

ZION NEWS

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

OFFICIAL CALL

Zion's UCC Special Congregational Meeting, September 15, 2019

Following the 8 & 10:30 AM worship service (2 meetings)

This is an informational meeting ONLY

The presence and participation of all members is requested; a minimum of forty (40) members is required to transact business. As a special meeting, no business other than that listed in this call shall be in order.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Zion Blue Mountain UCC's financial stability.

Your Consistory has been taking steps to address the cash flow problem – including cutting costs.

These measures, along with other actions will be discussed.



Fall Worship Schedule

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

Worship Resumes at
8 & 10:30 am



From Bill Worley, PSEC Conference Minister: Gun violence in America

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” Luke 12:51-53

This is one of those Sundays when the Gospel reading might lead you to turn to one of the other lectionary texts. I would encourage you otherwise.

The meaning of Jesus’ words divided people from the moment he spoke them. Everything we do and say moves us either closer to, or further way, from the Christ light. The effect of the moving creates division — in ourselves, our families, communities and, of course, our politics. Some translations render Jesus bringing a “sword”, so we know how clean the division is that separates the movement to and from his light.

We have evolved from people of the sword into people of the gun. I am not suggesting that Jesus “brought a gun” but it seems to me that our gun culture has rendered us so violently divided as to be unrecognizable as the nation that once thought itself to be a “city on the hill and a light to the nations”.

In 1□5, General Synod 20 passed the resolution: “Guns and Violence;” calling on UCC members to engage in reflection to better understand the roots of violence in our culture. This June, the 32nd General Synod “*called upon the Congress of the United States to conduct formal hearings to discover systemic and proximate causes of civilian violence in America, and to receive testimony as to changes in American society that may be undertaken to alleviate the effects of violence on the American people.*” (**A Call for Congressional Hearings on Violence in America**).

I am a gun owner. Have been all my life. From hunting to target shooting to military service, guns have been part of my family for as long as anyone can remember. I carry the memories of my grandfather and his father in the firearms they passed to me. Along with them I carry the expectations and ethics for their careful use.

Americans have added to the firearms of our forefathers hand-held and shoulder fired weapons of mass destruction. But we have abandoned the ethic or the expectation for their careful use in a culture that is driven entirely by irrational fear and racial division. There is reasonableness to our relationship with guns that no longer exists to protect a right without commensurate responsibility. Our days grow more deadly and we move further away from the Christ light.

Some ministry colleagues are calling for an all-out ban on guns. Others advocate for common sense gun laws. I believe that anyone who wants to own a gun needs to be part of the militia (National Guard or Federal Armed Services) where thorough background checks accompany proper training and service to the community. The solution will need to be as radical as the problem (see for instance Jesus).

There is so much more to say about the gospel text, Americans' gun culture and our current political climate that will not fit here. My hope and prayer is that all of our congregations are creating opportunities for conversation and action which diminish division and move people toward the Light of which our world is in separate need.

**A big
thank
you
for all your
support.**

Simply put, if it wasn't for faithful supporters like the members of our congregation, we wouldn't exist. So thank you for supporting the ongoing roof repairs and supplying the funds that we needed to make the necessary repairs. We were able to fund ½ of the cost through your generous donations. Anyone who donated will be recognized on our plaque.

**10 Things You Can't Buy With Food Stamps:
Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Paper
Towels, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Dental Floss,
Cleaning products, Soap, Feminine Hygiene
Products, Deodorant, Shampoo, Lip Balm,
Lotions.**



This is sobering, but we are asking you to think through some of the items you take for granted. And then we hope you'll do two things.

First, step back from the temptation to judge what someone else is doing. You don't know their story, and they don't owe you or anyone an explanation. You don't need to carry around that resentment.

Second, you can do something proactive to help. For most of us these are not luxuries but necessities. You probably use a lot of these items every morning before you leave the house for the day. For some people these items are luxuries and the decision to buy the cheapest bottle of shampoo or even deodorant has to be carefully considered. Is there enough in my budget to pay for my prescription? Or should I buy a bottle of shampoo this month. Please consider donating some of these items for our Christmas gift bags for clients of the food pantry!

Please place all your donations in the food pantry box

Dear Christian Friends,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," croons Andy Williams. I am not talking about Christmas, I am talking about September. Kids are back to school. The days are getting shorter. Before we know it, the leaves will begin to display a glorious tapestry. September is a time of transition.

With the movement of the Spirit, prayer, and discernment, we may well be on the way to a pastoral transition. I am writing this note to you in the third week of August, and at this moment the Search Team is feeling pretty great about a couple of the candidates they are working with.

We have worked hard to prepare the Sexton's House for a new tenant. A community dinner was held with over 86 attending. Our blood drive was a success. We have met our financial goal for the roof project. And, thanks to a faithful and generous response, the hard work of the Deacons and Consistory, it seems like the 'normal' summer cash flow disaster has been avoided. We have gathered to worship in the midst of oppressive heat, thanks to the air conditioned parlor. The food pantry has distributed food to the less fortunate. There have been weddings and funerals. The Gentle Rain pre-school is gearing up for another year of activity.

