



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

**October
2019**

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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 one of the flower/bulletin envelopes found in the Gathering Area 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 the 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 Marion Angstadt at 610-683-3918.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ After church refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Some of our older members may remember that before the AIDS crisis one of the most terrifying diseases that people lived in fear of was polio. It was the cruelest of diseases because it overwhelmingly targeted children, and it would break out primarily in the warm summer months, killing or permanently crippling its victims within days. When Dr. Jonas Salk announced that a vaccine had been developed, the much hoped for cure went from experimental laboratory to the doctor's office in record time.

But think about the disastrous consequences if the polio epidemic had happened today. Now, due to cautious testing, research on possible side effects, and insurance entanglements, it would take years to approve and circulate a vaccine, especially with so many people today blaming vaccines for causing problems such as autism. But in 1953, panic over the approach of yet another hot, polio-ridden summer spurred public opinion ahead of scientific caution. Thousands of school-age children were immediately lined up to participate in test runs of the vaccine. The fear and impatience of parents whose children had fallen victim to the disease caused politicians and scientists to rally together to produce an unstoppable force. The Salk vaccine quickly went into production and did indeed become the much hoped for cure for polio.

It seems that whenever enough people rally together and raise their voices as one, things quickly get accomplished. Any politician, any legislature, will give in to the will of the public when it becomes clear that the people have become of one mind. At times like this public sentiment reaches what scientists call a "critical mass," a term originally used by physicists to describe the conditions necessary for an atomic chain reaction to occur once a critical number of atoms begin splitting. Once critical mass is achieved, it is unstoppable and the ensuing nuclear chain reaction results in the release of tremendous amounts of energy.

Sociologists tell us that the principal of critical mass applies to people as well as atoms. There always seems to be some magic number that must be reached for things to get accomplished. In congress, a two-thirds majority is necessary for legislation to get passed. But for a nuclear chain reaction to begin, the critical mass necessary is exceedingly small. The few atoms that begin splitting are called the "critical mass" because they are the critical few that cause a tremendous number of other atoms to do likewise. And what happens with atoms can happen with people. A critical few can cause widespread changes in society. Jesus Christ and his small group of disciples were a critical mass that caused the most widespread societal changes the world has ever seen.

It could be said that Jesus was the first to talk about the principal of critical mass when he said, “Truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19-20). By Christ’s presence through the power of the Holy Spirit tremendous energies can be released for the good of the world. If you doubt this, I would remind you that it was a chain reaction of events started by a handful of people gathered in the name of Jesus that brought about the collapse of the Soviet Union. It all started when a pastor in East Germany and a few of his parishioners felt called by Christ to stage a protest at the Berlin Wall. That brave, death-defying act soon became an inspiration to many others, and night after night the number of protestors grew until they became a critical mass which even the East German army could not contain. When the critical mass had been attained, the chain reaction was unstoppable and soon spread to other communist nations and eventually the Soviet Union collapsed, something no one ever thought could happen. But happen it did, and it was all started by a few gathered in Jesus’ name.

Closer to home, at our worship celebration on Sunday, September 8th, I learned much more about how, at the beginning of the 21st century, a critical mass was achieved here at Zion’s which produced a chain reaction of energy, hard work, and incredible financial stewardship resulting in the doubling of the size of our church building, and most recently the paying off of our mortgage in a remarkably short period of time. The challenge before us now is to keep that powerful chain reaction going. Critical mass has been achieved and this beautifully functional modern building stands before us, presenting all kinds of possibilities for the future mission and ministries of this congregation. God surely blessed us with this beautiful building for a reason: to continue to further the gospel of Jesus Christ here in our community and throughout the world. So, it is now incumbent upon us to use this building for all it’s worth! To that end, our Strategic Planning Task Force is once again gearing up to envision and solidify our goals, plans, and dreams for future ministries here at Zion’s. As our Task Force chairperson, Ben Haas, has announced in recent weeks, we are seeking a few forward-thinking people to help in this exciting endeavor. If you feel a spiritual tug to take part in this exciting time for our church, see either Ben or our congregation president, Steve O’Neil.

Our church has been inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit to accomplish many amazing things over the past two centuries. What opportunities are being presented to us now at the beginning of the 21st century? Together in mission with all of you, I look forward to finding out what lies ahead for Zion’s Union Church!

Pastor Jeff

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WORSHIP

October 6	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 13	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 20	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 27	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 3	Saints/Over 70/50 th Confirmation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 10	Thankoffering	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 17	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 24	Christ The King	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 28	Thanksgiving Day		9:00 A.M.

CHURCH DOORS

As part of our on-going commitment to providing a safe environment to joyfully worship the Lord, we will be keeping the front doors locked on Sunday mornings from 9:15 A.M. on. Greeters will be on duty to open the doors and welcome you to your morning worship. This recommendation came out of the intruder training by the Kutztown Police Department. Thank you, everyone, for your cooperation and understanding.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Team will make their visits after the **October 6th** communion Service. If you know of anyone who is temporarily unable to come to the service for communion and would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic ministers in order to receive the Sacrament, please notify Grace Haas at 610-683-3910.



