



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

**June
2016**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2 & 3
Summer Music	page 3
Adopt-A-Highway, Music Thank You, Ingathering, VBS	page 4
Relay For Life, Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival, Graduates	page 5
Higher Education Fund, Youth Group, Men's Group	page 6
Women In Zion, Prayer Shawl, Senior Fellowship, Scrabble	page 7
Zumba, Church Board	page 8
Choir News, Committees, Mystery Youth	page 9
Matching Funds, Children Message Volunteers	page 9
From The Mailbox, Honor Roll, Did You Know	page 10
90 th Birthday Celebrations, Scrap Donations	page 10
Building Finance and Building Committee Updates	page 11
Camp Noah, Golf Fore Kids	page 12
Summer Camp at Goshenhoppen, Free Shredding Event	page 12
Mission Moment	page 13
Card Showers, Sympathies, Quiet Days	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
Board & Staff, Schedule/Assistants, June Calendar	Lilac Insert
Synod News	Ivory Insert
Vacation Bible School Registration Form	Yellow Insert

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



We are now entering the “Season of the Spirit”—the long season of Pentecost— which will carry us all the way to Advent and the beginning of the next Church Year. Just recently we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit with the festivals of Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity Sunday. In the last weeks of the Easter Season our gospel readings contained selections from the so-called “Farewell Discourse” in which Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure from the world. Jesus tells them that he will be leaving them and going to the Father. And he tells them that though he is physically leaving them, he will never really leave them. Though he will be physically absent from them, he will always be present to them: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever” (John 14:16). This “Advocate” is the One we call the Holy Spirit. Jesus goes on to say, “This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you” (14:17).

Jesus is promising his disciples the One who is the unseen link between Jesus and his Father. Everything that Jesus has done throughout his earthly ministry has been done through the power of the Spirit. When Jesus first begins his ministry, the Spirit descends upon him at his baptism. Then he is immediately thrust into the wilderness by the Spirit for a time of testing. And when he first stands up to teach in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth, he does so saying that, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me.”

So in promising his disciples the Holy Spirit, Jesus is giving them the same link that so closely linked him to the Father. Jesus is giving the disciples the same power that empowered him to do such mighty work in the name of the Father. Someone once called the Holy Spirit the “go-between-God,” that is, the aspect of the Holy Trinity that holds the Godhead together, that part of God that is the active power of God, constantly reaching out, embracing, drawing in, pulling together, empowering.

The Holy Spirit is the power which links Jesus’ disciples—and all of us—to the Father and to the Son. The same Spirit that unites the Father and the Son, the same Spirit that empowered Jesus, is given to all of Jesus’ followers: “You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” Wow! That’s a pretty awesome thought. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is actually *in* each believer. Through the Holy Spirit God is in *you*! The “go-between-God” is in each of you by virtue of your baptism into Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus was the Father’s very presence with us, so Jesus promises that all of you, through his gift of the Holy Spirit given at your baptism, will be God’s presence in the world.

I know it’s an amazing claim, and I know it’s risky, perhaps even

audacious, to believe that the Holy Spirit of God is somehow in you and in me speaking up for God in the world, but that's exactly what Jesus says. And he also says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). We are not simply to believe in Jesus, but also to *follow* Jesus. We are to show our love for Jesus in *obeying* Jesus. And then our love for Jesus will be made manifest to the whole world through our loving obedience to Jesus' teaching.

Jesus goes on to say, "They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them" (14:21). I think this means that if we will simply try to follow Jesus, to do what he asks of us, if we will devote ourselves to him, he will show us what we need to know to be his disciples. That mysterious, elusive Holy Spirit will not stay distant from us, but will come to us, will be with us, will be *in* us. God in us.

This is an amazing truth we hear from Jesus. We are ordinary people, with ordinary weaknesses and limitations. Yet Christ promises to empower us and to infuse us with the same life-giving, powerful Holy Spirit that empowered him. And what is one of the primary gifts brought by the Holy Spirit? It is the gift of *love*, particularly the gift of being able to love one another in the church and to love even the unlovable in the world. When the church becomes what Christ intended it to be—a community of divine love—the world sees our life together as our corporate witness, a testimony to what the Holy Spirit is able to produce among ordinary folk like us. The early Church Father, Tertullian, said that this was the major reason why the church was able to subdue the mighty Roman Empire without drawing a sword or firing a shot. The world looked at the church and exclaimed, "See how these Christians love one another." That is something the enemies of the church actually said. And its awe-inspiring. Sadly, today, too many now say, "See how these Christians fight like cats and dogs with one another."

