

# ZION NEWS

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

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## **Standing Strong for Zion Blue Mountain**

God's hand is active in our personal lives and through the work of Zion Blue Mountain. We know that all good things come from Him, free of charge. But we also know that we live in the material world He has created, and with that comes responsibility to our family, our neighbors, and our church -- including financial responsibilities.

***Right now Zion Blue Mountain is in a major cash crunch. Yes, worship offering declines every summer, but this year the situation is especially serious.*** For the past three years worship collections have declined and are now falling short of the amount we need to meet our ordinary operating expenses.

***We will be holding a special meeting of our Congregation on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>,*** to discuss how we can all make a greater contribution to the financial stability of Zion Blue Mountain. Your Consistory has been taking steps to address the cash flow problem -- including cutting costs -- and will present specific information at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We hold the legacy of Zion Blue Mountain in our hands. The fulfillment of its mission is our mutual responsibility. We ask you – and everyone in our congregation -- to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern our priorities in life, and to direct more of our time and money to the efforts of Zion Blue Mountain to preach the Gospel and assist our community.

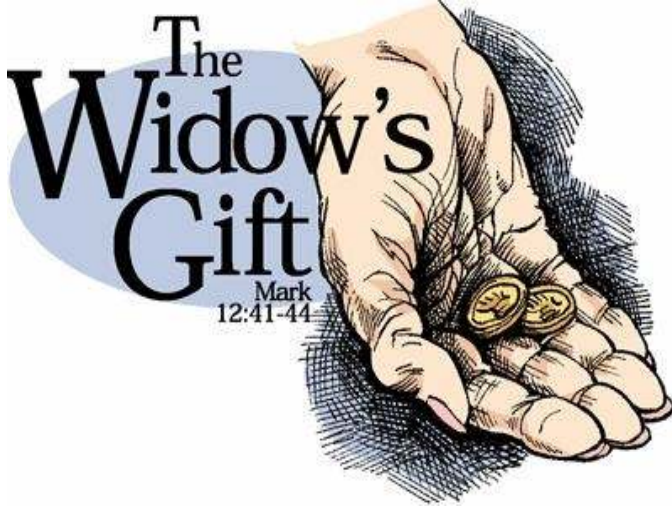
Let us honor the legacy given to us by generations of worshippers who have sustained our church for nearly three hundred years. Let us value the collaborative faith that unites us today and pledge to work hand in hand to strengthen Zion Blue Mountain for the future.

Together, with the help of God, we can do as a congregation what we can't do alone.

Clinton Faust, Consistory President

*“Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor and the majesty; for everything in heaven and earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.” ~ 1 Chronicles 29:11-14*

In Mark's Gospel, chapter 12, verses 41-44, we read the story of Jesus observing the widow put two copper coins in the treasury. In this story from St. Mark, Jesus praises the poor widow's offering, and makes it clear that the standard measurement for assessing gifts is not how much we give to the work of God or how much we put in the offering plate, but how much we have left for ourselves. I am talking about proportional giving. Jesus said, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." (Luke 12:48)



It is clear to see that the small gift of the poor widow is generous. When we think about the Gospel's description of Christian stewardship in the long term, everyone's giving of themselves to others is expected to be generous. Time, love, talent can be given generously; in this text it is about money. This is more than a symbolic gesture. It demonstrates a gratitude for God's generosity to us.

I am asking you to think about Stewardship, big picture stewardship. It is about our tending to all of the gifts God gives us. For us, stewardship is proportional. Stewardship is a percentage of our time, talent, and treasure. No one is expected to give up everything like the early disciples (in Acts 4:32-35). But like the early disciples it is not unreasonable to expect that God's generosity to us would stimulate a grateful response in us.

Maybe the impetus for this reminder is that we have had a particularly difficult few summer months. And this cash flow issue weighs heavily on my heart. But I hope that, more than anything, I can help you understand that giving of your treasure and your time is an essential element of being a disciple of Jesus. And for disciples, what you do with your resources is the purest proof of what you truly believe.

