



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
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



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. Transitioning us from Easter to Pentecost are the three final festivals of the Church Year—the festivals of Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, and Holy Trinity Sunday; all three of which revolve around Jesus’ promised sending the Holy Spirit just prior to his ascension to heaven.

In the last weeks of the Easter Season our gospel readings contained selections from the so-called “Farewell Discourse” in which Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure from the world. Jesus tells them that though he will be *physically* leaving them, he will never *really* leave 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 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).

The Holy Spirit is the unseen link between Jesus and God, between the Son and the Father. Everything that Jesus did throughout his earthly ministry was done through the power of the Spirit. When Jesus first began his ministry, the Spirit descended upon him at his baptism, empowering him. Then Jesus was immediately thrust into the wilderness by the Spirit for a time of testing. And when Jesus first stands up to teach in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth he does so saying, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me.”

So, in promising his disciples the Holy Spirit, Jesus is giving them the same spiritual link that so closely linked him to the Father. Jesus is giving the disciples the same power that empowered him to do so much mighty work in the name of the Father. The Holy Spirit has been called the “go-between-God,” that is, the aspect of the Trinity that holds the Godhead together, that part of God that is the active power of God at work in the universe holding all things together in divine harmony.

The Holy Spirit is the spiritual force which links all of Jesus’ disciples—including you and me—to the Father and to 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 and every Christian. Through the Holy Spirit God is in *you*! God is in every one of us by virtue of our baptism into Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus was God’s very presence

with us on earth, so Jesus promised that all of us, through his gift of the Holy Spirit given at baptism, will continue to be God's presence in the world.

I know it's an amazing claim, 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 *follow* Jesus. We are to show our love for Jesus in *obeying* Jesus. And then the love of God will be made manifest to the whole world through our 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 be distant from us, but will be *in us*. *God* in us!

These are most amazing words we hear from Jesus. We are ordinary people, with ordinary weaknesses and limitations. Yet Christ promises to empower us with the same spiritual power that empowered him. And what is one of the primary gifts brought by the Holy Spirit? It is the gift of *love*. When the church becomes what Christ intended it to be—a community of divine love—the world will see 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. 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 it's awe-inspiring. Sadly, too many today 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 understands 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,

Pastor Jeff

JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP

June 5	Pentecost Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 12	Trinity Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 19	2 nd Pentecost/Father's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 26	Third Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
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

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.

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of May 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$48,410.13

Donations Received - \$83,026

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$313,406.13

MUSIC SUNDAY THANK YOU

Thank you to all our very talented musicians, Judy Koller, Steven Gehringer, Connor O’Neil, The Back Row, Kid’s Choir, The Haas Men, Joe Karaisz, and the Sr. Choir for Music Sunday, May 8th. Also, thank you to Theresa Grim for coordinating all the special music for that day.



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.

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates or call the church office Monday, Wednesday, or Friday to sign up.



INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill backpacks with food staples for needy children and their families in the area. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



single serve size macaroni and cheese
single serve size applesauce
single serve cereal
oatmeal packets

peanut butter
canned tuna
granola bars

fruit cups
canned soup
fruit snacks

SUMMER MUSIC

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer Scaffidi was a recipient of the Emory S. Meck Band Service Award. The award recognizes a high level of conduct, loyalty, cooperation, and talents above the required expectations of the Brandywine Heights High School band program. Archer was one of a few freshman recognized for his musical achievements.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **JUNE 12TH** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2022, including December 2021 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 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 enrolled in a higher education program. A student loan application has been developed by the loan committee (Nancy Fulton, Grace Haas, Jennifer Weidman) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



FROM THE MAILBOX

My Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards regarding the loss of my husband Richard. It meant so much to me and my family. And also, to Pastor Jeff for his service and support during this time.



Jean Harter

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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| June 1 | Providing the meal at Opportunity House |
| July 24-30 | Mission Trip |



WOMEN IN ZION

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

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 13 | 12 noon, meeting and pizza picnic, fun and games, Bingo! |
| July 11 | 1:00 P.M., meeting and Patriot theme |



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

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.

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 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.



CHURCH BOARD MEETING

April 26, 2022

1. Emery Brothers have received the parts to complete our console. We have no date yet on the completion of the installation.
2. So far, the Covid watch is still green. We remain in normal conditions.
3. We are in the process of getting quotes for the parking lot repair.
4. 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.

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.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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, Phyllis Christman, Donna Cordier, Lloyd & Nancy, Ukrainians, Losito family, Randy Schlegel, Kevin Moyer, Linda Menges, 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, Betty Wiltrout, 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, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Richard Harter.

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 in next week's bulletin 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.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Richard F. Harter, 76, of Kutztown, died April 24, 2022 in Lehigh Valley Hospital. Memorial service was May 3, 2022 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.*

WEDDING: *Rachel Hannah Fegely and Griffin Thomas Fulton were married May 6, 2022 at Reinhart's Tree Farm, Bernville, PA. Rachel is the daughter of Kevin and LaRee Fegely and Griffin is the grandson of Nancy Fulton. Residence: 2446 Pennsylvania Route 737, Kempton, PA 19526.*

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.



June 1	Diane Herber
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (59 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 21	Dave & Tina Ehrig (53 wed)
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (55 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (67 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (52 wed)
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)

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Richard Harter.

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.



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

Pew Holy Communion

July 3

Altar 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**.