God has not seen fit to give the church a great deal of power, as the world judges power. We are not the richest or most influential organization in town. But we are given one gift that the world finds elusive. We have been given divine love, and an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, that prods and pushes us, and empowers us to change the world—one person at a time.

In Christ's Spirit,

SUMMER MUSIC

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



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thank you to our Adopt -A-Highway volunteers that picked up trash along 222 on Saturday, April 23rd. The participants were Jarrod Heffner; Richard and Grace Haas; Dan Blanchard; Enos Bleiler; Alex Warmkessel; the O'Neils; Harry Snyder; George Leiby; and LaRee, Rachel, and Kevin Fegely. We picked up a total of 14 bags of trash, 3 tires, and assorted debris.



MUSIC THANK YOU

Thank you to Jewel Karaisz, Elizabeth Schell, Children's Choir, Hannah Krause, Maisy Kellum, Back Row, Junior Choir, Joe Karaisz, Connor O'Neil, Mary Jo Cartier, Sr. Choir, and Ashley Beiler for the special music on Music Sunday, May 8th. Also, thank you to Theresa Grim for coordinating all the special music for that day.



Also thank you to Zion's Praise Band for the special music on May 15th.

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 |

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is scheduled for the week of **June 20th – June 24th**. The closing program will be **June 26th** during the 10:15 A.M. service. If you are interested in helping, see Tara Berger. **A sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. PLEASE NOTE: All VBS volunteers 18 and older MUST have current Criminal and Child Abuse clearances done.**



RELAY FOR LIFE 2016, JUNE 3RD AND 4TH AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Held over a twenty-four hour period, the Relay for Life involves teams of 10-15 people, asked to raise \$100 each for the American Cancer Society, who take turns walking, running, strolling around the track. Relay for Life will begin on Friday, June 3rd, at 3:00 P.M. and ends Saturday, June 4th at 3:00 P.M. Anyone interested in being a part of the team please see Sue Haas or Enos Bleiler for a registration packet. Zion's Union Church Maxatawny has been a part of Kutztown's Relay for Life since 1996.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **Friday, June 10th** from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Entertainment will be The Good News Travelin' Band.



Setup will be Thursday, June 9th at 6:00 P.M. Help is needed Friday afternoon to clean strawberries and the night of the festival to serve food, bus tables, help in the kitchen, and clean up at 9:00 P.M. Donations of vegetable soup and baked goods will be greatly appreciated. If you can help in any way, please contact Traci Gehringer at 610-944-1818.

Proceeds benefit our Sunday School program.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 12th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2016, including December 2015 graduates. Please write down the name of your graduate, the school from which he or she is graduating or did graduate, their degree (if applicable), and their plans for the future (including name of college, trade school, any continuing education they may be planning, etc.). Place the information in the secretary's mail slot in the Gathering Area or call the church office with the above information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 5TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

As part of the Siegfried Bequest, a higher education fund has been established to offer interest-free loans of up to \$1000.00 (based on the number of applicants and availability of funds) for a maximum of 4 years per student to those members of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny enrolled in a higher education program. A student loan application has been developed by the loan committee (Nancy Fulton and Grace Haas) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

June 5 Family picnic from 1:30 to 4:30 P.M.
at Richard Haas's house.



Offering Schedule:

June 5	Jonah Shorette and Amanda Noll
June 12	Jake Walker and Tyler Gilfert
June 19	Dana Gehringer and Volunteer Needed
June 26	Steven Gehringer and Jillian Siefert
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

BRUNCH THANK YOU – The Youth Group would like to thank everyone who supported their May 1st brunch. Also, thank you to everyone for the donations of food items. The Youth appreciate the support of Zion's.



YOUTH GROUP CAMP – Youth Group camp will take place **October 21st, 22nd, and 23rd**. The camp cost is about \$1,200 to \$1,300. Anyone who would like to help fund camp should see an advisor.

ZION'S MEN'S GROUP

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



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.*

June 13	Picnic at 12 noon.	
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).

