

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

**November
2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
Pastor's Corner, Time Change	page 2
Special Sundays in November, November and December Worship	page 3
Helping Hand Fund	page 3
Acolytes, Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Shepherds	page 4
Service Videos, Ingathering, Dinner, Prayer Shawl	page 4
Adult Bible Study, Murder Mystery, Living With Loss	page 5
Veterans Recognition, Cemetery Clean-Up, Poinsettias	page 6
Bethany Brighter Future Fund, Thanksgiving Worship	page 7
Angel Tree Project, Young Adults, Directories	page 7
Plastic Bag Project, Women In Zion, Senior Fellowship, Snack & Chat	page 8
Youth Group, Apple Dumpling, From the Mailbox, Cards	page 9
Church Board, 200 th Anniversary, Did You Know, Register Tapes	page 10
Mystery Volunteer	page 11
Mystery Member, Rejoicing Spirits, Our Sympathies	page 12
Congregational Meeting, History Book, Prayer Requests	page 13
Card Showers, Homebound	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
Board, Staff, November Calendar, Worship Assistants	Goldenrod Insert
Synod News	Yellow Insert
<i>Seed of Zion</i>	Pink Insert

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



In this season of Thanksgiving, we, as a church, are filled with gratitude. We thank the Lord for all our abundance - abundance in harvest, missions, community, and faith. The symbols in our sanctuary are sacred and holy, and while we adapt our spaces for the seasons and experience different forms of worship, the symbols of our faith stand firm.

Our mission statement guides us in our worship and community engagement. It embodies an inclusive approach to our congregation and community, ensuring that everyone feels welcomed and accepted. This is reflected in our worship, which is focused on following in the Way of God as Jesus teaches. The Mustard Seeds praise band brings us a more contemporary way to share in music praising God while honoring more traditional hymns that carry their own historical and faithful stories. Flowers and pumpkins reflect life in God's creation. Our worship is a blended service for all to come to the foot of the cross and find life in Jesus Christ's resurrection.

The sanctuary that we are excited to begin planning a 200th anniversary to celebrate in 2026 has been a cornerstone of our community. We are eagerly looking forward to this milestone and the opportunity to celebrate our rich history and the blessings we've received.

Our sanctuary is a sacred space where we honor the calling God gave the saints in light—a place where we live out the faith in Christ that guides us and an abundance of donations from our missions are blessed before distribution. It is also a sacred space where we humbly seek refuge and strength before our God. When we don't realize the abundance in our lives and pain or scarcity guides our days, may we lean on the everlasting love of God, sharing thanks with a grateful heart in the light of Christ, who gives us life. Caring for one another and our communal space, may we embrace the mission God has called us, energized by the Spirit, humbled by Christ's grace, and working for God's glory. Our Faith is in Bloom. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully,
Pastor Melissa

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends **November 3rd**. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER:

- **November 3** – Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- **November 3** – Youth Choir practice at 8:45 A.M.
- **November 3** – Over 70 Senior Dinner & 50+ Confirmation Reunion.
- **November 10** – Youth Choir practice at 8:45 A.M.
- **November 10** – Cemetery Board meeting at 9:00 A.M.
- **November 10** – Women In Zion Thankoffering Service
- **November 17** – Youth Choir practice at 8:45 A.M.
- **November 17** – TempleTalk and Refreshments by Women In Zion.
- **November 24** – Youth Choir practice at 8:45 A.M.
- **November 24** – Christ the King Sunday.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 3	24 th Pent./All Saints/70+/50+HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 10	25 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 17	26 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 24	Christ the King Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 27	Thanksgiving Eve Service		7:00 P.M.
December 1	1 st Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent/Baptism	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 15	3 rd Advent/SS Pageant	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 24	Christmas Eve Service		6:00 P.M.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		9:00 P.M.
December 29	1 st Sunday after Christmas	SS 9:00	church 10:15

HELPING HAND FUND

On **November 3rd**, 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 of Zion's 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.



