



Zion News

April 2017
Volume 36 Issue 3

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

EASTER Services



April 16

Sunrise Service 6:15 AM
Children's Program 9 AM
Traditional Service 10:30 AM

MAUNDY
Thursday



April 13 at 7 PM

GOOD
Friday



April 14 at 7 PM

There are times in the ministries of every pastor in which his own words are simply not enough, and so, for this month i bring you the words of a message that came from our conference minister, Rev. Bill Worley.

“Discerning the will of God is never an easy matter. That is particularly true for friends in congregations struggling to discern the future course of their ministry and IF their ministry has a future course. Below are 8 things you should know if your church, like many in our conference, are in decline.

1. Pray-Pray-Pray-Be open and trusting to God. Don't be limited to your ideas and agendas but really listen and look to where God is leading you.
2. Don't wait until you are burned out. It's hard to feel energized in the name of the Lord, when you're doing all the work. The theme 'better together' can bring new life when you join others working for the same goal.
3. Don't get caught up in the past. Recognize the signs of decline in your church. Your church building, as beautiful and comforting as it may be, could be holding you back from seeking growth in today's community involvement.
4. It is ok to disagree—Disagreement can be healthy; talk and listen to in a kind and respectful manner, get outside help and pray together. Don't force the issues but allow time for members to understand and adjust to changes that are being discussed. Take the time needed but continue to move forward, it feels good to be accomplishing new pathways to God.
5. Be honest about your thoughts and feelings—Don't feel your church has 'failed' but has seen the light in forging a new direction. Grief is part of the process; work through it together as a 'family' of in Christ.
6. Be 'resourceful'—Check out what other churches have already done in ways of combining churches, denomination, pastoral coverage and the processes they have worked through. Contacting these churches can be a big help in finding your direction and encourage you to believe that there are solutions that can really work.
7. Be open and communicative with each other-remember you, as disciples of Christ, have obligations to one another, but not everyone will be happy all the time.
8. Pray-Pray-Pray-Be open and trusting to God. Don't be limited to your ideas and agendas but really listen and look to where God is leading you.

In decline or not, these are awesome observations for disciples of Jesus seeking to 'Be the Church.' Sometimes it is just enough to know that we are not alone in the struggle.

God bless you with Spirit and Strength in the Struggle, Rev William P. Worley Conference Minister

This list is not all-encompassing, but it is a good place to start.

As we, at Zion, constantly discern God's will for our future, may we ponder this list and find the path God is showing us.

Blessings Now and Always, Rev K

WORSHIP DUTIES

	<i>April 2</i>	<i>April 9</i>	<i>April 23</i>	<i>April 30</i>
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>Dodge/Diane Wessner</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>Pat Moyer</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>Reader</i>	<i>Doris Wagner</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Butch & Cindy Berger</i>			

Flowers must be paid in the month they are ordered.

Bingo Kitchen April 7

***date change**

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Cathy Diggan	Wendy Schutt
Sharon Eaton	Amy Yeager
Sue Deisemann	Lynda Himmelberger
Terry Boyer	Karen Miller

Hot Pot – Cathy Diggan
Robin Faust

Bakers – Melinda Schaeffer
Karen Kissling
Pat Moyer
Amy Yeager



Food Pantry Item of the Month
Peanut Butter

Where Does Your Money Go?

From: the Deacons

This Month's Feature: The Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence fund that you find envelopes for every other month is a special fund that benefits members of our church and their families in times of need. The money is set aside for emergencies for our members. You may request money for yourself or for a fellow church member whom you feel may be in need of some help. It can be used for material items such as groceries and medications or to pay bills such as heating costs, electric or insurance. The request is kept confidential and is not a loan, no need to pay the church back.

It is not for community use, however, if an emergency situation should arise, such as a family in the community being victims of a fire, funds may be used to buy gift cards or incidentals such as blankets or coats. This situation is evaluated by the Missions committee for approval before being distributed.

Many of us think this money is used to fund our food pantry, it is not. The only way this money is spent is by one of our congregation members needing assistance.

Stay tuned for the next installment of "Where does your money go?" in the coming months!
If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to speak to any of the Deacons.
~Sharon Eaton, Missy Miller, Susan Harbonic and Wendy Schutt



Easter Flower Order Form

Send payments to the church office: PO Box 98 Strausstown 19559

Hyacinths; Tulips; Lilies

ALL FLOWERS \$10.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____

In honor of: _____ In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____ In memory of: _____

Hyacinths # ____ Tulips # ____ Lilies # ____ Total plants: ____

Amount paid: _____

ORDERS DUE APRIL 9th

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

July 23-27

Grab your parka and snow boots!
We are headed deep into the Arctic Circle that is filled with treasure and thrilling to explore! And be sure to pack your Bible – we'll be learning all about the beautiful Book that is filled with treasure and thrilling to explore!



