



THE 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

**July/August
2016**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$18.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in one of the flower/bulletin envelopes found in the back of the church 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 the 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 new website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Marion Angstadt at 610-683-3918.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Since coming to Zion's I have learned that many of you like to stay active and work out. Some of you are runners or cyclists. Some of you work out at a gym or do martial arts. I've seen how many of you take part in events like the Kutztown Fool's Run and the Relay for Life, walking and running for worthy causes in our community. My own main forms of exercise are working on renovating my 1910 Victorian home, and taking long, fast walks with my two dogs, Barney and Max—they really keep me in shape!

We all know it is important to stay physically active, especially as we get older. But the Bible teaches us that it is just as important to stay *spiritually* active. The anonymous author of the book of Hebrews advises, "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1). You could call this a warning against spiritual laziness and an admonition to keep spiritually fit.

The life of a Christian is not meant to be a lazy, sedentary life. It's not about simply sitting in church on Sunday morning or passively listening to Christian radio or watching Christian TV. No, if we look at the examples set by the early disciples and the lives of the saints, the Christian life is hectic and demanding hard work. As the author of the book of Hebrews suggests, the Christian life is like a race. And in the middle of the race of faith, we fight a daily battle against becoming spiritually lethargic. The book of Hebrews warns us that there are weights that threaten to slow us down and sins that burden us, wanting to pull us off course. If we're lazy in our pursuit of God, we can easily become so burdened with worldly distractions and bound up by our sins that it becomes nearly impossible to move.

Have you ever been there? I know I have. Has your fire for Jesus ever been so weak that it's hard to even utter a prayer? Perhaps you know what it feels like to be so disconnected from God that even the simplest struggles in life overwhelm you. Thankfully, just as joining a gym and watching your diet can keep you moving in the right direction physically, the Scriptures give us guidelines for our spiritual training to ensure we're moving in the right direction spiritually. So, this month I would like to present you with a three-step training program to successfully run the race of life:

Step 1: *We have to train on the truth of God's word.* Running a race isn't just something you jump into without any preparation. To be a successful marathoner, you have to go through rigorous training—preparing your body through diet and exercise to take on the rigors of running 26.2 miles. The same is true in our spiritual lives.

Physical training can be brutal, and so can spiritual training. God doesn't necessarily make the faith-race easy for us. Jesus can be a tough coach.

Yet it is from God's Word and the teachings of Jesus that we are trained to run the race of faith. 2 Timothy 3:16 tell us, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, *and for training in righteousness*, so that everyone who belongs to God *may be proficient, equipped for every good work.*" The 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon once quipped that he could find ten men willing to die for the Bible for everyone who was actually willing to read it! If the only Bible you own is an old, dusty hard-to-read King James, then you need a new, up-to-date Bible. There are a wealth of modern English versions of the Bible available today that are easy to read and understand with excellent study notes. You'll be surprised what you will learn from reading the Bible.

Step 2: *Train with others.* You can't run this race alone. Once you've begun reading the Bible, you need to get connected with others for Bible study. It is good to see how many of our members participate in our two adult Sunday School classes. If you haven't gotten involved in those, I urge you to give them a try. Our senior's group, led by Jim Laub, meets in the multi-purpose room. And our "middlers" group (a/k/a the "Backstage Class"— young adults and middle age folk) meets in the room behind the stage. I was also heartened to see how many of you turned out for our Lenten Bible study this past spring. This fall I will be starting a new Bible study group that will meet regularly throughout the year. Watch for announcements!

Human beings are a lot like redwood trees. Redwoods grow as high as 350 feet, yet their roots run only six to ten feet below the surface. The reason these monster trees can stand so tall and withstand the crazy California weather is because they grow close together, intermingling their roots. *They make each other strong.* No one was meant to live as a lonely tree. We weren't designed to run the faith race alone. When you run and train with other Christians, you'll get a loving smack on the back of the head when you're tempted to weigh yourself down with some worldly concern, and you'll receive encouragement and support when you're feeling worn down. It's only with a regular diet of God's word, experienced in a community of God's people, that you will be ready to run and avoid spiritual flabbiness.

