



# Zion News

June/July 2017  
Volume 36 Issue 6

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

As I walked across the parking lot this morning with the sun shining and birds chirping, I wish I could have said, "It's a beautiful day." But I couldn't say that because it's hot, and humid, and sticky, and uncomfortable. The air wasn't moving. The air was so heavy it was not as easy to breathe as it usually is, and I was beginning to feel my body perspire.

All this went through my head as the sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and I had enough health to walk across the parking lot at all. None of that mattered because immediately I focused on the negativity of my experience. It did not matter that there was much for which to be positive. It did not matter that there was much for which to be joyful.

We live in a world saturated with negativity, but negativity is not the purpose for which God created our world and gave us life. We were created for joy. There is now and there will always be reasons to have negative attitudes. We must remember in all the people and things that get under our skin; all the situations that anger us; everything that fuels our unhappiness, there is always joy and goodness to be found somewhere.

Being negative or positive is a choice. It's easy to choose negativity. It's easy to allow ourselves to be pulled into the pit of darkness. It's the same pit the devil was tossed into in revelation.

Choosing joy is difficult. Choosing joy is the higher calling of being a disciple of Christ. Living in joy does not mean there are no problems. Choosing joy means your approach to the problems is an approach of grace and forgiveness. Joyful people are still hurt and wounded in the same way as anyone else, but they approach reconciliation not in anger but in attempts to understand the other side.

Reconciliation approached in anger seeks only one thing...the complete and total submission of the other side. The anger is used as a scare tactic.

Reconciliation approached in joy seeks to understand the other side so that all may live in relationship with each other, and the "sides" might disappear into the "Us" and the "We".

It is hard to live in joy, but it is how Jesus calls us to live. John 15:11 reads, "These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." These are the words of Jesus. These words tell us what Jesus wants for us. Christ's joy can only be ours, if we choose it to be so.

Blessings, Pastor Josh

## *Sunday June 4 at 10:30*

Join us as we celebrate Confirmation and Communion

### 2017 Zion Blue Mountain Confirmation Class



*Alexis Deisemann  
Patience Fuhrmann  
Brayden Kamp*



## ***"Celebrate Your Faith Night & Fireworks"***

***Sunday June 25 @ 5:05 pm***

A sign-up sheet for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> Reading Phillies versus the Trenton Thunder (New York Yankees) game at First Energy Stadium. Tickets are \$9. Game time is 5:05 pm. This is always a fun church fellowship outing for all ages. Please contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions.



**New Members joined the family of Zion Blue Mountain on May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**We Are Pleased to Welcome:**

**Amber & Dan Brown  
Samantha Jo Neifert**



Congratulations to all our graduates from high school, college and preschool! Our preschool has had an excellent year, and was at full capacity for students. They are already full again for next year. If you know of anyone interested in having children attend the preschool, have them submit their applications for waiting lists or consideration. We cannot thank Miss Pam and her staff for the excellent job they all do in our preschool. The many hours and headaches are not recognized often enough. We appreciate everything they provide to our church and the preschool children and their

families!

Fundraising for the church is always busy. If you have an idea for a different or new fundraiser please contact Karen Miller 610-401-3264. Bingo has been quite profitable for us so far. We are averaging approximately 80-90 people per month. We are running specials in the merchandiser for the players. For Mother's Day each lady received a free dish of ice cream and a flower. Our kitchen has really taken off, we had to add an extra shift to accommodate the rush times. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time at Bingo or in the kitchen, you are making an awesome contribution! If you want to volunteer in the kitchen we could still use help, speak with Lisa Shupp or Karen Miller.

Worship committee is still following some leads on a music minister/organist position. They are advertising again since a lot of new graduates will be looking for positions. Over the summer Cody Knight will be our organist, in fact he is starting May 28<sup>th</sup>! We can't thank Don Schilke enough for his help during this time that we did not have an organist. He has led our choir and given us some fun songs to sing during his time here. He has agreed to come back in the fall if we have not found anyone. We can't wait to see him again!

