



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
2022**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. 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.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



This will be my final pastor's page prior to my retirement and I have wrestled with what my final message to the good people of Zion's Union Church should be.

Since one of my main efforts in my ministry amongst you has been regular Bible study, I thought for this final message I would try to give you a capsule summary of the entire Bible in just a few short paragraphs.

The Bible begins by answering one of the age-old questions of science and philosophy: How did we get here? Why do we exist? The opening words of the Bible say: "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth . . ." (Genesis 1:1). And that first chapter of the Bible concludes with these words: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, *it was very good*" (Gen. 1:31).

Everything that exists—this unimaginably huge universe in which we find ourselves—is not here by accident as many scientists think, but here for a *purpose*. We get an early glimpse of that purpose when Genesis says, "So God created humankind in his image . . . God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth . . ." (Gen. 1:27-28).

Thus, God invited humankind to join in God's work! The first humans were given a command to care for God's good earth and create new life just as God did. You might not ever have paused to consider that in creating a child, parents are sharing in God's work of creating new life! We were made to be like God in many ways. And yet, at the dawn of human history, things go badly wrong. Not content to be creatures obedient to God, we attempted to become gods ourselves. Discontent to be co-workers with God, we rebelled, disobeyed, and tried to take the world into our own hands. The first man and woman produced children, and then one of those children committed the world's first murder by killing his own brother. Thus, our history of violence and bloodletting begins.

Skim the latest headlines, read any book on world history, and you will see why we cannot argue the fact that the human race is in a state of sin. The second through sixth chapters of Genesis tell the sad story. The precious gift of free will that God gave us, which separated us from all other animals and made us human, we misused to disobey and rebel against God. And here at the beginning of the 21st century, we don't seem to be making much moral progress. The century that just closed was the cruelest and bloodiest in our history. One thing that distinguishes Christians from most other people is that we are at least honest enough to confess our sin and admit that we are in need of redemption. Even when we set out to do good, we often cause harm. We try to set the world right with our armies and power, but often cause an even bigger

mess. With best intentions we launch forth to spread democracy only to often create mayhem among the nations we want to save.

Our sin is not just private and personal, but systemic and social and political. The great British writer and newspaper columnist G. K. Chesterton was once asked to submit an essay on the theme “What’s Wrong with the Modern World?” Chesterton sent back a two-sentence article: “What’s wrong with the world? Me.” That is one of the most realistic assessments I have ever heard. We bemoan all the terrorists and mass murderers and pedophiles who make headlines every day and we cry out, “What’s wrong with these people?” We need to sometimes soberly remind ourselves that the capacity for evil lies within each and every one of us. As Genesis 8:21 says, “The inclination of the human heart is evil from youth.” We can only begin to purge the world of evil by purging the evil in our own hearts.

God responded to our continuing disobedience by entering into a sacred covenant with us. God takes two childless senior citizens—Abraham and Sarah—and promises to bring forth from them a great nation that shall be a blessing to all the nations on earth: “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). Thus, the nation of Israel was born to be “a light to the nations.” All that God asks of Israel, for its part of the bargain, is to “worship the Lord your God” and to have no other gods before him. And so, God gave the people of Israel the Torah containing the Ten Commandments as a guide for living their lives as God intends.

I won’t bore you with all the details (you can read Exodus through Malachi on your own), but once again things did not work out as God intended. The rest of the Old Testament is the sordid story of humanity’s continued rebellion against God. God gave us the Law, God sent many prophets to warn us when we were going astray from the Law, but we continued to disobey God’s Law and killed the prophets sent to warn us. Do you see a pattern here?

Then came God’s New Covenant (New Testament). The Gospel Truth—the “Good News”—is that God did not punish us with what we deserve. 2,000 years ago, in the “fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4), God “became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). Risking everything, God humbled himself and became incarnate among us, literally became one of us in Jesus Christ in order to more fully communicate his will and his love to us.

