

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

**March
2022**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is now \$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



Since not everyone gets a copy of our church Yearbook (a/k/a Annual Report) I am including my annual report to the congregation in this month's newsletter for all to read.

If anyone who is not able to get to church would like a copy of our 2021 Yearbook please call the church office and we will be happy to send one to you.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

2021 was certainly another “interesting” year. For many, it was almost as disappointing a year as 2020 when the Covid pandemic began. Covid certainly continued to disrupt our life as a congregation of God's people at Zion's Church. The year began with the church closed to all activities, including worship. We had originally been forced to close our doors at the beginning of Lent 2020 when the pandemic began. We were then able to reopen when Covid levels dropped into a relatively safe range (10% infection rate and below) in July 2020, but then were forced to close again just before Christmas when the winter wave sent numbers into the danger zone again. With the arrival of spring in 2021 numbers dropped back below 10% and we were able to reopen on Palm Sunday and once again celebrate Easter together and a “resurrection” to more normal life. Thankfully, due to the rise in vaccination rates, deaths due to Covid decreased and we have been able to keep our doors open ever since, despite another winter wave forcing us to “mask up.”

Thanks to the diligence and watchfulness of our Covid Task Force and the safety precautions they put in place, no one to our knowledge has contracted Covid from another member in church (something not a lot of churches can say). Despite all these severe interruptions to our life as a congregation, we were still able to accomplish a lot of major initiatives in 2021 and there is much for which we can be extremely thankful. Despite facing economic hardships, so many of you continue to be remarkable stewards and faithfully send your offerings to the church to keep us going financially (while many other churches are struggling).

We learned to “do church” in amazing new ways such as conducting “Zoom meetings” via computer and recording and streaming our worship services on-line, enabling us to continue to worship together even while the church was closed. One of the few benefits that came out of the pandemic

is that we are now posting our services on-line for anyone to view at any time, which has been a wonderful gift to our home-bound members and anyone else who cannot attend a service.

And always looking to the future in bold trust and confidence, at a specially called congregational meeting, it was unanimously voted to move ahead with yet another major undertaking: completely restoring our historic pipe organ for future generations to continue to enjoy. At the beginning of 2022 we look forward to the completion of that project and yet another major celebration in our church's long and storied history. I am personally looking forward to seeing those gleaming new pipes, and hearing the sound of our completely renovated "grand old lady," now newly spry at 94 years old!

Please take the time to read the many other reports in our 2021 yearbook to get a glimpse of everything we were able to accomplish together despite some major obstacles in our path. As Jesus said to his disciples, so he says to us: "Well done, thou good and faithful servants!"

Looking forward to a new year filled with hope and new life in Christ,
 Pastor Jeff

MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP

March 2	Ash Wednesday		7:00 P.M.
March 6	First Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 9	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 13	Second Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 16	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 20	Third Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 23	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
March 27	Fourth Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 30	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
April 3	Fifth Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 6	Mid-Week Lent		7:00 P.M.
April 10	Palm/Passion Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 14	Maundy Thursday		7:00 P.M.
April 15	Good Friday		7:00 P.M.
April 17	Easter Dawn		6:00 A.M.
April 17	Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 24	Second Sunday of Easter	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 February 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - **\$346,000**

Designated Memorials Received - \$48,410.13

Donations Received - \$81,241

Investments Used for Expenses - \$73,370

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

Quarterly Investment Gain - \$10,500

Total Funds Into Organ Restroation Fund - **\$236,521.13**

USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY PERSONS

The schedules for readers, ushers, greeters, and security are posted on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule will also be included in each newsletter.

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2021 Annual Reports should be available the beginning of March. The reports will be available at the church or call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:
www.wfmz.com (click on “storm center update”) (**please note:** worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and not on Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A message will be on the answering machine.



AUDIT NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS

Please remember: All organizations in the church should do an internal audit of their books as stated in the Federated Constitution by the end of March.

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The new 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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

As of January 1, the price for a vase of altar flowers has increased to \$20.00. Any checks should be made out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”.

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 packet

peanut butter
canned tuna
granola bars

fruit cups
canned soup
fruit snacks

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

January 25, 2022

- PA numbers are improving as Covid is monitored. Finding is that people are not getting as sick with omicron variant.
- Until further notice, we will continue with pre-packaged communion cups.
- As we get closer to Lent, we will determine whether soup suppers will be held prior to the Wednesday service.
- Two of the flags waving out in front of the church have flown away in the last few weeks. One was found and one flew away. We will remove the remaining flags for the duration of the winter. Do you like the flags or are they not important to you? Let a Board member know your opinion.
- February 27th we will be celebrating the 50 years of our Director of Music Theresa Grim. Plan to be here as we honor her service.
- Organ loan information – The initial plan was to borrow \$300,000 to fund the organ restoration. Thanks to financial gains in the money market and investments and the gracious donations and financial support of the congregation, we only needed to borrow \$77,000. The monthly payment will now be about \$800 instead of the planned \$3,000.
- The elevator phone is still under repair. (Repaired since the meeting.)