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.

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.

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		

SENIOR DINNER & CONFIRMATION REUNION

The Senior Dinner is **November 3rd** following the worship service. Notify Lori Arndt (610-334-6427) if you would like to help.

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.

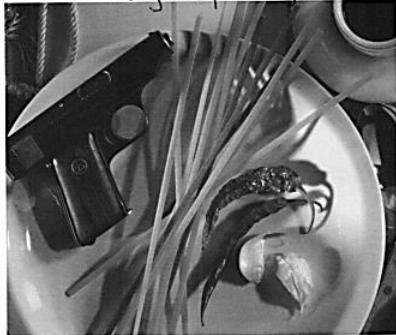
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible study has moved to the first Monday of the month. **November 4th from 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**, we will explore chapters 6 & 7 of the Old Testament book 2 Samuel. This is a wonderful opportunity for personal growth, and as you are comfortable, all are encouraged to share and ask questions as we learn and grow together in God's word!

All Ages
No Cost (Donation basket)
Please Join Us
for
Pot Luck/
Mystery Pasta, Passion & Pistols
Little Italy, New York City, 2009
Sign up begins Oct. 6

You are invited to La Speranza Restaurant to honor our dearly departed Giuseppe (Pepi) Roni and to enjoy a fine Italian dinner with his family and friends.

Date Nov. 9, 2024
Time Dinner - 5:30 pm
mystery to follow
RSVP by Nov. 3
Host Adult Fellowship
Address SS Gathering Area
You are to take the part of murder solver
A FUN NIGHT



**MURDER
MYSTERY**

LIVING WITH LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Ludwick Funeral Homes and Cremation Care, Inc., is hosting a Living with Loss Grief Support Group. This Six-Week session will meet on Monday evenings beginning **November 4th from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.** at their Kutztown location, 333 Greenwich Street, Kutztown and is facilitated by Mary Ann Hamm, a Certified Grief Counselor. There is no cost to attend and is open to anyone in the community that has experienced a loss, not just to the families we have been honored to serve and care for. Call 610-683-6080 to register.

VETERANS RECOGNITION

During the WIZ Thankoffering Service on **November 10th**, veterans will be recognized and honored. Pictures of members who are currently serving or have previously served in the Armed Forces will be displayed in the Gathering Area. Photos can be brought to church and put in the WIZ mailbox or sent to Linda Ballew-Johnson at lbj11@ptd.net. The name of the person as well as the branch of the service in which they served should be written on the back of the photo. Photos with members dressed in their uniforms would be appreciated, if available. Photos of the photos may be taken to submit. Photos will be returned after the service. Deceased members should also be included, if photos are available.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP



ALL flower/wreath arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3rd Saturday of November.

The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **November 16th** (weather permitting).



POINSETTIA DISPLAY

We will be decorating our church with poinsettias for Christmas. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. Please put the tear-off sheet and your check or cash for the poinsettias in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and place it in the offering plate or give to Karen Warmkessel. You may also mail the sign-up sheet and payment to the church. Any checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny. Deadline for orders is **November 24th**.



POINSETTIA SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: RED..... WHITE

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

.....

BETHANY'S BRIGHTER FUTURE FUND

On **November 24th** and **December 1st** baskets will be in the back of the church and the Gathering Area of the church for any monetary donations for the Bethany Children's Home Brighter Future Fund to purchase items for the residents for Christmas.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

A Thanksgiving Service will be held **Wednesday evening, November 27th at 7:00 P.M.** The service will prepare our hearts to give thanks to Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow.



ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Sunday School will once again have their Angel Tree Project. Gifts can be put in a gift bag but not wrapped. Date to be determined. **Watch for more information in the bulletin.**



YOUNG ADULTS

Have you graduated high school? Are you in your mid-twenties and miss connecting with your Zion's Union Friends? We are collecting data to begin a Zoom Book Study based on Biblical concepts over several weeks. The studies in the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren invite us to engage in the sacred practices in everyday life. Explore how brushing your teeth, losing your keys, and checking email can be a spiritual practice. Please email Pastor Melissa your contact information!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES

Copies of the updated Membership Directory are available in the Gathering Area. Pick one up for yourself, family, or others that may not come to worship services. They may also be picked up at the church during the week, just call to make sure someone is at the church at the time you would like to pick it up.

PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet **November 6th, November 20th, December 4th, and December 18th** from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to weave plastic bags into mats. 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, we will show you after a church service how quick the bags can be prepared.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| November 10 | Thankoffering Service. |
| November 11 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Bible Study, pack Operation Christmas Child boxes. |
| December 7 | Pack cookies at 9:00 A.M. |
| December 8 | Distribute ordered cookies. |
| December 9 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Cookie exchange, Christmas games, ornament exchange. |



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

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **November 25th and December 23rd** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games and cards provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are welcome.



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 **November 13th at Airport Dinner and December 11th at Jaks.** Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to attend.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Watch for information about the Advent Social.

APPLE DUMPLING FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone that ordered apple dumplings, donated items, set up a stand, shared the event with friends and family, and of course that attended the Apple Dumpling Festival. The day was a huge success and we will do it again next year. Save the date, October 11, 2025!

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for your prayers and I appreciate what you do for me.

Greatly appreciated,
Marilyn Quinter

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$200.00 to Friend, Inc. It will go a long way towards helping individuals and families throughout northeastern Berks County. You are helping alleviate hunger, mitigate financial crisis, and providing other life sustaining support including referrals to resident agencies such as Safe Berks, Family Guidance Center, and Maternal and Family Health Services. None of this is possible without the kindness of people like you.

With Gratitude and Deep Respect,
Jim Reece, Executive Director

CARD MINISTRY

Thinking of you, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, and Blank cards to add your own message are in the Gathering Area waiting for you to send to someone to let them know they are on your mind. Take advantage of this ministry and make someone's day a little brighter. Cost is \$1 plus a free stamp. Check out the cards in the Gathering Area.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2024

- Confirmation class - we have two students that will be confirmed in the spring.
- Walls from choir stalls are available if anyone is interested in them.
- The church directory is updated and ready for distribution.
- Finance committee will meet early October to review the budget for 2025.
- Progress has been made on the heating conversion.
- It has been recommended to purchase a large screen TV and cart to use for worship in lieu of the white screen. This can also be transported throughout the church as needed.
- Pastor Melissa is looking for two delegates to join her on November 9th for the Conference Association meeting.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION'S

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer and Arden Scaffidi performed with the Brandywine Heights HS Marching Band at the Topton, Alburtis, and Emmaus Parades. Ted and Jen were seen walking with the Band as chaperones at all 3 parades.

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's 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 may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the church.

MYSTERY VOLUNTEER

Our Mystery Volunteer for October was Lori Arndt.

1. Born – I was born in Allentown Hospital in 1950.
2. Early Years – I have 3 older brothers and a younger sister. I loved school and church. I played sports with all the kids in the neighborhood. Baseball, kick-the-can and bike riding from dawn to dusk.
3. Education – I graduated from Upper Perk and attended Muhlenberg College. Both my grandfather and my oldest brother graduated from Muhlenberg.
4. Interesting.... – Due to my parents early deaths, I lived with my brother and his family through high school. I was in all sorts of sports and activities including cheerleading, basketball, photography, choir, anything to keep busy. I even directed the junior choir at church.
5. Married – I’ve been married twice. I was 18 the first time and it lasted 18 years. This time I was 43. It has survived for more than 30 years. HAHA!
6. Wedding memories – After my first wedding, I was surprised to know we were moving to Maine and likely would not ever live in the area. We lived in Maine, New Hampshire, the Philippines and North Dakota before finally leaving the Air Force and returning “home” with two toddlers in tow. My second husband imported ingredients for manufacturing and was studying at Lehigh for his PhD when we started dating. After some time, he took up a new vocation – sports photography.
7. Employment – I worked for ALPO Petfoods working my way up into marketing. When Nestle bought the company, I was transitioned to sales training specializing in college hires to help fast track them into the organization. Following that, I worked for Tyco Healthcare in King of Prussia. I am now retired (and just as busy as before)
8. Family – I have 2 sons, 4 step-sons, 1 step daughter, 3 daughters-in law, 9 grandchildren, 4 grand – in laws, and 8 great grands. My 3 older brothers and their wives are all in their 80’s and still living.
9. Pets – Until a few years ago, I always had cats. But when my last cat died (the best cat ever), we decided to be pet less for now.
10. Hobbies – Love to play golf, read, watch the Phillies and Eagles, and do all kinds of puzzles.
11. Church – I’m in the Women’s Group, Good News Committee, Choir, former Board member and you’ll usually find me volunteering here and there.