Apparently, there is no limit to God’s determination to love us, forgive us, and save us from ourselves. Our ultimate means of salvation has a face and a name. And his name is Jesus, from the Hebrew *Yeshua*, which means “He will save.” In the face of all the fear and uncertainty we see in the world around us today, we can be certain of only one thing: God loves us and will never stop trying to re-make us in his image in order to bring about the Kingdom of God “on earth as it is in heaven.” Amen!

My final prayer for all of you, and my final admonition to you, is that you will continue to faithfully spread this good news of God in Jesus Christ as you have so faithfully done for nearly 200 years in this place so appropriately named “Zion”—God’s shining community on a hill.

Pastor Jeff

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

July 3	4 th Pentecost/Confirmation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 10	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 17	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 24	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 31	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 7	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 14	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 21	11 th Pentecost/Pastor’s Farewell	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 28	SS Rally Day & Picnic at Longswamp Park 10:00 A.M.		
September 4	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 11	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 18	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 25	16 th Pentecost/Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church 10:15

PLEASE USE PARKING LOTS

It has come to our attention that the township does not want us parking on the street, so please only park in our parking lots. There is also a secondary lot behind the church next to the cemetery garage which you may use.

UPDATE ADDRESSES

The church is updating addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. If you have recently changed any of the above, have moved, or have children that are no longer living with you and have their own places, please email the church office at zionsunion@verizon.net with the new information. Any information is strictly for church use.

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of June 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$48,410.13

Donations Received - \$91,541

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$321,921.13

SUMMER MUSIC

Anyone interested in singing or playing instruments for the summer while the choir takes a break, see Theresa.

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates.



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

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.

OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 12, 2022, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny honored our graduates for the year 2022 including December 2021 graduates. Congratulations graduates!

KUTZTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Kelly Faye Leiby, daughter of Kevin and Melissa Leiby. Class Valedictorian. She will be attending Cornell University's College of Arts & Science majoring in Physics.

Elizabeth Jane Schell, daughter of Raymond and Todie Schell. She is looking into certificate programs for Childbirth Education.

Carson Scott Sheetz, son of Brian and Charlene Sheetz. He will join the Air National Guard and in fall 2023 attend Penn State, University Park.

Gabriella Camille Webb, daughter of Jamey and Traci Webb. She will be attending Kutztown University majoring in Business and Finance.

BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Katelyn Elizabeth DeLong, daughter of Trevor and Melissa DeLong. She will be attending Kutztown University with a double major in Accounting and Computer Science and a Minor in Spanish.

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Lauren Alyssa DeLong, daughter of Trevor and Melissa DeLong. Graduated with a Double Major in Environmental Science and Geology and a Minor in Spanish.

SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

Benjamin Richard Haas, son of Gregory and Patricia Hass. Graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Dual Major in Accounting and Business Intelligence and has accepted a job with an accounting firm in Philadelphia.

PENN STATE BERKS

Zachary Alan Schell, son of Raymond and Todie Schell. Graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Mechanical Engineering Technology. Working for MDI in Fogelsville.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Madison Marianna Sheetz, Bachelor Degree of Science of Nursing.

IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY

Elizabeth Marie Dietrich, Master's of Music Therapy. Working at Kirkbride Center, Philadelphia as a Primary Therapist in addiction rehab.

CHOIR NEWS

The Senior Choir will be practicing on **ONLY August 18th at 7:00 P.M.** No choir practice during the summer. We will resume normal practices on **September 8th**. The Choir picnic will be **August 20th** at Theresa's house.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Thank you to all who supported the Relay for Life with your monetary donations, donations of food, supporting our fund raisers, helping with the relay breakfast, or walking the track. The Kutztown Relay raised over \$60,000 for the American Cancer Society as of the date of the event. Zion's Relay team raised \$5,304 as of that date. We celebrated 25 years of relay in Kutztown this year. A big thank you to Julie Karaisz for forming a team the first Relay for Life in 1997 in support of her mother Dianne. Julie was a speaker at this year's relay sharing her story as a caregiver for both her mother and father as they battled cancer. Thank you also to Joe Karaisz for singing and uplifting many at the survivor ceremony. Zion's Union Church Maxatawny Relay For Life team continues to support the American Cancer Society in memory of those we have lost, celebrating those who are survivors, and those that battle today.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported our order only Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival by your help, your donations, or your orders.



