

# ZION NEWS

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

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Have you ever thought how many pastors have served us since 1739? (Our records show at least 45.) I wonder about the experience of those Zion pastors of the past. I wonder about the people they served. What did their passion for Jesus Christ look like?

Think how many people have been baptized, married, and had their funerals between these walls. How many visits to hospitals and homes did those pastors make? Together, we realized dreams, lived through trials, and Zion persevered.

While we are temporarily without a pastor, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning, and will be with us for the rest of time.

If through the power of the Holy Spirit we allow Jesus to guide our Congregation, we will always have a mission. In the future, it may not look like the church we have today. There may be difficult decisions we need to make. But a passion for our Lord and Savior will see us through all our trials. This passion guided the earlier congregations of Zion, a passion which allowed them to navigate their own trials. They managed and flourished; so can we.

The Bible is full of stories about people who faced harder trials than us. A few times the people of Israel were exiled from their land; every time they returned, with the help of God. When Elijah was on the run from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel he prayed, "I've been very passionate for the LORD God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

The LORD heard Elijah's prayer and encouraged him with these words: "I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven't bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven't kissed him." When Elijah had done the math it looked to him like it was all over. God's math was different from Elijah's. God made a way where there was no way, and God will do it again for people who have faith.

WE have a wonderful future. I hope that under new pastoral leadership we will find a way to connect with the neighborhood and invite more people to join us on Sunday morning.

The Consistory knows that there are a lot of questions and believes that each person who has a question deserves an answer. For the next few weeks various Consistory members will be available in the overflow area of the Sanctuary for conversations about our future. Of course, you are welcome to come to a Consistory meeting on the third Sunday of every month after worship. Please seek out your answers or offer suggestions to these leaders. They are here to serve. Without hearing your voice, they are unable to respond to your concerns and guide our congregation in this time of challenge and opportunity.

"Let The Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other."

Genesis 31:49

# ALL YOU CAN EAT POT PIE SUPPER

September 16 4 - 7 pm

Adult \$8

Children age 6 to 10 - \$4.50

Under 6 FREE

## A.Y.C.E. Homemade Pot Pie

Includes Coleslaw, Corn, Applesauce, Rolls, Drinks & Dessert

Take Out Meals \$7.00

Quarts Available for Purchase



**Worship times beginning September 17**  
**8 & 10:30 AM Christian Ed at 9 AM**

### Worship Duties

	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24
Greeter	<i>Sign</i>	<i>Up</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>The</i>
Reader		<i>Narthex</i>		
Flowers Altar/Organ	Abner Huntsberger	Michael & Christine Bashore	Diane Wessner	Sandy Reader
Monthly bulletin	Susan & Barry Harbonic			

**Flowers must be paid in the month they are ordered.**

Dear Christian Friends,

My name is Jon Fogle, and as of September 1st, I am your Interim Pastor. I am thankful to be able to serve the wider United Church of Christ in this way. Specifically, I am glad to be serving Zion (Blue Mountain) in this capacity.

One of the things that is first and foremost on my 'to do' list is to get to know you and for you to get to know me. I have been an Authorized Minister in the United Church of Christ for 28 years. Zion is the fourth congregation I've served during that time, along with serving as an administrator with the United Church of Christ Homes. When not engaged in ministry, I love the outdoors. I have two American Brittanys that help me guide upland hunters and help train other bird dogs. I like to do wood working. I cook and bake, especially sourdough and BBQ. I am joyfully married for 36 years. My wife, Rebecca, and I have three grown children...all boys. Becky is an Administrator for a consulting group with the PA Department of Education out of Malvern. We live in Sinking Spring.

This congregation is already an active place, so when you see me at an event, please take a minute and introduce yourself. If I have to ask you a second (or third time) your name, please forgive me.

For now, I urge you to join me in worship and service so that we might (as one theologian described "the purpose of the church and its ministry") increase our love of God and one another.

See you in church,  
Rev. Dr. Jon A. Fogle



# Choir Rehearsals begin September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm



09/01 Jeremy Bentz  
 09/02 Brianna Bashore  
 09/03 Russell Hartman  
 09/04 Lily Bentz  
 09/05 Amy Stafford  
 09/07 Allen Leshar  
 09/08 Julie Schlappich  
 Harlee Ehrets  
 09/10 Harvey Stambaugh  
 Sharon George  
 Hannah Zweizig  
 09/11 Eileen Deisemann  
 09/12 Kenny Machmer, Jr.  
 Caroline Bashore  
 09/13 Andrea Faust  
 09/16 Laura Ditzler  
 Cail Schrack  
 09/18 Courtney Blatt  
 09/20 Larry Newhard  
 09/24 Mike George  
 David Breidigan  
 09/25 Barry Harbonic  
 09/26 Sara Ruth  
 09/27 Margaret Luckenbill