Step 3: *All runners in the race of faith must move forward each day with their eyes on their champion.* Successful athletes will tell you that they draw inspiration from the success stories of other athletes they admire. For example, many of today's NBA players wear Michael Jordan's number 23 because for them Jordan is the epitome of a player whose success and standards they themselves pursue as a goal. Keeping your eyes on a hero who inspires you encourages you to keep running and gives you hope on the hardest days.

Too often, when we get spiritually stagnant and feel distant from God, it's because we've started to focus our eyes on other goals and other heroes. In running the race of faith, we must keep our eyes focused on *Jesus*. Hebrews goes on to say, "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith . . .” St Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, “Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one” (1 Cor. 9:25). At the end of his life Paul wrote these words: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord . . . will give me . . . and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (1 Tim. 4:7-8).

So, how’s your faith-race going? Are you full of faith and running hard, or are you getting a little spiritually flabby? If you’re feeling the onset of spiritual lethargy, get back into training by following these three steps: Train on the truth of God’s word; train with others; and keep your eyes on our champion, Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s Spirit,

KUTZTOWN’S 2016 RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT

Thank you to all who donated money, purchased luminaria, supported our fundraisers, walked the track, or played a part in the 2016 Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society. Zion’s Relay for Life Team has raised over \$7000 so far! A Big Thank You to Enos Bleiler for lending, setting up, and tearing down his tent. Thank you to the breakfast crew for serving breakfast at the Relay from 6:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.: Enos & Ashley Bleiler; Sue, Tim, & Ben Haas; Jeff Collier; & Andy O’Neil. Thank you to those that donated breakfast items: Grace Haas, Greg Haas, LaRee Fegely, Carol Leiby, & Sharon Witman. A special thank you to Tara Berger, Rachel Fegely, and Elizabeth Schell for donating their hair to Pantene Beautiful Lengths for wigs to be made for cancer patients. **Thank you to all our walkers:** Jonah Arndt; Lisa, Dave , & Parker Bartera; Enos & Ashley Bleiler; Pastor Jeff & Kathy Butz; Kevin, LaRee, & Rachel Fegely; Greg, Patty, Benjamin, Zachary, & Andrew Haas; Grace Haas; Hannah Krause; Sue Haas; Desiree, Cayden, & Gabriel Haas; Hillary, Quintin, & Penelope Zoccola; Connor O’Neil; Joe, Julie, & Jewel Karaisz; Mary Laub; Sharon & Carol Leiby; Cheryl Bailey; Lori Miller; Renee, Nicholas, Julia, & Lauren Perella; Madison & Sydney Sheetz; Ray, Todie, Zach, Elizabeth, & Andrew Schell; Jeff & Sherri Schaeffer; Nancy Fulton; Kim Miller; Kathy Kemp; Randy, Karen, & Alex Warmkessel; Ronald, Tara, Lila, & Logan Berger; Paul & Elaine Heffner, son Mark, & granddaughter; Carol Kane; Michael & Chase Oswald; Arlene Oswald & John; Joe, Lisa, & Hannah Walker; Pastor Werley; Sharon, Bill, & Allison Witman; and to anyone that was there that we missed. Many thanks to all!



JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

July 3	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 10	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 17	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 24	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 31	11 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 7	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 14	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 21	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 28	SS Picnic & Rally Day at Longswamp		10:00 A.M.
September 4	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 11	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 18	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 25	Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church 10:15

STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival by your help, your donations, or your attendance. It was great to see so many new faces. There was plenty of food, fun, and fellowship shared by many, and really beautiful weather. What a great way to support our Sunday School.



OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 12, 2016, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny honored our graduates for the year 2016 including December 2015 graduates. They were presented with a certificate and a gift card. Congratulations graduates!

KUTZTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

MacKenzie L. Sheetz, daughter of Brian and Charlene Sheetz. She will be attending Penn State University Park studying Biobehavioral Health.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jacob M. Fegely, Bachelor Degree in History. He will pursue a master's degree. He is the son of Kevin and LaRee Fegely.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMITTEES

We will be highlighting a different committee each newsletter.

The Worship & Music Committee's purpose is to see that spiritually uplifting worship services are conducted which faithfully reflect the historic liturgies of both the Lutheran and United Church of Christ churches, as well as incorporating new liturgical elements and hymns. Committee duties include: arrangement and maintenance of worship furnishings, arranging for the bulletin covers, flowers, and other worship supplies; supervise the music ministry; training ushers, greeters, and acolytes; assisting in organizing musical groups, musicians, and singers; maintaining the organ, pianos, and other musical equipment; provide the elements for Holy Communion; clean and care for communion ware and linens; and help train worship assistants. Committee members include the pastor, organist/choir director, committee chairperson, and at least 4 other people. There are currently no term limits.

PRAYER REQUESTS

A new Prayer Request Box has been placed on the windowsill in the narthex (the entranceway to the sanctuary). Prayer request forms are sitting on top of the box. Place the completed form in the slot on the side of the box. Pastor Jeff will include these names/needs in his daily prayers. Only Pastor Jeff will see these and the names of persons in need of prayer will only be put on Zion's prayer chain if so requested.

SUMMER MUSIC

Theresa is looking for soloists, groups, and instruments to help during the summer while the choir takes a break. Contact her as soon as possible if you can help out.



CHOIR NEWS

The Choir picnic will be held **July 31st** at Theresa's house any time after 3:00 P.M.

There will be no choir practice during the summer. Sr. Choir will resume practice in September. The Children and Junior Choirs will resume at date to be determined.

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 Kutztown, Brandywine, and Fleetwood School Districts. 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	canned pasta
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
fruit cups	granola bars	fruit snacks



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Team will make their visits after the **August 7th** Communion Service. If you know of anyone who is temporarily unable to come to the service for communion and would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic ministers in order to receive the Sacrament, please notify Richard Haas at 610-683-3910 as soon as possible.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School had to be cancelled in June due to poor enrollment. We have rescheduled VBS for the week of **August 1st through 5th** from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. The closing program will be held **August 7th** during the 10:15 A.M. worship service. The theme is “IncrediWorld Amazement Park”. If you are interested in helping in any way or have any questions please see Tara Berger. A registration form is included in this newsletter. Fill out the form and return it to Tara Berger or the church office.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion’s on **August 9th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs starting in July. Stop by the church or call the church office to sign up. Information sheets are available in the church office.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC AND RALLY DAY



The Sunday School Picnic and Rally Day will be held on Sunday, **August 28th** at 10:00 A.M. at the Longswamp Park (upper pavilion). Entertainment will be Al Grout. Bring your lawn chairs. Lunch will be served at



noon. The Sunday School provides hot dogs and beverages. You must provide anything else you would like to eat. Games begin after lunch.

WOMEN IN ZION

*A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.
Meetings are open to all women of the congregation.*

July	TBA Collect soup for Soup Kitchen.	
July 11	Meeting and Bible study at 1:30 P.M.	
August 8	Meeting and trim soup labels at 1:30 P.M.	
September 2	Friday night at 6:30 P.M. Ice Cream Social.	
September 12	Meeting and blanket ministry (cut & knot fleece for blankets) at 1:30 P.M.	
October 10	Covered dish & Pollyanna gift exchange at 3:00 P.M.	
November 13	Thankoffering Service.	
November 14	Meeting and Bible study at 1:30 P.M.	
December 5	Christmas Sharing at Topton Home at 9:00 A.M.	
December 12	Meeting, cookie exchange, and games at 1:30 P.M.	

