

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

**September
2022**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
September and October Worship, Flower/Bulletin Book	page 2
Parking Lots, Service Videos, Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Security	page 2
Transition/Search/Call	page 3
Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!, Paving Project, Choir	page 4
Organ Restoration, Ingathering, Confirmation Program	page 5
Church Board Meetings, Mums for Harvest Home	page 6
Harvest Home Collections, Neighbors In Need	page 7
Thank You, Ice Cream Social, Women In Zion, Youth Group, Scrabble	page 8
Prayer Shawl, Senior Fellowship, Did You Know, Member Updates	page 9
From The Mailbox, Register Tapes	page 10
Update Addresses Needed, Our Sympathies, Prayer Requests	page 11
Synod News	page 12, 13
Card Showers, From The Record Book	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
Board, Staff, Worship Assistants, September Calendar	Lilac Insert
<i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Goldenrod Insert

REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ 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.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP

September 4	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 11	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 18	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 25	16 th Pentecost/Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 2	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 9	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 16	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 23	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 30	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates. You may also call the church office Monday, Wednesday, or Friday to sign up or leave a message on the answering machine.



PLEASE USE PARKING LOTS

The township does not want us parking on the street, so please only park in our parking lots. There is also a secondary lot behind the church next to the cemetery garage which you may use.

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.

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.

TRANSITION/SEARCH/CALL

The Search Committee appointed for calling a new pastor is excited to be underway with their planning. The Committee consists of Rachel Fulton, Andrew Haas, Benjamin N. Haas, Traci Gehringer, Sharon Leiby, Peg Morgan, Mike Weidman, and Lisa Krause (Chair). Foremost, the Committee asks for your prayers as this is a slow process that requires patience and understanding. To that end, your input is crucial in discerning what God is calling us to do here at Zion Maxatawny.

Two SEARCH DATA meeting dates have been set; and every congregational member is being asked to attend one of them to gather information about what our ministry will look like going forward. The two dates are Wednesday, **September 14th at 7pm** (snacks will be served) and Sunday, **September 18th after church** (a light lunch will be served prior to the meeting). A sign-up sheet will be passed around on 9/4 and 9/11, during church, to get estimates on attendance at each meeting. Walk-ins are welcome at both meetings, however. If you are not able to make either meeting, please contact Lisa Krause at 484-955-5473 or lkrausewbpt@gmail.com to provide your thoughts directly. The questions being asked are listed below so you have time to think and pray about your answers. Make notes and bring them along to the meeting. Plan on helping the Search Committee to move forward with good data as we seek a new pastor. We look forward to connecting with each of you on this very important task.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the leadership qualities you would look for in our ‘next pastor’? How would you prioritize these?
2. For you/your family what are some of the most important aspects of the Sunday Service (ie: sermon/service length, music, liturgy, children’s sermon, etc.)?
3. What can a ‘next pastor’ do to BETTER MEET your spiritual needs *on a Sunday morning*?
4. What can a ‘next pastor’ do to BETTER MEET your spiritual needs *outside of a Sunday morning*?
5. Why do you participate in the life of this church?
6. What do you think God is calling us to do NEXT at Zion Maxatawny?

Faith walks simply, childlike, between the darkness of human life and the hope of what is to come.”

— Catherine de Huech Doherty

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I cannot possibly thank everyone enough for the wonderful send-off you gave me at the Farewell & Godspeed Service on August 21st. The large numbers of you who came out from Zion's, as well as my previous congregation, was truly heart-warming. The overly generous amounts of monetary gifts, gift-cards, and memorabilia given by individuals and church groups (Sunday School, Choir, WIZ, and the entire congregation) was overwhelming. The service and reception both turned out to be fantastic and so very moving. But most appreciated of all were the photos (many of which I had never seen before) and personal memories so many of you shared in the beautifully done picture-book. Those many thoughts and memories brought many tears to my eyes. Reflecting back on my entire career, it is easy to forget all the lives I have touched in my ministry. But the most important thing I want to thank all of you for is the many ways you have touched the lives of Kathy and myself. We will both carry with us so many wonderful memories of holy times shared together. We learned and grew together amongst you and we both can't thank you enough. We were truly blessed to be part of your lives and to be involved in your wonderful ministries. Your lives have touched our lives deeply. I will leave you with the words of my favorite biblical character, James the brother of Jesus: "Count it all joy, my brethren!" (James 1:2, ASV)

May God's abundant peace and blessings fill you all,
Pastor Jeff

PAVING PROJECT as of August 1, 2022

Estimated Cost - \$71,385.00

Monies received - \$15,000	(donation)
\$ 100	(Memorial designation)
\$ 2,445	(Apple Dumpling Sale)
Total received - \$17,545	

CHOIR NEWS

The Senior Choir will resume normal practices on **September 8th**. Please consider joining the choir. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa.

