

ZIONNEWS

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

The calendar at home says January. This time of the year is punctuated with New Year festivities, President's birthdays, football play-offs, and if all this rain ever changes to snow...winter.

The calendar at church says Epiphany. The church calendar pays no attention to the secular calendar. The idea of focusing on the rhythms of the church calendar even down to the weekly swing to and from the Sabbath represents our keeping time to a different 'clock.' When we gather here we are very intentionally exposed to language, stories, music, and symbols that are 'other worldly.' We seek out a different ruler, a different realm, a different Kingdom, which is the very real world where God speaks to and interacts with God's people.



The calendar says Epiphany. This holy day comes 12 days after Christmas. This celebration dates back to the 4th Century when it, along with Easter and Pentecost, were the primary church festivals. It commemorates the 'revealing' of the Christ child to the wise men. The legend of the Epiphany comes from the Gospel according to Matthew where these astrologers bring gifts to a King identified by a supernatural sign in the heavens, a star.

The surprise in this narrative is that the world, those without the scriptures and the covenant, adjust their calendar and travel schedule to give him the adoration he deserves. Noticing a star is possible on any clear night. Some are brighter than others. These 'gentiles' who represent the world are able to do something the faithful and the government could not do: discern that God was leading them.

For us, Epiphany may also be a season of revealing 'who God is calling us to become' as a congregation. And, discerning this, a season of equipping us with clarity about just who can provide the pastoral partnership to get us there. To do this, faithfully, will require prayer, patience, and careful observance of our path and our goal.

Maybe, even more than Christmas, the Epiphany season is the perfect time to renew our dedication to the mystery and majesty of Christ's rule in our lives. Perhaps it is the perfect time to better discern God's tender leading. Change your calendar of reference. Focus on a different star. renew or begin the practice of community in worship and service. Make your reference point different. Like the Magi, the dependable guiding star is one that leads us more clearly toward Jesus.

Seen this way, Epiphany may be a harder holiday to celebrate than Christmas. But, even with the Spirit's guidance, not many things that are worthwhile are easy. See ya in church, Pastor Jon

ZionNews January 2019

The fundraising committee could sure use some help! They are planning a meatloaf dinner for the first Saturday in March. We know that everyone has a meatloaf recipe and they are depending on the congregation to share their recipes. They have are deciding what to offer at the dinner. Do you top yours with tomato sauce or are you a gravy lover? Maybe even bacon enrobes your meatloaf or you make it with a special barbeque sauce. However you make your meatloaf, please consider sharing your recipe with the fundraising committee. They will be taste testing meatloaves on Jan. 20 after worship.



NAME: _____

PREP TIME: _____ TOTAL TIME: _____

NOTES: _____

INGREDIENTS: _____



Souper Bowl Sunday On February 3, we will take up a collection of soup and other non-perishables for our food pantry. Items can be dropped off prior to worship in the boxes marked for Souper Bowl Donations, we will also have soup pots available in the sanctuary after each service, collecting funds to help purchase various perishable food items we distribute through the food pantry.

ZUMBA CLASSES

Wednesday 6 pm and Saturday 9 am



classes are in the social hall - \$5 per class

WORSHIP DUTIES

Please check the Narthex for new sign-up sheets for flower sponsors! Sign-ups for readers and greeters is in the back of the Sanctuary

If you have not yet received 2019 offering envelopes and would like them please call the church office – 610-488-7361

First 2019 Consistory Meeting – Sunday January 20th
following worship!

01/01 Bruce Wagner
 Sarah Dodge
 01/02 Michael Eaton
 01/05 Barry Bentz
 01/07 Janet Wilhelm
 01/08 Karen Miller
 01/10 Elmer Breidigan
 01/11 Jeff Newhouse
 01/11 Cindy Emore
 01/14 Melissa Miller
 01/15 Lainie Bowers
 01/18 Kelly Holzman
 01/19 Beverly Schrack
 01/22 Mildred Long



01/23 Cindy Berger
 Amy Shanaman
 01/24 Wilbur Bentz
 01/25 Ross Baver
 01/26 Brian Kominsky
 01/28 Rose Freed
 01/28 Joyce Deisemann
 01/29 Barry Miller
 01/29 Mark Wessner
 01/30 Ronald Emerich
 01/30 Brent Himmelberger

ANNIVERSARIES

01/04 Sandy & John Gilmer
 01/25 Barry & Karen Miller

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated items for our Chinese Auction. It was another successful fundraiser! All the baskets were beautifully done and we had a great response in the bidding. If you won a basket congratulations and enjoy! The fundraising committee looks forward to another successful year and we all wish you a Happy New Year!



Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with the Live Nativity, it was our 35th year for the presentation. We hope it will continue for many years.
 ~ The Worship Committee



Blood Drive!

**Sunday January 13th
 9 am - 1 pm**

Contact Audrey Kirkhoff to sign up 610-451-4521

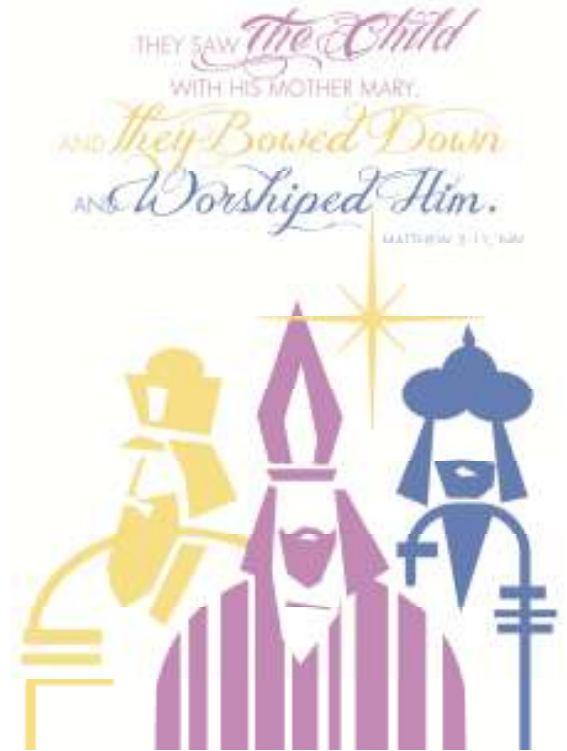
Bingo Kitchen January 11

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Sharon Eaton	Volunteer Needed
Lisa Shupp	Volunteer Needed
Karen Miller	Karen Miller

<p>5-8 pm Volunteer Needed</p>

HOT POT – Shirley Breininger
Bonnie Herb

BAKERS - Amy Yeager
Adele Dietrich
Sue Ehrets
Elaine Hamm



We would like to make sure all members' names, addresses and phone numbers are accurate. This includes if you have eliminated your landline and are using only a cell phone, Please contact the church office at lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org by January 31 if a change has occurred during 2018 that we have not been notified.



New Year's Food Pantry

Consider adding “donating to the food pantry once a month” to your New Year’s resolutions. When you give to your local food bank, make sure you’re stocking their shelves with what they really need—and avoid what they don’t.

You can purchase one of these items for less than \$2.00 especially if they are on SALE!!

2019 FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

**Canned Soup
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Noodles (Any kind)
Canned Fruit or Applesauce
Instant Oatmeal
Canned Chicken or Spam
Hamburger Helper
Canned Vegetables
Cereal**

ANY PANTRY STAPLES ARE WELCOMED

COMING IN 2019

February 3	“Souper Bowl” Sunday
February 22	Free Community Dinner
March 2	Meatloaf Dinner – Snowdate March 9
March 6	Ash Wednesday
April 11 & 12	Turtle Candy Sale
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
April 19	Good Friday Service 7 pm
April 21	Easter Sunday
May 9	Smokey Bear BBQ Sale

*Third Thursday of the month is the Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 pm

* Second Friday of the month is Bingo doors open at 5 pm

Lessons in wise faith

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther’s Works*



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: Ruth Himmelberger, Wendy Schutt, Karen Miller

Deacons: Clint Faust, Barry Miller, Susan Harbonic, Melissa Miller

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm, Bryan Houpt

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.