We are gearing up for VBS this summer and we CAN NOT wait! It is an Artic theme and in the middle of July we all know we wish for a little artic weather! If you would be interested in helping please contact Wendy Schutt (she can always use more helpers!) 610-488-7255. She will listen to your interests and place you where you feel most comfortable. Don't forget to visit the VBS fundraising stand at the Strausstown Yard Sale on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, they will have breakfast and lunch items!

We are keeping our trustees busy. Who knows what we would do without them. A big shout out of thanks to Butch Berger for all he does. Especially from our preschool, they can't thank him enough! Between the 4 trustees they keep the church running like a well-oiled machine. Thanks Jon, Keith, Brad and Butch!

Did you ever wonder who to contact with questions or issues in the UCC? A page has been added under the About Zion section of the website with names, emails and phone numbers of who to contact for what at the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC.

Finally, we had our first FREE COMMUNITY DINNER on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. What a success! We had good food, plenty of guests (approx. 85) and plenty of help! We will continue this type event 2 or 3 times a year. We are planning the next one in August. If you would like to help please don't forget to sign up, we would love to have some different faces each event! Other opportunities to help include yard clean up, we have a shut in member who is in need of having a few bushes trimmed, if you would be interested please contact Robin Faust 610-488-1300.

Continue to pray for our church as we move forward!

- 6/2 Amber Dietrich  
Tori Dietrich  
Faye Bigman
- 6/5 Paige Dodge  
Tony Musselman
- 6/8 Beth Machmer  
Kristen Breininger
- 6/9 Joyce Kline  
Cameron Wolfe
- 6/13 Scott Sechler Jr.
- 6/17 Amber Martinez
- 6/19 Keith Hamm
- 6/20 Tammy Davis
- 6/21 Peg Wagner
- 6/23 Paul Eaton Jr.
- 6/25 Kristy Schutt
- 6/26 Michael Bashore
- 6/27 Ryan Gebely
- 6/30 Pinky Himmelberger



## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Collin Kamp, will be graduating from Hamburg Area High School on June 9<sup>th</sup>. He will attend Hutchinson Community College to learn Farm Machinery Technology for computerized farm equipment.

Eliza Riehl, graduated from preschool on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

Brianna Bashore, graduated from Elizabethtown College with a degree in Actuarial Science. She has a job with Highmark Insurance in Camp Hill.

Lainie Brianne Binner, graduated May 13<sup>th</sup> from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She will be working at the Reading Hospital in the Med/Surgery Unit.

Morgan Lyn Rentschler, graduated Summa Cum Laude from California State University, San Marcos with a bachelor's degree in Biological Science.

Ethan Riehl, graduated from Berks Technical Institute on May 5<sup>th</sup> as a Dental Assistant.



To everyone who bought BBQ or donated baked goods or helped in some way, Thank you from Martha's Circle. We had a successful sale! God is truly GREAT!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 5, if you came to meetings before we would love to see you again. The more the merrier! We welcome new ideas and faces!

***Again a huge thank you for your participation in our BBQ sale.***

We will see you NEXT YEAR!

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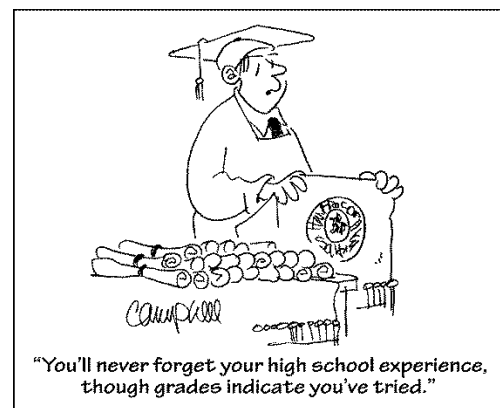
Although Martha's Circle is part of our church, no funds go to this group from your weekly envelope contribution. All funds for this group are raised through fundraising efforts. This includes a Smokey Bear BBQ in spring and a pumpkin roll sale in fall.