Zach Zweizig  
 09/28 Stanley Deisemann  
 Amy Yeager  
 09/29 John Behm  
 09/30 Dean Kirkhoff  
 Anne Binner

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09/02 Dennis & Adele Dietrich  
 09/05 Linda & Ronald Mills  
 09/07 Barbara & Kenny Grimes  
 09/08 Brad & Robin Faust  
 09/10 Ronald & Myong Emerich  
 Christine & Mike Bashore  
 09/12 Robert & Susan Deisemann  
 09/16 Pinky & Lynda Himmelberger  
 John & Melissa Miller  
 09/19 Arthur & Karen Kissling  
 09/20 Tim & Lori Rentschler  
 09/21 Jim & Lisa Shupp  
 09/22 Ralph & Esther Sweigart  
 09/24 Brian & Sherry Wessner  
 09/26 Barry & Susan Harbonic  
 09/30 Dwain & Julie Schlappich



*Jacob Yoder and Tori Dietrich on their marriage on August 26, 2017*



# Welcome Back

## Luncheon



Sunday September 17, after worship  
Entrees and soup will be provided  
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share



**Many Hands Make LIGHT Work**

Thank you to everyone that helped to make our community dinners a success.

**We served 115 spaghetti dinners!**

Helpers: Brad & Robin, Melinda & Jon, Don & Tyrene, Cindy & Butch, Doris, Sandy, Bonnie, Christine & Sue D.



# Church Events

September 12	Choir Resumes	November 16	Thanksgiving Food Pantry Distribution
September 16	Pot Pie Dinner 4-7 pm	November 18	Pumpkin Roll Sale
September 17	Welcome Back Luncheon	November 20	Congregational Meeting
September 21	Food Pantry Distribution	November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Friedens Shartlesville
October 1	World Communion	November 27	First Sunday of Advent, Communion
October 2	Martha's Circle, 7		
October 13	Bingo, doors open 5 pm	November 28 & 29	Nut Sale
October 19	Food Pantry Distribution	December 4	Martha's Circle, 7
October 22	Harvest Home Smokey Bear BBQ	December 8	Bingo
October 29	Apple Dumpling Sale	December 10	Chinese Auction
November 5	All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time ends	December 17	Chinese Auction Live Nativity, 6 PM
November 6	Martha's Circle, 7	December 24	Christmas Eve Service 5 & 7 PM
November 10	Bingo	December 25	Merry Christmas!
November 12	Sunday School Pretzel making		

\*All dates and times are subject to change

## Bingo Kitchen September 8

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Lisa Shupp	Wendy Schutt
Chick Stambaugh	Lynda Himmelberger
Sandy Readinger	Anne Binner
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
<b>5-8</b>	
Joan Hartman	

Please have your Hot Pots in the kitchen by 4 pm. All dishes should be warm when they arrive. If you drop off the day before please let someone in the church know so that they can get the crock pot turned on during the day on Friday.

Hot Pot – Lolly Lesher  
Sharon Eaton

Bakers – Amy Shanaman  
Sue Deisemann  
Cindy Emore  
Joan Hartman

### God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. “Look at the gorgeous leaves!” Grandma exclaimed. “Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!”

“Yep,” said her grandson, “and he did it left-handed.”

Perplexed, Grandma asked, “Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?”

“Because,” said the boy matter-of-factly, “we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God’s right one.”

**We now have a portable AED (automated external defibrillator) machine at the top of the stairwell, outside the choir room.**

For anyone interested in receiving Consistory minutes after they have been published (via email) please email [lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org](mailto:lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org) with the word minutes in the subject line. An email blast will be organized and the Monday following Consistory meetings you will be emailed a copy of the minutes.

## **WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO? BY THE DEACONS**

Money that is donated to the Building Maintenance Fund from our collection envelopes is used for repairs and maintenance of the church property, parsonage and sexton's house. Costs that we incur on a regular basis are trash removal, lawn care, snow removal, and pest control. Money from the Building Maintenance Fund is also used to pay for material for small repairs done by the trustees, yearly carpet cleaning at the church and inspection and maintenance of the boilers, elevator, water treatment and fire safety equipment, including extinguisher and sprinkler system inspections as required by law. We also use some of this fund for unexpected issues such as broken toilets or water fountains or air conditioning/boiler repairs, which require work by a licensed professional.

We do not use money from this fund to pay the Sexton's salary, fuel oil or electric bills.

During the past year, we have used money from the Building Maintenance Fund for stripping and sealing the floors in the preschool and youth rooms, mowing the sand mound, cleaning out the shed and fixing the mower, repairing the double door downstairs, painting hallways and replacing the broken window in the social hall. We also used funds to sand and paint the old entrance doors to the narthex, fix the screen door and change the locks on the sexton's house. For many of these projects the only cost was for materials because the trustees and other dedicated volunteers performed the actual work.

