



Zion News

March 2017
Volume 36 Issue 3

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

OUR UPDATED WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED.

Check us out at www.zionbluemountainucc.org

Also don't forget to friend us on Facebook!

“Raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens...These are few of my favorite things.”

Lent is here, and with it a word with which I am not sure we are comfortable. The word is “denial”. The season of Lent is about living in denial. No, I don't mean the river in Africa. Denial is painted with such negativity in our lives. We say somebody who has trouble accepting reality is “in denial”.

But in Lent we are supposed to live in denial. In this case, denial is about giving up our favorite things. That doesn't mean we cut off the whiskers on our kittens, but it does mean we deny ourselves access to the things that give us pleasure.

That can be a difficult concept to wrap ourselves around, but it is true. During Lent we are supposed to live in denial of one thing, or two things, or however many things we feel God is leading us to give up through our prayer life. As we endure the denial, we are called to live in that denial.

By allowing the denial of our favorite things, we are to enter into a habit of prayer. This prayer leads us to understand how blessed we are that we only have to go without these favorite things for forty days out of our entire year. Through that thanksgiving, we appreciate the comforts we enjoy in our lives.

I'm sure Jesus appreciated food after not eating anything for forty days in the wilderness, but after the forty days, Jesus knew more fully what he was meant to do on Earth. After Jesus was tempted by the devil, the angels ministered to him and instructed him on God's purpose for him. It was only after he entered a state of denial that drove him to giving thanks for his comforts that he was ready to hear God's voice speaking to him in the wilderness.

We live in a wilderness that is called the modern world. Often we shout to the Heavens, in our own ways, begging God to give us direction for the future, but how often do stop and give thanks for that which we have here and now. This attitude of gratitude is what God is waiting for us to show in order that we might be ready to walk the path that was meant for us since before we were formed in the womb.

And in walking that path, our favorite things will be even better than they seem to us now. “Raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens...” Blessings, Rev. K

WORSHIP DUTIES

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Flowers	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	George Carles
Greeter	Sherry Wessner	Brad & Robin Faust	OPEN	Sharon Eaton
Reader	Sherry Wessner	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Bulletins	Joan Hartman			

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for flowers, bulletins, readers and greeters.

Flowers must be paid in the month they are ordered.

We are thankful to all the members of our church family who included us in their prayers, sent cards, visited with us, and grieved with us while we seek God's comfort and strength to cope with the tragic loss of our beloved Cade. Your thoughts, words, hugs and prayers continue to warm our hearts. Thank you for shining your light and offering your love, support, and thoughtfulness!

The Kirkhoff Family

A sincere thank you to everyone for the lovely cards and heartfelt prayers following my surgery. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful, caring church family.

~Steph Miller



TICKETS ARE ON SALE!

March 25th is our 15th annual

Sportsman's Dinner!

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

\$20.00 for anyone 12 and over

\$5.00 for children 5 to 11

Children 4 and under are free

Bingo Kitchen March 10

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

Hot Pot – Tom Dodge
Shirley Breininger
Lisa Shupp

Bakers – Sharon Eaton
Melissa Miller
Karen Miller
Judy Boyer

LIBRARY ROOM ATTENDANT NEEDED

Do you have an hour or two a week of free time? Do you love to read? Maybe we have a position for you!

We would like to expand and organize the library. If you would be interested in inventorying and organizing what we already have and receive new additions. This might just be a good fit for you!

Speak to Keith Hamm or contact the church office
lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org
610-488-7361.



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: _____

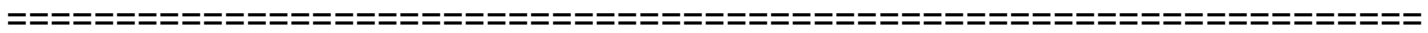
ORDERS DUE APRIL 2nd

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____



REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE PROGRAM

Don't forget that we still participate in the Save-A-Tape program if you shop at Redner's. That means you must present your Save-A-Tape/Pump Perks card at time of your purchase. If you don't we will not get credit for your transaction. Please don't give receipts that aren't part of the program. Thank you for your continuing participation!



Food Pantry Item of the Month

Canned Tuna Fish



The Greater Berks Food Bank is offering more fresh fruit and vegetables to order. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help us with distribution please contact Robin Faust (610) 488-1300 or Karen Miller (610) 401-3264. The hours which we most need help are between 4 pm and 7 pm!

03/04 Allan Bashore
03/05 Rachael Stafford
03/06 Patience Fuhrman
03/08 Allen Readinger
03/10 Lynn Koenig
03/13 Thomas Eaton
03/14 April Stafford
 Laura Lesher
03/17 Avery Miller
 Hayden Miller
03/20 Amanda Kirkhoff
03/21 Robin Sebastian
03/24 Destinee Fuhrman
03/26 Richard Hoh
 Dorsen Berger
03/27 Sharon Eaton
03/30 David Emore
03/04 Bob & Annie Phillips
03/30 Hugh & Bonnie Herb
03/31 Brian & Anne Binner



It is all about up-to-the-minute events in your world. We effectively apply the Bible to the stories ripped right from the newspaper headlines.

