

ZION NEWS

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

Easter is past, and many of us whose lives revolve around the life of the church can be heard heaving a sigh.

For those of you who did not make the whole journey from Bethany to Jerusalem, I want to let you know that it is safe to come out again. The stone is rolled away. "He is not here," the young man at the crypt proclaims. What the disciples find in the comfort of their homes was that it is not so much about what they are ready or not ready for, what they see or refuse to see, but that the risen Jesus is ready for them, ready to open their eyes to his life-giving presence.

In the weeks between Easter and Ascension Day, we will not have a prayer of confession in worship. Why? I dispense with this part of the liturgy to remind us that, like the first disciples, *the risen Jesus is in our midst*. And, if he is there among us we have no need for confession for surely he knows our hearts.

Perhaps these weeks can be a time when each of us can renew our relationship with this same risen Lord. Along the Emmaus road, two disciples pour out their hearts to a stranger. They tell him of their disillusionment, about how much they had hoped that Jesus was the one to bring in the promised reign of God. The stranger listens. Then the stranger is downright rude. He would not follow normal pastoral courtesies. He doesn't say, "I know you are hurting." He doesn't offer any condolences. He is blunt. He calls them fools. He wonders aloud if they have ever read their bible. He then rehearses all of God's salvation history from Abraham through the people's return from Exile to Jerusalem.

I like this story because it is not so much about our search for a risen Jesus. It is about his search for us. It is not so much about one radical new thing God does in the world, but a series of actions that demonstrate God's unending love for us. One prayer book captures this post Easter time with this prayer: "Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in scripture and the breaking of the bread. Grant this for the sake of your love."

I know that Jesus can find you wherever you are. If a tomb cannot contain Jesus, neither can any church. But here, especially here, we will be giving attention to those things that help us get found.

See ya in church, Pastor Jon

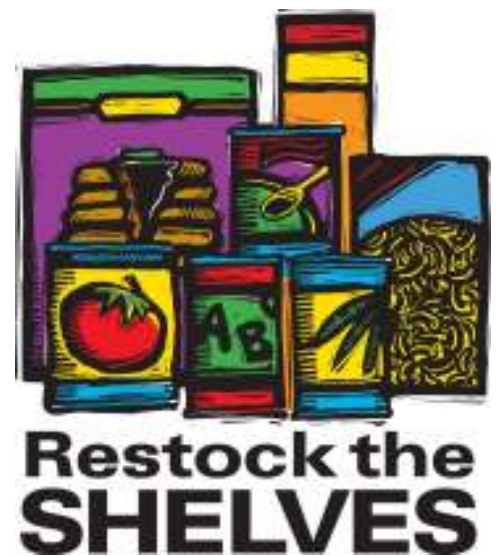
REASONS TO VOLUNTEER AT YOUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Volunteering at a food pantry can be one of the most **rewarding experiences** in life. You'll be able to witness first-hand how your efforts are helping those in the area. Many volunteers find it rewarding to help families with children or elderly family members who are struggling to provide healthy food for those who need it most. Many of these people are faced with tough decisions on where to spend their money on a low-income budget.

Food pantries are essential to many families who can't make ends meet on their own. Did you know that **one out of six Americans** doesn't get enough food to eat? Serving as a volunteer at a local food bank can allow you to drastically change the life of an individual by helping provide access to healthy and nutritional food. Whether you're packing food bags for distribution, handing out food, or are working in a disaster relief area, these common jobs add up to a large impact for those who need help in your community.

As you may already know we are continuously searching for volunteers to help at the food pantry. Whether it is unloading the truck, organizing the food for distribution or helping a disabled man carry his bags. We can always use your help. We know that choosing where to volunteer for charity can be a very **personal decision** and is usually based on a cause or issue that evokes a passionate response. Volunteering at a local food pantry is one way that you can help those in your area who are in need of the most basic item in life: nourishment. For anyone who would like to donate your time to the food pantry, but are unsure as to what it entails or how you can make a difference, why not **come and just check it out on the third Thursday of every month in the social hall, there is no need to sign up JUST SHOW UP!** We would really welcome the help.

Donations needed
BOXED CEREAL
for the month of May



Bingo Kitchen May 10

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Joyce Deisemann	<i>Help Needed</i>
Sharon Eaton	<i>Help Needed</i>
Ruth Himmelberger	<i>Help Needed</i>
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5 - 8 pm	Wendy Schutt



Thursday May 9, 2019.

Meals 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 from 3:00-6:00 pm in the parlor. Call the church to reserve your tickets.

Baked goods also available!