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on **March 2nd at 7:00 P.M.** in the fellowship hall. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This ashen cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with

Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive. (reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright Augsburg/Fortress, 2003)



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins **March 13th**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed that Saturday night.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES

“Christianity and Other Religions”

Beginning on Wednesday evening, **March 9th**, we will again resume (after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid) our popular practice of mid-week devotions and spiritual study. Due to ongoing safety concerns we will **not** have soup suppers this year. The evening will begin with devotions at 7:00 P.M. and conclude at 8:00 P.M. This year’s topic will take us away from exclusively looking at our own faith, to examine the faiths of our non-Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. We will be focusing on the other four of the “great religions” of the world: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. You will be surprised to find out just how much these seemingly very different religions have in common. Could these religions possibly all have been inspired by the same God? Join us and find out!

EASTER FLOWERS

Due to the need to find a new supplier for Easter flowers, the deadline to order Easter Flowers this year was February 27th, much earlier than we anticipated. We are sorry and now have a better idea of what to do for next year.

HELPING HAND FUND

On **March 13th**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund.



CEMETERY CLEAN UP



ALL flower arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3rd Saturday of March. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **March 19th** (weather permitting).



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will provide the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 1st**. Volunteers are needed supply the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

YOUTH GATHERING CANCELLED

We received word that the Youth Gathering scheduled for July has been cancelled due to covid concerns. As the Youth Group was collecting socks and underwear for a Minneapolis charity as part of the Gathering experience, that needed to be changed. We continued to accept donations until the end of February and those items were donated to local charities. We thank everyone for supporting that project.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Kutztown's 25th Relay for Life will be held **May 21st** at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. You can sign up for Zion's Team at relayforlife.org, then enter our zip code 19530 and follow the information. The relay will be held during the day and there will be no overnight hours anymore. See Sue Haas for more information.



FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you!

On behalf of Ray and Judy Moyer, thank you for the cards and prayers they received regarding their November house fire and hospitalization. They are now relocated to a house which they are renting that is not too far from their original house in Fogelsville. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Leiby and Moyer families

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- March 14 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Bible study
with Pastor Jeff.
- April 11 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Making
Easter craft.



Check with Linda or Loretta to see if these events will happen.

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

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will **tentatively meet March 28th and April 25th** at 12 noon. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. **Check with Nancy Fulton to make sure these events will happen.**



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. **Check with Ellie Merkel to make sure the home is open to visitors.**

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.

WOMEN IN ZION COOKBOOK

The Women In Zion cookbook is still available to purchase in the Gathering Area. Cost is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to "Women In Zion".

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer Scaffidi made Distinguished Honor Roll at Brandywine Heights High School.
- Arden Scaffidi made Honor roll at Brandywine Heights Middle School.
- Ashley DeLong made distinguished honors for the 2nd quarter at Brandywine.
- Maisy Kellum was recognized by the Music Educators of Berks County and recently performed in the Senior County Music Festival’s vocal concert held at Kutztown University.
- Katelyn DeLong made the Distinguished Honor Roll this quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.

Dear Berks COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and friends,

A family in Sinking Spring, Berks County, is in need of assistance because of flood related damage to the family’s home and car, following Hurricane Ida. Berks COAD, Berks County Department of Emergency Services, and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, have worked with the family to assist in a number of ways. The head of household has pursued all resources known to her and as a result she has found a number of temporary solutions that are helping meet the family’s transportation needs related to employment and related to her children’s medical appointments for chronic medical conditions. She is also pursuing other efforts to improve her family’s overall financial stability in partnership with her case manager.

Despite these efforts, unmet needs related to Ida remain. The most helpful path forward identified by the family and their case manager, would be to assist the family in paying down the remaining balance for the vehicle that was destroyed in the flooding. The Berks County COAD is seeking additional funds in the amount of \$4806.

Organizations or individuals wishing to contribute to assist this family, should send checks to St. Marks United Church of Christ Disaster Fund, PO Box 55, Cressona, PA 17929. Please include in the check memo line, or with a note “Berks Ida transportation need.”

Thank you,
Berks COAD

PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF

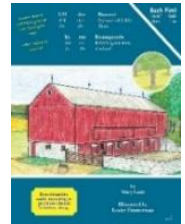
The Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf organization will hold a special event to learn more about the PA German (Dutch) language and culture on Saturday, **March 19th**, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Trainer's Midway Diner, Bethel, PA. The event is free and everyone is welcome!

There will be traditional PA German crafts and artists, children's activities, and old-fashioned toys. Entertainment will be provided by Dr. Robert Kline who will speak on the topic, 'Two Sister Languages: Yiddish and PA German.' In addition, PA German music will be performed by Keith Brintzenhoff, the Miller brothers and 'Die Schwadore Schalle' choral group. PA German children's songs and stories will be provided by Mary Laub. Delicious PA German food will be available for purchase and a silent auction will be operating all day.

Trainer's Midway Diner is easily accessible, located along Interstate 78, Exit 16. For more information see the PA German Zammelaaf Facebook page or contact Mary Laub.

