

# ZION NEWS

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

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This year, February is entirely the Epiphany season. Epiphany falls 12 days after Christmas and the Epiphany season continues until Ash Wednesday (the Beginning of Lent). Often, depending upon when the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox falls, February is a mix of Epiphany Sundays and the season of Lent. (I am not kidding, this is how Easter is calculated). Lent begins 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter. It is the Easter date that determines this part of the church's calendar.

I wanted to remind you about these things because the calendar, colors, and a bunch of other symbols serve to add meaning to worship and to remind us that the Kingdom of God is "in the world, but not of the world."

The colors we use in worship express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. Black is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. Red evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. Green is the color of growth. Blue is the color of the sky and in some rites honors Mary. Violet is used in lent; White is used at Christmas, Easter, and Epiphany; Red at Pentecost; and Green during the

rest of the calendar, or during what is called 'Common Time.'

I have a minister friend who changes what robe he wears as well. When there is a baptism, he wears a cassock and surplice. Once, when moving through the narthex before worship a child called out, "Hey mom! There must be a baptism today!"

In a similar way, the movement of worship itself seeks to move us along a prescribed path. This path isn't something we just made up, it is based on an experience of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6). In a vision, the prophet finds himself in God's throne room, in the presence of the divine. In such a place, surrounded by the heavenly host, he cannot help but recognize his own flaws and failures. So the prophet admits what he has said and done. 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' God instructs one of the attendants to take a coal from the altar and 'cleanse' Isaiah's lips. Then God speaks: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Isaiah replies, "send me!"

We parallel this path in worship: We gather in God's presence, we prepare ourselves to hear God's word through confession and assurance of pardon, we hear God's word, we respond to that word, we give thanks, and we go out to serve God. (The response is most commonly the Offering. But, Holy Communion is a response, Baptism is a response, Confirmation, installation of officers, and marriage vows,

are all placed where they are in the service for this reason.

During these in-between days, notice the subtleties of church...calendar, colors, scripture focus, and let its tide carry you along this journey called discipleship.

See you in Church,  
Pastor Jon



<sup>SM</sup> "Souper" Bowl Sunday **February 3**, we will take up a collection of soup and 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

- 2/1 Alex Bentz
- 2/5 Olivia Leshar
- 2/8 Bryce Kamp
- 2/9 Doris Moyer
- 2/11 Barbara Spohn
- 2/12 Kermit Wagner
- 2/14 Jim Schutt
- 2/19 George Stankiewitch
- Alyssa Dietrich
- 2/20 Steve Shollenberger
- 2/21 Scott Sechler Jr.
- 2/23 Mike Kamp
- Jacelyn Stine
- 2/24 Dru George
- 2/26 Ivy Bentz
- Colton Guinther
- 2/28 Barbara Grimes



#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

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- 2/9 Bill & Judy Lando
- 2/14 Richard & Sharon Hoh
- Terry & Sharon Kominsky
- 2/25 Lynn & Melissa Koenig

## Bingo Kitchen February 8

4 – 7 pm	7- close
<i>Help Needed</i>	<i>Help Needed</i>
<i>Help Needed</i>	<i>Help Needed</i>
<i>Help Needed</i>	<i>Help Needed</i>
<i>Help Needed</i>	<i>Help Needed</i>
5 - 8 pm	<i>Help Needed</i>

Hot Pot – Cindy Emore  
Lisa Shupp

Bakers – Karen Kissling  
Karen Miller  
Joan Hartman  
Shirley Breininger

*Dinner*  
is better when we eat  
*Together*

**Free Community Dinner**  
**February 15, 2019**  
**4-7 pm**

Shepherd's pie,  
mixed vegetables, applesauce,  
dinner roll, drinks, and  
chocolate/yellow cake

### Are you having an event or gathering?

Don't forget that we rent the social hall and parlor for those occasions.

Parlor (no more than 50 people) – by Donation

Social Hall - \$200 with church membership

Contact the church office if you are in need of a place to hold your event.





