

ZION NEWS

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

Here at Zion church we've been all about Lent and Easter. By the time you read this we'll be on the 'other side,' into the Easter season, headed toward Pentecost.

I, for one, cannot help but get engrossed in Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem. It is emotionally draining. A friend asked me recently how I was doing at the 'new' church. I replied, "When I get the stone rolled away I'll be fine." After an awful week, the disciples were overwhelmed with joy in the days and weeks following that first Easter Sunday.

Through the development of Christian worship over the centuries we have received a wonderful tradition. Every Sunday is intended to be a "little Easter." When the church gathers, especially within the Communion Service, we rehearse again and again what it means to be resurrection people. We are not a self-help organization; although we all seek to grow in faithfulness. We are not the 'welcome wagon'; although we seek to be agents of God's hospitality to friends and strangers. We are not a community service agency; although we all seek to reach out to those who need assistance and healing. We are not in the business of entertainment; although we seek our life of worship and service to be engaging. We are people who embrace the Easter message of hope in the face of death, the realization that "if a person is in Christ they are a new creation." This is what we return to again and again and again and again. We come back to worship, not to see if God will offer us love and grace yet another time; God has offered it to us, we come to accept it and receive it.

So come. Hear and receive a blessing and a challenge that is not available anywhere else. In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 10, Jesus tells all those who will listen, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I ask you to consider setting aside, say two hours, on Sunday morning...not for another commitment, or another burden in your already burdened week...but to get a regular installment of this Easter joy.

See ya in Church, Pastor Jon





MAY 24, 2018
Martha's Circle
1/3 lb. Pulled Pork Sandwich
w/ bbq sauce
Baked potato, applesauce and drink

\$8.00
Don't forget the baked goods!

Tickets are on sale in the church office or call 610-488-7361 or from a member of Martha's Circle

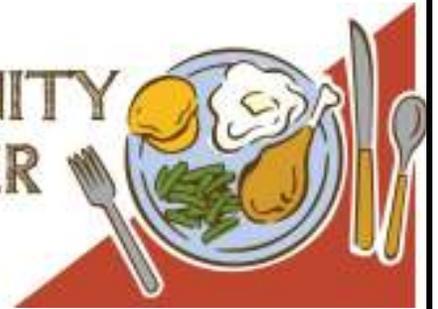
ON THE MENU: SHEPHERD'S PIE

FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2018

4-7 pm

FREE TO EVERYONE

COMMUNITY DINNER



Faith at the Movies
The Hamburg Strand Theater
Tuesday, March 27th at 7pm
"The Son of God"

\$8.00 per person includes
a small popcorn/soda.



6 South 4th Street, Hamburg, PA 19526 | 610-562-4750

CHECK OUT OUR MISSIONS BULLETIN BOARD! We will change it monthly.

Do you have something close to your heart that you would love to grow?

What cause are you passionate about? Come out on April 10th @ 6:30 pm

to help the Mission Committee brainstorm ideas of how we can be more involved in our church, community, country or the world.

.....Who is it you would like to help?

The Deacon's Coin Purse:

We all have those days when the word busy doesn't even cover it. The church has those days also. Bingo days, community suppers, Martha's circle BBQ sale day and other fundraisers and events for the church that comes to mind. Volunteering for these events is considered stewardship. We have a need for help in the kitchen for Bingo and other events. Consider volunteering to make coffee, fill water pitchers, set up the social hall or the condiment table all are small things that require little time and are greatly appreciated. Think about signing your name up on the volunteer sheets when you see them in the back of the church or give a call to the church to volunteer for an evening event. Come and be a helping hand and fulfill your stewardship for the love of your church. We give you hugs in appreciation for your time and heart.

Sincerely Your Deacons, Sharon, Susan, Missy and Wendy



SUNDAY APRIL 15th bring your soup, side or dessert to share. The church will provide lasagna and fried chicken. We have invited the Teen Challenge Choir to participate in our worship at 10:30 am. We will follow up with a Spring Pot Luck time for fellowship. See you in church!

RUMMAGE SALE!!

