

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
2024**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$10.00. Payment may be given to Karen Warmkessel or Tara Berger 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.**
- ◆ 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.

PASTOR'S CORNER



“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”
-Lamentations 3:22-23

Morning by morning, I see new mercies. All I need is for your hand to provide. Great is your faithfulness, Lord, unto me. This age-old hymn speaks volumes of praise and thanksgiving for all we have before us every day. Great is Thy Faithfulness words we can cling to graduating from high school or college. "God, great is your faithfulness," a prayer falling from our lips, searching for what is next or where we go from here. Yet we question, "New mercies every morning - are you sure, God? Because I am still holding on to things from yesterday. Words of fear and worry kept me up last night."

Why do we doubt the work of our Creator God within us? Why do we listen to the whispers of fear and worry instead of resting in the abundant mercies God freely bestows upon us? We yearn for our desires to be acknowledged, our pleas for understanding to be heard, and for a glimpse of the future to calm our restless minds. Yet, this is not the work of God. There are countless reasons why we let go of the peace of Christ and the hope of a fresh start. But wherever we may find ourselves, the mercies God offers are indeed new every day. It's a truth we can hold onto! And for this, we are truly blessed as cherished children of God. Let us always find joy in the Lord! Let us lean on the everlasting arms of God. Let us acknowledge all that God has bestowed upon us and stand firm in God's faithfulness.

The peace of Christ be with you.
Pastor Melissa

JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP

June 2	2 nd Pentecost/HC/Graduates	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 9	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 16	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 23	5 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 30	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 7	7 th Sunday after Pentecost/HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 14	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 21	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 28	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

SPECIAL SUNDAY'S COMING IN JUNE/JULY:

- **June 2** - Graduate Sunday. We will honor graduates from December last year through June.
- **June 2** - Installation of Pastor Melissa Burkhart at 3:00 P.M. here at Zion's.
- **June 16** - Temple Talk and Refreshments by Senior Fellowship Group.
- **July 21** – Temple Talk and Refreshments by the Seeders and Sow On.

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.

ACOLYTES, READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SHEPHERDS

Schedules for acolytes, readers, ushers, greeters, and shepherds are on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule is also included in each newsletter.

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS

Do you ever look up at the altar and think, ‘wow, those flowers are beautiful’? Then you flip through your bulletin to see who sponsored them and if there was a special reason why? Guess what? You can sponsor the flowers too! There is a book in the Gathering Area that you can sign in advance to sponsor for a special date to honor or remember someone or an event that is significant to you. Then you get to take the arrangement home after the church service. If you do not want the flowers, you can consider sponsoring the bulletins instead. Each week we ask for two sponsors for the flowers and two for the bulletins. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$20 per arrangement (you can sponsor one or both) and the bulletin is \$10 for half (again, you can sponsor half or all).

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		

STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The Sunday School Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held the first Friday in June, **June 7th from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.** Sign-up sheets for help and soup donations are on the upstairs bulletin board. Please find a place where you'd like to volunteer your time and sign up. Baked items are also welcome and can be brought that Friday.



HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE

Zion's Union Church Maxatawny will be supporting a clothing drive to benefit Hope Rescue Mission and Lighthouse from **June 9-20**. The Mission provides clothing for men; the Lighthouse supports women and children. We'll be collecting all seasons of clothing for men, women, and children. Coats, scarves, hats, gloves, shoes, towels, belts, purses, and new men's underwear in sizes small to xxxl. Donations may be brought to the church M, W, F from 9-12; Saturday from 9-12; Sundays from 8:30 -12. Other arrangements can be made by calling Nancy Fulton at 484-357-8024.

SOLOIST AND INSTRUMENTALISTS WANTED:

Do you play an instrument or like to sing? We are looking for individuals or groups to provide special music this Summer. Please see Steve Schucker if you are interested in sharing your talents at Zion's.

SUMMER HYMN REQUESTS

Is there a hymn that is special to you, that you would like to sing during worship this summer? We will be singing hymn requests during the hymn of the day starting in June. There are request forms located in the back of the church or from an usher. Please fill out the hymn request form and place it in the offering plate. As part of the hymn request, we would like each person that has selected a hymn to come forward and provide a short testimony on the Sunday that hymn is being sung on why the hymn is meaningful to you. Hymn selections do not have to come from any of the hymnals in the church, we just need enough information to locate the hymn you are requesting.

