



Zion News

February 2017
Volume 36 Issue 2

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

HOPE

There are always reasons to believe the year ahead will be better than the previous years. That is the way it is supposed to go, right? Every year is supposed to improve on the year before.

Is that the reality in which we live?

Our calendar year ends with Christmas. Christmas is a celebration of hope. It is the hope in Christ which draws so many to our church's sanctuary on Christmas Eve. It is the hope that Christ will come into our lives for the next year. It is the hope that God has not abandoned us to our sin and to the sins of each other.

I think when a new year begins we want to hope that it will be better than the last. Inevitably, the New Year's newness wears off as it appears to include the same day-to-day routines as the year before. Nothing seems to have gotten any better or changed at all.

We look for that moment in what appears to be new, and when we don't see it, we give up on the hope that anything will ever be better than they were in the last year. This is how we lose sight of resolutions, and promises we make to ourselves.

We tend to forget the one in whom our hope resides—Jesus. It's amazing how, in the course of just a few weeks, we go from "celebrating Jesus," to "Ho Hum...everything's like it was before," and we end up abandoning the hope we had from our Lord and Savior coming into the world.

Celebrating Christmas and New Year's is a choice. Keeping the hope that comes from Jesus throughout the year is also a choice, and it can be a difficult choice to make. Jesus came into the world so we might celebrate his love and his gift of salvation all year long. Most importantly Jesus came into the world so we may have hope that this year will be better than the last.

I know its February and the year's beginning is already almost done, but this is the time that we need to be reminded of this message. Our great hope is that through Jesus Christ, we will all come together as Jesus Christ, as the Body of Christ in the world, and cause this year to be better than the previous.

If we don't actively choose this path, the path of our lives getting worse will be chosen for us...and I do not believe that many of us truly want to go down that path.

Blessings, Rev K

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WORSHIP DUTIES

	<i>February 5</i>	<i>February 12</i>	<i>February 19</i>	<i>February 26</i>
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	Bernie & Ruth Himmelberger	<i>OPEN</i>	Barbara Spohn/ Mike Kamp
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	Bernie & Ruth Himmelberger	Wendy Schutt	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>Reader</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	Pat Moyer	Wendy Schutt	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>Bulletins</i>	Mike Kamp			

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Orders for flowers from families with an outstanding balance for flowers will not honored



2/1 Alex Bentz
 2/5 Olivia Lesher
 2/6 Barbara Witman
 2/8 Bryce Kamp
 2/9 Doris Moyer
 2/11 Barbara Spohn
 Myong Emerich
 2/12 Kermit Wagner
 2/14 Jim Schutt

2/19 George Stankiewitch
 Alyssa Dietrich
 2/20 Steve Shollenberger
 2/21 Scott Sechler Jr.
 2/23 Mike Kamp
 Jacelyn Stine
 2/24 Dru George
 2/26 Ivy Bentz
 Colton Guinther
 2/28 Barbara Grimes

ANNIVERSARIES

2/9 Bill & Judy Lando
 2/14 Richard & Sharon Hoh
 Terry & Sharon Kominsky
 2/25 Lynn & Melissa Koenig

Thank you to everyone especially Pastor Josh for all his visits, calls and prayers and also Martha's Circle for your cards and prayers while I was in the hospital. ~with much gratitude, Arlene Shollenberger

March 25th is our annual Sportsman's Dinner!

Doors open at 5 pm, dinner is served at 6 pm.

Stay tuned for info on ticket sales!

We are still looking for game meat donations.

***If you have a full freezer
please contact***

Byrd or Doris Wagner @ 610-488-0147



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 am-2:30 pm 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¢



On January 15, we had our Consistory retreat, where we welcomed our new Consistory members and went over their duties and responsibilities. The officers were elected for 2017. President is Doris Wagner, Vice President is Keith Hamm, Lisa Shupp is our secretary, and Clint Faust is financial treasurer. Congratulations to all our new members and officers.

Please remember during the winter months if the decision is made to cancel services, please listen to WEEU radio or WFMZ TV. Also, it will be on our Facebook page. It may not be on the answering machine message if we cannot get there to change the message. If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to call Doris Wagner at (610) 488-0147.

If you have any suggestions or concerns or just wonder why it is done that way, feel free to contact any member of Consistory to discuss your thoughts. Consistory meets the third Sunday of every month. Anyone may join us as a guest.

Bingo Kitchen February 10

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Pastor Josh	Sherry Wessner
Amy Yeager	Amy Yeager
Sue Deisemann	Lynda Himmelberger
Terry Boyer	Karen Miller

Food Pantry Item of the Month



Hot Pot – Doris Wagner
Beth Machmer
Amy Yeager

Bakers – Anne Binner
Peg Wagner
Keith Hamm
Tammy Davis

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHIMES?

We have had a few power surges at the church and we believe that caused a malfunction of the Carillon. Even with the surge protector we have installed the company said these surges play a large role in malfunctions. We are looking into the cost of repairs for the beautiful sounds that our church has always enjoyed.

The logo for 'SOUP'S ON!' features the word 'SOUP'S' in a large, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' in 'SOUP'S' is replaced by a red bowl with three wavy lines above it representing steam. Below 'SOUP'S' is the word 'ON!' in a large, grey, sans-serif font, with an exclamation point.

Join us Wednesday evenings starting March 1st for our Ash Wednesday Service. Lent Services will be held on Wednesday evenings with a soup supper served at 6 pm in the Parlor, and worship to follow in the Sanctuary. Don't worry if you can't make supper there is a place for you at the worship service. If you have not experienced a service during the Lent season this is the time to try it out. We welcome anyone who wants to follow Christ's very moving journey to the cross. Pastor Josh hopes to see you there!



Easter Flower Order Form

Send payments to the church office or

Place it in the offering plate.

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 2nd

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

God's conversation hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others.



For example:

- **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- **FOREVER:** God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- **TRUST ME:** "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- **SWEET TALK:** God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- **#1:** "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).



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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

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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.