This group of hard-working ladies purchases various items for the church during the year with the funds. These items include kitchen supplies, bibles for the confirmands and meals each night of vacation Bible School. This year tablets were purchased for the Sunday School classes.

Martha's Circle is open to any and all ladies who want to help the church in its greater mission and enjoy some social time with other women. Meetings are held on the first Monday evening of the month with social time and refreshments.

During the year cards are sent to shut-ins. We throw a pot luck supper party to sample each other's recipes and enjoy our Christian sister's laughter and joy. We also serve hot chocolate and cookies at the live nativity.

Please join us for the fun and mission of our church.



## Bingo Kitchen June 9

| 4 – 7 pm        | 7- close           |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chick Stambaugh | Wendy Schutt       |
| Sharon Eaton    | Tammy Davis        |
| Judy Boyer      | Lynda Himmelberger |
| Terry Boyer     | Karen Miller       |

Hot Pot – Karen Miller

Bakers – April Faust  
Robin Faust  
Doris Wagner  
Peg Wagner

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.



## WORSHIP DUTIES

|                  | June 4             | June 11           | June 18 | June 25      |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| <i>Flowers</i>   | Glenn Snyder       |                   |         | Wendy Schutt |
| <i>Greeter</i>   | Brad & Robin Faust | Needed            | Needed  | Needed       |
| <i>Reader</i>    | Sharon Hoh         | Sue Shollenberger | Needed  | Needed       |
| <i>Bulletins</i> | Needed             |                   |         |              |

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



Everyone Who Bought Salads or Sandwiches From Our Sunday School.

We Will Resume Sales in October!



Grab your parka and snow boots! We are headed 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!

July 23-27

**Where:** Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ

**Time:** 5:45 pm – 6:05 pm (Dinner)

6:05 pm – 8:30 pm (VBS)

**Ages:** 3 Years – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Fall 2017)

**PRE-REGISTER TODAY!** Call 610-488-7361 or complete and return the registration form to Zion Blue Mountain UCC, PO Box 98, Strausstown, PA 19559.

**Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ**  
**2017 Vacation Bible School Registration Form (Please Print)**

|  |  |                |  |
|--|--|----------------|--|
| <b>Section 1: Parent's Information</b> |  |                |  |
| Name:                                  |  | Address:       |  |
| Phone #:                               |  | Email Address: |  |
| Home Church:                           |  | Attend Church: |  |

|   |  |          |  |
|---|--|----------|--|
| <b>Section 2: Emergency Contact Information</b> |  |          |  |
| Name #1:  |  | Phone #: |  |
| Name #2:  |  | Phone #: |  |

|   |  |                    |  |                              |
|---|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Section 3: VBS Participant Information</b> |  |                    |  |                              |
| <b>Child #1</b>                               |  |                    |  |                              |
| Age:  |  | Grade (Fall 2017): |  | Allergy/Medical Information: |
| Special Needs Information:                    |  |                    |  |                              |
| <b>Child #2</b>                               |  |                    |  |                              |
| Age:  |  | Grade (Fall 2017): |  | Allergy/Medical Information: |
| Special Needs Information:                    |  |                    |  |                              |
| <b>Child #3</b>                               |  |                    |  |                              |
| Age:  |  | Grade (Fall 2017): |  | Allergy/Medical Information: |
| Special Needs Information:                    |  |                    |  |                              |

# 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\*\****



# PA Dutch Evening

with

# Keith Brintzenhoff

(Pa German Folk & Country songs, Humor & Instrumentals)

<http://www.toadcreekmusic.com/>

Sunday August 27 @ 6:00 pm

Zion Blue Mountain UCC



Social Hall



Call church to reserve tables of 6 or more

Refreshments: Chips, Pretzels, Dutch Platters and Drinks

Free Will Offering



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

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

#### *Contact Information*

*Pastor's Phone:* 484-505-9788

*Office Phone:* 610-488-7361

*Website:* [www.zionbluemountainucc.org](http://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.*