

# ZION NEWS

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

## HOLY WEEK



We are closing in on Easter.

Ok students, time for a review! Palm Sunday, Dominica in Palmis, begins the period we call Holy week. We will celebrate some distinctive events this day: First, the blessing of the palms and then the procession that represents the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week before the Resurrection. This procession was documented in churches as early as the 4th century CE, so this parade hasn't been manufactured for modern entertainment.

Gather with us in the parlor on Holy Wednesday for worship. This day has traditionally been the day when the church's focus is on two biblical characters: The Woman who anointed Jesus, and Judas Iscariot. Also, it has traditionally been a day for the sacrament of unction. In our reformed tradition, it is about preparation for the holiest days of the church year and we will be using the preparatory service from the E&R Hymnal so that we might 'prepare.'

Then, Maundy Thursday, or the Thursday before Easter, will find us 'remembering' the institution of the Holy Communion. Did you ever wonder where the name for this Holy Thursday came from? Maundy is derived from the first antiphon of the ceremony of the washing of the feet, mandatum

novum. It is called this to reflect Jesus' mandate "do this in remembrance of me."

Then, Friday will find us worshiping here at 7:00 pm for Tenebrae. Good Friday is called by the Greek Orthodox "great Friday." In our tradition the word Good originates in our description of it being God's Friday. Tenebrae was originally held in the early hours of "Holy Saturday," but is celebrated in our church on Good Friday evening. This name literally means darkness, and originates in the tradition of extinguishing the lights in church, as we remember the falling away of disciples and finally the death of Jesus. We leave the sanctuary in silence and reflection, no recessional, even as we anticipate our joyous return Easter Morning.

This is the height of our year as Christians. I hope I've explained what some of this week means. But really meaning comes through experience. We 'make' meaning. This is not an intellectual enterprise. As we participate in these events we participate in these events 'for real.' The flowers, the palms, the cross, they are here to be 'meaning-full.' But without you, they are only signs of something to be received.

Holy week, in total, was a time when candidates for baptism put in the final preparations for this sacrament. It was a time of devotion, a time of learning.

For now, fellow disciples, this ends the review, class continues in practice.

See ya in church,  
Pastor Jon



## The Consistory's Message

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10

As a voice of the Consistory, I would like to express that our primary objective is to strengthen the vision of our congregation's mission. We stand behind our duty to serve and respond, as we pledge to provide loyalty to each member of Zion Blue Mountain.

### Insight on Recent Events

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, where the congregation unanimously voted to approve the Consistory's proposed bid to contract KCM Precision to apply a new (standing-seam) metal roof over the social hall. The trustees of the Consistory have consulted multiple contractors and continue to monitor our various roof matters in the order of their significance. As discussed during the November Congregational Meeting, the funding for each roof improvement will be sourced as follows: 50% from the Althouse Fund and 50% was raised internally through designated giving. To donate specifically towards a roof improvement – please label your contribution as **"Church Roof Improvements"**.

Our fundraising and missions' committees, as a symbol of their commitment have devoted a lot of their time in organizing inspiring projects to bring our congregation together in unison. I encourage everyone to inquire about the upcoming events and opportunities to assist. Our involvement in missions' and fundraising activities will expand our ministries and encourage teamwork to shape our friendships in Christ.

I welcome anyone to attend our open Consistory meetings (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month).

Blessings, Clint Faust, Consistory President

# Bingo Kitchen April 12

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Joyce Deisemann	<i>Help Needed</i>
Lisa Shupp	<i>Help Needed</i>
<i>Help Needed</i>	<i>Help Needed</i>
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5 - 8 pm	Melissa Miller

Hot Pot – Lolly Lesher  
Kelly Himmelberger

Bakers – Doris Wagner  
Sherry Wessner  
Melissa Miller  
Joan Hartman



Our annual Smokey Bear BBQ will be held  
**Thursday May 9, 2019.**

Each meal will include 1/3 lb. of pulled pork, bun, baked potato, butter, 2 oz. of bbq sauce and applesauce. Tickets will be \$8.00 and can be purchased starting April 7. Pickup for the BBQ will be from 3:00-6:00pm in the parlor. Baked goods will also be available for purchase.

