



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
2023**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$10.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ Any checks written out for the offering, altar flowers, or bulletins should be made payable to **Zion's Union Church Maxatawny**.
- ◆ **Any checks for the cemetery should be made out to Maxatawny Zion Cemetery Company, Inc., not to the church.**
- ◆ We have DVDs of regular worship services available for use at home. Contact the church office if you would like to borrow one.
- ◆ Let the church office know if you have been admitted to the hospital. The hospitals **DO NOT** notify the church if members have been hospitalized.
- ◆ Zion's Union Church Maxatawny's website is www.zionsunion.org. Check out our website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ Refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

PASTOR'S CORNER



You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. – 1 Peter 2:5

I recently had a lovely conversation about faith being a verb instead of a noun. We need to live our faith out loud, and not be complacent about what faith is in our lives. So, what if we started to look at church the same way? The church is far more than just the building (**noun**) – it is the people within the building who make the Church as we know it, what it is. Church is what we do (**verb**)!

Throughout the summer months and into August our congregation has been busy *being* the church. Over the summer we had our summer sermon series where we explored our roots – what has rooted us at Zion's and in our wider community, we sent thank-you notes to local organizations, and finished off this series with a celebration of cake and cupcakes!

In August we wanted to have a sweet time trying a new way of doing church – why not have VBS during Sunday School hour?!

I want to give a huge shout-out to our music and worship team who has been hard at work over the summer. We have tried new ways of incorporating praise music into our worship service and of meeting people where they are on their faith journey. Did you notice how much louder we were singing the last Sunday in July compared to the first Sunday we had praise music?!

I also want to thank all of those who have been working to get our sound system and pipe organ up-to par. There have been countless hours spent getting these items in working order.

And I want to thank each of you – members and friends of Zion's Union – who have continued to show up and be the Church. We are continuing to try new things, and while there may be hiccups along the way, you have continued to show up and show your support for your siblings in Christ and our congregation along the way.

I am looking forward to what the next season in this congregation has in store.

Now, let's go and be the Church!

Peace,
Pastor Jess

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP

September 3	14 th Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 10	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 17	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 24	17 th Pentecost/Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 1	18 th Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 8	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 15	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 22	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 29	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of August 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$99,863

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$63,600

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$340,443.13

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT

Amount in Account - \$10,293.80

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$0 – PAID IN FULL

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - **\$20,426.11**

A NOTE FROM MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Our purpose is to cultivate and maintain effective relationships between the pastor and members of the congregation. We act as the liaison between the Church Board, the pastor, and the congregation. Our focus is always on the congregation's ministry and how it may be carried out effectively for the sake of the church. Finally, we serve as a "focus group" representative of the congregation as church leaders share ideas for ministry and seek to access how best to accomplish what is being proposed. The members of this committee are Traci Gehringer, Greg Haas, Lisa Krause, Lori Arndt, Tim Haas, & Melissa DeLong. Please see any of us with questions, concerns, or ideas.

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.

FROM THE MAILBOX

To the members of Zion,

I want to inform you as of September 1st, I have given my resignation as organist and choir director. There have been changes at Zion’s and I have decided to move on. I want to “**Thank you**” for your support throughout all these years.

Thanks again,
Theresa Grim

JOB APPLICATION FOR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

In September the opening for the position of organist/choir director will be posted on the church’s website, along with the job description compiled by the Personnel Committee with input from the Finance Committee, and Board approval. Hopefully, we will have an individual in that position on a permanent basis as soon as possible.

DISASTER RELIEF TASK FORCE

A big THANK YOU to the individuals who responded to FLOOD clean up in Temple at Amber’s house on July 25th. This was in response to the Berks Emergency website posting for volunteer aid. Tons of mud, muddy contents, and debris were hauled away and/or cleaned up. It was a messy job but the Zion team did it well! Thank you to Dan Blanchard, Carol & Richard Leiby, Kevin & Lisa Krause, Sherie Mohn, Ray Schell, and Ethan, Jonathan & Mike Weidman. In service to others, we are serving our mighty God. THANKS AGAIN for helping in a disastrous time of need. YOU were a tremendous blessing to Amber and her family.

READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SHEPHERDS

Schedules for readers, ushers, greeters, and shepherds are on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule is also included in each newsletter.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Worship and Music Committee has been pleased by the overall positive response to the trial of praise worship music throughout summer. They will continue to incorporate a song during weekly church service. We'll look forward to learning songs together and building our base of praise worship music to sing. Thanks be to God!"

THE SEARCH TEAM

The Search Team has been active over the summer. To date, there are no candidates in the pipeline despite some interviews. We continue to ask for your patience and support during this process. Please pray for our church, our interim Pastor Jess, our lay leadership and Board, the Search Team, and the new pastor God has in store for us. God's got this. Have faith!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

We are looking for any children that may be interested in starting confirmation classes. Confirmation is a two year program usually taught during the Sunday School hour (9:00 A.M.). Please notify the church office (610-683-7485) or by email (zionsunion@verizon.net) if you have a child that you would like to start confirmation.



SENIOR CHOIR

Senior Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, **September 7th** at 6:30 P.M. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join this fun-loving group. Former choir members are strongly encouraged to return and enjoy Thursday evenings together for the next nine months.

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		

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

June 27, 2023

1. Samaritan's Purse - We have agreed to a five year commitment to be a drop site for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. WIZ is organizing this and taking the necessary training.
2. The purple paraments will be replaced by Cindy O'Neil in memory of Steve O'Neil. We also need to replace the red paraments.
3. Senior Ministry is looking for some new members. Please see Nancy Fulton if you are interested in joining.
4. Personnel Committee is seeking a new member; candidate should be good with contracts.
5. Good News Committee will be ordering more Zion's Union Church Maxatawny shirts.
6. A clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission will be held in September.

HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is still available to be purchased. The cost is \$15.00. Call the church office if you would like one.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in helping with the sound and recording system during worship services, please contact Ray Schell.

HARVEST HOME COLLECTIONS

On Sunday, **September 24th** 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 3rd** – cans/bottles of vegetables, fruits, soups, meats
- Sunday, September 10th** – boxed items of cereals, pastas, rice products
- Sunday, September 17th** – diapers, boxed/bottled baby foods and cereal, as well as other supplies for infants
- Sunday, September 24th** – 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.

SOUND SYSTEM/SECURITY CAMERA

A new sound system for the sanctuary has been installed and a security camera has been placed in the Gathering Area so that persons ringing the bell can be identified. Donations to these projects will be appreciated.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Zion's will sponsor a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission from **September 9-20**. Donations of clothing may be brought to the church when it is open. Contact Nancy Fulton 484-357-8024 to have access at other times.

CPR AND AED CLASS

The church will be having a CPR and AED class on **September 16th** from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. There is no cost thanks to the Church Board. There is a 20 person limit. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board.

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. Upcoming outings are **12:15 P.M. September 13th at Airport Dinner and October 11th at Macungie Dinner (formerly Bear swamp)**. These social times will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

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. Thanks to all who helped make that possible.

MUMS FOR HARVEST HOME

The church will be decorating the sanctuary with mums on **September 24th** 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 10th**.



MUMS SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF MUMS

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

.....

NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Sunday, **October 1st**, 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 2023 NIN campaign will focus on economic justice issues.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Women In Zion will be having their Ice Cream Social on **Friday, September 8th** at 6:30 P.M. Entertainment will be provided by the Maxatawny Players. Cost is \$2.50 for anyone over the age of 8, payable at the door. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board or contact Loretta Flicker.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

- September 8 Ice Cream Social at 6:30 P.M.
- September 11 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Election of Officers
- October 9 Meeting at 12 noon. Pollyanna reveal, choose a new one, and pack Samaritan's Purse boxes.



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

YOUTH GROUP

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



PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on **September 6th and September 20th** to weave plastic bags into mats. Evening classes may be scheduled as desired. Tracey Lutz, Tanya Schnaedel, and Carol Leiby are working on this project. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Plastic bags may be brought to the church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **September 25th and October 23rd** 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.



MYSTERY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Join the mystery each month as a volunteer at Zion's will be featured in the newsletter. Identification of these individuals will take place in the following month or during announcements in the worship service.

