



# THE CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE  
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION  
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

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**329 Church Road  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania  
610-683-7485**

*a Federated Church of*  
**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
*and*  
**The United Church of Christ**

**September  
2018**

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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](http://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 lower level of the church.

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE



What does it take to create a lasting friendship? The answers will vary depending on whom you ask. Two guys who have been buddies since high school might tell you that lasting friendship requires a unique shared experience that binds you together for a lifetime. Ask three girlfriends who share shopping and coffee together every Saturday and they might say it's all about having common interests over which you connect. A group of 7-year-old boys might tell you that it helps to have a mutual admiration for all things Spiderman.

But what if you are a person who doesn't have anyone whom you could call a really close friend? Well, one solution is to rent a friend! A new on-line service, RentAFriend.com, will hook you up with a friend for almost any situation for 10 bucks an hour. Are you in need of a buddy to hang out with at the game, or a local resident to show you around a new city? Are you dying to see a new movie but don't want to sit by yourself? According to their website, RentAFriend is the answer. And the founder claims business is booming. I think the fact that RentAFriend is doing great business speaks volumes about the world we live in and about human beings in general. We are people who crave companionship. Just think about the popularity of Facebook, which currently has over 800 million active users and the average user has roughly 130 friends.

But the truth is that Facebook friendships and rented friendships are kind of like "Friendship Lite"—compared to the real thing they have just some of the taste and little of the substance. If you asked the average person, "How many friends do you *really* have?" they aren't going to put up 130 fingers. No, the truth is that if they have any deep friendships they can probably count them on one hand. Meaningful connections—the kind that take more than clicking "Yes" to a friend request on Facebook or paying 10 bucks an hour—are harder to come by.

In the waning hours of his life on earth Jesus spoke to his closest friends about the kind of connection he longs to see between his disciples. "This is my commandment," he said, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:12-14). Jesus' great desire is that his church be a place of true, loving *friendship*. Jesus' great hope is that his church becomes one place in the world where one's craving for love and friendship can be satisfied. Hopefully every one of you is experiencing that on some level here at Zion's Church. But no matter how deeply involved or loosely affiliated you are to your church, being part of God's family is meant to be more than just a weekly event you attend for an hour or two. Being part of a church family is meant to be something lived out throughout the week in *deep connection and close community*.

So, how's that going for you? To put it bluntly, do you have any close friends here at Zion's Church? Not just faces you know and names you can recite,

but people whose lives you share, whose faith encourages you and whose presence comforts you? Jesus offers a beautiful description of what we should be aiming for as a community of faith, and you're really missing out if you're only in and out for a fast hour on Sunday mornings. You are missing out on two key ingredients to a fulfilling life: *sharing and sacrifice*.

Let's start with *sharing*. Jesus goes on to say, "I do not call you servants any longer . . . but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father" (John 15:15). What's amazing about this statement is that the reason Jesus refers to his followers as his *friends* is because of what he's shared with us—some intimate information about God. In revealing the gospel to us, and doing so free of cost with no strings attached, Jesus has revealed to us the very heart of God. This is the kind of thing you would only do with family and friends whom you deeply love. In the same way, in living as God's people, we are called by our Lord to connect deeply with others, and we can't do that without pursuing deep relationships of significant *sharing*.

The second key ingredient to a fulfilling, happy life is *sacrifice*. Jesus could not be clearer about this. In a community of true friendship and love—the kind Jesus wants us to be—friends will readily give their lives for one another. Sure, there are not going to be many opportunities to literally take a bullet for your friends, but sacrifice happens in all kinds of ways. It's an attitude that says, "I love you more than I love myself." A true friend is someone who keeps *your* preferences in mind, who passes on what they want in order to offer what you need. Are we at Zion's the kind of community Jesus wants? Are we sharing? Are we sacrificing? Do we love one another as Christ calls us to love?

If we're honest, the answer must be "no." Truth is, this is something we'll never be perfect at and can always improve at. Frankly, you may not have a great friend in this place, and you may not be a great friend in this place, but what you first need to know is that Christ is *always* your friend in this place. He has shared with you the very heart of God, making known his heart of love and grace that freely flows from his sacrifice for you on the cross. In Jesus you have a friend who has taken a beating for you, was bruised, bloodied, and murdered for you. What a friend you have in Jesus! You've been forgiven every sin both great and small. Rest on that. Dwell on that. And in light of that, seek to be the kind of friend that's radically shaped by that.