## FOOD PANTRY CANNED FRUIT OR APPLESAUCE



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



- 04/01 Mark & Robin Wessner married 13 years
- 04/04 Jill & Dennis Baver married 27 years
- 04/06 Scott & Marlene Adams married 51 years
- 04/07 Tom & Denice Dodge married 29 years
- 04/17 Wilbur & Sarah Bentz married 71 years
- Jennifer & Daniel Unterkofler married 15 years
- 04/19 Barry & Rita Bentz married 44 years
- 04/23 Jeremy & Ivy Bentz married 14 years
- 04/27 Todd & Pat Moyer married 34 years





### **Opportunities to Use Your God-Given Talents and Passions**

If you feel called to be the person to fill one of these positions, please notify Mary Etta Mest, [mestme@aol.com](mailto:mestme@aol.com), 610-659-2775.

**Congregational Collaboration Committee** - arranges for people from various congregations to work together for a designated outcome such as mission projects, fun events, special services - three openings

**Covenant Committee on Ministry (COM)** - This committee is extremely important for the functioning of the church as it walks alongside and makes decisions concerning persons who are serving as Authorized Ministers, retired from serving as Authorized Ministers, or on the path to become Ordained Ministers. In addition, this committee is charged with being in communication and relationship with Covenant Association congregations.

Persons who serve on this committee shall have these qualifications/expectations:

- \* Disciple of Jesus
  - \* Reliable
  - \* Dependable
  - \* Trustworthy
  - \* Committed
- \* Willing to listen and learn
- \* Able to maintain confidential information under all circumstances
  - \* Compassionate and caring
  - \* Good record-keeping skills
- \* Member in good standing of a church in the Covenant Association

Thank  
you



Thank you to everyone for all the kindness shown to me during my recovery from surgery and rehab. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, flowers and other acts of kindness.  
~Donna Greim

Our church welcomes these newly baptized children of God:  
**Mabel Dawn Kelley and Matilda Claire Ouellette**



*Please pray for strength and comfort for the families after the passing of their loved ones.*

*Arlene Shollenberger, mother of Steve Shollenberger*

*William Lando, husband of Judy Lando*

## **Homeless, by Donna Schaper**

Lots of people are homeless, for real. Their belongings (what a strange word) are all in one bag. They sleep outside. Some are urban pioneers and sleep on church steps or under highways. They don't like shelters. They are shelter makers. Some have communities and know the schedules for the local soup kitchens. They rise at dawn. They head south in the winter. They depend on what can only be called the right hand of God. Even more people are spiritually homeless. They/we have a bed and sheets. We wonder if we should declutter or if we have too many belongings. We wonder if we are taking proper care of the boiler or the gutters. We also rise at dawn and reach out for the right hand of the Almighty and wonder where it went. Congregations are soup kitchens for the spiritually hungry. They are shelters for the spiritually homeless. Respite lodging for the people who are in need of respite. Domiciles for the spirit. Nests for the baby bird in all of us, no matter how old we are. Nursing homes for those who can't bathe or tie their own shoes any more. Rehab centers for those who should have done prehab but forgot. Habitats for humanity. Life is one long displacement and replacement. Where did we put that belonging that mattered the most to us? Not our cell phone or our keys. The belonging that matters most is our belonging to that right hand, the One, habitually reaching for us.



**Send payments to the church office or place it in the offering plate.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths # \_\_\_\_ Tulips # \_\_\_\_ Lilies # \_\_\_\_ Total plants: \_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERS DUE April 7

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTING WILL BE OPEN TO PICK A ROOF COLOR UNTIL APRIL 14.**

Come to church on April 7 or 14 to help us decide on a color for the new roof.





Zion (Blue Mountain) Church  
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Strausstown, PA 19559  
[www.zionbluemountainucc.org](http://www.zionbluemountainucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/zionbluemountainucc](https://www.facebook.com/zionbluemountainucc)

#### *Staff*

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

*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 Haupt*

#### *Contact Information*

*Pastor: 484-269-9624*

*Office Phone: 610-488-7361*

*Website: [www.zionbluemountainucc.org](http://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.*

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April

#### *Mission Statement*

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*“Sharing our love and understanding of Christ through our discipleship, missions and outreach to our community.”*