Bakers – Karen Miller
Amy Yeager
Keith Hamm
Rose Freed

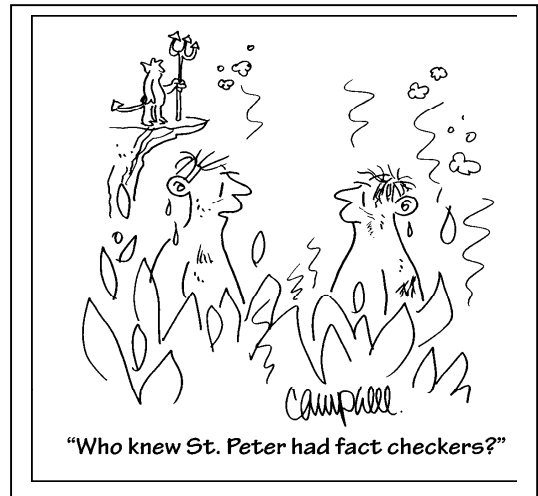
Hot Pot – Wendy Schutt
Beth Machmer

THE CONGREGATION HAS VOTED!

And the winning color for our new roof is... Burgundy!

Thank you to everyone that voted.





A.Y.C.E POT PIE SUPPER

Saturday June 8 4 - 7 pm

Adult \$9

Children age 6 to 10 - \$5

Under 6 FREE

Includes Corn, Homemade Coleslaw, Rolls, Drinks & Ice Cream

Take Out Meals \$8.00

Quarts sold by PREORDER only

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PREORDER HOMEMADE CHICKEN POT PIE QUARTS - \$ 7.00
(Orders will not be accepted the night of the dinner)

Name _____ Phone # _____

of Quarts _____ **Pick up Saturday only 2 - 7 pm**

Place orders in the box in the Narthex or mail to PO Box 98 Strausstown PA 19559

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Thank you to Brad Faust and Ron Buckley for their continued dedication to
 making our Sanctuary clock work!



May BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Cathy Diggan	5/11	Diane Moorhead	5/23	Andrea Gebely
5/3	Amy Breidigan		George Carles	5/24	Bob Kline Jr
	Sandy Behm	5/14	Rachael Kirkhoff	5/25	Bruce Kramer
5/4	Grant Miller	5/16	Laura Keener	5/26	Morgan Miller
	Diane Heflich	5/17	Denice Dodge	5/27	Rita Bentz
5/5	Tom Dodge		Alexis Deisemann		Morgan Rentschler
5/7	Julie Newhouse	5/18	Jon Schaeffer	5/28	Audrey Kirkhoff
5/8	Esther Sweigert		Kate Holzman Lenhart		
5/10	Brian Binner	5/18	Jaylene Leshner		
5/10	Jim Shupp	5/20	Kenny Grimes		



May ANNIVERSARIES

- Walter & Helen Shirey married 60 years on May 2
- Bernie & Ruth Himmelberger married 51 years on May 11
- David & Alice Breidgan married 42 years on May 22
- Jeff & Julie Newhouse married 14 years on May 25
- Bob & Holly Kline married 39 years on May 31
- Randy & Robin Sebastian married 39 years on May 31



Once again we are again participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign for Mary's Shelter. Bottles will be available beginning on May 12 (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. Last year due to your kindness we were able to collect and donate over \$1600. Thank you for your continued compassion and generosity.

Are you graduating? Or do you know a graduate?

We would like to recognize your accomplishments! Please give us the following: Name, Name of school graduating from, degree, date of graduation, plans for the future. Thank you.

Please email your information to ishupp@zionbluemountainucc.org or call the church office 610-488-7361 before May 19, 2019



TRANSITION TEAM

Zion Blue Mountain's Transition Team has officially finished their part of the Search and Call process. As of April 17th, our profile has been approved of by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. On April 28th, the profile will be presented to ZBM's Consistory for final approval. The profile will then be sent back to the Conference for posting. Upon approval from the Consistory, the profile will be made available to the congregation for viewing. Any questions concerning the profile can be directed toward any members of the Transition Team. The Transition Team includes Susan Shollenberger, Barry Miller, Pat Moyer, Audrey Kirkhoff, Clint Faust, Wendy Schutt, Doris Wagner, and Caroline Bashore. On May 13th, the Search Committee will be meeting with Rev. Sharon Morris to begin the second half of the process. If you have any questions about the Search Committee or the upcoming portion of the Search and Call process, please talk to Pastor Fogle or Caroline Bashore.

What is clean eating?

Clean eating is a diet concept where a person avoids refined and processed foods and those that have artificial ingredients, such as certain preservatives and additives. Instead, the goal is to eat whole, natural foods.



COME JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS WAY OF EATING FROM
SANA MALIK, THE CLEAN JUNK FOOD LADY

We will share recipes, there will be samples to taste and lots and lots of information.

Wednesday May 15
7 pm in the parlor

Space is limited – sign up in the Narthex or drop an email to lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org to reserve your space.

May 19

Mission Statement

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



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church
PO Box 98 (6573 Old Rt. 22)
Strausstown, PA 19559
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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.

May 19

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