A GERMAN AND ENGLISH BOOK PUBLISHED

Mary Laub published another bilingual book, *Uff der Bauerei: In em Baamgaarde* (On the Farm: In the Orchard) which is the 5th in the Uff der Bauerei series. This story continues with Henny, die Katz (the cat) and Spunky, der Hund (the dog). When Frank, the owner of the farm goes to the orchard, Henny and Spunky go with him. They are enjoying themselves until they hear Frank scream. What happened? Why can't he move? Once again Henny and Spunky prove to be helpful and actually are able to help others, too.



Book 5 has an expanded Glossary with page numbers to easily locate words within the story. There is also a Reference Section. As in previous books, the story is written in PA German with a phonetic spelling and an English translation underneath. An illustration matches the text and there is an audio recording of the story which can be downloaded for free or a CD can be purchased separately.

Books and CDs can be purchased from Mary. They can also be purchased locally at Dietrich's Meats (they also sell the CDs), Leid's Saddlery, Wooden Bridge Dry Goods, and Burkholder's Farm Market on Topton Road or online at Amazon.com and Masthof.com. Books are \$10 and CDs are \$5.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

THANK YOU to Courtney and Peggy for serving in their leadership roles for the past three years. The Sunday School appreciates your efforts and your dedication.

As Spring approaches, I look forward to many things. The season is a renaissance, a rebirth. While I love the winter, there is something special about those signs that really point us to God's gift of providing newness for all of us as the sun warms us after a cold winter. One of these signs for me is the arrival of those returning "I am out of here for the winter" birds. I am a bit of a bird guy. Many of us have already seen robins. Others will follow of many shapes, sizes, and colors. I provide food for those winter birds, but enjoy seeing all.

Saint Francis of Assisi was canonized in 1228 and became associated with the patronage of animals and the environment. It became customary for churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his Feast Day of October the 4th. A legend describes how one day, while St. Francis was travelling with some companions, they happened upon a place on the road where birds filled the trees on either side. Francis told his friends to "Wait for me while I go preach to my sisters the birds." The birds surrounded him, intrigued by the power of his voice, and not one of them flew away.

So it should be with all of us hearing the words of God spoken through His son, our savior Jesus. Jesus gathered his flock of birds, "all the little children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loved the little children of the world." We are all His children!

Saint Francis preached the Christian doctrine that the world was created good and beautiful by God. How can anyone argue with that?

Thanks be to God!
Tim and Sue

MEMBER UPDATES

unknown Berger, Arlan C.
Cornerstone Living, 4605 Werleys Corner Rd., New Tripoli,
PA 18066 **OR** 4046 Friedensburg Rd. Oley, PA 19547

Losses: Arndt, Tina M.
Schaeffer, Barbara F.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of June Bruno.
... the family of Tina Arndt.

... the family of Barbara Schaeffer.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Linda Ballew-Johnson, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Kay Weidner, Randy Noll, Steve O'Neil, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Althea Moyer, Betty Dietrich, Pat Miller, Beatrice Bennecoff, Carolyn Wilttrout, Marian Stettler, Barry Miller, Bill & Karen Howard, Joe Karaisz, Anna Bortz, Richard Warmkessel, Lowell Thomas, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Steve S., Joanne Pauley, Richard Harter, Sarah Johnson, Mary Jane Schlenker, Juliana Leshner, Bill Rinear, Michael Zimmerman, Regen Zimmerman, Beverly Keller, Elaine Seaman, Karen Ames, Victoria Slotter, Betty Wilttrout, Ian Miller, Elia, Tom Seifert, Donna Rabert, Deb, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Jamie Jordan, Kim Markham, Valerie, Christopher Mercardo, Renee Wolfe, Jo Corrado, Michele Rodriguez, Sue Zimmerman, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Frank Knight, Christy Ryan, Mary Fox, Betty Houck, Lorraine Miller, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of June Bruno, family of Barbara Schaeffer, family of Tina Arndt.

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 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.

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.

March 1	William Gehman
March 3	Anna Bortz
March 9	John Costello
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Jerry Schwenk
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (68 wed)
March 20	Ralph Noll, Sr.
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 27	David Herber
March 28	John Mertz
March 28	Sharon Weigle
March 29	Betty Dietrich
March 31	Patricia Miller
April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	John & Marlene Costello (66 wed)
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 17	Ralph & Helen Noll, Sr. (68 wed)
April 27	Robert Leibold



FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Tina M. Arndt*, 63, of Topton, died January 26, 2022 in Allentown, PA. Service was February 2, 2022 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Burial was private.

Barbara F. Schaeffer, of Maxatawny Township, died January 28, 2022 in Allentown, PA. Service was February 3, 2022 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Berks County Memorial Garden, Fleetwood, PA.



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.



March 6	Holy Communion
April 3	Holy Communion
April 14 (7 PM)	Holy Communion
April 17 (6 AM)	Holy Communion
April 17 (10:15 AM)	Holy Communion

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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