

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

**May
2021**

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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 an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate in the rear of the church. The sign-up book and envelopes are currently in the church office. Contact the church office to access them.
- ◆ 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



Have the events of the past year left you feeling overwhelmed? Do you feel confident about what lies ahead this year, or do you feel apprehensive, maybe even scared? With the Coronavirus lock-down forcing us to “shelter in place” and not being able to attend church or gather with family at holidays, combined with all the tragedy and chaos that always seems to be happening in the world, many of us may feel completely overwhelmed. When we look at the headlines, we might feel overwhelmed to the point of asking, “Where is God?” However, no matter what is going on in our lives or in the world around us, we Christians have a peculiar sort of logic that dares to proclaim, all evidence to the contrary, that Jesus reigns and that God is at work defeating the forces of evil in the world.

British theologian David Ford has called our age the “age of overwhelmedness.” Ford says that we have been so exposed by the media to worldwide tragedies—things our ancestors were largely unaware of—that we are emotionally overwhelmed. Wars and terrorist attacks and natural disasters, which in a previous age were only heard of vaguely and after the fact, have now become our daily diet right in our living room. Add to the problems of the world all the problems we face in our own nation and in our own lives and it is no wonder we feel overwhelmed. Our problems often seem so large and resistant to our efforts to overcome them. We may sometimes wonder where we can ever find the strength to keep going on in life.

I’d like to suggest that we can find the strength, courage, and hope we need in the same place that St. John did when he wrote the book of Revelation. St. John was the bishop, or overseer, of seven churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) at the end of the first century. These young churches were facing extremely hard times as the Roman Empire was stepping up its persecution of Christians. They, too, could not worship together. This was the time when Christians were beginning to be fed to the lions and used as human torches to light the emperor’s gardens. St. John himself was a prisoner on the island of Patmos, the Alcatraz of its day. John could have been easily overwhelmed by the great troubles that he and his churches faced. Yet, he begins a letter to his persecuted churches with a remarkable statement of hope and affirmation:

“Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come . . . from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood . . . to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 1:4-6)

John responded to the overwhelming evil all around him with an exuberant, confident affirmation of the power of God! That is what John also called his persecuted churches to do. And that is what God still calls all Christians to do today. We are to come to church, in the midst of all the trouble around us, to offer our worship and praise. We are to respond to the overwhelming forces of evil with an affirmation of the triumphant power of God. For we Christians know, as no one else can, that Jesus Christ reigns and that all the enemies of God will ultimately be defeated and that good will one day have the last word over evil and death. That is the Easter faith we just recently celebrated and continue to proclaim throughout this Easter season.

And that is why we come to worship (be it in-person or virtually). We join together in worship in order to strengthen each other in an affirmation of God's goodness and power. We join our voices in one great affirmation when in our Holy Communion liturgy we proclaim, "This is the feast of victory for our God!" As Christians we believe that God's love *will* triumph. And that firm belief is what enables us to go on in an "age of overwhelmedness." It is what enables us to bring another child into the world, when so many are afraid of what the future will hold for our children. Thanks be to God, we Christians know what the future holds. Through Jesus Christ we know that God's kingdom has begun on earth and its future fulfillment cannot be defeated!

Looking to the future in the hope and expectation that only Christ can give,

Pastor Jeff

MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| May 2 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | church 10:15 |
| May 9 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | church 10:15 |
| May 16 | Seventh Sunday of Easter | church 10:15 |
| May 23 | Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday | church 10:15 |
| May 30 | Trinity Sunday | church 10:15 |
| June 6 | Second Sunday after Pentecost | church 10:15 |
| June 13 | Third Sunday after Pentecost | church 10:15 |
| June 20 | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost | church 10:15 |
| June 27 | Fifth Sunday after Pentecost | church 10:15 |