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 **June 27th and July 25th** 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 welcome.



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.

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.

CHURCH BOARD

March 29, 2016

- Approved Ashley Bleiler sharing mission trip with congregation and seeking sponsorships.
- Box has been found that can be used for Prayer Box.
- Attended the KU Designathon and received a poster and banner.
- Working with Lifetouch on a Welcome Brochure.
- Basement project is on target. Employed a professional spackler. Painting will start soon.

April 27, 2016

- Pastor requested vacation from May 1-8. Pastor Butz thoughtfully considered Music Sunday May 8th does not require the extra expense and coordination of supply pastor. Pastor Hamm will provide coverage for pastoral needs during vacation.
- Meadow Valley Electric, Inc (Electricity Vendor) quotes to explore cost savings related to contracting for set costs per kilowatt hour. Locking in prices will allow board to budget more accurately for electrical costs and secure lower prices over a longer period.
- Request to display the ground breaking shovel from addition building project in the Gathering Area approved. Property Committee will create a display.
- The Church Board approved an external vendor (ECON) to perform an energy audit of the building to see where we can continue to see cost savings.
- Strategic Planning Committee will present at May meeting recommendations for consideration and support.
- Student Loans - members are able to borrow up to \$1,000 per year for continuing education costs related to higher education. Board approved decreasing the interest rate from 6% to 4%. (Federal rate 4.29%)
- Ending Balance in Treasury as of April 25, 2016 – \$18,186.96. Board continues to monitor the actual and proposed budget.

CHOIR NEWS

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.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMITTEES

We will be highlighting a different committee each newsletter.

The Mutual Ministry Committee's purpose is to cultivate and maintain effective relationships between the pastor and the congregation members; act as liaison between the board, pastor, and congregation; encourage the pastor to avail him/herself of continuing education; and develop, maintain, and supervise ministry concepts. The committee will work with the congregation to address perceptions and concerns within the congregation. Members must maintain strict confidentiality. Terms are 3 years and can serve 2 consecutive terms.

MYSTERY YOUTH

Of course, our mystery person last month was Jacob Fegely, son of Kevin and LaRee Fegely. Congratulations to Jake on his graduation from Penn State University. We wish him well as he moves on to the next phase of his life.

Watch for more mystery members next month.

MATCHING FUNDS

The church is working on finishing of the rooms in the basement. WELCA has contributed \$20,000 to this project and we are looking for matching funds to finish the project. Any contributions should be given to Sharon Leiby. Checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Building Fund.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to do the Children's Messages. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board. Please sign your name and include your email address so the scriptures for that Sunday can be sent to you. Pastor Jeff has material for Children's Messages that you can use. Let him know if you need any.

FROM THE MAILBOX

I appreciate all the cards and visitors from my church family. It keeps my spirits up. Thank you and bless all of you.

Alberta Haas



HONOR ROLL

These names were taken from the lists published in the Patriot. If you would like a name included please email the church office or put a note in the secretary's mailbox in the Gathering Area of the church.

Kelly Leiby	Gabriella Webb	Carson Sheetz
Jewel Karaisz	Alexandria Webb	Derek Hanna
Samantha Ide	Kaylen Leiby	Sydney Sheetz
Logan Boyer	Madison Sheetz	Dane Fegely
Emma Heffner	MacKenzie Sheetz	Ashley Bleiler
Jarrett Mohn	Hannah Walker	Zachary Schell
Jillian Siefert	Jacob Walker	Bryn Keeney
Benjamin Chapkovich	Lauren DeLong	Benjamin Haas
Sarah Grim	Andrew Haas	Zachary Haas
Mitchell Grim		

DID YOU KNOW?

- Kelly Weisner is a board member of the Kutztown Fair Association.
- Kelly Weisner played in the Kutztown softball alumni game fundraiser.
- Jillian Siefert plays softball for Kutztown High School Cougars.

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.

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 MAY 2016 UPDATE



Our mortgage balance will be approximately \$121,000 by the end of May. Just a reminder, if your contribution is to be directed toward the “downstairs” construction, please mark your envelope accordingly. That project is proceeding very nicely. Please take some time to look it over.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

The Building Finance Committee:

Karen Howard, Ray Wiltrout, Sharon Leiby, Evan Slotter, and Richard Haas

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The walls have been painted. Thanks to all who have donated their time and funds as we continue to work on finishing the basement. Work will continue in the fall.