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of August 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$48,410.13

Donations Received - \$92,966

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$323,346.13

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

2022-2023 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents

Sunday, September 11th

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

This meeting is for young people ready for confirmation 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. If, for some reason you cannot be in attendance at this meeting, please notify the church office (610-683-7485) so that someone 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.



CHURCH BOARD MEETINGS

June 28, 2022

1. The Board met with UCC Rev. Kevin McLemore, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call to get advice on the process for calling a new pastor.
2. Since many committees have been inactive since the beginning of COVID, a revitalization process will begin.
3. Congregational meeting on July 24th to discuss the parking lot reparations.
4. Many of the closets and some walkway areas have become dumping grounds for items. All closets are to be cleaned out by August 15th after which time volunteers will clean out the areas.

July 26, 2022

1. Pastor Tom Land from the synod conducted an interview with Pastor Jeff.
2. Parking lot repairs were approved by the congregation.
3. Transition/Search/Call Committee is Lisa Krause, Chairperson; Rachel Fulton; Traci Gehringer; Ben N. Haas; Andrew Haas; Sharon Leiby; Peggy Morgan; and Mike Weidman.
4. The church history started by Pastor Heckler has been completed and organized by Pastor Jeff and will be going to the publisher.

MUMS FOR HARVEST HOME

The church will be decorating the sanctuary with mums on **September 25th** 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 11th**.



MUMS SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF MUMS

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

.....

HARVEST HOME COLLECTIONS

On Sunday, **September 25th** 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 4th** – cans/bottles of vegetables, fruits, soups, meats
- Sunday, September 11th** – boxed items of cereals, pastas, rice products
- Sunday, September 18th** – diapers, boxed/bottled baby foods and cereal, as well as other supplies for infants
- Sunday, September 25th** – 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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Sunday, **October 2nd**, we will be receiving the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. The 2022 NIN campaign will focus on economic justice issues.



THANK YOU


The Youth Group wishes to thank everyone for their interest and prayers as we traveled on our recent mission trip. It turned out to be a very rewarding week. Our total expenses were slightly over \$6,500 for the week. Thanks to all who helped make that possible.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Women In Zion will be holding their Ice Cream Social on Friday, **September 9th**. Great entertainment will start at 6:30 P.M. followed by all the ice cream you can eat. Cost: \$2.50. See Loretta Flicker for tickets.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| September 9 | Ice Cream Social at 6:30 P.M.
Everyone welcome. |  |
| September 12 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Bible study led
by Loretta Flicker. | |
| September 18 | Hand out soup containers. | |
| October 2 | Return full soup containers. | |
| October 10 | Meeting, Pollyanna reveal, choose new Pollyanna, pot
luck, games 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.

Watch for further 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.

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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **September 26th and October 24th** 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.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Steven Gehringer went to Atlanta, Georgia to represent PA in the Skillz USA Nationals competition for steel metal fabrication and he earned silver. Steven won gold in the Pennsylvania competition.
- Ashley DeLong was on the distinguished honor roll for the fourth quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.
- The Ronald and Charles Berger families won many prizes at this year's Kutztown Fair.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the graduation gifts that we received. Zion's significantly shaped us into the people we are and we are both forever thankful for the memories and lessons that guide our daily lives. We sincerely appreciate the thoughtful gifts.



Madison and Carson Sheetz

Thank you so much for the certificate and gift card in honor of my graduation from high school. I am so thankful to be part of a very supportive church family!

Sincerely,
Katelyn DeLong

Sending my heartfelt thanks for all the support and comfort we received from

all of you after our recent loss. The many cards, flowers, meals, attendance and assistance at Steve's service were so greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for all the support for our family during this difficult time.

