



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
2023**

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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 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.

PASTOR'S CORNER



³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:32-33)

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March was a busy month at Zion’s Union (and April is off to a busy start as well)! In March we continued observing Lent, engaged with our wider community through a variety of outreaches, and tried some engaging worship practices on Sunday mornings. Once April rolled around, we were ready for Holy Week, Easter, and Holy Humor Sunday (the first at Zion’s)!

When we think back to the season of Lent, we remember the work many engaged in to make it a meaningful season here at Zion’s Union. We give thanks and praise for those who participated in the WIZ Lenten Challenge (who knew having so many eggs could be so expensive!), and the faithful folks who joined us for worship – whether online or in person. And we rejoice in the work of many hands that made Easter morning possible – the individuals who were readers, the ones who prepared breakfast for the hungry, and the friends who came to worship that we hadn’t see in a while.

And whether it was their first time, or five hundredth time in worship – it is *always* the people of the congregation who make worship meaningful. Making everyone feel welcome and included in worship is imperative – and I’m grateful for the willingness of the congregation to feed everyone during a time of communion – whether it be with the symbols we use for communion of bread and wine, or goldfish and water (symbols of all being fishers of people and of our common baptism). Intentional acts of inclusion are imperative in the Church.

As your interim pastor I tried to provide more diverse voices from our readings - including more characters and their voices in the months of March and April that we may not typically consider. Taking a different perspective, even in biblical stories, can give us a totally different understanding of a situation. I want to thank everyone who has signed up to read, to be a worship leader, and engage in trying new things. Many voices sharing in the work of God!

I also want to thank everyone who donated on Palm Sunday. This week I am taking the donations to the local schools. Kutztown Area School District has already received their donations and the elementary nurse said, “We really needed this underwear!”. Who knew underwear could be such a holy blessing we could share?

I want to thank each of you for being willing to engage in these acts of compassion and care – small or big – as we continue the work of the Church in new ways and old.

Peace,
Pastor Jess

MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

May 7	5 th Sunday of Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 14	6 th Easter/Music Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 21	Ascension/Organ Re-Dedication	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 28	Pentecost Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 4	Trinity Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 11	2 nd Pentecost/Graduate Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 18	3 rd Pentecost/Father's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 25	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

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.

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.

SUGGESTION BAG

Got an EGGS-CEPTONAL Suggestion? Put it in the bag! A blue SUGGESTION BAG has been placed in the church narthex next to the Prayer Request box. If you have a suggestion for the church or the service, please let your voice be heard! All suggestions are welcome!

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of April 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$98,044

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$333,424.13

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$40,373.12

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$18,880

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$38,616.23

Total owed - \$57,496.23

MUSIC SUNDAY

Music Sunday will be held **May 14th**. Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument for Music Sunday should contact Theresa by **May 7th**.

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with red geraniums on **Pentecost, May 28th**. The price is \$4.00 per plant. Deadline for orders and payment is **May 14th**. A tear-off order form is below for your convenience. Put the money and form in an envelope marked Geraniums and put in the offering plate or give to Karen Warmkessel. Any checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny.



GERANIUM SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF GERANIUMS

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

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SNACK AND CHAT

The Senior Ministry has initiated a new outreach opportunity for Zion's. We will be having lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area that would make the community aware of our congregation. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. Our next outing is **May 10th at 12:15 P.M. at Jaks in Topton**. These social times will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Notify Ellie Merkel or Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

UPDATE FOR ORGAN DEDICATION

The organ dedication will be during the morning worship on Sunday, **May 21st** with a concert by Adam Dieffenbach, whose company restored the organ. Refreshments will be provided by the company that did the work on the organ. This event will be a reason to celebrate with information regarding the history of the organ as part of the morning worship service.

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

CHIME CHOIR

A Chime Choir has been a special part of the music program. As we recover from the pandemic and work to restore our church activities and programs, hopefully, we will be able to again celebrate with the inspiration offered by the Chime Choir. Anyone interested in assisting with playing the chimes should let the Worship and Music Committee or a Church Board member know.

RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life of Kutztown & Eastern Berks will be held **May 20th** at William DeLong Park in Bower's. Anyone interested in being a part of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny Relay Team can sign up online at <http://www.relayforlife.org>, then click on "Join A Relay", and click on Relay for Life for Kutztown and Eastern Berks or call 1-800-227-2345 and someone will walk you through the process. Relay for Life is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community.

CONFERENCE AND SYNOD MEETING

UCC Pennsylvania South East Conference will hold their Annual Meeting **June 2, 3** at West Chester University. Judy Koller and Nancy Fulton will attend as the delegates from Zion's. The Lutheran Annual Meeting will be **June 1, 2, 3** in the Poconos. Linda Ballew-Johnson is attending as a delegate; an additional delegate is needed. Contact Nancy Fulton at 484-357-8024 if interested.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 11th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2023, including December 2022 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 or email the church office with the above information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 4TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



NURSING MOTHERS

The health room on the same floor as the sanctuary has been designated as a room providing privacy for nursing mothers during the worship service. A cover for the window in the door indicating "do not disturb" is available to prevent others from entering.

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**.



ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports are available at the church. If you can't get to church to get one, call the church and one can be mailed to you.



POTLUCK DINNER AND BAND

On **June 10th** at 6:00 P.M., Adult Fellowship will sponsor a potluck dinner with a band. "70 Something" featuring our very own Kyle Koller will join with three other musicians to entertain us from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the bulletin board. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Children with an adult will be free.

WIZ CART LIBRARY

WIZ invites you to take a book or jigsaw puzzle from their WIZ Cart Library, which will be 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!

