th at 12:15 P.M. at Hometown in Breinigsville.** Future dates will be the second Wednesday monthly. Notify Ellie Merkel if you are able to join this fun time together.

RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life of Kutztown & Eastern Berks will be held **May 20th** 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. Relay for Life is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community.

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD MEETING

Both of our affiliations are holding their annual conferences in June. The Lutheran meeting is **June 1, 2, 3** in the Poconos; the UCC meeting is **June 1, 2** at West Chester University. Two delegates are needed to attend at last one day of the conferences to vote on items on the agenda. Interested members may contact Nancy Fulton at 484-357-8024.

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Mutual Ministry Committee meets with the pastor to provide support and assistance, and to cultivate and maintain effective relationships between the pastor and congregation. Members: Ellie Merkel and Melissa DeLong - Co-chairs, Lori Arndt, Traci Gehringer, Greg Haas, Tim Haas, and Lisa Krause. If there are concerns or suggestions, members may speak with any of the committee members. The next meeting is Sunday, **May 7th** at 9:00 A.M.

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- April 1 Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 P.M. (rain or shine).
Youth should be here by 12:30 P.M.
- April 22 Sight & Sound (Moses).
- April 30 Lenni Lenape, Discussion, Speaker: Uhma
Ruth Py, Native American storyteller relating to the Lenni
Lenape Tribe. **Congregation invited 1:30 – 3:30 P.M.**
- May 14 Mother's Day handouts.
- May 28 Memorial Day handouts.



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

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- April 10 12:00 P.M., lunch, meeting, and Nancy's
safari trip, crafts for Samaritan's Purse.
- May 8 1:00 P.M., meeting, Bible study with
Loretta, Mother's Day, toys for
Samaritan's Purse.



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

PRAYER SHAWL



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

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!

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **April 24th and May 22nd** 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.



SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet **April 17th** at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

February 28, 2023

1. The Organ Dedication will be May 14 (tentatively), Mother's Day, and Music Sunday. There will be a dedication concert by Adam Dieffenbach.
2. The membership directory is being updated and expanded. We are looking for your input how you want to be contacted. Look for a short questionnaire in the bulletin.
3. Senior Ministry is hosting a Snack and Chat gathering monthly at a local restaurant. The first will be March 8th. Look for other dates in the bulletin.
4. Design Contest! We are looking for designs for the banners that hang outside the church on the church road side. Look for more information.
5. There is a Suggestion Box to help you communicate with Pastor Jess. Let her know what you like, or any other suggestion you have.
6. Be on the lookout for a congregational survey of time and talents.
7. The Annual meeting of the Northeast PA Lutheran Synod will be June 1-3 at Mount Airy Lodge. The PA Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held on June 1-2 at West Chester University.
8. Are you looking forward to the Easter Breakfast? Jim Laub is coordinating it once again. If you're interested, see him to volunteer to help!

STRAWBERRY AND ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board for anyone who would like to be on the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival planning committee. The festival is scheduled for June 2nd. See Mike Weidman with any questions.



PLASTIC BAGS

Tanya Schaedel, a regular visitor at Zion's, met with several members to demonstrate the use of the plastic bags the congregation has been collecting. Persons who are interested in cutting the bags are welcome to volunteer by speaking with Tanya, 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. A sample will be shown during the service at a later date.

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **April 2nd**, 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 (charfish@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949).

LIVING WITH LOSS

A six-week Living With Loss Support Group will be held Tuesday afternoons beginning **April 11th** from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. at Ludwick Funeral Homes and Cremation Care, Inc., 333 Greenwich Street, Kutztown. The group will be facilitated by Mary Ann Hamm, Bereavement & Grief Counselor. There is no cost to attend the the series of sessions and is open to anyone that has experienced a loss. Please contact Carol at 610-682-2434 to register or if you have any questions.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Paige Carvalho and Archer Scaffidi performed in the percussion section of the Brandywine Heights High School Band at the annual Music In Our Schools Concert.
- Arden Scaffidi performed in the percussion section of the Brandywine Heights Middle School Band at the annual Music In Our Schools Concert.
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi swam at the PennDel District East Swimming Championship for the Boyertown YMCA Navy Seals.
- Ted Scaffidi was MC at the annual Music In Our Schools Concert at the Brandywine Heights High School.
- Archer Scaffidi competed in the 500 Free at the PIAA District 3AA Championship for the Brandywine Heights Swim Team.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

An effort is being made to provide additional information in the updated (blue) directory. A form is included in the bulletin and newsletter 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.

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. All information is for church use ONLY. Thank you.

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:

John Mertz, Sylvia Heckler, Bill Witman, Dana Gehringer, Richard & Jane Warmkessel, Liz Jones, Ellie Merkel, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Kay Weidner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Barry Miller, Arlan Berger, Beatrice Bennecoff, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Anna Bortz, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Vera, eila, Sherri Gehringer, John Laird, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Rosemary LaFratte, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Ukrainians, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Ian Miller, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Karen Ames, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Valerie, Kim Markham, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriquez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Karon Bower, family of Jacob Fairchild, family of Elaine Seaman, family of Carolyn Wiltrout.

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.

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. Any checks should be made out to "Zion's Union Church Maxatawny". Put "History Book" on the memo line.

MEMBER UPDATES

Asked to be removed: Noll, Randy L.
Noll, Sr., Ralph L. – Helen M.
Loss: Wiltrout, Carolyn T.



OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bangor had the vision to extend the use of our outdoor grove for our community. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we found that our grove provided a new opportunity to worship together before we opened for indoor worship in late fall. Our vision took on a new reason: to make the grove more accessible and available for more use to complement worship.

The first step identified was building a walkway to make the grove easy to enter and exit. We applied for a grant from the Synod Witness and Service Team Ministry and received it. (We also applied for a special ELCA grant but did not receive the ELCA grant.) As buying supplies became an issue, we needed to apply for a second Witness and Service grant. We received this grant in June of 2022, which enabled us to complete the walkway for our 50th Anniversary picnic and joint worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Mt. Bethel.

Since the completion, we have held several outdoor worship services. We have also added "Faith by Firelight", a monthly gathering for anyone who wants to be in God's beautiful creation, play a few bible trivia games and enjoy s'mores. God has blessed our congregation with this beautiful space, and we keep visioning and planning for ways to make it a safe haven for our community and us. We are thankful that this grant was made possible through mission support given by congregations in our Synod.





JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together! REGISTER ONLINE at godslove.org/

Did you know that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a Reconciling in Christ organization?



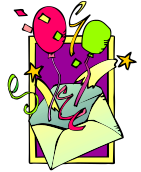
We believe that God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, that the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and that Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice.

MEMES FOR YOUR EASTER DELIGHT



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.



April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	John & Marlene Costello (67 wed)
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 22	Randy Kane
April 27	Robert Leibold
May 1	Arlan Berger
May 11	Eleanor Nester
May 16	Loretta Flicker
May 16	Donald & Kay Mertz (53 wed)
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 26	Marilyn Quinter
May 28	Carol Toth

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Jacob Fairchild.
... the family of Carolyn Wilttrout.

... the family of Elaine Seaman.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

Carolyn T. Wilttrout, 98, of Topton, PA, died March 5, 2023 in Topton. Service was March 11, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Rev. Jessica Hainley. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown, PA.

“Christendom has had a series of revolutions, and in each...has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”

—G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*



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.



April 2	Pew Holy Communion
April 6	Table Holy Communion
April 9 (6 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
April 9 (10:15 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
May 7	Altar Holy Communion

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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