The program is supplied by "Wired Word", an online adult curriculum focused on digging into scripture relating to the topic of the week.

It's very interesting how God plays such an important part in our lives. The class is discussion based like a Bible Study. There are no "teachers". You sign up for an email through the class and each week you are emailed the topic along with scripture references to start your thinking process. We have been exploring Musical lyrics to water being created from under our feet...and the political climate in our country. And believe it or not these are all related to our God and our lives today.

If you're interested in the topic of the week, stop by and join the conversation and share your thoughts. We would love to see you. We meet Sunday mornings at 9 am in the parlor!

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! As we venture into the cold tundra we will discover that the BIBLE:

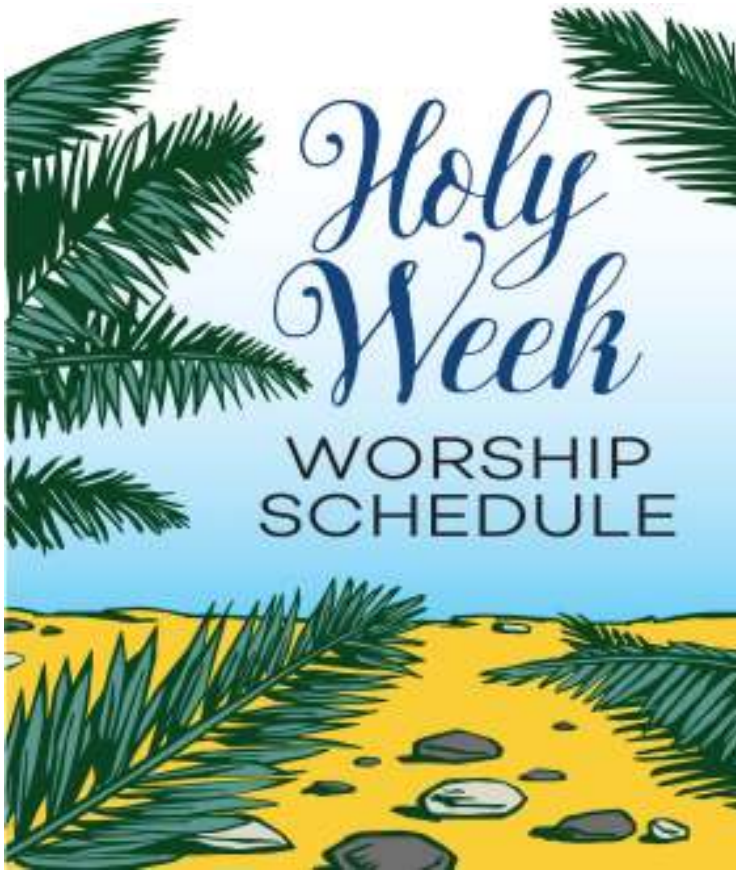
- Is the **B**ook of Books, unique in every way!
 - Has had an **I**ncredible impact upon us!
 - Is the **B**edrock base of our lives!
- Is a **L**ove letter in which God tells us how we can become his children
 - Is **E**xciting to explore as we learn it, love it and live it!

Let's plunge on in to this cold world and God's wonderful Word! Operation Arctic promises to be a flurry of fun and excitement! Let's Go!

Dear Congregation,

As I look forward in the life of the church during all the protests and uncertainty, I am thankful that our church is a safe place for all of us to be. I am thankful to come to church and know that each of you will help to spread the love of Jesus Christ to whoever enters our sanctuary. Together we can spread the love of Jesus wherever we go. If we as disciples share our love more people will be drawn to us as our light shines for Christ. Please come and talk to me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to serving you and working together for the common good of our church.

Sincerely, Doris Wagner



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday March 1 at 7 pm

March 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7 pm

April 5 at 7 pm

Palm Sunday April 9

Maundy Thursday April 13 at 7 pm

Good Friday April 14 at 7 pm

Easter Morning

Sunrise Service

Children's Program 9 am

Traditional Service 10:30 am

Daylight Savings time begins
March 12th



The new Consistory had their first meeting of 2017. They established a Mission Statement for Zion, this is a written declaration of an organization's core purpose and focus. We were able to develop this from our discussions at the park meetings last year. Our worship committee is working on Lent & Easter services and possibly having a singing group join us. The carillon is still in the repair stages. The Sunday School is starting to grow. They have about 12 to 15 children weekly. The Sunday School groups will be presenting their Easter program on Easter morning at 9 am. Our trustees have been busy and have a lot of Spring projects waiting for their attention. They are looking for estimates on repairing our parking lot. They are cleaning up our youth room and disposing of broken items. These gentlemen are always busy with repairs and maintenance of the church. Remember you are always welcome at any of our meetings. We meet the third Sunday of each month. ~2017 Consistory members



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church
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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

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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.