WITH OUR FUNDRAISERS

## Dark Chocolate Cashew Caramel Bark

***Coming in April in time for EASTER!***



*Saturday March 2, 2019*

*Meatloaf, "real" mashed potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll, desserts  
and drink - \$9.00*



**FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY**  
**boxed potatoes of any kind**

**Do you enjoy doing puzzles during the cold winter months?**

We are beginning a lending library for jigsaw puzzles. Bring a puzzle in to the library and take a puzzle. If you don't have a puzzle to loan that is ok, take a puzzle and ENJOY! When you are finished with the puzzle bring it back and take another.



**PUZZLES ARE ON LOAN SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THEM!**

Take as long as you need to complete your puzzle.

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**Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019**

**Service at 7 pm**

## What is your 'why'?

Our Conference Consistory spent the bulk of their January meeting with the question, “why?” Why are we here (at this meeting)? Why do we “do” church? Why do we go to church? Why are we people of faith? Why are we people of the *Christian* faith?

What is the “why” of anything? Sometimes the “why” to what we are doing is so nebulous that we descend, almost without awareness, into answers about “what” or “how”. Simon Sinek has written about ‘getting to your why’ in several insightful articles and books and in [one of the most watched TED talks](#) online. If that does not speak to your soul, [watch comedian “Michael Jr.”](#) help an audience into powerful understanding of getting to your “why”. You will laugh, cry, think and pray all in the same moment witnessing this teaching.

Jesus is very clear about his “why”. All of the gospel stories this epiphany shed light on the “why” of Jesus and none more clearly so than the text this week from Luke:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

If you don’t know your why, you could do far worse than adopting this one —bring good news, proclaim release, free the oppressed for it is the year of the Lord’s favor.

The moment we get clear about our “why” we unlock the source of our passion and power that rises from our grounded being in God. That is what changes lives and transforms world. It’s the only thing that ever has. Thanks be to God, it still does.

God bless you on the road we travel together,

Bill  
Rev. William Worley  
Conference Minister

### Love and laughter go hand in hand!

Share these jokes with your beloved on February 14 – or whenever some humor can brighten a day!

Q: What valentine did the French chef give his wife?

A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

A: “I find you very attractive.”

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?

A: He gave her a ring.

Q: What do you call a very small valentine?

A: A valentiny

## **From the Treasurer- November 2018 Financials**

	<b>Month</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$25,822</b>	<b>\$250,051</b>	<b>\$267,410</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$23,922</b>	<b>\$262,184</b>	<b>\$271,305</b>
	<b>\$1900</b>	<b>(\$12,133)</b>	<b>(\$3895)</b>

# Thank You

To everyone that helped prepare, serve or donated food for our Kennedy House trip. We served 169 meals. Our menu was meatloaf, macaroni & cheese, green beans, applesauce, dinner roll and cake. We would not have been able to do this mission without your generous donations. It really meant a lot to those that we served a warm meal to on a cold January day!

**The 2019 Consistory will be installed on Sunday January 27.**

Your new Consistory members are:

Elders: Karen Miller, Wendy Schutt, Ruth Himmelberger

Deacons: Missy Miller, Susan Harbonic, Barry Miller, Clinton Faust

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Bryan Houpt, Keith Hamm



## TRANSITION TEAM

The transition team has been working on the church's profile with hopes of giving prospective pastors an accurate picture of our congregation and the work we do. We would like to thank everyone who joined us for any of the 'Looking Forward' meetings or filled out the questionnaire that was sent a few months ago. Based on responses from the congregation and Pastor Fogle's insight as our interim, we have begun filling out the profile. At this point, the team has a meeting scheduled for the second week in February where we plan on finalizing our draft of the profile. We will then be inviting the congregation to read through our responses and to provide any feedback that may be necessary. The members of the team include Susan Shollenberger, Barry Miller, Pat Moyer, Audrey Kirkhoff, Clint Faust, Wendy Schutt, Doris Wagner, and Caroline Bashore. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to ask any of us.



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*Staff*

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

*Consistory*

*Elders: Ruth Himmelberger, Karen Miller, Wendy Schutt*

*Deacons: Barry Miller, Clinton Faust, Susan Harbonic, Melissa Miller*

*Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm, Bryan Houpt*

*Contact Information*

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*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.*