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 Michael and Linda Hertzog. 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **Saturday, August 6th**. **This will be a one-day mini event. A sign-up sheet is included in the newsletter.** If you are interested in helping, see Tara Berger. **All VBS volunteers 18 and older MUST have current Criminal and Child Abuse clearances done.**

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

May 31, 2022

1. Pastoral transition – We are working on the transition. We want to stay vital and get ready with a search committee. Look for more in the months ahead.
2. Organ Update – In a letter from Adam Dieffenbach, owner of Emery Brothers, he outlined the remaining steps of the installation. First, wiring work in the chamber. Then installing the remaining pipes and tuning with the loaned console. Finally awaiting engravings and stop tab solenoids for our console. None of the steps have dates when work is expected to be done.
3. Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival – Special thanks for Peggy Morgan, Traci Gehringer, Tracey Lutz, Michael Weidman, and Richard and Grace Haas for their leadership and hard work to make the order only festival a success this year.
4. Youth Advisors – Please prayerfully consider becoming a youth advisor. Our current advisors are ready to hand over the reins. But rest assured, they are ready and willing to mentor the incoming advisors.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| July 11 | 1:00 P.M., meeting and Patriot theme |
| August 13 | Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
retreat at the church, serving breakfast
and lunch, Rev. Lori Esslinger, Leader,
“Caregiving of Yourself and Others”. |
| September 9 | Ice Cream Social at 6:30 P.M. Everyone welcome. |



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

SAVE THE DATE

WIZ (Women In Zion) will be having a Women's Retreat on **August 13th** from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Theme will be "Caring of Yourself and Others" and will be led by Rev. Lori Esslinger. Details to follow. Open to all women.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

July 24-30

Mission Trip



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **July 25th, August 22nd, and September 26th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon.



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.



SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Kelly Leiby was valedictorian of this year's Kutztown High School graduating class.
- Archer Scaffidi and Arden Scaffidi both made Distinguished Honor Roll for the fourth quarter at Brandywine Heights.
- Logan Berger received the Good Citizen Award for his kindergarten classroom at Willow Creek Elementary.

BRAKE THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Brake the Cycle of Poverty will be held **August 13th** from 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. beginning at Rickenbach Learning Center at Kutztown University, 250 College Blvd., Kutztown. There are four courses (10, 25, 40, or 62 miles) that offer something for everyone. There will be SAG support, well-marked roads, GPS and paper cue sheets, medical massage therapists, music, vendors, and more. For more information or to register go to www.friendinc.org or call 610-683-7791.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Phyllis Christman.
... the family of Betty Wiltrout.

... the family of Tina Sutliff.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Stronger Together

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me." (John 10:14)

"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." (Mark 2:11)

Jesus speaks: we hear his voice, and we follow. Even when we are made able to hear, by mechanical means. Even when we are blessed to move, using new and inspiring inventions. These are no less miracles than the healing of the one born blind (John 9), or the person on the mat who's unable to walk (Mark 2). Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network is a partner in ministry with us, bringing technology, compassion and faith together – by the work of the Holy Spirit – in ways that put life in motion and love in action, for God's children of all ages – especially youth. They truly make us: STRONGER

TOGETHER.

+ **Bishop Christopher deForest**



Watching your child take his or her first steps is one of the most exciting moments in a parent's life. But what if your child has a disability and those steps don't come so easily, or at all? Through the years, parents faced with this dilemma have come to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network looking for help and finding it. One of the rehabilitation technology stars in Good Shepherd Pediatrics' toolbox is the Trexo Plus. This innovative, wearable robotic gait trainer helps children with spasticity and mobility challenges walk, perhaps for the first time. Thanks to our generous supporters, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Good Shepherd has acquired a total of six Trexo devices in small, medium, and large sizes for children as young as 1 through their teen years. This makes Good Shepherd the only pediatric rehabilitation provider in the U.S. to offer all three sizes for both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. Children who benefit from using the life-changing technology are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, pediatric stroke, spinal cord injury, gait disorders, or other mobility problems.