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

ZION'S MEN'S GROUP

The next Men's Group meetings will be held **July 5th** and **August 2nd** at 7:00 P.M. at Ron's house.



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 **July 25th and August 22nd** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes are Sunday evenings at 6:00 P.M. Wear clothes you can move in, sneakers, bring a towel, water, and lots of energy! The goal is to have fun and be more active.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth in grades 5 through high school are welcome to join.

Activity Schedule:

August Canoeing TBA
October 21, 22, 23 Youth Group Camp



Offering Schedule:

July 3 Mitchell Grim and Jewel Karaisz
July 10 Madison Held and Thomas Siefert
July 17 Kaylen Leiby and Caleb Krause
July 24 Zachary Haas and Bryn Keeney
July 31 Benjamin Haas and Adam Noll
August 7 Katelyn DeLong and Jacob Heffner
August 14 Sydney Sheetz and Dane Fegely
August 21 Ivan Fegely and Nick Perella
August 28 SS Picnic & Rally Day
September 4 Johnathan Korutz and Connor O'Neil
September 11 Emily Bortz and Elizabeth Schell
September 18 Christopher Blanchard and Hannah Krause
September 25 Zachary Schell and **Volunteer Needed**

YOUTH GROUP CAMP – Youth Group camp will take place **October 21st, 22nd, and 23rd**. Watch for more information.

Youth Group



Camp

The camp cost is about \$1,200 to \$1,300. Anyone who would like to help fund camp should see an advisor.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. in the social area near Sylvia's apartment at The Lutheran Home at Topton. See Nancy Fulton if you are interested.

MYSTERY YOUTH

We were happy to learn that the Outstanding Young Woman representing Kutztown Area Schools this year is Ashley Bleiler. Good luck to Ashley as she competes with young women representing other schools. Zion's Union Church is fortunate to be the church home of the past two Kutztown representatives.

Now let's see if you know this young man who was born in Allentown in 1993. He graduated from Emmaus High School and is currently a student at Millersville University studying geology. He has been a Resident Assistant for the past two years and is looking forward to another year in this position. He was a part of several sports teams in his early years participating in both soccer and baseball. In the past few years of college he has developed a love for tennis and table tennis. Badminton and racquetball are also among his interests. Music, too, ranks high on his list of interests. Piano was primary but he also enjoyed playing the trumpet and was invited to participate in a small trumpet ensemble, being one of four out of 12 players to have this honor. He also has played the guitar for the past 8 years. He enjoys hiking and going on trips that involve areas with "cool" geological features.

He is an only child and does not have any pets since the family lost their beloved dog, Bella, but there are plans for another dog in the future. Through childhood he attended church and Sunday School frequently and was confirmed at Zions. Since he is in college he never misses Christmas and Easter services.

People may not know that in middle and high school he was a kicker for his football team and won awards for being a special teams MVP. This summer he will be working at a local Walmart as a stocker/unloader and will also be taking a college course.

Can you identify this busy young man?

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Pastor Jeff will be scheduling New Member Orientation for some time in September. If you are interested in membership please let Pastor Jeff know.

DID YOU KNOW?

- MacKenzie Sheetz was Kutztown High School Class of 2016 president.
- Steve O'Neil presented scholarship checks from the Kutztown Optimist Club through the Donald Peters Memorial Scholarship Fund to 8 seniors from Hamburg, Brandywine, Kutztown, and Fleetwood schools and 1 KU football player.
- Ashley Bleiler is Kutztown High School's Outstanding Young Women for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Sadie Berger portrayed Amelia Earhart at Greenwich Elementary's own wax museum.
- Jillian Siefert helped her Kutztown High School softball team to the District 3-AA championship.
- Hannah Krause was selected to be a team leader for the Wildlife Leadership Academy Brookies Field Program.
- Caleb Krause received the 8th grade Hamburg Middle School Congeniality Award.

