



Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services

4 o'clock in the evening

This family oriented service will feature child friendly object lesson, carols, communion, and candles.

7 o'clock in the evening

A traditional Christmas Eve service including communion and carols by candlelight.

Christmas Day

8 and 10:30 am

No Sunday School Classes

New Year's Day

9 am

No Sunday School Classes



Live Nativity

Sunday December 17

6 pm

Refreshments served in the social hall
following the program

Chinese Auction!

Event is outside, please dress warm!

Bring a flashlight!



There is an old saying in the Jewish community, “the Jew does not keep the Sabbath, the Sabbath keeps the Jew.” The same is true for Christians. Our entirety of Christian life begins at worship. There we renew our faith weekly. There we are ‘sent out’ to serve. There we reconnect with words and symbols that define who we are, whose we are.

So I invite you to be a part of our Advent journey. Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation. We rehearse for the coming of the Christ child by making some room in our lives for his presence. We remember the promise of the Prophet Isaiah in the coming Messiah: blessings for our yearnings, rest for the weary, comfort for our worries, direction when we waver. Candles remind us of the ‘Light of the World’ which is coming into it. Are you ready?

I am not asking if you have cards written and gifts purchased. I am asking if you have reviewed what Isaiah has to say about that day. How about St. Luke? To be really ready, we need not add further stress to a busy holiday season, but set aside a few hours every week where we can center ourselves on what is essential.

It is true that “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Come to the place that hasn’t forgotten that. Join us as we remember together. See you in church! Jon

ZionNews December 2017



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE to raise funds for VBS 2017 on
Sunday, December 10th and 17th!

Congratulations to our new 2018 Consistory Member

Cathy Diggan

Sunday December 17th at 10:30 am
The Sunday school children have been
working hard this year, please join us for
a Nativity play!





6 INCH POT WITH 4-6 BLOOMS;
 \$8.00 EACH
 RED ONLY MONDAY DUE 12/11

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN THANKSGIVING OF _____

_____ AMOUNT PAID _____ # OF PLANTS _____



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Tim Rentschler
 John Emore

12/02 Kerry Holzman
 Jeremy Kamp
 Scott Etchberger

12/03 Jonas Hartman

12/04 Betty Balthaser

12/07 Alva Luckenbill
 Kelly Himmelberger

12/08 Owen Dubble
 Tony Stafford
 Diane Wessner

12/09 Todd Moyer

12/11 Sharon Hoh

12/13 Lisa Shupp

12/14 Gail Whiskeyman

12/15 Cody Readinger
 Whitney George Rose

12/19 Jonathan Koenig

Helen Shirey

12/20 Ruth Himmelberger
 Marlene Adams

12/22 Monica Sechler
 Glenn Snyder

12/23 Peggy Behm
 Troy Breininger

12/25 Dawn Reddy



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/08 Jim & Wendy Schutt

12/26 Paul & Sharon Eaton

Don't forget your church family this holiday season. If you are planning to send a card, drop it off on Sunday morning in the Narthex and save yourself some postage! Cards will be distributed up to December 17th

Thank you for all your cards, thoughts and prayers. After a year and 5 surgeries for me and 1 for Terry, we are finally in a good place. ~ Terry & Judy Boyer

WORSHIP DUTIES

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Greeter			Susan Harbonic		
Reader					
Flower sponsor Altar/Organ	Russ & Joan Hartman	Janice Blatt	Irene Birkenbine/ Steph Miller	Sue Shollenberger	Byrd & Doris/ Cindy Berger
Monthly bulletin sponsor	Brian & Sherry Wessner	Christmas Eve: Greeters: 5 pm 7 pm: Bulletin Sponsor: Larry Newhard & Lisa Simon, Shirley & Gerritt Breiningen, Brian & Sherry Wessner			



The last day for submitting offering for 2017 will be December 31st

Please remember to pick up your 2018 offering envelopes.

KENNEDY HOUSE TRIP SATURDAY JANUARY 20

Beef Stock (can or box)
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Tomato Paste
Canned Diced Tomatoes
Onions
Bagged Carrots
Canned Peaches

Brownie Mix
Juice Boxes (cases)
Croutons
Salad Dressing

- Italian
- Thousand Island
- Ranch

**PLACE ALL DONATIONS IN THE FOOD PANTRY
BOX IN THE NARTHEX**

**If you are interested in volunteering please contact
Lisa Shupp @ lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org**

***this year there is not a Confirmation class therefore we need all the adults
we can get!**

**Please consider including our shut-ins on your Christmas Card list this year. Whether they
you know them personally or not they more than appreciate knowing they are thought about
during the holidays. Just sign your card with your name and Zion Blue Mountain UCC. If you
want we will even deliver your cards, drop them off in the box at the church with the
recipient's name on the front (no address necessary)**

Nancy Fitzgerald
20 S. Summit Ave. #316
Shillington, PA 19607

Alva Luckenbill
1000 Orwigsburg Manor Dr.
Room 203A
Orwigsburg PA 17961

Mildred Long
239 Pine Street, Apt. 201
Hamburg, PA

Betty Symanowicz
354 Tulley Drive
Bernville, PA 19606

Annie Phillips
PO Box 31
Bethel, PA 19507

Polly Himmelberger
1 Reading Dr. Apt. 267
Wernersville, PA 19565

**Arlene & Leroy
Shollenberger**
116 Mill Road
Bernville PA 19506

Laura Ditzler
PC 201
99 Bethany Road
Ephrata PA 17522

Marian Long
501 Hoch Rd. Apt. 319
Blandon, PA 19510

Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ

Congregational Meeting

November 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:28 am by President Doris Wagner

The quorum requirement of at least 10% of the total membership was met.