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE EVENTS IN
THIS NEWSLETTER MAY NOT HAPPEN DUE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Paul Heffner, John & Marlene Costello, George Isamoyer, Althea Moyer, Betty Dietrich, Judy Koller, Janet Geiger, Pat Miller, Beatrice Bennecoff, Carolyn Wiltrout, Tracey Lutz, Dave Merkel, Marian Stettler, Lisa Walker, Loretta Flicker, Barry Miller, Kay Weidner, Bill Howard, Nikki Phillips, Joe Karaisz, Janet Fegely, Anna Bortz, Gloria Haas, Richard Warmkessel, Steve O'Neil, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Lowell Thomas, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Mary Jane Williams, Dr. Jeffery Folk, Regen Zimmerman, Phil Menges, Elaine Seaman, Beverly Keller, Karen Ames, Taylor Moyer, Betty Wiltrout, Joyce Kemp, Ian Miller, Tom Seifert, Elia, Victoria Slotter, Donna Rabert, Deb, Lisa Szarko, Arthur Sell, Jamie Jordan, Christopher Mercado, Jo Corrado, Rayann Roth, Michele Rodriquez, Sue Zimmerman, Renee Wolfe, Kim Markham, Valerie, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Caitlin Dickey, Frank Knight, Christy Ryan, Lorraine Miller, Judy Redman, Betty Houck, Mary Fox, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Bruce Seidel, family of Lucille Zettlemoyer, family of Eugene Bergstresser, family of Jean Kemp, family of Dorothy Geisler, family of Brandon Hamm.

FOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Lenten Food Drive to benefit our community members aided by Friend, Inc. Final totals were \$215 in monies and 296 food items.

UNWANTED ITEMS

There is a container marked "Opportunity House" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mertztown (near Radcliffe's) where you can donate goods. Lisa Walker will **no longer** take items to Opportunity House.

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.

SCAM ALERT

Some of our members have received emails or text messages asking for gift cards or favors that appear to have come from Pastor Butz. **THESE ARE SCAMS.** If you are victim to one of these scams report it to your local police.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2020 Annual Report is now available at the church. If you can’t get to church to pick one up, call the church office and one can be mailed to you.

WORSHIP SERVICE READERS

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| May 2 | Andrew Haas |
| May 9 | Diane Herber |
| May 16 | Richard Haas |
| May 23 | Mandy Graff |
| May 30 | Amanda Shorette |
| June 6 | Enos Bleiler |
| June 13 | Greg Haas |
| June 20 | Nathaniel Haas |
| June 27 | Steven Gehringer |

GREETERS, SECURITY, USHERS

We will not be using the scheduled greeters, security persons, or ushers until further notice. The Re-opening Task Force and Church Board members will continue to do these jobs until we can safely start using other volunteers.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thank you to our Adopt -A-Highway volunteers that picked up trash along 222 on Saturday, April 17th. The participants were Ray, Lizzy, & Andrew Schell; Cindy O'Neil; Greg, Patty, & Andrew Haas; Lisa Krause; Enos Bleiler; John Perella; Richard Haas; Sherie Mohn; George & Sandy Leiby; Harry Snyder; Kevin, LaRee, & Rachel Fegely. They picked up 29 bags of trash and debris.



FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The 2021 Flower and Bulletin sponsor book is available. Call the church office to sign up for your special dates in 2021. Please do not pay for your flowers or bulletins until that specific date. It will be easier to keep track of in case the church would need to close down again. Thank you for your understanding.



HELP RESTORE OUR “GRAND OLD LADY”

If you are able, prayerfully consider making a contribution to help pay for the major renovation of our historic Möller pipe organ. Purchased by our forefathers in 1928 (during the Great Depression) at a cost of \$6,000 (almost a million dollars today!), this “grand old lady” celebrated her 92nd birthday last May. She has served us faithfully, but is now having “breathing difficulties” caused by the aging of her wood, leather, and electronic parts. Help us give her a much-needed transplant of her worn-out parts so she can continue to help us lift up our voices in worship and praise for the next century. Envelopes are available in the rear of the church or use any other envelope (put organ fund on the front). Make any checks out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”. Put “organ fund” on the memo line. You can place the envelopes in the offering basket in the rear of the church or mail them to the church.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting to elect Board Members and to approve the annual operating budget will be held **May 16th** immediately following the worship service. Please consider attending this important meeting.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

After 30+ years serving as the designated contact for the prayer chain, Marion Angstadt is "passing along the baton". Mary Laub has now assumed that role and can be contacted at 610-248-2801. We thank Marion for her dedication and service in this position. She will, however, continue to be a member of the prayer chain.

INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill bags with food staples for needy children and their families. Thanks so much for your continued support of this important community outreach project. 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 | | |

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with red geraniums on **Pentecost May 23rd**. The price is \$4.00 per plant. A tear off sheet is below for your convenience. Place the sheet and payment in the offering plate, give to Karen Warmkessel, or mail it to the church office. Please put "attention Karen" on the outside of the envelope. Any checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny. Deadline for orders and payment is **May 9th**.



GERANIUM SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF GERANIUMS

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (*circle one*)

.....

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Thursday, May 20th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Sign up online at giveapint.org (Group ID: 3303). There is always a dire need for blood.



WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 13th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2021, including December 2020 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 6TH**. 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**.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is planning on starting back up in June. Our plan is to reopen slowly and to meet on the first and third Sunday of the months of June, July, and August. There will be some changes from what we are used to, so please bear with us as we make these modifications in order to keep everyone safe. The teachers and officers will be meeting in May to discuss our opening plans, class expectations, and to confirm our calendar for the rest of the year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School soon.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

March 30, 2021

1. The Congregational Meeting (delayed due to COVID closing) will be May 16, 2021 following the service.
2. The Board agreed to a 48 month negotiated electric rate from Public Power.
3. As soon as Sunday School starts up, Pastor will start the weekly Confirmation class.
4. Smuckers Energy is developing a request for proposal for solar and wind energy opportunities.
5. BOARD VACANCY – Prayerfully consider serving, we need you.

THE LONG-AWAITED COOKBOOK

The Women In Zion cookbook is available to purchase. Cost of the cookbook is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to “Women In Zion”. Contact Nancy Fulton at 610-682-6357 if you are interested in purchasing a cookbook.



WOMEN IN ZION

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

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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



SCRABBLE

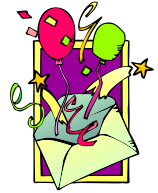
Scrabble has been cancelled until further notice.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group **WILL NOT MEET** until further notice.

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.



| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| May 1 | Arlan Berger |
| May 11 | Eleanor Nester |
| May 16 | Loretta Flicker |
| May 16 | Donald & Kay Mertz (51 wed) |
| May 24 | Lennia Mertz |
| May 24 | Harlow Bailey |
| May 28 | Carol Toth |
| June 1 | Diane Herber |
| June 7 | Mary Kutz |
| June 8 | Shirley Derr |
| June 15 | Eva Christman |
| June 15 | Guerin & Eleanor Nester (58 wed) |
| June 19 | Carol Bennecoff |
| June 21 | Dave & Tina Ehrig (52 wed) |
| June 24 | George & Sandra Leiby (54 wed) |
| June 25 | John & Betty Mertz (66 wed) |
| June 27 | David & Diane Herber (51 wed) |

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

Lucille J. Zettlemoyer, 88, of Jonestown, PA died March 26, 2021 in her residence. A private graveside service was held April 14, 2021 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

Jean K. Kemp, 87, of Clementon, NJ, died April 2, 2021 in Allentown, PA. A memorial service was April 17, 2021 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Inurnment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ... the family of Bruce Seidel. | ... the family of Lucille Zettlemoyer. |
| ... the family of Eugene Bergstresser, Jr. | ... the family of Jean Kemp. |
| ... the family of Dorothy Geisler. | ... the family of Brandon Hamm. |



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.

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| May 2 | Holy Communion |
| May 23 | Holy Communion |
| June 6 | Holy Communion |



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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