Operation Arctic VBS Program 2017

Volunteer Signup Form

Sunday, July 23rd - Thursday, July 27th

Volunteer Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

VBS Dinner: Yes No

Availability: All Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Position of Interest (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Games Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Story Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Challenge Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Talk Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Story Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Challenge Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Post VBS Flyers in Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Create Scenery/ Decorate | |

Crew Leader/Assistant Age Preference(s) (Check all that apply)

- Pre-School Kindergarten Grades 1 & 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grades 5 & 6

****Please give completed form to Wendy Schutt or drop-off in the church office****



MAY 11, 2017

Martha's Circle

1/3 lb. Pulled Pork Sandwich
w/ bbq sauce

Baked potato and applesauce

\$8.00

*Don't forget
the baked goods!*

**Tickets are on sale at the
church 610-488-7361**

or from a member of Martha's Circle

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An Indoor Spring Soulful Flea Market

April 1, 10 am – 3 pm

Zion Blue Mountain UCC, Strausstown

An eclectic mix of artisans, flea market finds, direct sales consultants and holistic/alternative providers and purveyors.

EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS, OUTDOORS for pets & kids
11 am – 1 pm, \$5 donation, bring your cellphone or camera

BAKE SALE, CHINESE AUCTION, FOOD SALES TO BENEFIT:

The Wellness Center for Pets & Their People, Inc.

PO Box 23

87 Main Street

Strausstown PA 19559

A 501C3 organization, 100% volunteer operated.

More details on Facebook, 717-675-4136 or wcpvhf@gmail.com

CLASSES:

Native plantings and plants for Pollination – Penn State Berks Extension

Yoga for Healing – The benefits of Yoga for Mind and Body Wellness, the success with aiding trauma and addiction recovery. Followed by discussion time.

How to Reverse Diabetes – Plant based diet as medicine

Past life regression – Real or Surreal

Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ
Treasurer's Report
February 2017

Comments for Treasurer's reports for February 2017: CSF@bluemountain.org

As of 2/28/2017 operational receipts were above disbursements by \$5,594.
Following are variance explanations:

Receipts
Worship Collections:
Worship collections were \$6,200 below budget.
Total Gen. Fund affairs receipts were approx. \$1,282 lower YTD compared to 2016.
Missions Other:
Donations of approx. \$4,112 were given to the Food Pantry in February.
Donations of approx. \$570 were given towards the Remembrance Fund in February.
Fundraising Revenue:
Revenue stands at a favorable variance YTD of \$2,007
Driven by Bingo, Small Games at Church, & Kitchen revenue totalled \$5,233 in receipts.

Disbursements
Missions-Preschool:
The fluctuation was driven by lesson's sales being below budget: YTD by approx. \$3,400.

Support & Leadership:
Incurred a favorable variance of \$2,576 below budget.
This fluctuation is generated based on allocation of expenses averaged across the year.
Note: if a variance will shrink as expected expenses occur throughout the year.

Note: Total member offerings via automatic deposit totalled \$1,000 in February.

Comments on Balance Sheet:
Fulton LCC in 2/2017 - \$15,063.33 Balance. No change.

February 2017 Budget vs. Actual YTD		February 2017 Total
Actual YTD	Budget YTD	YTD Variance
Beginning Cash Balance 2/28/17		
19,620.27	25,020.00	(5,399.73)
20,320.44	15,600.00	750.44
3,485.00	795.30	2,689.70
384.00	595.30	(211.30)
0.00	55.30	(55.30)
1,758.00	1,200.00	558.00
0.00	500.00	(500.00)
48.59	80.00	(31.41)
5,057.42	4,000.00	1,057.42
51,747.32	52,345.00	(597.68)
2,085.24	4,925.00	(2,839.76)
377.57	300.00	77.57
11,865.55	15,100.00	(3,234.45)
1,430.27	1,400.00	30.27
601.44	700.00	(98.56)
15,059.80	17,011.00	(1,951.20)
11,671.98	11,522.00	1,149.98
90.00	500.00	(410.00)
2,522.97	7,775.00	(5,252.03)
22,082.02	51,745.00	(29,662.98)
6,792.00	1,204.00	5,588.00
Cash flow adjustment		
Ending Cash balances 2/28/2017		
181,342.00		

Receipts
Worship Collections
Missions-Preschool
Missions-Other
Transformation
Fellowship
Property
Mentor's Circle
Interest on MM
Fundraising Revenue
Subtotal Receipts - Church Operations

Disbursements
Worship
Transformation
Missions-Preschool
Missions-Other
Fellowship
Support & Leadership
Property/Maint. & Mgtg
Mentor's Circle
Fundraising Expense
Total Disbursements
Net Receipts/ Disb from Operations (B-C)

Missions-Preschool (Net)	8,084.70	4,500.00	4,484.70
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Preschool Net:
Preschool budget YTD is eight \$750 above budgeted amount of \$19,600 as of 2/28/2017.
Expenses fell below budget by \$3,754 YTD. Fluctuation is generated by lesson's sales not being below budget, as noted above.



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church
PO Box 98 (6573 Old Rt. 22)
Strausstown, PA 19559

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Joshua Knappenberger (revk@zionbluemountainucc.org)

Office Administrator: Lisa Shupp (lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org)

Sexton: Brad Faust

Consistory

Elders: Doris Wagner (President), Anne Binner, Ruth Himmelberger, Terry Boyer

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

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm (Vice President), Dorsen Berger, Brad Faust

Contact Information

Pastor's Phone: 484-505-9788

Office Phone: 610-488-7361

Website: www.zionbluemountainucc.org

ZIONNEWS 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.