Summer, as you can see, has not been entirely restful. But the church, the 'holy catholic church,' is always on the move.

The church calendar claims that we are still in 'common time,' although I am not sure any time in the life of the church can be categorized as 'common.' In a way there is nothing "ordinary" about "Ordinary Time". Ordinary Time is not about common, regular, mundane, or run of the mill things. Ordinary Time comes from the word "ordinal" as in "ordinal numbers". Remember your math: Cardinal numbers answer "how many?" "Ordinal Numbers" tell the rank, they answer "what position?" "Where is it and in what direction is the progress?" Ordinal Numbers. During this time between Pentecost and the beginning of Advent, we read, in a continuous fashion the life and work of Jesus Christ as proclaimed in the Gospels. Our own common time, like summer, is not so different. Our 'normal' lives are not so normal where the good news of the Gospel is revealed, and our journey marked. In our ordinary time, like the liturgical calendar, it is good to notice where we are at and where we are going. In the company of the grace of God, it makes transitions like this hopeful.

Blessings, Pastor Jon

09/01 Jeremy Bentz
 09/02 Brianna Bashore
 09/03 Russell Hartman
 09/04 Lily Bentz
 09/05 Amy Stafford
 09/07 Allen Leshar
 09/08 Julie Schlappich
 09/10 Harvey Stambaugh
 Sharon George
 09/11 Eileen Deisemann



09/12 Caroline Bashore
 09/13 Andrea Faust
 09/16 Laura Ditzler
 09/20 Larry Newhard
 09/24 Mike George
 David Breidigan
 Samantha Moyer
 09/25 Barry Harbonic
 09/26 Sara Ruth
 09/27 Margaret Luckenbill
 Zach Zweizig
 09/28 Stanley Deisemann
 Amy Yeager
 09/30 Dean Kirkhoff
 Anne Binner

09/02 Dennis & Adele Dietrich married 30 years
 09/07 Barbara & Kenny Grimes married 51 years
 09/08 Brad & Robin Faust married 46 years
 09/10 Ronald & Myong Emerich married 52 years
 09/12 Robert & Susan Deisemann married 21 years
 09/16 Pinky & Lynda Himmelberger married 58 years
 John & Melissa Miller married 13 years
 09/19 Arthur & Karen Kissling married 21 years
 09/20 Tim & Lori Rentschler married 33 years
 09/21 Jim & Lisa Shupp married 28 years
 09/22 Ralph & Esther Sweigart married 18 years
 09/24 Brian & Sherry Wessner married 36 years
 09/26 Barry & Susan Harbonic married 49 years
 09/30 Dwain & Julie Schlappich married 24 years

HARVEY "Chick Stambaugh" –
 September 10th – 85 years young
 PO Box 153, Strausstown PA 19559



Bingo Kitchen Sept. 13

4 – 7 pm	7- close
Ruth Himmelberger	Volunteer needed
Joyce Deisemann	Volunteer needed
Sharon Eaton	Volunteer needed
Karen Miller	Karen Miller
5-8 pm	Wendy Schutt

Hot Pot – Sue Ehrets
Keith Hamm

Bakers – Amy Yeager
Barbara Grimes
Doris Wagner
Joan Hartman

If you are available to help out in the kitchen and are not in church to sign the volunteer sheet, please email lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org with the time slot that you are available.

ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION

This year's auction will run from **Sunday, December 1 to Sunday, December 22**. In addition to Sunday mornings, the auction will be open to the public on the following dates:

Friday, December 13 4:30-8:00 pm (Bingo)

Saturday, December 14 9:00 am-3:00 pm

And during the Live Nativity (Date to be determined)

All donations should be placed on the auction table in the narthex. **No auction items will be accepted after Thanksgiving Eve service; Wednesday, November 27.**

Winning tickets will be drawn **Sunday, December 22**. Prizes not claimed that day can be picked up during regular church office hours or before church services. Any questions please contact Keith Hamm, Susan Harbonic or Stephanie Miller.



October 19 – Apple

Dumplings

November 23 – Pumpkin Rolls

December 2 - 4 – Nuts

(pick up 12/8)

**December 1-22 – Chinese
Auction**

December 15 – Cookie Sale

Confirmation classes will begin September 22, 201□, if you have not been contacted and are interested or know someone who would be interested please contact the church office at 610-488-7361 or lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org. Participants must be 13 years old by December 31 or in the 8th grade.

Back-to-school humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...
... an ice cream man? Sundae school
... a giant? High school
... a surfer? Boarding school
... King Arthur? Knight school

Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Math teacher: A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

Student: In jail!



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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 (President), Susan Harbolic, Melissa Miller
Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm (Vice President), 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.