

ZION NEWS

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

Lent is a time of year when many people turn their attention to Christian practices. It is popular to engage in a period of 'self-denial.' I know a certain young lady who gives up chocolate.

There isn't anything wrong with this kind of discipline. It is important to remember that the purpose of any Lenten discipline is to draw us closer to God. The Word of the Prophet Micah is ringing in my ears: "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8, NIV).

In the New Testament, Matthew's Jesus says, "But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice..." (Matthew 23:13)

Christian practices are not only a means to greater knowledge, but greater faithfulness, lived out in our daily lives. Once, there were seven practices that were generally agreed upon: Fasting, the sacred meal (Eucharist), prayer (hours), keeping the Sabbath, the Liturgical Year, and the making of pilgrimage. These disciplines kept time in the Christian's life, they monitored or directed its movement.

Of these disciplines, tithing is the most difficult to discuss. Ironically, tithing and the sacred meal were the first of the seven disciplines given to Christians. Like the sacred meal, tithing was given early on, and was not a recent addition to 'get our money.'

Tithing, is not 'dues.' Like all of the other Christian disciplines, giving is a spiritual practice that we live out in a concrete way. It, like any Christian practice, intends to form our faith. In this letter, I do not have the space or the inclination to offer you a complete reflection on this matter. I hope it suffices to say that this practice of tithing is lived out by giving a regular, proportional, gift to God of our treasure. This goal is not achieved by a few weeks of a Lenten discipline. It is, rather, a background habit, a reminder that our lives and all our possessions are not our own. God no more needs our money than God needs our prayers to know what our needs are. Instead, God is at all times working in our world to redeem it, and to the extent we want to be part of that goal, God will use us. Like all Christian disciplines, tithing draws us closer to God and to one another.

I once had someone in a new member class ask the question straight away: "how much should we give?" In my shock I could only reply, "how much do you want to give?" I sincerely believe that the amount is not as important as your relationship to that amount; regular proportional giving is what is important.

Despite much handwringing during the fall over church finances, it is important to remember that 2018 books closed with our books in 'the black.' This happened through frugal expenditures and generous giving. Well done.

Still, the numbers are not the final word. Rather, Jesus' words here are: "give, and it will be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38). This applies to more than money for sure. God desires to bless us. God does bless us. Let us give thankful praise! See you in church, Rev. Dr. Jon A. Fogle Interim Pastor

03/04 Allen Bashore
03/05 Rachael
Stafford
03/06 Patience
Fuhrman
03/08 Allen Readinger
03/10 Lynn Koenig
03/13 Thomas Eaton
03/14 April Stafford
 Laura Leshner
03/15 Eleanor Sechler
03/17 Avery Miller
 Hayden Miller
03/20 Amanda Kirkhoff
 Ruth Klinger
03/21 Robin Sebastian
03/24 Destinee Fuhrman
03/26 Richard Hoh
 Dorsen Berger
03/27 Sharon Eaton
03/30 David Emore



*We extend our Sympathy to
Michael Miller and his
family on the death of his
father, Larry*

On March 31 Brian & Anne Binner will celebrate 29 years of marriage

*Thank
you*



We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the heartfelt condolences, cards and prayers during this difficult time. We are blessed to be a part of such a warm and caring church family. ~The Miller's, Michael, Stephanie, Avery and Hayden

Thank you to everyone for all the kindness shown to my family after my father's passing. Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, flowers and acts of kindness. The sorrow that we are feeling today is matched only by the joy from knowing that my Dad lived his life well.
~Jim and Lisa Shupp

Serving Joyfully

The Mission Committee wants to help us live out our Mission Statement.

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

So, as often as possible, we will be lifting service opportunities within and outside the church. Please serve where you feel called and help us to share our love.

- Donate items to our food pantry
- Volunteer your time at the food pantry. The third Thursday of the month from 9-11 am or 5-8 pm.
- Help with the yearly meal served at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen
- Share your musical talents with the congregation or join the choir
- Volunteer to help with funeral meals by offering to bake a dessert or by serving/setting up/clean up
- Volunteer to make a meal for someone in need
- Donate to our Angel Tree at Christmas
- Volunteer at any of our fundraising events
- Give blood at our Blood Drive
- Crochet prayer shawls
- Make cards to be distributed to our shut ins
- Serve the meal at the Free Community Dinner

If there is something that interests you please email (lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org) the church office and we will get you in touch with the right person.

MARCH FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH



Peanut Butter & Jelly

From the Treasurer- January 2019 Financials

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Receipts	\$23,571	\$24,320	(\$749)
Expenditures	\$34,726	\$32,680	(\$2046)
	(\$11,155)	(\$8,360)	(\$2795)

Thank you to everyone who gave generously at the end of the year; we were able to end the year in the black. We truly appreciate the special gifts made by members for our roof.

We are blessed to be able to use our time, talent and treasure to do Christ's ministry. May we respond generously as we enter this new year of opportunity. May Christ's joy abound in our lives, and may the Holy Spirit continue to bless us.

Bingo Kitchen March 8

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Joyce Deisemann	Wendy Schutt
Help Needed	Help Needed
Help Needed	Help Needed
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5 - 8 pm	Marlene Adams

Hot Pot – Pat Moyer
Steve Shollenberger

Bakers – Robin Faust
Sue Deisemann
Peg Wagner
Susan Harbonic

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway." — Mother Teresa



TRANSITION TEAM

As of the Transition Team's last meeting, we have scheduled a meeting for the second week of March where Zion Blue Mountain's profile will be finalized. With the members of the team being satisfied with the amount of work put into describing our church's mission, we are looking to set-up a date or two at the end of March/beginning of April, where all members of the congregation can read through the document and ask any questions. Following these dates, the profile will then be sent to Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Sharon Morris for review. The final step in the transition process will come to a close once any changes noted by Rev. Sharon are completed and ZBM's Consistory approves. After Consistory approval, the profile will be posted on the UCC website for prospective pastors. All work from that point forward would be completed by ZBM's Search Committee. The members of the Transition Team include Susan Shollenberger, Barry Miller, Pat Moyer, Adurey 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. Or, if you would like to serve on the Search Committee, please talk to Pastor Fogle.



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 _____

2019 Fundraising Calendar

The Fundraising Committee recently met to organize our Fundraisers. We will continue to hold Bingo the 2nd Friday of the Month. Without your support in the kitchen we would not be as successful as we have been. Please consider taking a shift in the kitchen ONE TIME A YEAR! Sign up is in the back of the church.

March 2 – Meatloaf Dinner (currently we do not have enough help to have this fundraiser)

April 10 - 11 – Caramel Cashew Bark Sale

April 27 – Sandwich Sale

May 9 - Pulled Pork BBQ Sale

June 8 – Pot Pie Dinner

July 20 – Sandwich Sale

October 19 - Apple Dumpling Sale

November 16- Pumpkin Rolls

December 2 - 4 - Nut Sale

December 1 - 22 - Chinese Auction

Candy Order Form

Chocolate Caramel Cashew Bark

1 lb. box \$10

Pick up April 14, 2019

Place order forms in the box in the Narthex

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of boxes _____

Total price _____

_____ *For office use only*



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, 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

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.

March

Mission Statement

19

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