The large bequest we received from the Althouse estate was placed in a money market account and reserved for capital improvements. Prior to this, money was borrowed from this fund to meet operating expenses. Now, half of the rent we collect each month from the sexton's house is deposited back into the Althouse account to pay back the amount borrowed. Our available balance in the capital improvement fund is \$116,677 and is not touched unless there is a non-budgeted item that needs immediate attention and is approved by Consistory.

Our list of things to do in the future includes:

- Church – Roof repairs and shingle replacement; ongoing work on the steeple; repair of the parking lot and line painting.
- Parsonage – insulation and windowsill replacement; spouting repair/replacement; repair of walkway and outside lamppost.
- Sexton's house – chimney repair; replacement of rotting boards on back of the house; ceiling fan and window replacements.

Having a healthy balance in the building maintenance fund to keep our church property in good working order is very important. If you have contributed to the building fund this year, your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet placed a donation in the special envelope which you find in your envelope pack (next one is October 1), please consider helping with the upkeep of our facilities.

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

Comments for Treasurer's reports for July 2017 CHR15123@gmail.com

As of 7/31/2017 operational receipts rose above disbursements by \$5,834.  
Following are variance explanations:

		July 2017		
		Budget vs. Actual YTD		
Actual YTD	Budget YTD	YTD Variance	July 2017 Total	
<b>Receipts</b>				
Beginning Cash balances 6/30/17			122,918.66	
Worship Collections	89,898.00	(17,063.66)	9,894.67	
Missions-Preschool	47,500.00	1,022.74	75.00	
Missions-Other	2,524.00	2,379.47	184.00	
Transformation	1,550.00	388.80	184.73	
Fellowship	0.00	(120.00)	-	
Property	7,429.00	7,045.00	850.00	
Martha's Circle	3,123.55	1,900.00	-	
Interest on MM	97.27	280.00	-	
Fundraising Revenue	20,466.56	16,953.00	1,807.56	
Subtotal Receipts - Church Operations	159,275.73	166,777.00	13,695.26	
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Worship	8,434.72	11,025.00	726.53	
Transformation	2,795.09	1,700.00	616.78	
Missions-Preschool	39,251.75	35,897.93	436.32	
Missions-Other	3,875.35	4,950.00	1,474.65	
Fellowship	921.88	900.00	21.88	
Support & Leadership	56,807.76	65,125.00	8,316.14	
Property Maint. & Mgt	36,231.41	42,425.00	6,193.59	
Martha's Circle	1,891.48	1,750.00	103.48	
Fundraising Expense	5,644.63	5,200.00	644.63	
Total Disbursements	155,859.01	169,143.93	13,284.92	
Net Receipts/ Disb from Operations	3,416.72	(2,426.93)	5,834.85	
Cash flow adjustment			(300.46)	
Ending Cash balances 7/31/2017			125,009.36	

**Receipts**  
**Worship Collections:** Worship collections total \$17,064 below budget.  
 Gen. Fund offerings total approx. \$4,266 (7%) lower YTD compared to 2016.  
**Missions-Other:** Donations to Food Pantry & Bereavement Fund total approx. \$4,983 YTD.  
 Total donations rose above budgeted estimates by \$1,918 YTD.  
**Martha's Circle:** Receipts totaled \$1,234 above budget.  
 Revenue was driven by Smokey Bear BBQ event which totaled \$4,165 in May.  
**Fundraising Revenue:** Fundraising revenue YTD is \$4,537 above budget.  
 Margins continue to rise as revenue is \$12,950 greater YTD compared to 2016.  
 Bingo, Small Games of Chance, & Kitchen revenue totaled \$4,645 YTD.

**Disbursements**  
**Worship:** Worship expenses total \$2,590 below budget.  
 The variance was driven by music expenses which were approx. \$1,300 below budget YTD.

**Support & Leadership:** Expenses total \$8,116 below budget YTD.  
 The following factors make up the significant portion of the fluctuation:  
 Various communication and travel expenses fell below budget approx. \$1,103 YTD.  
 In addition, various pastor related expenses are approx. \$6,000 below budget YTD.  
**Property Maint. & Mgt:** Expenses total \$4,393 below budget YTD.  
 The following factors make up the significant portion of the fluctuation:  
 Church RMA & RMA for the rental property totaled \$5,000 below budget YTD.

Note: Total member offerings via automatic deposit totaled \$1,120 in July.

Comments on Balance Sheet:  
 Fallen LOC in 7/2017 - \$16,043.32 balance. No change in July

Missions-Preschool (net)	9,220.99	11,682.67	(2,461.68)
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**Preschool Net:**  
 Preschool tuition YTD is \$1,013 above budgeted receipts as of 7/31/2017.  
 Revenue is up YTD \$1,013 (33%) compared to 2016.  
 Preschool tuition expenses YTD rose above budget by \$3,424 as of 7/31/2017.  
 Expenses are up YTD (\$1,598) (33%) compared to 2016.



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church  
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*Staff*

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*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*

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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.*