

ZION NEWS

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

Friends,

Summer, for me, is a time for reflection. The pace slows a bit. Un-structured reflection, is to me nothing more than daydreaming. That isn't the sort of reflection that I am interested in doing. This structured kind of reflection involves a vision for the future. This kind of reflection will offer up dreams. Finally, this kind of reflection will consider which dreams and visions will best serve the mission and purpose of our church.

This Summer the transition team will begin to work on our church profile. All the usual statistics will be gathered. More importantly, we will give you an opportunity to help us answer three questions: 1) who are we now? 2) who is our neighbor? And 3) who is God calling us to be? This is a reflection about God's call.

The summer, or Pentecost season is a good time for such reflection. Remember with me, Luke's record of Jesus' pre-ascension words:

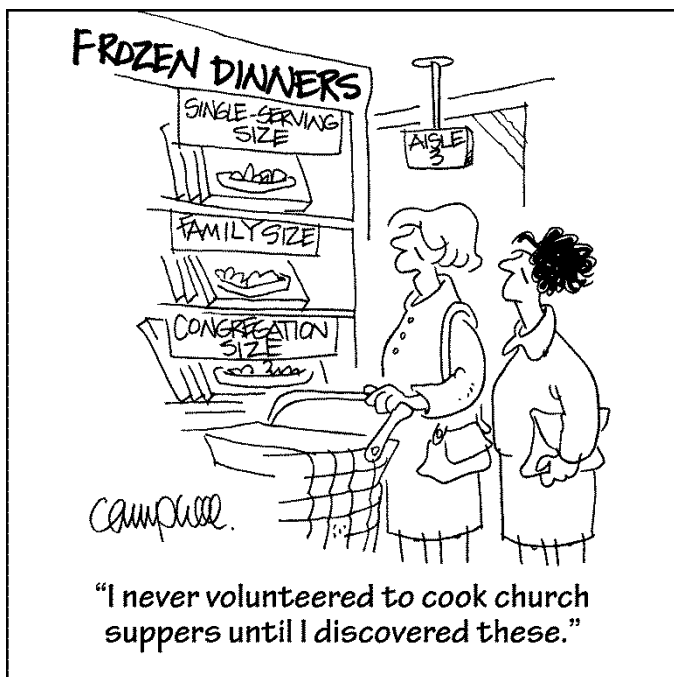
So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.⁹ (Acts 1:6-9).

What do we need, to be a church, in the power of the Spirit, witnessing to the "whole world?" This is the question. This is the bottom line. This is a spiritual question. In prayer, we do need to listen for the "who" of that mission and ministry. Who is our neighbor? We need to consider the mission (or witness) itself. What does our 'hopeful future' that God is calling us to Look like?

Some summer day, when you are sitting in the shade, sipping some ice tea, prayerfully ponder these questions. Then share that hope with the transition team. Keep watch for upcoming gatherings when we can do this together.

See ya in church, Rev. Dr. Jon A. Fogle





The Deacon's Coin Purse:

This month marks the beginning of summer according to the calendar and children getting out of school. Summer brings Vacation Bible School to our church. Wendy Schutt wears the VBS hat of leadership. We are fortunate to have Wendy lead this program for our children. To run this program requires numerous volunteers. This is your chance to volunteer your time and talent as a good steward. Please talk to Wendy about helping with the VBS program. Martha's Circle is helping in the kitchen to offer dinner to any child or volunteer attending. We could use your time in the kitchen. Please sign up to help out or give Wendy a call to volunteer to help with VBS or in the kitchen. 610-488-7255~Wendy

Sincerely Your Deacons,
Sharon, Susan, Missy and Wendy

VENDOR & CRAFT EVENT	
FREE ADMISSION, Food & Prizes	Sunday June 10 9am - 3pm
Table spaces available	Zion Blue Mtn. UCC Social Hall
contact Bridgett Snyder 610-568-8899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tastefully Simple • LuLaRoe • Pink Zebra • Java Mama • And many more

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Eileen Deiseman, is graduating from Hamburg Area High School. She will be attending DeSales University majoring in Musical Theatre

Morgan Miller, graduated from Gentle Rain Preschool and will begin Kindergarten in the fall.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Amber Dietrich, graduated from Wilkes University Nesbitt School of Pharmacy, with a Doctor of Pharmacy. She will be doing her residency program at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

Avery Miller, graduated from Penn State University with an Associate's Degree in Radiological Sciences. She is currently employed by Lehigh Valley Hospital as a Radiologic Technologist.

Hayden Miller, will graduate from Reading Area Community College with an associate degree in Mechatronic Engineering Technology. He currently has an internship with Bayer Pharmaceuticals.

Frederick Riehl, graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and he is employed in San Diego California.

Kristy Schutt, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Juniata College with a degree Wildlife Conservation and a minor in Psychology. Kristy received the Outstanding Achievement award in Science.

Bingo Kitchen June 8

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Sharon Eaton	Joan Hartman
Robin Faust	Tammy Davis
Pam Guinther	Please sign the sheet
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5-8 pm	Melissa Miller

Hot Pot – Melissa Miller
Doris Wagner

Bakers – Melinda Schaeffer
Barbara Grimes
Cindy Emore
Joan Hartman

A church or a club?