Think about this while you are filling out your offering envelope in the weeks and months ahead. Think about this when someone calls up and asks you to volunteer for us (or for another good cause). When you update your will, think about this. All that is ever expected is a reflection of just how much you are thankful for.

*See ya in church, Pastor Jon*



Zion Blue Mountain's Search Committee has reviewed a total of five candidate profiles. As of the end of June, we have narrowed in on two candidates. The committee will be meeting with both of these candidates in the up-coming weeks for face-to-face interviews at Zion Blue Mountain. The Search Committee includes Ruth Himmelberger, Scott Sechler Jr., Bruce Wagner, Wendy Schutt, Brad Faust, Doris Wagner, and Caroline Bashore. If there are any questions regarding the search process or any of the candidates, please feel free to ask any of us. We will be as open as we possibly can while still maintaining confidentiality by not providing the candidates' names or their current church.

# SUMMER COMMUNION SUNDAY

## AUGUST 4 @ 9 am



### Kingdom on wheels



“If you love what you do, you're going to talk about it,” says Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz. “I love Jesus ... so I'm going to talk about [him]. But I'm not going to force [Christianity] down your throat, either.” That's why the pro athlete tries to show his faith by “how I live and what I'm about.”

Wentz started the foundation AO1 (Audience of One) to make a tangible impact beyond the gridiron. With a local church, he sponsors Thy Kingdom Crumb, a food truck that offers free meals to people in the community. The motto painted on the mobile restaurant sums up the message Wentz wants to share with his neighbors: “It's on us ... 'cause he loves you!”

Almost one year ago to the day there was a heavy downpour during the Sunday Worship service. For those of you who remember, the Sanctuary roof was leaking near the piano and someone placed a receptacle on the floor to catch the water. The sound of one drop after another falling 20 feet into an empty container filled the room with the sound that let everyone know - the church roof needed repairs.

To recap -we had several companies come out and do some inspections and provide some suggestions. The initial quotes gave us all a bit of sticker shock and left us wondering how we would tackle the repairs and remain financially solvent at the same time. After several months of deliberation it was decided that we would put a new roof on the social hall. The slate roof was to be repaired by a roofing company. The concrete decking in the steeple and the flat roof over the old Sunday School / overflow area would be repaired by Jon Schaeffer and Brain Houpt and their crew of helpers (thank you everyone!)

The repairs have been made to the 3 roofs on the older portion of the building as described above. If you have driven by lately you probably noticed the new metal roof on the social hall. As of this writing we are waiting for a final inspection on the work.

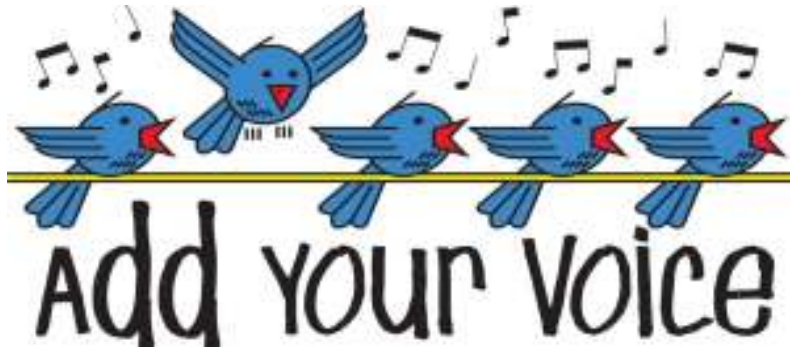
You may also have noticed the red goal thermometers throughout the building indicating where we are and where we need

to be in order to pay the bill. Due to the generosity of many we have come a long way in meeting this goal. We still have a way to go in an effort to use as little of the Althouse fund as possible. Every donation helps, no matter how large or small. The Consistory as a whole greatly thanks those that have made a donation to the roof project and encourages those that are thinking about donating to consider the greater good of keeping our building in repair. Just like your home or car, your church takes constant upkeep and sometimes it is costly. A reminder that the original quote for all four roof projects was almost \$100,000 - but in examining all of our options and taking on some of the work internally we were able to reduce the expense considerably.