Cindy

Dear Zion's Union Church,

Thank you for sending your church's youth to come serve with us the week of July 24-30. They did amazing things!

Team Effort

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and calls during my recent surgery and recovery. It made me feel so loved and cared for. God is great!

Tracey Lutz

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during the year. **For the church 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 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 for the program. Tapes for Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the church.

UPDATE ADDRESSES NEEDED

The church is updating addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for an updated church directory. If you have recently changed any of the above, have moved, or have children that are no longer living with you and have their own places, please email the church office at zionsunion@verizon.net with the new information. Any information is strictly for church use.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Steve O'Neil.

... the family of Violet Schaeffer.

... the family of Helen Leiby.

... the family of Betty Wiltrout.

... the family of William Sicher.

PRAAYER REQUESTS

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

Barry Ziegler, Jeanette Fegely, Bill Gehman, Ellie Merkel, Lennia Mertz, Randy Warmkessel, Carl Flicker, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Kay Weidner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Beatrice Bennecoff, Barry Miller, Carolyn Wiltrout, Arlan Berger, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Joe Karaisz, Anna Bortz, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Donna Cordier, Lloyd & Nancy, Ukrainians, Losito family, Randy Schlegel, Karen Bower, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Juliana Leshner, Bill Rinear, Michael Zimmerman, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Beverly Keller, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Elaine Seaman, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Deb, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Renee Wolfe, Christopher Mercardo, Kim Markham, Valerie, Mary Fox, Sue Zimmerman, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Betty Wiltrout, family of Steve O'Neil, family of Violet Schaeffer, family of Helen Leiby.

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.

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



STRONGER
Together

So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.... God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

(Genesis 8:18-19; 9:12-13)

Following the flood – a disaster horrific in scope and cause – God brought forth a time and a place, where healing and renewal could begin. Camp Noah is a ministry, carrying on in God's covenantal promises of care and life, especially for families and especially for children whose loved ones may no longer be there to protect and nurture them. The "ark" that gets built, comes in the form of congregations and volunteers, along with professionals in counseling and in faith, who create a safe and supportive environment – where, for a day or a week, children can gather to run and play, draw and paint, sing and listen, pray and build new connections of love and care, new trust that God loves them and that the future can be better, brighter and bolder than the past. Christ is the rainbow and the rock, that provides new colors to paint and safe waters to drink and to splash in, without fear of drowning in grief and despair. As the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, we are honored and grateful to take part in this life-giving ministry, offering our resources, our time and our spaces, to make a bright new day for these kids, these families, and "for all future generations."

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with a situation? There have been times during covid that many have felt that way—worry about those who were sick—concerned for families who had lost someone. It was hard enough for adults—but what about children? Camp Noah is a Lutheran camping organization run out of Minnesota that provides weeklong camp experiences for children who have experienced traumatizing natural disasters like tornados, floods, hurricanes—and covid. This past summer, just such a camp was held in Oley, PA. Camp Noah provided a week of fun and engaging experiences through books, crafts, music, art, and games that allowed kids to express their feelings and concerns regarding covid. One young camper said, “this camp has been a blessing.” And it was! Everyone involved—including adult volunteers—felt the healing presence of God among them! Thank you to the many congregations whose Mission Support dollars to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod provided grant money to help fund Camp Noah. It really was a blessing to all!
+ Pastor Julie Osterhout,
Trinity Lutheran-Wernersville



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.



September 7	James Laub
September 8	Linda Ballew-Johnson
September 18	George Leiby
September 20	Bettina (Tina) Ehrig
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
September 27	David Ehrig
October 8	Patti Derr
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (55)
October 16	Jeanette Fegely
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (57 wed)
October 23	Mary Laub
October 26	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (57 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
October 31	Eleanor Merkel

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Steve John O'Neil*, 63, of Kutztown, died June 19, 2022 in his residence. Service was June 25, 2022 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

Betty M. Wiltrout, 87, formerly on Mertztown, died June 16, 2022 in Keystone Villa, Douglasville. Service was June 27, 2022 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in New Jerusalem Union Cemetery, Rockland Township.

Faith takes God without any "ifs". — D. L. Moody



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 4 Pew Holy Communion

October 2 Altar 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 15th**.