Pastor Jon Fogle offered an opening prayer.

Congregation read the family faith covenant together.

A motion was made by Bernie Himmelberger, and seconded by Melissa Miller and passed by voice vote to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2016 Congregational Meeting.

ELECTION OF CONSISTORY 2018 MEMBERS

Nominations:

Elder: Cathy Diggan

Cathy Diggan accepted the nomination.

Nominations were taken from the floor, the floor was then closed to additional nominations.

A motion for a vote by acclamation to elect Cathy Diggan to the 2018 Consistory. All were in favor.

Doris thanked all members of Consistory, for their hard work and dedication to the church.

Doris then opened the floor to each committee to discuss their Annual Report.

Sharon Eaton spoke on behalf of the Deacons. She explained the role of a Deacon in the church and also asked that people read the newsletter articles, "Where does your money go". She emphasized that the budget is followed, sometimes more closely than others. She explained how things in the budget were decided.

Sharon praised the fundraising efforts but pointed out that she personally felt that Sundays are where it is at and felt everyone was giving what they felt they could afford. She asked that we all find a way to put just that extra \$1 in a week that we spend on coffee or "apple fritters" in the offering plate. If you are maxed out she pointed out that it doesn't mean you can't give through time. There are plenty of opportunities you just need to show up or ask where they can use you. She called our volunteers the "happy hands" group.

Robin Faust spoke on behalf of the food pantry and again thanked everyone for their volunteering and food donations. She had nothing more to add to the Missions report.

Karen Miller thanked everyone who participates in Bingo, whether you bake, work, sell, cook or play, you are all very much appreciated!

BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Budget and Finance report were presented by Treasurer Clinton Faust. The report reflected the net receipts/disbursements. Clinton Faust has taken on the position of treasurer last year, he apologized for the delay in preparing the hard copy of the budget for the annual report.

Clint presented a verbal report and included an additional pie chart describing the sources of revenue comparison for the church.

The question for recommendations for increasing revenue was asked. Of course we can reduce costs and try to increase participation through fundraising and worship collections.

A motion was made by Susan Harbonic and seconded by Todd Moyer to accept the 2018 budget. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: Doris began the conversation about repairs and improvements for the parsonage. She stated that ALL work was on hold until church roof repairs are completed.

QUESTIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION

What are the intentions for the Parsonage?

The intention is to rent because a sale would not allow us to control the tenant selection. Since the residence is beside the church we want someone who would be respectful of our worship and church.

Would there be a clause in the tenant lease if we would acquire a pastor in need of housing?

Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Doris Wagner opened the floor to any questions regarding the proposed by-law changes to the congregation and the establishment of a Pastoral Relations Committee.

Todd Moyer was not in favor at this time for establishment of the By Law amendment. He felt as a former Consistory President, the committee was not functioning properly and since it was a new concept for Zion, there should be more exploration of how it should function.

Pastor Jon Fogle spoke regarding the implementation of the committee. He agreed that the committee needs to be constructed in a way that will work for Zion Blue Mountain, that doesn't mean you need to use guideline from other church or even the handbook from the PSEC. Those are meant to be exactly what he said...a guide.

Barry Miller asked the pastor if he felt that would be beneficial to have the committee in place before calling a new pastor? Would this committee make it more attractive to a new Pastor? Pastor Jon didn't feel that it would make it more appealing but that it is an important committee for both the

Pastor and the Congregation. He indicated that Zion has plenty of time to establish this committee. He thought the committee was helpful but not necessary. He again pointed out that is he staying as an interim as long as needed by Zion. This is not a sprint to find a new pastor and if things need sorting out first that will happen. Barry then asked that Consistory address the issue next year.

Randy Sebastian and Lynn Koenig both agreed with Todd Moyer that at this time it should be tabled.

Randy asked that the congregation discern about the decisions we make and not rush into anything too quickly. In the past it has not ended well if we moved to quickly

Pastor Jon suggested that the Spiritual Council (Elders) meet and function in the capacity needed at this time.

A motion to not pass the proposed by law amendment was made by Randy Sebastian and seconded by Todd Moyer.

There was no other new business.

Doris spoke to the congregation about the past year and looking forward to our future. She echoed her message from the past year that the Consistory is always available to speak to members, so please approach any member.

Bernie Himmelberger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 pm and Randy Sebastian seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Shupp, Secretary





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

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jon Fogle (Fogleja@comcast.net)

Staff

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

Sexton: Brad Faust

Consistory

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

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

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

Contact Information

Pastor's Phone: 484-269-9624

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.