SUMMER PICK UP CHOIR

There will be a "Pick Up" choir during the summer months. This group will sing on Sunday mornings with limited rehearsal. The group will meet at 10:00 A.M. in the choir room to practice the day's song. Those who wish to sing may come forward during the service during the anthem time. Music and links to listen to the song will be provided in advance to allow everyone to become familiar with it prior to meeting as a group. One monthly Thursday night rehearsal will be held to practice that month's songs for those who wish to attend, but is not required to be part of the group. If you are interested, please see Steve Schucker so that we have enough music for everyone.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

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**.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Solon Shade.

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at **3:00 P.M. the first Sunday of every month** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. The next service is **June 2nd at 3:00 P.M. The theme is Pushing The Boat Out. The presiding Pastor is Chris Angstadt.** This no-shush worship enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages, and the chance to connect with others.

SNACK AND CHAT

We will have lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. The next outings are **June 12th at Jaks and July 12th at Jaks.** Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to attend.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

June 10 Meeting, picnic, fun, games.

July 8 Meeting, program by Peggy.

For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson (484-553-1981)



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 24th and July 22nd** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



PRAYER SHAWL



Comforting wraps are still available to all who are in need. Please alert the church office or Loretta Flicker if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. **June 5th and June 19th** to weave plastic bags into mats. All are encouraged to participate. Contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 or Carol Leiby at 484-695-8318. Plastic bags may be brought to church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area. **ONLY plastic bags that are used at the register when leaving are wanted. We are unable to use produce bags, plastic from cases of water, toilet paper plastic, etc.** If anyone can flatten the bags and cut at home, please find a weaver and we will show you after a church service how quick the bags can be prepared. It's a great activity while watching tv, relaxing.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin

MYSTERY VOLUNTEER

The May Mystery Volunteer was Peggy Morgan.
Can you identify the June Mystery Member?

She was born in Reading and raised in Kutztown.

She played softball from the age of 8 until age 21. She was a Girl Scout. She went fishing with her "pop pop".

She graduated from Kutztown High School.

She grew up in a neighborhood of boys, so she grew up as a tomboy. She was a Girl Scout leader. She loved going to the mountains with her family. I was on a family trip in the car and told my parents I could not see. Dad pulled over and asked what was wrong, why I could not see. I told him because I had my eyes shut.

I work in production at an alcohol beverage company.

I have two daughters, one here on earth and one in heaven; two sisters; mom; stepdad; niece; and nephew.

I have one dog named Peanut. She is a puggle.

My hobbies are DIY's, being outside, going to antique and flea markets.

I am on the Church Board and also Sunday School board. Teach Sunday School when needed and help where ever needed.

MYSTERY MEMBERS

The May Mystery Members are Noah and Lauren Kayhart.

Can you identify the June Mystery Members?

He was born in Reading. She was born in Allentown. They met when they were 17. Their first date was at Premise Maid, their second date, Tony's in Topton.

He graduated from Brandywine and she graduated from Kutztown. After high school graduation, he went to Pennsylvania College of Technology for Landscape Technology. She went to Penn State for her Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and later graduated with her Masters in Speech Language Pathology from East Stroudsburg. A year after graduation, Pastor Jeff married them at a Christmas tree farm in Bernville.

She works at the Lutheran Home as a speech therapist, he works at Xavier landscapes in the Poconos as a landscape designer.

She grew up at Zions. He grew up at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church in Dryville. In late 2023, he became an Associate Member of Zions. Her parents are on various committees in the church and both of their grandparents were (are) very active in the church. She is involved in the Good News Committee.

They have a son who just turned 6 months old in May.

In his free time, he enjoys riding his tractor, hunting, fishing, and being outside. She enjoys baking, going for walks, and spending time with friends and family.

