



Zion News

January 2017
Volume 36 Issue 1

For the Members, Family and Friends of Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ

A new year brings new beginnings and new possibilities...and all the old baggage comes with us as we explore the newness of the coming year as it opens up to us.

It is easy to fantasize about Jesus coming fresh into the world, and beginning his ministry with a blank slate. But that is not what happened. It was not a blank slate. He came into a world and a Jewish population that was wracked, and harmed by thousands of years of betrayals, King David and his improprieties is just one example, years of exile in Assyria, and Babylonia, and years of homeland occupation by the Romans.

This baggage which Jesus sorted through is given to us through the Old Testament. These stories are part of our sacred texts to remind us of the brokenness of the world in which Jesus taught and healed. We need the baggage to give us context for the purpose of Jesus' ministry. This baggage created the religious and social landscape of the world in which Jesus preached.

This is the world in which Christ was charged to minister, and there was a LOT of hate, angst, anger, and mistrust in the community in the aftermath of thousands of years of abuse of God's people. It was a world of baggage.

And in this world, Jesus did the impossible. He found the blessings in the baggage and illuminated them for the world. Jesus found blessings like the strength of twelve men, men who were sinners, tax collectors, and fisherman and he transformed those twelve men into a movement unlike any the earth has ever seen.

Often, when we live with each other, it is too easy to focus on how the negative baggage of other people affects us personally. But what if we searched for the blessings in the baggage of those around us? It is time to find the blessings in what our brothers and sisters carry with them. In their experiences, there are blessings just waiting to be uncovered. Jesus teaches us how to uncover those blessings, and how to use that baggage for the good of his Church. We are sent out into the newness of the coming year to find the blessings in the baggage of the people around us.

Blessings to you all,
Rev K

Epiphany Sunday Holy Communion
Sunday January 8



ZionNews January 2017

WORSHIP DUTIES

Please check the Narthex for new sign-up sheets for greeters, readers, flower and bulletin sponsors!

01/01 Bruce Wagner
Sarah Dodge
01/02 Michael Eaton
01/05 Barry Bentz
01/07 Janet Wilhelm
01/08 Karen Miller
01/10 Elmer Breidigan
01/11 Jeff Newhouse
01/11 Cindy Emore
01/14 Melissa Miller
01/15 Lainie Binner
01/18 Kelly Holzman
01/19 Beverly Schrack
01/22 Mildred Long
01/23 Cindy Berger
01/23 Amy Shanaman



01/24 Linda Reed
01/24 Wilbur Bentz
01/25 Ross Baver
01/25 Bob Phillips
01/26 Brian Kominsky
01/28 Rose Freed
01/28 Joyce Deisemann
01/29 Barry Miller
01/29 Mark Wessner
01/30 Ronald Emerich
01/30 Brent Himmelberger

ANNIVERSARIES

01/04 Sandy & John Gilmer
01/25 Barry & Karen Miller

Dear members of Zion Blue Mountain,

I would like to thank everyone for all the love, prayers, hugs, cards, support and kindness during my mother's recent illness and passing. I could not have made it through without my church family. You continue to lift me up every day. Thank you for being there!

~Susan Deisemann and family

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated items for our Chinese Auction. It was another successful fundraiser! All the baskets were beautifully done and we had a great response in the bidding. If you won a basket congratulations and enjoy! The fundraising committee looks forward to another successful year and we all wish you a Happy New Year!



If you have not yet received 2017 offering envelopes and would like them please call the church office – 610-488-7361

2017 “Souper” bowl “Hot” wing sale!

Please join us for the annual Souper Bowl Hot Wing sale! Save time in the kitchen...get delicious wings for the big game and help a great cause at the same time!! All wings come with your choice of blue cheese OR ranch dressing...for only **\$7.00/dozen!** Place your orders by Sunday, January 29, 2017. **Pick-up is February 5, 2017** from 11:30-2:30pm in the social hall. We thank you for your support....ENJOY!!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Total Dozen _____

Sauce selection

(Please indicate how many dozen of each sauce)

____ Hot ____ Mild ____ Plain (no sauce) ____ BBQ ____ Butter & Garlic ____ Asian

Dressing selection

____ Ranch ____ Blue Cheese ____ *extra dressing please add 50¢



Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with the Live Nativity. It was a magical presentation that we hope will continue for many years.
~ The Worship Committee



Blood Drive!

Sunday January 15th

9 am - 1 pm

Contact Audrey Kirkhoff to sign up 610-488-7790

Bingo Kitchen January 13

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Vera Breidigan	Robin Faust
Chick Stambaugh	Alexis D
Ruth Himmelberger	Sue Deisemann
Terry Boyer	Karen Miller



Hot Pot – Lolly Lesher

Melinda Schaeffer

Bakers – Gail Hamm
Sue Deisemann
Denice Dodge
Joan Hartman

January 15th
Installation at the 10:30 service

Retreat following worship
lunch provided

Kennedy House Trip

January 7

Donations needed:

Hot Dog Rolls
Canned Kidney Beans
Canned Black Beans
Canned Baked Beans
Canned Corn #10 cans
Juice Boxes (case)

Barbeque Sauce
Ketchup
Mustard
Onions
Relish

PLACE ALL DONATIONS IN THE BOX in the Narthex.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Please place in the box in the Narthex.

THANK YOU

Some of our members here at Friedens were thoughtful enough to remind me that we should let the congregation at Zion Blue Mountain know that we are thankful you opened your doors to us on Thanksgiving Eve. It was a joy to come together for worship and give thanks to God together. Peace & joy in your Christmas celebrations, Pastor Inge & the people of Friedens Church Shartlesville.



MARTHA'S CIRCLE MEETS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM IN THE PARLOR.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND
TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!**

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!



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Staff

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Deacons: Susan Harbonic, Melissa Miller, Wendy Schutt, Sharon Eaton

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm, Dorsen Berger, Brad Faust

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ZIONEWS is published monthly to keep our congregation and friends informed of current events, ministry opportunities, and other pertinent information. We reserve the right to print any letter or article, unless, in the opinion of the elders, it is unsuitable for the newsletter. We also reserve the right to edit or alter any article for length and content.