

ZIONNEWS

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

Lent has begun. During this season we are mimicking the biblical experience of “wilderness time.” Israel’s forty years of wandering, Elijah’s forty days in the cave listening, and Jesus’ forty days of temptation; now the church intentionally enters into forty days of contemplation. A few weeks ago I enjoyed fashnachts. On Wednesday of that week, Ash Wednesday, many of us began the spiritual work of giving up something, for Lent. The church calls this ‘fasting.’ But doing this isn’t designed to make us better people, or lose a few pounds. It is about letting these disciplines focus our attention on God...and that is what Lent is about.

Sue Monk Kidd writes:

I reach in my backpack for my journal...here, I glued a small picture of the Tin Woodsman from the Wizard of Oz onto the front of it. I stare at it now.

It reminds me that I’m here in search of my heart.

Before Dorothy rescued him with the oil can, the Tin Woodsman was completely rusted over. Even his tears were frozen on his face. In the original story, the Tin Woodsman is a real person whose axe becomes cursed, causing him to slowly cut away his body and his heart, piece by piece, until he is no longer covered in warm flesh but trapped in an armor of tin. He can no longer feel or cry. His condition is numbness. His heart is lost.

I lean back on my elbows until I’m submerged in stalks of Queen Anne’s lace. I close my eyes. I do not feel numb, nor is my heart really lost, and yet I resonate with the image of the Tin Woodsman. I think of the ways my heart has become distant...I see how I’ve related to those close to me with lessening intimacy, with paling shades of love, how I’ve looked at suffering around me and felt strangely unaffected by it. I know these things point to a heart slowly becoming lost.

I ask myself: How did this happen?

I believe that our lenten discipline of “giving up something” is a kind of emptying so we might fill up on good stuff. Lenten discipline brings me back to a simpler focus, it clears room inside. Sue writes, “It allows me to empty myself out so there is gracious space within where I can receive myself, then God, and eventually, others.” This idea is in keeping with our main business of the church: to increase our love of God and of one another. Don’t reject too quickly a lenten fast, a giving up, no matter how small. But remember all the while that emptying out is not to create a void but to find space for God. Lent is at least partly about letting God fill persons who are normally quite full.

See ya in church, and at mid-week services,

Pastor Jon A. Fogle

[Sue Monk Kidd, “In the Ragged Window of my Soul,” Weavings, S/O 1996, p. 34-35.]



Palm Sunday - March 25 Children's Sunday School Program @ 10:30 am service

Preparatory Service - Wednesday March 28 @ 7 pm

Maundy Thursday - March 29 at 7 pm

Good Friday - March 30 at 7 pm

Easter Morning

Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Traditional Service 10:30 am



Daylight Savings time begins
March 11th



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 memory of: _____

Hyacinths # ____ Tulips # ____ Lilies # ____ Total plants: ____

Amount paid: _____

ORDERS DUE March 18th

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

ON THE MENU: SHEPHERD'S PIE

FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2018

4-7 pm

FREE TO EVERYONE



GETTING ON WITH OUR SEARCH:

Consistory met with Rev. Sharon Morris on Sunday February 18. The discussion was about our journey in finding a new settled pastor. Consistory heard the details of the process and how it has changed from the last time we did a search and call. Consistory has only 3 jobs in this process: to develop a job description; to establish a compensation package and to gather members for the transition team and search committee. It is up to the members of these 2 groups using input from our congregation to "find" a pastor for Zion. We will all have a chance to participate. The Transition team compiles the church profile and will hold "focus groups" in order to listen to others and be heard regarding the search. The Consistory has been asked to prayerfully consider who they think would be qualified to do the tasks necessary for the 2 teams and they will meet in March to begin recruiting members. They will be prayerfully considering who has the gifts necessary for this work. If you are asked please prayerfully consider why you have been asked before giving your answer. Understand that God is trying to work through us and we need to be able to fulfill God's will in order to call our next settled pastor.

The Deacon's Coin Purse:

As we all know stewardship is important to every church. We usually hear about stewardship in the fall when church comes back to life as the new school year starts. But right now we need to think about the summer and how attendance dips down during those months due to vacations, outdoor events and general chaos in the fun department. Along with this the collection plate is a lot lighter. Think about spreading your summer donations over the months, to the collection plate leading up to summer. The church will benefit by maintaining itself and its programs. And you can feel good that your stewardship has been taken care of for those summer months when you can't be here.

Sincerely Your Deacons, Sharon, Susan, Missy and Wendy



- 03/04 Allen 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
- 03/15 Eleanor Sechler
- 03/17 Avery Miller
 Hayden Miller
- 03/20 Amanda Kirkhoff
 Ruth Klinger
- 03/21 Robin Sebastian
- 03/24 Destinee Fuhrman
- 03/26 Richard Hoh
 Dorsen Berger
- 03/27 Sharon Eaton
- 03/30 David Emore
- 03/30 Hugh & Bonnie Herb
- 03/31 Brian & Anne Binner



MAY 5TH
CHURCH
SOCIAL HALL



If you've been thinking about cleaning out your attic, basement, or that hall closet that is overflowing with stuff, now is the time to do it! If you have a chance to pre-sort the items, that is appreciated, but not necessary.

