



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

**February
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. **Bulletin prices changed to \$10.00 January 1st.** 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.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH WORSHIP

February 5	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 12	6 th Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 19	Transfiguration Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 22	Ash Wednesday		7:00 P.M.
February 26	1 st Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 5	2 nd Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 12	3 rd Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 19	4 th Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 26	5 th Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15

MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES

Watch the church bulletins for more information about any Mid-Week Lent Services. No decision was made at newsletter printing time.

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.

HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is available to purchase. Books can be purchased during the week. Please call the church office to make sure someone is there. The cost is \$15.00. Any checks should be made out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”. Put “History Book” on the memo line.

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of January 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$95,627

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$331,007.13

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$60,069.51

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$18,880

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$60,579.55

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:

www.wfmz.com (click on “storm center update”) (**please note:**

worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and not

on Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A message will be on the answering machine.



PLASTIC BAG PROJECT

Sleeping mats made from the plastic bags are made at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Topton. There are many ways you can help by folding the bags, cutting and tying the bags and then rolling them into a ball so they are ready to be woven into mats on the loom. Mats are worked on during the week and on Saturdays. Anyone interested in helping please contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 who helps prepare the bags for assembling the mats and makes sure our plastic bags get to St. Peters. **Plastic bags may be brought to the church.**

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports should be available the end of February or the beginning of March. The reports will be available at the church or call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



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	peanut butter	fruit cups
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
single serve cereal	granola bars	fruit snacks
oatmeal packets		

SIMPLY GIVING

In 2022, 19 families in our congregation were enrolled in the Simply Giving program. It is an easy way to ensure funds will automatically go into the church account to help with daily operations. Last year we received \$38,813 for Current Expenses and \$10,220 for Benevolence for a total of \$49,033. Enrollment in this program can be done any time throughout the year. Enrollment forms are on the upstairs Bulletin Board. Questions may be addressed to Peggy Morgan.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Senior Choir practice will resume practices **February 2nd** at 6:30 P.M.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

There will be a Safety Committee meeting on **February 12th** at 9:15 A.M.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **February 27th and March 27th** 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.

- February 13 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Wear Red! Tea Party for Valentine's Day. Introducing Lenten Challenge.
- March 13 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Dottie's and Lori's trip to Netherlands.



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

YOUTH GROUP

Our usual times are 1:00-3:00 PM, Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin

Schedule for February-May 2023 coming shortly



SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet **February 20th** at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room.

MEAL PROGRAM

As we begin a new year, we are sending a reminder that there are 19 eager cooks waiting to help members of our congregation through our meal program. It is generally provided to help out families during an illness or after a procedure. We provide 3 meals per week for an average of a month. Meals are brought to the church by our volunteers and taken by the family after the Sunday service. Please contact Peggy Morgan if you are in need of our assistance.

To our current volunteers: If you are no longer able to participate in the program, please let Peggy know.

To future volunteers: if you would like to sign up to be part of our great crew, also let Peggy know.

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.

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.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP



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



FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for your generous gift of \$42 to the Bethany Children's Home Faith Fund. This special fund provides the homelike environment and therapeutic services needed to support the physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of our youth. It also assists us to provide services such as life skills training, birthday parties, church services, and incentive trips, which are at the heart of providing a home setting.



Sincerely,
Carolyn Shultz Spano
Director of Development

Dear Congregation at Zion's Union,

Thank you for your Youth Group's volunteer efforts at our Holiday Distribution and your donations of Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Boxes for our Food Pantry. Your generosity helped to make this past Holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Friend, Inc.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

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

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **February 5th** 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. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher (charf1sh@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949).

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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

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.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



FriEDEN'S: An Amazing Garden Story

A few weeks after the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I called a neighbor in town who had a garden in her front yard. It's Shartlesville, and the PA Dutch are used to their yards looking *just so,* so I knew this was a brave woman who loved gardening vegetables more than public opinion. I also knew she didn't have room for pumpkins in her small yard, so I called and proposed we plant some viney crops up on our church property. She agreed and even had the seeds, gardening skills, and ideas, so after consultation with council, the garden was born. We sent our crop to the neighboring UCC congregation's food pantry, and with the excess had physically- distant free produce giveaways.

In 2021, we expanded the garden by half, to about 50 by 75 feet. We watered each plant via a recycled gallon milk jug with a pinprick in the bottom. The plants were happy, but our backs were not. It took 45 minutes to an hour to water all the jugs, which we did nearly every day because the garden is in full sun. The black plastic we used for weed suppression became a slip-and-slide while we irrigated.

In 2022, we were able to install a drip irrigation system that did not require filling milk jugs and weed suppression fabric that was not slippery. The fabric required using a blow torch to make holes for planting but will be able to be used for multiple years. The irrigation only required turning on the spigot and letting it run for several hours, which was a true God-send because we had some unexpected health issues on the garden team that limited our volunteer force! It was an extraordinarily dry summer, so the grant came just in time.

This past summer we had 21 people volunteer in the garden, took produce to 5 food pantries or senior centers, including Cafe Esperanza in Reading, and welcomed 29 people into the garden at a joint VBS. Not only are we feeding our neighbors with free, fresh, pesticide-free produce, but we are also getting to know our neighbors, developing new connections in the congregation among volunteers, teaching children about food insecurity and the joy of gardening, and passing on agricultural wisdom.

Submitted by Pastor Inge Williams

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY



2023

GOING
BEYOND
DEATH
TO LIFE

JUNE
1-3

What's happening at Kalahari?

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning
this incredible event!*



SO LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

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.



February 4	Irene Stauffer
February 12	Helen Noll
February 17	William Bird
February 19	Ted Silliman
February 19	Carol Bauman
February 20	Carol Kane
February 20	Jacqueline Ziegler
February 22	Fred Radcliffe
March 3	Anna Bortz
March 9	John Costello
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Jerry Schwenk
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (69 wed)
March 20	Ralph Noll, Sr.
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 27	David Herber
March 28	John Mertz
March 28	Sharon Weigle
March 29	Betty Dietrich
March 31	Patricia Miller

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Paul Rothermel.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ted, Arden, and Acher Scaffidi were pictured in the Morning Call, when they rang in the New Year at Peepfest on December 31, 2022. (Jen was there, she must have been hiding).



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.

February 5

March 5

Pew Holy Communion

Altar Holy Communion



MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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