Rev. Theodore Wedel, a former canon of the National Cathedral, once told a parable about congregational life. It began: "On a dangerous sea coast where shipwrecks often occur, there was a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea."

Some neighbors and people who'd been rescued began donating time and money, thinking the station needed better furnishings and equipment. As the station grew as a gathering place, members hired lifeboat crews to do the dirty work of saving lives. Those who disagreed with that approach broke away to form their own stations.

The parable concluded: "If you visit that sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown."



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.

6/2 Amber Dietrich
Tori Dietrich
Faye Bigman
6/5 Paige Dodge
Tony Musselman
6/8 Beth Machmer
Kristen Breininger
6/9 Joyce Kline
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



Glenn & Cindy Snyder married 41 years on 06/04
Dean & Audrey Kirkhoff married 31 years on 06/06
William & Laura Leshner married 29 years on 06/10
Richard & Amy Yeager married 18 years on 06/17
Dorsen & Cindy Berger married 42 years on 06/19
Kermit & Margaret Wagner married 60 years on 06/21
George & Mary Brown married 50 years on 06/22
Tony & Judy Stafford married 34 years on 06/24
Chad & Alice Kamp married 21 years on 06/28



Thank you to everyone who donated and helped at our 1st Rummage Sale! We had a great turnout with lots of great items.

A HUGE thank you to Jessica Holzman Varone and her helpers (Kerry, Matt & Vera) for all their hard work and organizational skills.



Your change can
change a life

Mary's Shelter provides residential and non-residential services for pregnant women and women with newborns who are in need of a supportive environment because of a lack of suitable housing or favorable family relationships. While caring for women in need, Mary's Shelter prepares mothers with newborns for independent living and a vision of hope for the future.

We are participating in their Baby Bottle Campaign beginning on May 13 (Mother's Day). All you need to do is come to the church and pick up a baby bottle provided to you through Mary's Shelter. Fill the bottle with your loose change for the month and return the bottle to the church before Father's Day. It's that simple. If you fill a bottle and would like another just grab one, we will have plenty.

If you are interested in helping Mary's Shelter check out the bulletin board for their Spring Newsletter.

The money raised by us will receive a 25% match through various local businesses. If you have any questions please speak to Lisa Shupp or Christine Bashore, Co-chairs of the Mission committee.



Food Pantry Item of the Month **Breakfast Cereal**



From the Treasurer- April Financials

	<i>Month</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>Budget YTD</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>\$27,082</i>	<i>\$99,564</i>	<i>\$108,015</i>
<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>\$26,267</i>	<i>\$102,859</i>	<i>\$116,720</i>
	<i>\$815</i>	<i>(\$3295)</i>	<i>(\$8705)</i>

The church remains below budget in both receipts and disbursements. Our overall revenue is down YTD compared to 2017. A major component is the loss of the Sportsman's Banquet which in the past has generated approximately \$7,000. This fluctuation may seem extreme, however it can be supplemented throughout the year through various other fundraisers. The revenue from worship collections is up approximately 2% YTD, this may seem small but it shows positive growth and is a great signal that the church is moving forward.

Christmas in JULY FOOD DRIVE

Help us get a head start to the holidays! During the month of July help us stock our shelves for the holidays with any of the following donations!

***Boxed Stuffing Mix
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Turkey Gravy (Canned or Gravy Mix
Packets)***

***Canned Yams
Canned Veggies (green beans, corn, peas)
Cornbread Mix
Pumpkin Pie Filling or Fruit Pie Filling
Boxed Pie Crust Mix***



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. 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 enough for the excellent job they all do in our preschool. We appreciate everything they provide to our church and the preschool children and their families!

If you haven't been in church lately, there have been some changes to our facility. We made a "mothering room" for mothers of children under the age of 2 who need a space to feed or calm a child. The room has a rocking chair for mom, a changing table and quiet activities for your children. It is easily accessible from the Sanctuary, located right behind the choir loft aside of the Pastor's office. If you haven't checked it out yet we invite you to stop by. We are also moving other rooms around on a trial basis. Let us know if you have any ideas on how to improve these spaces, please feel free to leave a note in the box in the mothering room. Help us make these spaces work for Zion Blue Mountain.

Worship committee is still following leads for the open organist position. As we move forward we realize what a vital role the minister of music plays at our church. Finding the right fit for our needs has proved to be difficult, but they will not give up until they find someone.

We are gearing up for VBS this summer and we CAN NOT wait! 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. Thank you to everyone that helped or purchased items from our VBS kitchen and bake sale!

Recently, our trustees have been busy. Jon Schaeffer will be hooking duct work into the Pastor's office to offer relief from the heat with some much needed air conditioning. If you were in church this past Sunday you may have noticed we have water damage in the overflow area of the Sanctuary. We are pursuing repairs and restoration to the roof and ceiling.

Continue to pray for our church as we move forward! If you ever have a question or concern please feel free to come to our meetings on the third Sunday of the month. Because of Father's day our next meeting in June is scheduled for Sunday June 10. If you are interested in reading Consistory minutes on your own time just email the church office with the word "minutes" in the subject line to lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org and you will be provided with monthly minutes from our meeting.





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

ZIONEWS 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.