OPEN HOUSE

The church is planning an Open House on **October 29th**. We are asking all committees to write up a few words about what your group does. Individuals may also submit what they like about Zion's Church. Please give these items to Mandy Graff no later than **July 1st**.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **May 22nd and June 26th** 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 talk to Loretta Flicker or Karen Howard if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **May 7th**, at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that 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. Rejoicing Spirits meets the first Sunday of each month at St. Paul's UCC. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher (charflsh@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949).

KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Spring concert on Sunday, **May 21st** at 7:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. The pieces to be performed span the gamut of musical genres with selections of spiritual, folk, popular music, and Broadway hits represented. Included in our program is a moving arrangement of the spiritual *Witness*, a haunting madrigal *Weep, O Mine Eyes*, selections from the Broadway hit musical *Wicked*. And from the 2002 Grammy winning album, the medley from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is great fun for both choir and audience. Please join us as we welcome the return of spring and summer with an evening of fellowship, fun, and fine music!

6th BILINGUAL PA GERMAN AND ENGLISH BOOK PUBLISHED

Mary Laub published another bilingual book, *Uff der Bauerei: Die Nei Heemet* (On the Farm: The New Home) in the Uff der Bauerei series. In this story, Henny the cat and Spunky the dog are worried when they find out that the farm's owners, Frank and Sarah, plan to sell the farm. What kind of new home could Henny and Spunky have? Will they learn something? This new sequel provides another adventure for these special pets and you will find out how they got their names! There is a Reference Section which includes glossaries, how to count numbers, familiar Pennsylvania German sayings, names of family members, and names of colors. 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 or locally at Dietrich's Meats (they also sell the CDs), 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.

PLASTIC BAGS

Persons who are interested in cutting the plastic bags are welcome to volunteer by speaking with Tanya Schaedel, Carol Leiby, or Nancy Fulton. Bags can be cut at home. After the bags are cut and prepared, they will be taken to St. Peter's Church in Topton for weaving into mats for the homeless.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer and Arden both received Distinguished Honors for the third quarter at Brandywine Heights.
- Ashley DeLong made Distinguished Honor roll for the third quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.
- Danielle Berger, teacher on special assignment and department leader in the Kutztown School District, received the 2023 Annie Sullivan Award from the Berks County Intermediate Unit.
- Maisy Kellum was recognized by the 2023 Berks Agriculture Network for her essay on "Why Shop Local". Her essay was published in the Reading Eagle and can also be found on the Berks Ag. Website.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank everyone for celebrating my 93rd birthday. It was exciting and surprising. Thank you for the cards. They are all so beautiful.

Love you all,
Betty Dietrich

Thank you to everyone for your kind words, certificate, and cake on the celebration of my 24 years as Zion's secretary/administrative assistant. I appreciate everyone's continued support and well wishes.

Thank you again,
Karen Warmkessel

Thank you to all who have remembered us with prayers, cards, calls, visits, flowers, and meals. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Bill & Karen Howard

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

An effort is being made to provide additional information in the updated (blue) directory. A form is included in the bulletin and newsletter to gather the information needed to include email addresses and to determine how members prefer to be contacted. Cooperation to obtain this information in a timely manner will facilitate the process of providing an updated membership directory as soon as possible.

Please fill in the information below and place in the offering plate, mail to the church, or email the church office with the information. If children no longer live at home, please fill out another form with their information. All information is for church use ONLY. Thank you.

Name: _____ **Family members:** _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: Cell _____ Home _____

Email address: _____

Preferred method of communication (circle all that apply)

Email Phone Text

PSALM 23

POWERFUL WITNESS

You are invited to pray deliberately through the 23rd Psalm, perhaps taking one line per day. How is new meaning revealed to you as you make your way slowly through this familiar psalm?

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Consider what it would be like to not “want.” Pray for all those who are lacking.

God makes me lie down in green pastures,

Touch a piece of earth with your feet, hands, or entire body. How does being in literal touch with creation help you feel closer to the Divine?

and leads me beside still waters;

Remember times that God has brought you through rough waters. Give thanks.

God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths

Pray by walking. With each step, rejoice in God’s renewing presence.

for the sake of God’s name.

Pray using all the names of the Divine you can think of. Are there names that make you uncomfortable? Why? Which names are most meaningful to you?

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

Pray for all those who have no one to pray for them. Ask God to help your prayers become acts of mercy and justice.

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Remember times when you have felt afraid. What gave you courage?

your rod and your staff--they comfort me.

What are the tools you use in work or hobbies? Notice their shape and ask God to bless them and their use.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

As you eat, give special thanks for the land and the hands that produced your meals.

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Anoint yourself. Place a small amount of lotion or oil on your head or hand, giving thanks to God for the gift of your body.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

Give thanks for those who have shown you God’s goodness and mercy.

and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Imagine the house of God. Can you draw it, or describe it in writing?

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

There are many books available for reading located in the main Sunday School room (Maxatawny side). Please help yourself.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Kay Weidner, Ellie Merkel, Jamey Webb, Bill & Karen Howard, John Mertz, Dana Gehringer, Richard & Jane Warmkessel, Liz Jones, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Beatrice Bennecoff, Marian Stettler, Arlan Berger, Anna Bortz, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Leila, John Laird, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Rosemary LaFratte, Ukrainians, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Mary Jane Schlenker, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Kim Markham, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriquez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Lisa Szarko, family of Sylvia Heckler.

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.

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 (53 wed)
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 26	Marilyn Quinter
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 (60 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 21	Dave & Tina Ehrig (54 wed)
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (56 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (68 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (53 wed)



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Lisa Szarko.

... the family of Sylvia Heckler.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

Sylvia A. Heckler, 89, of Topton, PA, died April 5, 2023 in Topton. Service was April 14, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny, Kutztown by Rev. Jessica Hainley. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown, PA.

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.



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 7

Altar Holy Communion

June 4

Pew 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**.