Items We Can Accept

- Children's clothing in good condition (no adult clothing)
- Linens or Bedding
- Housewares
- Jewelry
- Books, CDs, DVDs, BluRay discs
- Toys
- Holiday Items
- Knick-knacks
- Garden equipment, pots, tools

Items We Cannot Accept

- TVs of any kind
- Bathing suits that have been worn
- Encyclopedias
- Waterbeds, box springs or mattresses
- Furniture
- Large appliances
- Automotive parts
- Ammunition, weapons
- Hazardous materials

Donation days will be: **Saturday April 14 from 9 am -12 pm,**
Sunday April 22 from 12 pm – 3 pm,
Thursday April 26 from 1 pm to 6 pm.

Anyone available to sort through donated items or set up please sign up in the Narthex and someone will contact you for your availability.

Kitchen workers will also be needed please sign up and help make this event successful!



Thank you



Thank you to everyone who thought of me or sent me a card on my birthday. It was a wonderful surprise to know everyone was thinking of me on my 90th birthday!
~Doris Moyer

Bingo Kitchen March 9

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Amy Yeager	Joan Hartman
Susan Deisemann	Tammy Davis
Sandy Readinger	Brad Faust
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5 - 8 pm	Robin Faust

Hot Pot – Shirley Breininger
Melinda Schaeffer

Bakers – Susan Deisemann
Rose Freed
Sandy Readinger
BAKER NEEDED

2018 Fundraising Calendar

Bingo 2nd Friday of the Month. Without your support in the kitchen we would not be as successful as we have been. Please consider taking a shift in the kitchen **ONE TIME A YEAR!** Sign up is in the Narthex.

March 24 – Caramel Cashew Bark Sale

October 20 & 21- Apple Dumpling Sale

May 5 – Rummage Sale – Bake Sale –
Kitchen will be open

November 27 & 28 - Nut Sale

September 22 – Pot Pie Dinner and
Bake Sale

December 2 through 16 - Chinese
Auction

Martha's Circle – **May 24** - Pulled Pork BBQ Sale
November 17 – Pumpkin Rolls



Where: Zion Blue Mountain
United Church of Christ

Time: 5:45 pm – 6:05 pm (Dinner)
6:05 pm – 8:30 pm (VBS)

When: Sunday, July 22 – Thursday, July 26

Ages: 3 Years – 6th Grade (Fall '18)

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
2018 Vacation Bible School Registration Form (Please Print)**

Section 1: Parent's Information

Name:	Address:
Phone #:	Email Address:
Home Church:	Attend Church:

Section 2: Emergency Contact Information

Name #1:	Phone #:
Name #2:	Phone #:

Section 3: VBS Participant Information

Child #1:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

Child #2:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

Child #3:	Age:	Grade (Fall 2018):
Allergy/Medical or Special Needs Information:		

*All participants will be photographed for inclusion in a multi-media presentation to be shown at a post-VBS church service.



The people in our communities need to hear about Jesus. We have a great opportunity to connect with our community. How many people are attending our churches who have never been to church before, or haven't been in years? Or as I was asked earlier in the week, if your church burned to the ground would the community care or even notice? The newly reformed Mission Committee said yes, generally because of our very successful food pantry and Preschool. The food pantry serves approximately 70 families monthly, if each family averages 3 people, that alone is 210 people who would notice we were gone. But what about the other 1290 residents in Strausstown and Upper Tulpehocken Township. We see 80 of you on Sunday morning but we still are not reaching out to approximately 1200 people. And we realize that we may never touch the lives of all of those people but it sure is worth trying.

The Mission Committee is looking for a new vision, one where we have multiple outreach opportunities going on that may involve every one of us at some point during the year. We realize that some of you have been doing individual mission projects, would you consider letting the church support your passion? Maybe the food pantry or the community dinner or even the blood drive isn't your cup of tea. We would like to hear your ideas and your thoughts on how to get the Mission of the church to be the best it can be. Don't feel like you need a personal invitation...consider this your invitation to join Christine Bashore and myself as we try to find some new and innovative ideas for Mission work at Zion. The first meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday April 10th at 7 PM.

Our world is full of needs. There are countless opportunities and ways for us to reach out to those around us; we simply have to open our eyes. We have to train ourselves to see the world through a new perspective, "What can we do to serve those around us?" Sometimes it is even helpful to ask yourself "What could I use right now?"- Whether it be a piece of gum after a dinner date, a car wash, a freshly painted school classroom, or a complete home renovation. The opportunities are endless, we just have to pause and notice them. ~Lisa Shupp

Mission Statement

"Sharing our love and understanding of Christ through our discipleship, missions and outreach to our community."



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

Staff

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

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

Consistory

Elders: Doris Wagner (President), Anne Binner, Ruth Himmelberger, Cathy Diggan

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

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm (Vice President), Brad Faust

Contact Information

Pastor: 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.