The device's brightly colored legs allow children to walk hands-free safely, correctly, and consistently, all under the watchful eye of trained Good Shepherd staff. Trexo is one piece in an array of technology used by Good Shepherd Pediatrics and supported by the Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology Fund.

NEPA Synod can be proud of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. Because of you, children will be given the opportunity to exercise their brains and muscles in a new way, gaining confidence along with mobility. Good Shepherd provides therapies and residential options unique in the US. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support! It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission.

For more information, visit GoodShepherdPediatrics.org.

Story Contributor: Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Administrative Director, Development
Helping Children Through Technology



SYNOD ASSEMBLY REWIND

WHAT HAPPENED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY?!?



The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Senior Director, Christian Community and Leadership Mission for the **ELCA** was the churchwide representative to our synod assembly. Rev. Vaughn enlivened the assembly with her words and brought greetings from the wider church. This representation reminds us that we are a church in three expressions: congregations, synods, and churchwide. These expressions work together to gather God's people and mobilize them to love and serve the world through mission and outreach.

This year's assembly was once again held virtually. We're getting "good" at holding virtual assemblies, but we simply cannot wait to gather in person. Next year, we'll be gathering at **Kalahari** in the Poconos, and we'll be wondering about how our synod and congregations are **going beyond death to life**. This is the "third lane" in our synod focus. Remember we've been talking about lane one, "**Growing young**" and lane two, this year's theme, "**Gaining Strength/Stronger Together**" These vital signs help us understand who we are as God's people and how we might best show up in our contexts.

This year some great **resolutions** were brought before the assembly. Some of these resolutions will be considered and acted upon by the **synod council**. The synod council is an important body within the synod. If you'd like to read the resolutions visit godslove.org/assembly in addition to resolutions you can view all the great videos from the assembly where churches and other groups showed their faith in action through ministries that highlighted our theme of being stronger together, growing young videos that look at fun scenarios to help individuals and congregations understand what it means to grow young, greetings from our ministry partners, and EVERY plenary is available for your viewing pleasure.

We had such an engaging time wondering what God was up to in our midst, especially in places where we're working together for the sake of God's Kingdom, here and now!

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Nancy Taniser, Ellie Merkel, Lennia Mertz, Randy Warmkessel, Carl Flicker, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Kay Weidner, Steve O'Neil, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Pat Miller, Beatrice Bennecoff, Barry Miller, Carolyn Wiltrout, Arlan Berger, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Joe Karaisz, Anna Bortz, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Donna Cordier, Lloyd & Nancy, Ukrainians, Losito family, Randy Schlegel, Karen Bower, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Juliana Leshner, Bill Rinear, Michael Zimmerman, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Beverly Keller, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Elaine Seaman, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Deb, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Renee Wolfe, Christopher Mercardo, Kim Markham, Valerie, Mary Fox, Sue Zimmerman, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Phyllis Christman, family of Tina Sutliff, family of Betty 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.

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during each year. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented at the register prior to checking out for the rebate to be valid as indicated by the "Save A Tape" notation on the receipt.** Radcliffe's does not require a card to enroll in the program. Tapes for both Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the 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.



July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 10	Marlene Costello
July 10	Sandra Leiby
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 13	Carolyn Wilttrout
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (61 wed)
August 4	Marvin Christman
August 15	Paul & Elaine Heffner (52 wed)
August 27	Walter & Doris Dietrich (68 wed)
August 31	Glenroy & Patricia Miller (54 wed)
September 7	James Laub
September 8	Linda Ballew-Johnson
September 18	George Leiby
September 20	Bettina (Tina) Ehrig
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
September 27	David Ehrig

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Phyllis M. Christman*, 87, of Greenwich Township, died May 25, 2022 in Willow Brook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Kutztown. A graveside service was held June 1, 2022 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

“Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble; it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life.”

—Anonymous



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	Altar 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**.