CAMP NOAH

2016 is the 11th year that teams from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod have helped to lead Camp Noah, a day camp for children impacted by disaster. In addition, 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 St. Daniels, Robesonia (610-693-5145); Zion, Perry Township (610-562-3112), Friedens, Oley (610-987-6021); or New Jerusalem, Fleetwood (610-682-6064 or 484-553-1162) where volunteers will box and ship them. Please call ahead to be sure someone is available to receive donations. They can also be shipped directly to Camp Noah (2375 Como Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55108). For 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. For more information contact Ruth Doty at 484-553-1162.

GOLF FORE KIDS

Bear Creek Camp's 18th Annual Golf Fore Kids Fundraiser will be held **June 27th** at Shepherd Hills Golf Club, Wescosville. Registration begins at 12:00 P.M. Shotgun start is at 1:00 P.M. There will be beverage and hot dog at the turn and dinner buffet and prizes after golf. Entry fee is \$100. Register online at www.bearcreekcamp.org, email bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org, or call 570-472-3741 for more information. Forms are also available in the church office.

SUMMER CAMP AT NEW GOSHENHOPPEN

New Goshenhopen UCC offers children and youth a place to enjoy the outdoors and learn about God's love. Day camp programs and overnight camp programs are available. Day Camp is held at the Church Park in East Greenville. For more information visit their website at www.newgoshucc.org, call their church office at 215-679-2041, or email the camp director, Jeanine Roth, at camp@newgoshucc.org.

FREE SHREDDING EVENT

The Northeast Berks County Chapter of Thrivent Financial will be holding a free document shredding event on Saturday, **June 18th** from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at the Hamburg Field House parking lot on Pine Street in Hamburg, PA. For more information contact Lynn Bagenstose at 610-562-8913.

MISSION MOMENT

SHARING FAITH

Paul was used to making speeches, encouraging people, sharing faith and making converts. He did that wherever he went, speaking to people whoever they were. How wonderful to have the gift of conversation that turns a person toward Christ.

Sharing our faith and our faith stories has not always been something we have done with ease and regularity in the United Church of Christ. But that is changing.

The Kansas Oklahoma Conference's website offers a place where members of the Conference and its leadership share their faith journeys. These are stories of how people were lost and then found the UCC's extravagant welcome, accessible theology, opportunities for service and warm invitation to share in discipleship with others.

On ucc.org you can search for "Hear Our Stories" and find videos of people sharing how they found the United Church of Christ and how their lives were changed. How did you find your church? Have you considered beginning each council, board or consistory meeting with one person sharing their story of how they found your congregation? If we practiced sharing with those we know and who care about us, we might get so good at it we'd share our stories with those outside the church. Now, *that* would be radical.

Old First Reformed Church (UCC) in Philadelphia began their Fall 2015 round of Adult Forums with an opportunity for faith sharing. The format worked like speed dating: people switched up in different pairs and answered questions like, "Share an example of how your faith has made a difference in your life;" "Talk about a quirky church or religious experience that happened to you;" "What makes you feel close to God?"

What questions might you ask each other in your church? Wouldn't it be interesting to hear people's answers?

All across our denomination we're learning how to share what is important to us, how we got here, and how we are church together. Being genuine and vulnerable about our faith in the safety of our church home is a way of inviting the Holy Spirit into our personal relationships and into the life of our congregations. Who knows, if we learn to tell it like Paul, what might happen?

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.



June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Ron & Nancy Fulton (53 wed)
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 12	Betty Faust
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (53 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 23	Rev. Willis & Sylvia Heckler (54 wed)
June 24	Richard Derr
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (61 wed)
July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 14	Carolyn Wiltrout
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

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Goldie Carl.

... the family of Jeff DeLong.

... the family of Herman Kunkel.

... the family of Jack Williams.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **June 7th and July 5th** 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 email her at craner@psec.org.



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.

June 5

Altar Holy Communion

July 3

Pew Holy Communion



JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of July. Please note that this is a **combined July/August** newsletter. If you have any information to be included in the July/August newsletter, please have it in the church office by **June 15th**.