When not at their home in Kempton with their beloved black lab Sadie, they spend countless weekends at Raystown skiing and boating. They are very excited for their son to experience his first trip to Raystown this summer.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer and Arden Scaffidi made honor roll for the 3rd quarter at Brandywine Heights.
- Archer Scaffidi performed with the Brandywine Heights High School Band at the Country Tonite Show in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.
- For the 3rd year in a row, Archer Scaffidi was a recipient of the Emory S. Meck 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.
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi are swimming for the Fleetwood/Topton Swim Team for the summer 2024 season.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

April 30, 2024

- Thank you to those that took the time to fill out the Time and Talent surveys. The information was collected and sorted. The organization and committee leaders will all receive a spreadsheet listing the information for those individuals that would like to help.
- We are seeking delegates to attend the UCC Conference (State College) and the Lutheran Synod (Wyomissing) annual meetings on June 8. We have one member for each meeting, but we would like to have two for each. These meetings can be attended virtually or in person. See Greg or Pastor Melissa for more information.
- The steeple finials on the four corners of the roof of the belfry, are deteriorating. They will be removed for safety purposes.
- Pastor Melissa's Installation will take place on June 2nd at 3:00 P.M., followed by a reception of hors d'oeuvres, snacks, and desserts. Please join us for this momentous service.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Valley Health Partners Street Medicine was founded on the idea that everybody matters. Our team continues to focus its efforts on the unsheltered persons living outside, by doing outreach four out of five days of the work week. The team offers clinics on a scheduled rotation at eight designated community centers, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters, as well as provides support to other Lehigh Valley shelters and recovery homes on an as-needed basis. VHP Street Medicine serves all patients regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Thank you to your donation to Street Medicine.



Sincerely,
The Street Medicine Team

Your gift to the Christmas Fund always goes to help people in need, when they need it. And thanks to you, no request goes unfilled. So many lives are impacted, and so much spiritual support is conveyed through the gifts you make each year. Thank you again for your generosity.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Rev. Dr. Paul Leon Ramsey
Director, Church Relations
and Philanthropy

APPLE DUMPLING/FALL FESTIVAL

Please join us on Saturday, **October 12th from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.** for our first (hopefully annual) Apple Dumpling Festival. We will have a craft sale, basket raffle, open house tours, kids' corner, bake sale, food trucks, and of course Zion's Union Church's delicious apple dumplings. If you would like more information on participating or helping out, please contact Traci Gehringer at 610-349-8434.

SENIOR DINNER

The Senior Dinner is being planned for **November 3rd**, following the worship service. Members of the congregation who are over 70 years of age will be invited to attend, as well as individuals who were confirmed fifty years ago. Anyone willing to assist with the dinner should notify Nancy Fulton 484-357-8024. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION'S UNION CHURCH MAXATAWNY

In December 2026, we will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of our church. Committees are being organized to plan this special event. Members who are interested in helping with the plans for the celebration should notify Greg Haas.

WIZ CART LIBRARY

WIZ invites you to take a book or jigsaw puzzle from their WIZ Cart Library, which is available in the Gathering Area every Sunday. Feel free to keep the item, return it, or add to the inventory. Enjoy reading or 'jigsaw-ing' with others in the congregation who share your common interest. Have fun!

HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is still available to be purchased. The cost is \$15.00. Call the church office if you would like one. Any checks should be made out to "Zion's Union Church Maxatawny". Put "History Book" on the memo line.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

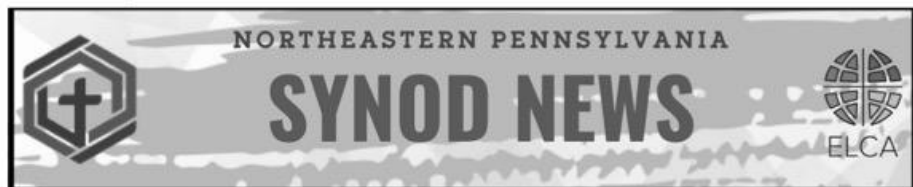
Janet Geiger, Larry Stamm, Jane Warmkessel, Cooper Kellum, Sherie Schaeffer, Tracey Lutz, Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Elaine & Paul Heffner, Irene Isamoyer, Jamey Webb, Liz Jones, Julia Mohn, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Randy Warmkessel, Donna VanDeCar, John Laird, Eric, Jenni Juntunen, Deb P., Beth S., Drew Stump, Linda Carter, Jim, Sparky Grace, Chris Pinkerton, Laurel Rudy, Grayson Rudy, Livvy Rudy, Sherry S., Joseph Karaisz Sr., Jeremy Crum, Chad, Chris, Bud, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Leila, Bruce Fritzingler, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Paige Sechler, Ely, Mary Jane Schlenker, Owen Lamendola, Elia, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Chris Szarko, Victoria Slotter, Regen Zimmerman, Karen Ames, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Rayann Roth, Valerie, Lorraine Miller, Christopher Mercardo, Christy Ryan, Michele Rodriquez, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, family of Solon Shade.

