

ZIONNEWS

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

At the end of this month we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season that essentially is a preparation for Easter Sunday. But why?

Why must we use words like penance, repentance, almsgiving? Why do we go through this process beginning with words at the imposition of ashes that remind us of our own mortality? Why do we need to sacrifice or give some things up in order to experience Easter?

Well, the truth is, I'm not sure we need to. I don't believe that we will be unable to experience Easter if we don't do these things, or at least try to participate in them. I don't believe that our Christian siblings who don't celebrate Lent don't experience Easter, and maybe aren't prepared for it. I'm honestly not sure anything prepares you to fully understand what happens on Easter Sunday, or to receive God's grace. For that matter, many good folks who will receive eternal life will never fully understand Grace and the miracle of Easter, myself included.

All that being said, I still think the process and season is one steeped in Christian customs and traditions for a reason. Many reasons actually. I hope we get to discuss them in time. Some on Sunday mornings, some in study, and some in conversation. We'll have years to discuss how we encounter Lent and our other liturgical seasons together. So, I won't try to answer all of that here or even touch on the many different aspects of it.

However, I would like to give you a few brief thoughts. Easter is about Christ's resurrection. Jesus being brought to life after death. It's about what that does for all of us and means. It has implications for the entire world, and perhaps no event in history has ever affected the world more. The reality is though; you cannot have a resurrection with a death. You cannot come out of the tomb without first going inside of it. You cannot celebrate a victory without the strife of a challenge.

Lent is an opportunity really. It's a chance to give into some things and give up others so that you can experience life in a new way. That may, or may not occur exactly on Easter morning, but still it will occur. If you challenge yourself to participate in this season in a new, or renewed, way; you will almost certainly find yourself learning something, growing, evolving, being a new creation even in your same person.

If you'd like some ideas about how to experience Lent in a new way, please simply ask me. Even take advantage of technology to research a little on your own. I'd be completely remiss at this point if I didn't take this time to invite you to participate in our Lenten program called "Cross Training" as well. *Continued...*

However it is you choose to experience Lent, even if by choosing nothing at all, I look forward to this journey with you!

Peace, Pastor Stump

A New Era of Growth and Progress – Zion’s 2020 Consistory

Our church is a vehicle for the growth and development of God’s children.

The 2020 Consistory welcomes Audrey Kirkhoff (Deacon), Cindy Emore (Deacon), Debra Carles (Deacon), Steve Shollenberger (trustee) and Todd Moyer (Elder). These new members bring a wealth of experience and charisma to the Consistory. We look forward to developing the spirit of giving and sharing as it relates to Christ’s mission of making disciples. We are eager to work with Pastor Jason, as he brings new ideas and an invigorated sense of compassion into our congregation and thereby enriching our community. Together we serve as an instrument in the hands of the Lord, reaching God’s dearly beloved people and bringing them into the caring fellowship of the body of Christ.

This Consistory will focus through prayer, budgeting, and staffing to evaluate and prioritize our outreach. We pledge not to lose sight of the cornerstone that is Zion Blue Mountain’s proud legacy and triumph: **relationships**. Relationships are essential to the framework of our ministries in our community and beyond. We desire to inspire people experiencing change in their lives to be open to change in their spiritual lives. As leaders, we will explore areas to enhance our effectiveness through our church missions for the kingdom of God to go forth and expand, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Clinton R. Faust, Consistory President

The 2020 Consistory was installed on Sunday January 19.

Consistory meetings are held the 4th Sunday of the month at 9 AM. Minutes for these meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Your new Consistory members are:

Elders: Karen Miller, Wendy Schutt, Ruth Himmelberger, Todd Moyer

Deacons: Cindy Emore, Audrey Kirkhoff, Barry Miller, Debra Carles

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Bryan Houpt, Steve Shollenberger, Clint Faust

Ash Wednesday Drive Up Ashes

February 26 5:30 – 9:00 am under the Portico

We will have your morning beverages and treats



Zion Blue Mountain Cross Training! Sound interesting? Let us know what you think. Wednesdays, 7pm. 5 weeks during Lent. One hour to stretch, grow, and practice your spiritual lives. No Bible jocks necessary! All ages welcome and integrated together. Come exactly where you are and how you are. You can be a wallflower, or an active enthusiast. That's completely your call! Short communal worship experience, followed by stations engaging a variety of learning styles, wrapping up with a communal close and blessing.