A plaque will commemorate the generosity of those who helped us in the roof project. Thank you all once again for helping us to work to reach our goal of paying for our roof repair. It is beyond words how appreciative we are of everyone's efforts. And please remember that all the little things that are going on in and around the church - dinners, bake sales, sub and sandwich sales, apple dumplings, etc - all these things help us maintain and pay our bills. We could not continue to do so without your support

Thank you from the Consistory Trustees.

We are pleased and excited to announce the hiring of Barry Dreisbach as organist of Zion Blue Mountain UCC starting October 1, 2019.



As Barry describes himself: I am a resident of Hamburg. I took piano lessons from Mrs. Olive Dix starting at age 11 for 9 years. My organ experience is self-taught starting around age 40.

I was married to Arlene (Weitzel) for 34 years until her passing on January 4, 2006 from a very aggressive breast cancer. I have 2 children...Stephanie, wife of Brian Riegel and Eric, engaged to Melissa Talarico. Stephanie is a Certified Medical Assistant at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Cedar Crest and Eric is Director of the Reading Police Academy.

I have 5 grandchildren. 2 grandsons Alex, a graduate of LaRoche College in Pittsburgh with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Cole, a junior at Kutztown University majoring in History.

3 granddaughters, Emma, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, Cameron, a senior at Governor Mifflin High School, and Taylor, a sophomore at Governor Mifflin High School.

I previously was organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia and since November 1, 2007 have been the Director of Music, Organist, Choir Director and Handchime Choir Director at St. John's Gernant's Church in Leesport. In between these 2 positions I did supply work at a number of churches.

From 1989 through 2000 I directed the musicals and spring plays at Hamburg Area High School. Needing a "break" I was asked if I could play the piano for the musical at Wyomissing High School. I said sure not realizing it would last for 18 years! Last year I was asked if I would consider coming back to direct at Hamburg and I of course, said YES! Last year's production of "Hello, Dolly!" made me realize how much I missed directing. So, I am now Musical and Spring Play Director and Drama Club Advisor. In August we will hold auditions and begin rehearsals for our fall musical Irving Berlin's "WHITE CHRISTMAS!"

I am very excited and looking forward to sharing my music ministry with all of you! I am always open to suggestions for any kind of special music that you would like to hear.

God Bless, Barry



# JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 Terry Kominsky  
 July 4 Sherry Wessner  
 July 5 Doris Wagner  
 July 6 Rob Deisemann  
 Robin Faust  
 July 7 Holly Kline  
 July 8 Janice Blatt  
 Walter Shirey  
 July 10 Anthony Moyer  
 July 12 Noah Wagner  
 July 15 Ciara Guinther  
 Sarah Kline  
 July 16 Josh Lesher

July 18 Sharon Witman  
 July 19 Christine Bashore  
 Susan Etchberger  
 Cole Schlappich  
 July 21 Dennis Hamm  
 July 23 Alyssa Kominsky  
 July 24 Jennifer Unterkofler  
 July 26 Melinda Schaeffer  
 July 28 Elaine Hamm  
 Adele Dietrich  
 July 29 Gerritt Breininger  
 Joan Hartman



July 22 Kurt & Sherry Fuhrman married 28 years  
 July 24 Bob & Ruth Klinger married 48 years



# August BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Bree Shanaman  
 8/2 Reid Schrack  
 8/3 Alexa Shupp  
 8/4 Richard Yeager  
 8/5 Erma Koenig  
 8/7 Myles Himmelberger  
 8/10 Linda Bausher  
 8/11 Marian Long  
 8/13 Kenny Machmer  
 8/14 Brady Breininger

8/15 Stephanie Miller  
 8/17 Tom Moorhead  
 8/20 Jill Baver  
 Cindy Snyder  
 8/25 Sharon Kominsky  
 Wendy Schutt  
 8/29 Alyssa Machmer  
 8/30 Josh Kline  
 8/31 John Miller III  
 Brett Schlappich



8/14 Marjorie & Allen Bashore married 54 years  
 8/21 Travis & Kristen Breininger married 15 years  
 8/27 Sue & Steve Shollenberger married 8 years  
 8/28 Beth & Kenny Machmer married 26 years  
 8/31 Shirley & Gerritt Breininger married 45 years