Skeptical? Well, there's only one way to find out. Take up Jesus' invitation. Share your life even more deeply with your friends here at Zion's Church. Sacrifice yourself for someone around you. Try it and see. If it doesn't work out, well there's always Facebook and RentAFriend. But the love and friendship of Jesus and your church family is so much better!

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP

September 2	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 9	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 16	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 23	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 30	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 7	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 14	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 21	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 28	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## 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 |

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to all who made “Splash Canyon” a wonderful VBS experience: teachers, leaders, helpers, snack moms and dads, and especially, the children and their parents for bringing them. The children are at the heart of what is done here at Zion’s Union Sunday School - Maxatawny. Your help and participation were very much appreciated.



## CHOIR NEWS

Sr. Choir will resume practice in **September 6<sup>th</sup>**. The Choir picnic will be **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at Theresa’s house beginning at 3:00 P.M. The Children’s Choir will resume at date to be determined.

# EXPERIENCE THE SPIRITUAL MYSTERIES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

On Sunday, **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, during the Sunday School hour, Pastor Jeff will present a slideshow of his recent trip to France to study the history of the Knights Templar (the main fighting order in the Crusades who came from France), the Cathars (a group of “heretical” Christians wiped out by order of the Pope in the Albigensian Crusade), and the legends of Mary Magdalene, whom the Catholic Church believes fled to France after the crucifixion and converted the local people to Christianity. This will take place in the Fellowship Room right after the Sunday School opening and is for older youth (seventh grade and up) as well as adults.

## HARVEST HOME COLLECTIONS

On Sunday, **September 30<sup>th</sup>** during worship we will observe our annual Harvest Home celebration. It is a time that we offer thanks to God for providing us with “daily bread” during a time that we are surrounded by the plantings of spring being harvested. We show our thankfulness for that not only by gathering for worship on that day, but also by giving actual offerings of non-perishable food items and supplies for infants that we then donate to a local food pantry. Those donations extend our appreciation to God beyond that one morning, as we give help in the lives of those of our local communities who might not be quite as blessed by those basic things as we are. Here’s the collection schedule for the Sundays in September.



- Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** – cans/bottles of vegetables, fruits, soups, meats
- Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** – boxed items of cereals, pastas, rice products
- Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** – diapers, boxed/bottled baby foods and cereal, as well as other supplies for infants
- Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** – any other non-perishable food items
- Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** – any other non-perishable food items

We are also collecting Weis gift cards throughout the month that will be used to purchase turkeys for holidays for needy families.

ALSO – please consider attaching a dollar bill to each item you donate. The monies collected can multiply the offerings we give many times over. Food banks have connections to places to purchase food in “bulk” and so our individual dollars buy many more supplies. Containers for your Harvest Home offerings are located in the Gathering Area.

# 2018-2019 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

9:15 – 10:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary

This meeting is for young people who are in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and their parent(s)/guardian(s). It is asked that at least one parent/guardian be in attendance at this meeting with those young people who plan to be involved in this next confirmation session.



At the meeting we will have the chance to review the confirmation program and requirements for the coming session from September 2018 thru May 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> year students) or September 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> year students).

Letters have gone out to the parents of young people who are in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and active in our Sunday School program. If you did not receive one of these letters, please consider this as your announcement and plan on attending the meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. If, for some reason you cannot be in attendance at this meeting, please notify the church office (610-683-7485) so that Pastor can follow up with you and get you connected in this important education opportunity in the life of all of our congregation's young people.

## MUMS FOR HARVEST HOME

The church will be decorating the sanctuary with mums on **September 30<sup>th</sup>** for our Harvest Home service. The cost is \$7.00 per mum. A tear off sign-up sheet is below and may be placed in the offering plate during worship. Please see Karen Warmkessel to pay for your mums. 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 to order your mums is **September 16<sup>th</sup>**.



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## MUMS SIGN UP

NAME .....

NUMBER OF MUMS .....

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

.....

# EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING

WE NEED YOU! The Eucharistic Team is looking for a few more volunteers to help visit and give communion to our shut-ins. Visits are done 2 times a year (usually after the first Sunday in March and October) and are done when it is convenient for the team members. Please let Grace Haas know if you are interested in providing this very important ministry.

A training session for our Home Communion Ministers will be held immediately after the service on **September 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to be involved in providing Holy Communion to our shut-ins, we would love to add you to our team.

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Team will make their visits after the **October 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 ASAP.



## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Sunday, **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Neighbor" and consider making a gift to the Neighbors in Need offering on October 7<sup>th</sup>.



## ALLEN ORGAN HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Adult Fellowship Committee has obtained 15 tickets for the matinee holiday concert on Saturday, **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, at 2:00 P.M. at Allen Organ. Cost of a ticket is \$15.00. See Nancy Fulton for tickets.



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> until November 11<sup>th</sup>**. Any questions contact Melissa Leiby at melkleiby@yahoo.com.



## YOU'RE INVITED

Saturday, **September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 A.M. WIZ will have a tea party with guest speaker, Brittini Harris. She is Dorothy Moyer's granddaughter who recently returned from Kenya and will share her experiences with us. All women are invited. Join us for the fun and fellowship. Invite your friends. Sign up on the upstairs bulletin board. Any WIZ member who is willing to provide refreshments should talk to Peggy Morgan.

## COOKBOOK

WIZ is gathering recipes for a church cookbook. September's recipes can be anything. October will be crock pot recipes. This project is open to all the women of the church. A special box is in the Gathering Area to collect these recipes. Questions: call Loretta Flicker at 610-683-3627 or Nikki Phillips at 610-763-6770.



## 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.*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| September 8 | Saturday at 10:00 A.M. Guest speaker, Brittini Harris, will speak about her trip to Kenya. |
| October 8   | Meeting, gift exchange, Pollyanna at 12 noon.  |



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

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Youth in grades 5 through high school are welcome to join.*

## Activity Schedule:

October 19-21 Youth Group Camp  
*Watch for a new schedule coming out shortly.*



## Offering Schedule:

September 2 Andrew Haas and Emma Heffner  
September 9 Connor O'Neil and Madison Sheetz  
September 16 Archer Scaffidi and Julia Perella  
September 23 Owen Shorette and Andrew Schell  
September 30 Ashley Korutz and Jonah Shorette  
*Watch for a new schedule coming out shortly.*

**YOUTH GROUP CAMP** – Youth Group camp will take place **October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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.) Watch for the registration forms in early October.



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

## DART BALL

Dart Ball will begin **September 5<sup>th</sup>**. Anyone interested in joining the team, contact Randy Warmkessel. Games are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 P.M. (except during Lent and the week of Thanksgiving) at Zion's or the other teams' churches.



## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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 always welcome.



## ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes will resume Sunday evenings starting **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 P.M. Wear clothes you can move in, sneakers, bring a towel, water, and lots of energy! The goal is to have fun and be more active.

## 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.

## 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 Nancy Fulton if interested.

## REMINDER

We are NO LONGER collecting Campbell's Labels for Education. Campbell's has discontinued supporting that program. We ARE however collecting Box Tops for education. There is a box in the back of the church with this sign.



## HONOR ROLL

*These names were taken from the lists published in the Northern Berks Patriot Item. If you would like a name included please email the church office or put a note in the secretary's mailbox in the Gathering Area of the church.*

Emily Bortz

Kaylen Leiby

Sydney Sheetz

Dane Fegely

Bryn Keeney

Jacob Heffner

Maisy Kellum

Andrew Schell

Madison Sheetz

Connor O'Neil

Alexandria Webb

Jewel Karaisz

Adam Noll

Emma Heffner

Julia Perella

Logan Boyer

Nick Perella

Zachary Schell

Lauren DeLong

Ivan Fegely

Kelly Leiby

Gabriella Webb

## MYSTERY MEMBER/S

The Mystery Couple last month was Elaine and Ted Silliman. Hopefully it was not too easy for most of you.