“When you are down to nothing, God is up to something!”

MYSTERY MEMBER(S)

Our Mystery Member for October was Kim Miller.

I was born in 1971 here in Berks County. I was baptized and confirmed at Zion's.

I grew up in Hamburg, lived in Wernersville, Leesport, and now own my grandfather's home in Shoemakersville.

I have an Elementary Education degree.

I am single.

After working for several years in teaching, outdoor education, and the camping industry, I have made a career out of working for the State. I began working there as a caseworker in Reading. Currently I work on Medicaid policies.

My family have been longtime members of the congregation. They include grandparents Richard and Marie Bennecoff, my mother Barbara Bennecoff Thomas, and my uncle Dale Bennecoff.

I currently have several cats and a turtle named George.

I am on the board and help at Historic Dreibelbis Farm, and am a board member of Berks County Association for Graveyard Preservation. I enjoy reading, sewing, and Bell Choir ☺.

I am on the church's Bell Choir and the Cemetery Board.

Interesting fact – my great-great grandfather, Milton Stump, designed the church steeple and built the church in 1890.

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. All are welcome at this no-shush worship service that enriches the lives of all people, especially the differently-abled, their caregivers, families, and friends. **Our next service is November 3rd.** The theme is *Living a Thankful Life*. The presiding pastor is Rev. Dennis Ritter. Parking is available in the lot behind the church. For more information contact Charlene Fisher at 610-223-9822 or Erin Webb at 610-894-9949.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Laila Loch.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect Board Members and to approve the annual operating budget will be held **December 8th** immediately following the worship service. Please consider attending this important meeting.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book started by Rev. Willis Heckler and finished by Rev. Jeffrey Butz 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:

Donald Mertz, David Herber, Cooper Kellum, Tracey Lutz, Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Irene Isamoyer, Jamey Webb, Liz Jones, Julia Mohn, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Randy Warmkessel, Donna VanDeCar, David Grim, Brooke, John Laird, Bev, Eric, Jenni Juntunen, James Ely, Jamie Albanese, Alexis, Deb P., Beth S., Drew Stump, Linda Carter, Sparky Grace, Jim, Chris Pinkerton, Laurel Rudy, Grayson Rudy, Livvy Rudy, Sherry S., Joseph Karaisz Sr., Jeremy Crum, Chad, Chris, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Leila, Bruce Fritzingler, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Ely, Paige Sechler, 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 Laila Loch.

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, notify the church office. 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.



November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (59 wed)
November 10	Richard Weigle
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 16	Barry & Ann Miller (56 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim
December 3	John Laird
December 14	Judy Koller
December 16	Diana Gehman
December 16	Victor Berger
December 17	Elaine Silliman
December 17	Jane Warmkessel
December 18	Michael & Evelyn Dietz (59 wed)
December 26	Michael Dietz



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.

November 3	Pew Holy Communion
December 1	Altar Holy Communion
December 24 (6 PM)	Holy Communion
December 24 (9 PM)	Holy Communion



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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