## Bingo Kitchen August 9

Hot Pot: Dennis Hamm  
Lisa Shupp

Bakers: Shirley Breininger  
Joyce Deisemann  
Lolly Leshar  
Sharon Eaton

**4 - 7 Shift:** Shirley Breininger  
Ruth Himmelberger  
**HELP NEEDED**  
Karen Miller

**5 - 8 Shift:** Wendy Schutt

**7 - 8:30 Shift: HELP NEEDED**

A great big expression of thanks was received from the staff at Mary's Shelter. Zion's held a baby bottle campaign that began on Mother's Day and ended on Father's Day. Mary's shelter supplies us with baby bottles which we fill with loose change. A 50/50 drawing from Bingo to benefit Mary's Shelter at our June Bingo. We were pleasantly surprised when we received the email indicating we had raised \$1,378.99. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a success. It is just one example of the generosity and kindness shown by the members and friends of Zion Blue Mountain UCC.

Eighty four people were served at our Community Dinner! I think that is the most served yet. Thank you to Caroline Bashore for organizing the dinner and all those who helped by donating items or helping to serve or clean up. Our volunteers were: Jon & Melinda Schaeffer, Wendy Schutt, Ruth Himmelberger and Robin Faust.

Don't forget our food pantry is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. We always need volunteers. Is there a reason you don't volunteer? Are you concerned about heavy lifting? Or there are too many people volunteering already? Please speak with Robin Faust and come out to help those in need in our community! The next distribution is at 6:30 pm Thursday August 18.

FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH: *Canned Fruit*

**AS ALWAYS THIS TIME OF YEAR WE WELCOME YOUR OVERFLOW OF  
HOMEGROWN GARDEN PRODUCE.**

Kindly place it on the table in the Narthex the week prior to the pantry.



## CHURCH KEYHOLDERS! PLEASE PAY ATTENTION

If you have been entrusted with a key to the church you will now be responsible for making sure the church is locked upon leaving.



If you remain in the building after the person locking the door has left, please **DO NOT EXIT OUT THE LOCKED DOOR ON THE LEFT**, as it will not close properly, leaving the church at risk of vandalism or theft. **USE THE MAIN SET OF DOORS TO THE RIGHT**, both upstairs and downstairs and then check that all doors are locked!

In the near future, key holders will be asked to open the church on Sunday mornings. Please stay tuned for that schedule to begin. If you do not want to assist in this process please return your key to the church office or Clint Faust.

Thank you for your understanding!

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Helping Hands is a humanitarian program that reunites unaccompanied youth from Central America with family that already resides in the USA. The group is currently in need of basic needs items for children, many of the children because they have been separated from parents and siblings arrive with just the clothes on their backs. The ages of these children are 5-13 years old. We are asking for your support in helping provide them a brighter future while they wait for their reuniting with family. We will collect through the end of August. Drop items at the church anytime! We will see that they are brought into the building. Any monetary donations should be made out to "Helping Hands"

## ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW!!

### Boys - small & medium

Socks  
Boxer shorts  
Jeans  
Sweatpants  
Shorts  
T- Shirts (solid colors)  
Sneakers  
Church attire and shoes  
Coats  
Pajamas

### Girls – x-small, small & medium

Socks  
Sports bras  
Underpants  
Jeans  
Shoes  
Shorts  
T- Shirts (solid colors)  
Sneakers  
Church attire and shoes  
Coats  
Pajamas

### Other items

Pillows & Pillow cases  
Twin blankets  
Fleece throws  
Bath towels  
Kid friendly soap, shampoo & conditioner  
Toothpaste and toothbrushes  
Hairbrushes & combs  
Deodorant  
Craft kits  
Markers, crayons, colored pencils  
Coloring books  
Soccer balls  
Games for all ages



Zion (Blue Mountain) Church  
PO Box 8 (6573 Old Rt. 22)  
Strausstown, PA 15551  
[www.zionbluemountainucc.org](http://www.zionbluemountainucc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/zionbluemountainucc](http://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 (President), Susan Harbolic, Melissa Miller*

*Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm (Vice President), Bryan Houpt*

#### *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.*