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1 Alex Bentz
2/5 Olivia Leshner
2/9 Doris Moyer
2/11 Barbara Spohn
2/12 Kermit Wagner
2/14 Jim Schutt
2/19 George Stankiewitch
Alyssa Dietrich
2/20 Steve Shollenberger
2/21 Scott Sechler Jr.
2/23 Mike Kamp

2/24 Dru George
2/26 Ivy Bentz
Colton Guinther
2/28 Barbara Grimes

ANNIVERSARIES

2/14 Richard & Sharon Hoh married 29 years
Terry & Sharon Kominsky married 33 years
2/25 Lynn & Melissa Koenig married 10 years

Dinner
is better when we eat
Together

Free Community Dinner

Saturday February 15, 2019

4 - 7 pm



ON THE MENU: Tacos, rice, refried beans, drinks & cake

JOIN US

**Super Bowl Sunday for a
SOUP-A-FET**

ALL YOU CAN EAT

\$5 SOUP BUFFET

includes drink
proceeds donated to charity

Sunday February 2, 2020 in the social hall after worship

Volunteer to bring ANY soup to raise money for charity!

Sign up in the Narthex

so we know how many soups we can count on.



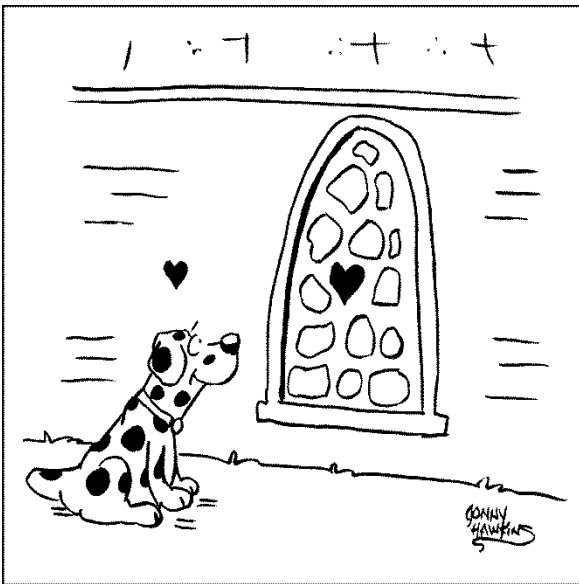
Barry Driesbach, Shelby Kauffman, Pastor Jason and Kathleen Stump



February
Food
Pantry Item:

Canned
Vegetables

At this time we are not accepting plastic bags. Many of our clients are using reusable bags.



PREORDER HOMEMADE CHICKEN POT PIE QUARTS - \$ 7.00

Name _____ Phone # _____

of Quarts _____

Pick up Saturday March 7

4 - 7 pm

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



"Behold, I am doing a new thing."

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
invites you to join us in celebrating
Rev. Sharon Morris
and wish her well on her next journey!



Dessert Reception
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020
Time: 1:00—3:00 pm
Location: Sunnybrook—Gatsby's
50 Sunnybrook Rd., Pottstown
Cost: \$25.00 per person
\$10.00 to go towards "Love Offering"

RSVP Please!
To attend or participate in "Love offering":

1. Go to: pseccelebratessharon.eventbrite.com and register or donate. A small Eventbrite fee will be added to your registration/donation.
2. Send a check to Sue at PSEC (1441 Laura Ln, Su 100, Pottstown, PA 19464) with name(s) of those attending or those offering donation.

Deadline to reserve for attending is February 16th!



JOIN US FOR SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DINNER
From our Bingo Kitchen 2/14
5-7 pm

Roast Beef w/ gravy
Twice baked potato
Vegetable

\$9 – take out dinners

Bingo Kitchen February 14

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 – 7 pm | 7- close |
| Sherry Wessner | Help Needed |
| Ruth Himmelberger | Help Needed |
| Joyce Deisemann | Help Needed |
| Karen Miller | Help Needed |
| 5 - 8 pm | Wendy Schutt |

Please let Lisa Shupp or Karen Miller know if you can volunteer for the Hot Pot. Sign up for kitchen help is in the Sanctuary.

Hot Pot – Barry Driesbach
Volunteer Needed

Bakers – Adele Dietrich
Sherry Wessner
Joan Hartman
Pat Moyer



Unexpected amazingness
for families with cancer.

Music Concert

In memory of Arlene Driesbach

APRIL 26, 2019 @ 3
pm

Zion Blue Mountain UCC
6573 Old Route 22, Strausstown

Light refreshments served following

Freewill offering will be taken to benefit Bringing Hope Home

ZionNews February 2020



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

Staff

Interim Minister: Rev. Jason Stump

Office Administrator: Lisa Shupp (lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org)

Consistory

Elders: Ruth Himmelberger, Wendy Schutt (Vice President), Karen Miller, Todd Moyer

Deacons: Barry Miller, Audrey Kirkhoff, Cindy Emore, Debra Carles

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Keith Hamm, Bryan Houpt, Clint Faust (president)

Contact Information

Pastor: 757-630-6577

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.