Breakfast & Lunch Available

Kitchen proceeds benefit the VBS Program

May 5th, 2018 7AM – 2PM

Fill a Bag for \$7



RUMMAGE SALE DONATION DAYS (DELIVER TO THE REAR ENTRANCE)

THURSDAY MARCH 22	5:30 – 7 PM
THURSDAY APRIL 5	5:30 – 7 PM
SATURDAY APRIL 14	9 AM – 12 PM
SUNDAY APRIL 22	12 – 3 PM
THURSDAY APRIL 26	4 – 7 PM

IF THESE TIMES ARE NOT CONVENIENT PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

ITEMS DROPPED OFF NOT WITHIN THE DROP OFF TIMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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

- Computers or 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



The family of Leroy Shollenberger wishes to thank everyone for all the kindness shown to us during Leroy's stroke and his passing. Thank you for all the cards, flowers and acts of kindness. Also, all the prayers, thoughts and visitations. It is a great comfort during our grief.

Bingo Kitchen April 13

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Sharon Eaton	Joan Hartman
Ruth Himmelberger	Tammy Davis
Anne Binner	
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5 - 8 pm	Wendy Schutt

Hot Pot – Lisa Shupp
Pat Moyer

Bakers – Sandy Readinger
Peg Wagner
Joan Hartman
Sue Ehrets



9 am services
begin Sunday May 27



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.



April BIRTHDAYS

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|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 04/01 Gloria Kauffman
Randy Sebastian
Paul Eaton Sr.
Sue Deisemann
Kaydence Brandt | 04/07 Abner Huntsberger
Brad Faust
Dennis Dietrich | 04/16 Alison Shupp
Sandy Readinger |
| 04/02 Bonnie Herb | 04/10 Margo Sechler | 04/17 Alice Hartman
Daniel Hartman |
| 04/03 Kelsey Rentschler | 04/11 Gerald Wilhelm | 04/20 Donna Greim |
| 04/04 Sherry Fuhrman | 04/12 Isabelle Hoover | 04/22 Owen Bentz |
| | 04/13 Hugh Herb
Andrew Moyer | 04/23 Bernie Himmelberger |
| | 04/14 Maile Bentz | 04/24 Bob Klinger |
| | 04/15 Brian Wessner
April Faust | 04/26 Annie Phillips |
| | | 04/30 Polly Himmelberger |



April ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 04/01 | Mark & Robin Wessner married 12 years |
| 04/04 | Jill & Dennis Baver married 26 years |
| 04/06 | Scott & Marlene Adams married 50 years |
| 04/07 | Tom & Denice Dodge married 28 years |
| 04/17 | Wilbur & Sarah Bentz married 70 years |
| | Jennifer & Daniel Unterkofler married 14 years |
| 04/19 | Barry & Rita Bentz married 43 years |
| 04/23 | Jeremy & Ivy Bentz married 14 years |
| 04/27 | Todd & Pat Moyer married 33 years |

Consistory Update:

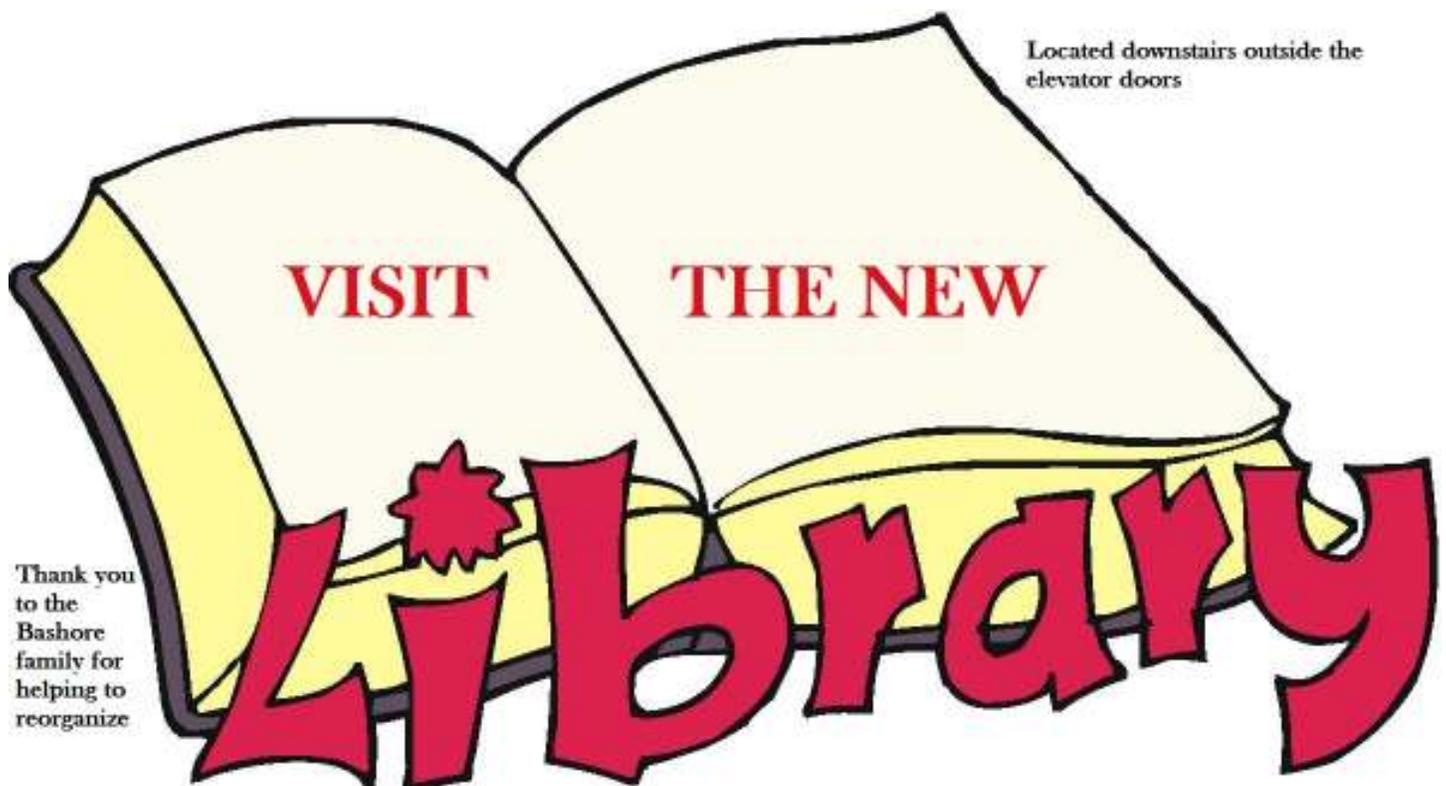
- The Parsonage is now occupied. The Trustees still are working on getting the house repairs completed. Jon Schaeffer will work on the sidewalk and replace missing flagstones this summer. There is a small amount of painting to be done and screens to be replaced.
- Summer worship services will begin May 27 @ 9 am and run through Car Show Sunday in September.
- Additional services are being planned this year such as a Preparatory service on Wednesday before Easter and the Longest Night Service in December. Plans for a 1st responders Sunday and the Harvest home at the end of October is to be an all-day event, this will run in conjunction with the Apple Dumpling sale
- We have a new custodian, Dan Murdock.
- Sunday morning worshippers voted on the new entrance sign and #2 was the winner. A memorial garden will replace the shrubbery surrounding the stone wall that currently holds the sign.



If you would like a copy of the minutes emailed to you please email lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org with "MINUTES" in the subject line. There is always a hard copy on the bulletin board.

SEARCH PROCESS:

The Consistory is beginning to identify members who would be a good 'fit' to work on the 'transition team'. This first of two committees will listen to the congregation, at several gatherings, as we together answer 3 questions: "who are we now?" "Who is our neighbor?" and "Who is God calling us to be?" Pastor Fogle will be helping to guide this part of the process so that we can prepare our Church Profile. (For those of you who have been involved in search before, it's a whole new process.) After this time of 'listening' is completed, we will take a short break to pray about, discern, what we have learned. The Transition Team will then use that information to complete the Congregation Profile. Once the Congregation Profile is approved by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference it can then be circulated. It is only then that a second group, the Search and Call team, will get involved. If you are approached by a Consistory member to consider serving on one of these committees, pray about it, seriously consider this important work. If you have questions about this process, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Jon.





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.