NEW SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

It's SOCKtober! Socks are a much needed item for the homeless and shelters. We will be collecting new socks for men, women, children, and infants to be distributed to local organizations. Please place donations in the box located in the Gathering Area.



Collection will run from **October 6th until October 27th**. Any questions contact Melissa Leiby at melkleiby@yahoo.com.

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 in the Kutztown, Brandywine, and Fleetwood School Districts. 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	canned pasta
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
fruit cups	granola bars	fruit snacks

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Sunday, **October 6th**, we will be receiving the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. Your gift to the Neighbors In Need offering will support United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds is used by the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives. Please think about how your own generosity can help reflect the Neighbors In Need theme, "Love of Children" and consider making a gift to the Neighbors in Need offering on October 6th.



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will serve the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **October 10th**. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **November 5th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs starting in October. Stop by the church or call the church office to sign up.



OVER 70 DINNER



If you are a Zion's member over 70 prepare yourself for the annual Over 70 Day celebration when we worship and commune together at the church. Invitations will be on the way shortly, with all the details. We try hard to be aware of our over 70 members, but if we have missed you, or you fear being overlooked because you just turned 70, call it to our attention. We want to honor you, too. So mark your calendar for Sunday, **November 3rd** and watch for your invitation in the mail.

50th Reunion of 1969 Confirmation Classes

*Presentations
Service and Dinner*

Sunday, November 3, 2019

(in conjunction with the over 70 day)
Service 10:15 A.M. Dinner at noon

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

August 27, 2019

1. The Board is looking for volunteers to serve for about 3 months on the committees for the Strategic Plan.
 - a. Energy Generation
 - b. Sunday School Growth
 - c. More building use (Community Outreach)
2. We need YOU! Think about serving on the Board. We have four openings after December.
3. The outside work on the building is complete.
4. Note the new sign along Rt. 222. We are hoping to draw a kidney donor for Steve O'Neil.
5. Harvest Home donations are going to Friend, Inc.

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).



WOMEN IN ZION

*A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.
Meetings are open to all women of the congregation.*

October 14	12 noon. Meeting and Pollyanna.
November 10	Thankoffering Service
November 11	Meeting and program "A Patriotic Life", Election of Officers.



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

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.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. See Loretta Flicker for more information.

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. See Ellie Merkel if interested.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Youth Group meetings are open from age 10.
Schedules are on the upstairs bulletin board.*

Activity Schedule:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| October 6 | Bean Bag Tournament, 1:30-3:00 P.M. (All welcome). |
| October 18 | Lantern Tour @ Crystal Cave (time and cost to be announced). |
| October 25-27 | Camp, ages 12 and up. |
| November 3 | Advent Social practice, 1:30-3:00 P.M. |
| November 17 | Advent Social practice, 1:30-3:00 P.M. |

Offering Schedule:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 6 | Julia Perella and Andrew Haas |
| October 13 | Archer Scaffidi and Owen Shorette |
| October 20 | Andrew Schell and Paige Carvalho |
| October 27 | Jonah Shorette and Be Heffner |
| November 3 | Steven Gehringer and Kaylen Leiby |
| November 10 | Mitchell Grim and Jewel Karaisz |
| November 17 | Adam Noll and Madison Held |
| November 24 | Zachary Haas and Sydney Sheetz |



YOUTH GROUP CAMP AGES 12 AND UP – Youth Group camp will take place **October 25th – 27th**. It's always a great time to catch up with your church friends and enjoy games, fun, and early morning prayer (☺). (And don't forget the choc-chip pancakes, yum...yum.) Registration forms are now available.

CAMP COST – The camp cost is about \$1,200 to \$1,300. Anyone who would like to help fund camp should see an advisor.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **October 28th and November 25th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are welcome.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Perma Mertz.

MYSTERY MEMBER

Our mystery member last month was Nikki Phillips. She is taking a very active part in the life of the congregation. Unfortunately, new working hours have somewhat limited her church attendance.

This month you will be introduced to a very valuable member of the congregation. She was born at home in Mertztown and continued to live in the same house where she was born until she married.

Among her memories from her teens is an embarrassing event, which occurred at the big water hole at Shell's Miniature Golf while on a Youth Group outing. She fell in, actually several times, since she slipped while trying to get out. She also recalls working at the Kutztown Folk Festival starting at age 14. And then there happy times at Dorney Park with her mom, sister, aunt, and cousins on hot dog and report card days.

She is a graduate of Brandywine Heights Area High School.

She is married. Movies were and still are one of their favorite things to do. Her husband had never been to a Halloween Parade before they dated. And one time she fell asleep at his apartment while watching a movie early in the relationship.

They were married at Zion's Maxatawny in 1984. The groom was in charge of bringing all the tuxedos to the church. However, he forgot a pair of pants so he and the ring bearer went to get them and they had not returned by ceremony time so there as a slight delay. They honeymooned in Disney World. She and her husband have a daughter.