We do not have a mystery person this month but watch for profiles of our members in future issues. Please remember that the invitation is still open for any members who would like to share their information.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Zachary Schell, from Kutztown High School, received honorable mention for baseball in the *Reading Eagle* All-Berks Best of Athletes for Spring.
- Jillian Siefert, from Kutztown High School, made the 2018 All-Berks Softball Team in the *Reading Eagle* All-Berks Best of Athletes for Spring.
- Ivan Fegely, from Kutztown High School, made All Division Triple Jump and High Jump in the *Reading Eagle* All-Berks Best of Athletes for Spring.
- Thomas Siefert, from Kutztown High School, made All Berks II in Boys Tennis in the *Reading Eagle* All-Berks Best of Athletes for Spring.
- Tom Sterner golfs for the East Penn Manufacturing team in the Kutztown Golf League.
- John Perella who works for Berks Fire Water Restoration received a new IICRC certification through the Restoration Technical Institute.
- Archer Scaffidi appeared on a billboard for Fat Boy Racing, which was located on Route 222 North between Temple and Blandon.
- Ben N. Haas chairs Kutztown borough's economic vitality committee and was pictured in a recent *Reading Eagle*.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you seems like such a small thing to say for everything our church family has done. But, thank you for the meals, cards, hugs, kisses, and especially the PRAYERS. We thank God for all of you.



Loretta and Carl

Adam Noll would like to thank the following persons for their help August 4<sup>th</sup> with his Eagle Scout project on the church's cemetery: Randy Noll; Judy Noll; Grace Haas; Jonah Arndt; Bill Brensinger; and Keith, Colleen, and Logan Lichtenwalner.

## **BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE AUGUST 2018 UPDATE**

As the hot summer is hopefully starting to cool down, we want to again thank you for your support throughout the summer months. Contributions have been coming in well enough that we were able to reduce the mortgage balance further. At the beginning of June, the balance was \$31,000. We were able to reduce that balance down to \$24,000. Way to go!



Thanks to everyone for their commitment and continued support. Let's keep "plugging away" together to continue great things keep happening here at Zion's.

The Building Finance Committee:  
Karen Howard, Ray Wiltrout, Sharon  
Leiby, Evan Slotter, and Richard Haas

## **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 prefer to bring them to church, Lisa Walker will transport donations when the Mission Outreach serves food at Opportunity House.

## **GRACECARD DVD**

See Lisa Walker if you would like to borrow the DVD, Gracecard. It's about a police officer who loses his son in an accident. He is bitter and angry with God and everyone else. This changed after he's assigned a new patrol officer.

## **ADDRESSES CHANGES**

Please notify the church office if you have moved or your address has changed. We must pay a fee for every piece of bulk mail returned to our office for an updated address. Please help us save postage.

## KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

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.

## QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **September 5<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 9:30 A.M. to 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 a bag lunch. For information contact Sue Wunderlich at [sawmsw@dejazzd.com](mailto:sawmsw@dejazzd.com).

## UNWANTED FURNITURE

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

## OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Richard Bortz, Sr.      ... the family of Leonard Schleicher.  
... the family of Marie Moyer.            ... the family of Lucille Held Williams.  
... the family of Rachael Behm.

## 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.

September 2	Emmett Fenstermaker
September 3	Earl & Eva Christman (63 wed)
September 6	Kenneth Angstadt
September 7	James Laub



September 18	George Leiby
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
October 1	Mary Jane Williams
October 11	Willard Brensinger, Jr.
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (51 wed)
October 16	Jeanette Fegely
October 21	Ernest & Carloyn Wiltrout (62 wed)
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (53 wed)
October 25	Willard Angstadt
October 25	Edward VanDeCar
October 26	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (53 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
October 31	Eleanor Merkel

## **FROM THE RECORD BOOK**

**FUNERAL:**     *Richard F. Bortz, Sr.*, 70, of Kutztown, died July 16, 2018. Services were held July 23, 2018 in Walbert Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Fleetwood by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

**BAPTISM:**     *Giselle Seylah Piper Ginsburg*, daughter of Jacob and Amy (Bennecoff) Ginsburg was baptized July 29, 2018 by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Giselle was born March 20, 2018.

**“Awareness of the divine begins with wonder.”** - Abraham Heschel



## 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.

September 2

Altar Holy Communion

October 7

Pew Holy Communion



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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