CARD MINISTRY

The Senior Ministry Committee has organized a card ministry for use of members and friends of the congregation. During the service we sometimes think that we should send a card, but as the week progresses, we may forget about our good intentions.



Birthday, Get Well, and Thinking of You cards are available in the Gathering Area to make it easier to remember cards after the worship service after becoming aware of events to be recognized. Stamps will be provided with the cards. Donations of \$1.00 per card will make it possible to replenish the cards and stamps. The honor system will be in place. Feel free to browse the card box. If assistance is needed, see Grace Haas. A church directory will be provided to make finding an address more convenient. Donations of cards may be given to Grace Haas.

SCRAP DONATIONS

Dave Merkel will no longer be accepting scrap donations at the church. Anyone wishing to contribute items for recycling may drop them at 110 Noble St., Kutztown (rear) or call 610-683-7585. TVs are not accepted.

BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNE 2016 UPDATE



Our mortgage balance stands at \$121,000 as of the end of May. As we previously reported to you, we generally use most of the offerings collected in June to pay the semi-annual mortgage interest on the private loans we have.

In regards to our construction downstairs, we have already paid for the electrical work, drywall, and paint. So far our donations have covered these expenses.

We urge you to keep your donations coming during the summer months so we can continue our obligation. Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

The Building Finance Committee:
Karen Howard, Ray Wilttrout, Sharon Leiby, Evan Slotter, and Richard Haas

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Senior Ministry Committee, with approval from the Church Board, will begin celebrating the 90th birthday of members by recognizing them during the worship service and providing cake in the Gathering Area after the service.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **July 5th, August 2nd, and September 6th** from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Road, East Greenville. There is no registration, but a minimum donation of \$5.00 is requested. Bring a Bible, journal, pen, and a bag lunch. For information contact Rev. Wanda Craner at 610-489-2056, ext. 303 or craner@psec.org.

HUFF'S CHURCH ORGAN PROGRAM

Bryan Dunnewald will present an organ program on **July 2nd** at 1:15 P.M. at Huff's Union Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis. The program is part of the closing events for the Organ Historical Society's 61st Annual Convention, taking place in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. Their annual convention is a week-long celebration of historic pipe organs, which includes the 19th century Krauss organ at Huff's Union Church. The organ was used in the first church building on the present site, until that church building was taken down, and a new building erected on the same spot in 1881. This program is open to the public--bring your friends and neighbors!

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 the church office.

July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 14	Carolyn Wilttrout
July 14	Gloria Haas
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 21	Clair Seidel
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (55 wed)



July 29	Janet Dannelly
August 3	Ruth Siegfried
August 3	John Knabb, Sr.
August 4	Marvin Christman
August 5	Earl Christman
August 6	Ruth K. Miller
August 8	Barbara Thomas
August 20	Lowell Thomas
August 24	Alberta Haas
August 27	Walter & Doris Dietrich (62 wed)
September 2	Emmett Fenstermaker
September 2	Pauline Keller
September 3	Earl & Eva Christman (61 wed)
September 6	Kenneth Angstadt
September 18	George Leiby
September 24	Evelyn Dietz

CAMP NOAH

2016 is the 11th year that teams from the NEP Synod have helped lead Camp Noah, a day camp for children impacted by disaster. We have sent thousands of blankets and hundreds of kids kits to support the camps. Donations of fleece blankets, kids kits, or birthday cards can be taken to Friedens, Oley (610-987-6021) or New Jerusalem, Fleetwood (610-682-6064 or 484-553-1162). Please call ahead to be sure someone is available to received donations. They can also be shipped to Camp Noah (2375 Como Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55108). Directions on how to make blankets, assemble kits, or for a template for the birthday cards, go to www.lssmn.org/campnoah/in-kind-donations.



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.

July 3	Pew Holy Communion
August 7	Altar Holy Communion
September 4	Pew Holy Communion



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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