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

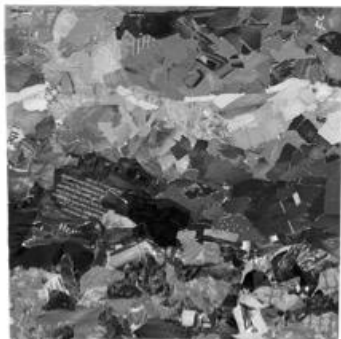
Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during the year. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save 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.



Worship & Art: A Congregation's Journey

A few years ago, Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale, set out on a journey to be as inclusive as possible. This journey led the congregation to install state-of-the-art cameras (for streaming worship), three 85-inch monitors (for reading the liturgy and music), and a new sound system (that would enable everyone to hear and engage during worship). This was the beginning of the trek to become the congregation God was calling them to be!

The people of Calvary knew they could do more to engage in worship or worshipful experiences so they asked, "How can we engage more of our bodies in worship?" They pondered, brainstormed, and listed ways they could inclusively engage their bodies in worship and Christian life. They decided that creating together would align with their values of inclusivity. This came to fruition through their first collective art project. They began with a Lenten collage that created a dark scene with the tomb of Jesus. The congregation loved the project so much that they asked for more. The next project was for Easter, which included a prominent cross and a rainbow collage surrounding and illuminating the cross. The congregation is currently working on a Pentecost piece that includes a centralized bird erupting from rings of fire. The congregation is in conversation with an art organization to place their piece on display for the wider community to enjoy.



Lent



Easter



Follow Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/calvalrylutheranlaureldale> to stay up to date!

New Outreach Ministry is Found at POP's Treasures

POP's Treasures was established by Prince of Peace Evangelical Church in Bangor to create a location where the community/congregants can donate gently used items /clothing. Presented in a "boutique style" store front where the visitors can see creative displays and purchase said items at a fair price.



The outpouring of community involvement has far exceeded our initial plan. The community supports us with items, and they also attend monthly during the sale days. We have had several new members at the church since the boutique was opened May of 2023. Our attendees support us in other posts on Facebook, letting the community at large know of our location. We are constantly reminded how they feel that this is a wonderful program. We also have individuals who come in our doors that ask to help volunteer.

We applied for and received a Witness and Service Ministry Team Grant to help with the costs to prepare a location on our property and purchase a connex container. The container is used to repurpose and store inventory. Items not sold at the boutique, are then stored until we have our spring or fall rummage sale. Items not sold there are donated to a clothing collection box and other organizations. Currently we utilize the 2 back rooms of the church, along with part of the fellowship hall during the days of our sale, which in total in 7 hours for both days.



While our program was set up to respond at the end of the fiscal year. As we hear of a need, we act in trying to make it happen if we can. It is difficult to say how many attend during the sale days. However, recently we provided a free clothing and houseware day that was attended by 200 individuals.

We currently have provided 3 meals at Safe Harbor, a transition shelter for the homeless. We have donated children's toys, and a stroller to the foster care program. There were also monetary donations to a local youth program, animal shelter, Portland food pantry (PUMP), and the purchase of animals from ELCA Good Gifts.

You may wonder if your congregations could do the same. Yes! If the organizers have the faith it will work, be willing to make changes and to realize that there are many paths to take to make it work. Success can be measured by outreach to the community and the programs it helps. We have been blessed beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. If you would like more information, please contact Jackie Horn at baskets@epix.net.

****Visit the synod website at [www. https://nepasynod.org/](https://nepasynod.org/) to find out how to apply for a Witness and Service Grant.**

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 (61 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 21	Dave & Tina Ehrig (55 wed)
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (57 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (54 wed)
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 10	Marlene Costello
July 10	Sandra Leiby
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (62 wed)

“A God wise enough to create me and the world I live in is wise enough to watch out for me.”

—Philip Yancey



MISSION STATEMENT

Energized by the Spirit! Humbled by Christ's Grace! Working for God's glory!

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited by Jesus Christ to this awesome feast of the Children of God.

June 2

Pew Holy Communion

July 7

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**.