Our dedicated volunteer for September was born a long time ago in Longswamp Township where he spent time going to sports, games, and races. When dating he would often fall asleep. After graduating from high school, he married the love of his life here at Zion's, and their honeymoon continues to this day! He remembers that when they arrived home on their wedding night, they found corn and rice between the sheets, and the bed was set up on spools. (Another, not so difficult a mystery, would be to identify what members of our congregation would do a thing like that.) His hobby is wood working.

Being retired gives him the opportunity to be a full-time volunteer, working for the good of our church to be Mr. Fix-it and Jack of All Trades- from grounds maintenance to electrician, handy-man, plumber, heating technician, audio-video specialist, keeper of the keys, and wears many more hats around Zion's Union Church. His long-term "contract" will never expire!

His family consists of three brothers, three children, and five grandchildren.

Who is the mystery volunteer for September?????????

APPLE DUMPLING SALE

This year's Apple Dumpling fundraiser will be held **October 14th**. Apple Dumplings will be \$5.00. Pick up will be from 12 noon to 2:00 P.M. For your convenience, an order form insert is included in this newsletter. **Deadline for orders is October 1st**. Any questions contact Traci at 610-349-8434.

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County services are at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **September 3rd and October 1st** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages and the chance to connect with others. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher (charflsh@verizon.net, 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb (emwebb05@aol.com, 610-894-9949).

DID YOU KNOW?

- Julia Perella graduated from Kutztown High School and will be attending Elizabethtown College for a Masters in Occupational Therapy.
- Representing the Fleetwood Topton Swim Team, Archer & Arden Scaffidi completed at the Berks County Swim Association's County Championship. Archer's 200 free relay came in 1st place. Also, the Fleetwood Topton 15 & Over Boys were the high points earner at Championships.
- Ted Scaffidi & Carl Flicker, representing the Brandywine Heights Music Boosters, made improvements to the High School Marching Band trailer. The band can now secure instruments within the trailer and they won't be damaged in transit.
- Arden Scaffidi was the 13-14 girls high points earner, for the season, swimming for the Fleetwood Topton Swim Team.

OPEN HOUSE

The church is planning an Open House on **October 29th**.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Arlan C. Berger*, 82, of New Tripoli, PA, died July 6, 2023. Service was July 12, 2023 in Mae Stump Funeral Home, Fleetwood by Rev. Jeremiah Sassaman. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

Eleanor C. Merkel, 82, of Kutztown, PA, died July 13, 2023. Services were private.

WEDDINGS: *Jessica Ann Sterner and Kenneth Mark Knerr*, were married March 25, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Pastor Deb Timmins. Jessica is the daughter of Thomas and Loretta Sterner. Residence: 260 Mine St., Mertztown, PA 19539.

Lauren Alyssa DeLong and Noah Thomas Kayhart, were married June 24, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jessica Hainley. Lauren is the daughter of Trevor and Melissa DeLong. Residence: 17 E. Franklin St., Tipton, PA 19562.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

An effort is being made to provide additional information for an updated directory. A form is below to gather the information needed to include email addresses and to determine how members prefer to be contacted. **ALL MEMBERS NEED TO COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO CHANGES.**

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

Name: _____ **Family members:** _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: Cell _____ **Home** _____

Email address: _____

Preferred method of communication (circle all that apply)

Email **Phone** **Text**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Irene Isamoyer, Anna Bortz, Bill Howard, zElaine & Paul Heffner, John Mertz, Kay Weidner, Loretta Flicker, Jamey Webb, Sharon Weigle, Julia Mohn, Karen Howard, Liz Jones, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Randy Warmkessel, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Mark Miller, Colid Hollin, Bruce Fritzing, Ely, Sherri Gehringer, Vera, Leila, John Laird, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Mary Jane Schlenker, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Karen Ames, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriquez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Arlan Berger, family of Eleanor Merkel, family of Nancy Bennecoff.

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.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Arlan Berger.

... the family of Eleanor Merkel.

... the family of Nancy Bennecoff.

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 (56 wed)
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (58 wed)
October 23	Mary Laub
October 23	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (58 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter



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.

September 3	Pew Holy Communion
October 1	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**.