After high School she worked at KATO's Blouse Factory, Kutztown, mostly in the cutting department, until they closed. She also worked part time in the Processing Department of Prudential AARP. In addition, she was also a part time employee at a Mother's Morning Out Program at Bethany Church.

A cat owns the family.

Among her hobbies are volunteering for community events at the park and flower park. Word puzzles are fun for her, too. She has led a summer water aerobics class for 13 years. Other activities include baking and walking.

Her church activities are numerous and include Church Board, Sunday School, WIZ, Adult Fellowship, and others. She also helps prepare the Communion Table. To name them all would make your identification too easy.

Do you know who this busy woman is?

“Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.”

—Mother Teresa

REMINDER ABOUT OUR CARD MINISTRY

Cards are available in the Gathering Area for all occasions – thinking of you, birthday, etc. If you need help addressing, please see Grace Haas. Cards are \$1.00 with postage stamp included. **Why not make someone's day special?**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Karen Howard (former director of the library) was pictured in the Northern Berks Patriot Item with the library staff celebrating the Kutztown Community Library's 70th anniversary.
- Victor Berger is Chairman of the Greenwich Township Supervisors.
- Mary Laub recently spoke to Dr. Schlegel's linguistic anthropology class at KU about her picture books to help people learn Pennsylvania German.

CALLING ALL GEEKS!

The Good News Committee needs help developing calendars that download to smartphones and tablets. If you are able and willing to take on a challenge like this, contact Linda Ballew-Johnson either at church or by phone 484-553-1981.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **October 1st and November 5th** from 9:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Road, East Greenville. There is no registration, but a minimum donation of \$5.00 is requested. Bring a Bible, journal, pen, and bag lunch. For more information contact Sue at sawmsw@dejazzd.com.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Zion's Union Church Maxatawny,

Bethany Children's Home provides a safe haven for youth to heal and learn new skills for their journey in coping with the past and preparing for the future. Thank you for your in-kind contribution of Helping Hands Wishlist Items.

In-kind contributions are a valuable asset to our organization as they enable us to provide additional opportunities and services for the youth



in our care.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Shultz Spano
Director of Development

Dear Zion's Union church Maxatawny,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$301.13 to be used in support of Bethany Children's Home's Helping Hand Fund. The Home has expanded its services to provide temporary shelter to unaccompanied children who have crossed the borders to enter the United States. It is our mission to reunite the children with their family members who already reside in the United States. Bethany previously united 188 children with their families about five years ago under a one-year grant. The new grant is a three-year grant. Thank you for helping our youth take the right steps to a *Brighter Future*.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Shultz Spano
Director of Development

Dear Jeff,

I had a wonderful time September 8th with you and the members of Zion Maxatawny as we celebrated the early "shredding" of the mortgage on the building addition. The spirit of the service was uplifting, and the spirit of the congregation was exciting and hopeful. I was blessed to be present.

Thank you for all you did to make my participation so easy. It is clear to me that your relationship to the congregation is positive and productive.

Please convey my gratitude to the members of Zion for the extraordinary expressions of hospitality extended to me. Their warmth and welcome made me feel relaxed and cared for. I will always be grateful.

Thanks also for including me on the meal following worship. It was delicious!

Sincerely,
Bishop Sam Zeiser

Attention all Veterans and the families of Veterans now serving in Heaven

We need your help!

The Sunday School will be doing a Veterans Day project.

Please complete the form below.

Feel free to fill in as much or as little information as you would like.

Veteran's Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Years Served: _____

Location of Service: _____

Please return this form to Mandy Graff, the Veteran's Day Project box, or the office.

Thank You!

*by
Oct 20th*

KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

Usually the third Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. a Community Meal is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. There is no cost. All are invited. Parking is in the rear of the church on Sacony Alley.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **October 8th** at 7:00 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.

JOURNEYS THROUGH GRIEF

A Lutheran Congregational Services six-week grief support group will be held at United Church of Christ, Emmaus, Thursday evenings **October 17th through November 21st** from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Contact Sylvia Havlish at 610-395-5045 to register.

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a 1% rebate to Zion's based on receipts submitted during the year. **To receive credit from Redner's, you must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented before checking out for the rebate to be valid ("Save A Tape" notation on the receipt).** Radcliffe's does not require a card to enroll in the program. Receipts for Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the church.

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. If you want to donate furniture to Opportunity House, call 610-374-4696, ext. 221 to schedule a pick up date.

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 the church office.



October 1	Mary Jane Williams
October 11	Willard Brensinger, Jr.
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (52 wed)
October 16	Jeanette Fegely
October 21	Ernest & Carloyn Wiltout (63 wed)
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (54 wed)
October 25	Edward VanDeCar
October 26	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (54 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
October 31	Eleanor Merkel
November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 4	Ernest Wiltout
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (54 wed)
November 10	Althea Moyer
November 10	Richard Weigle
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 15	Catherine Freeby
November 16	Barry & Ann Miller (51 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Perma Mertz*, 96, died September 5, 2019. Private graveside burial in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.



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.

October 6	Pew Holy Communion
November 3	Pew Holy Communion



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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