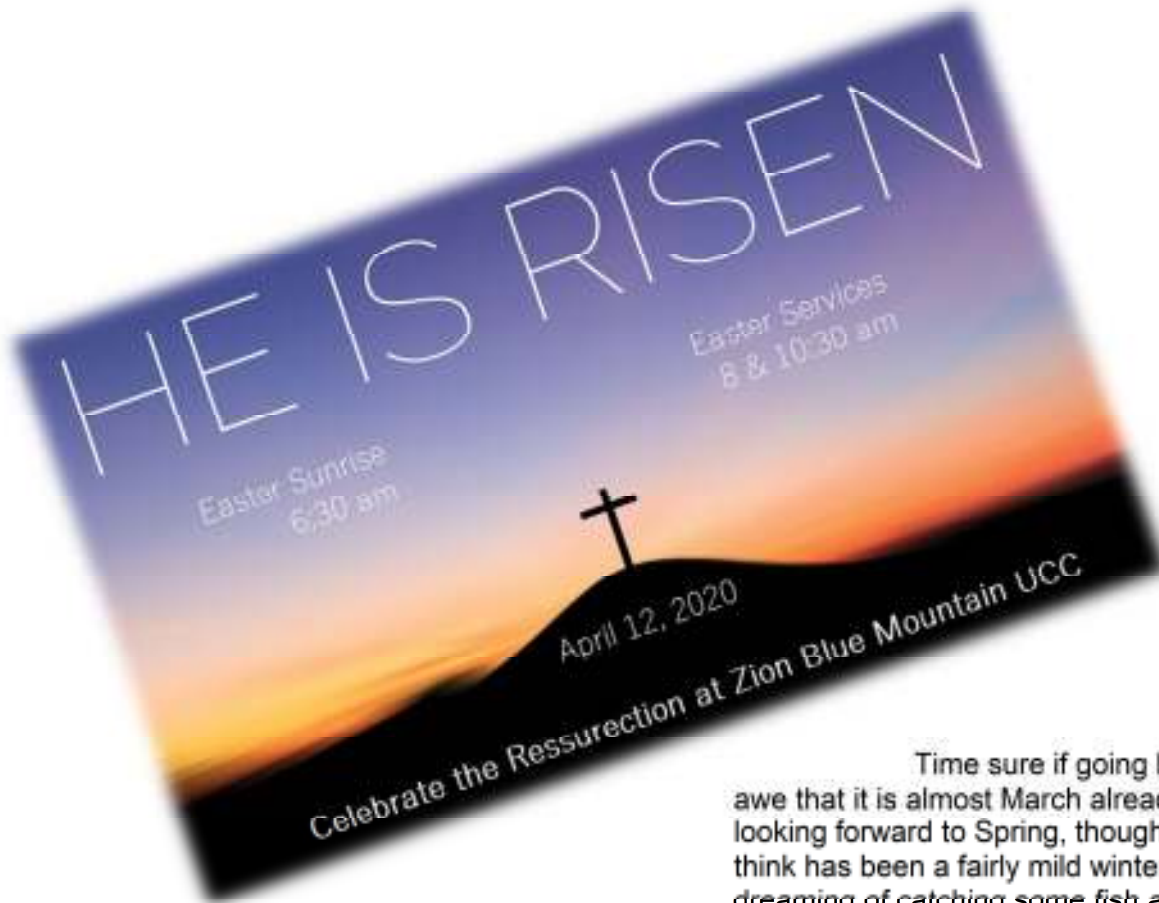


ZION NEWS

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



March 8



Time sure if going by fast here! I'm in awe that it is almost March already. Personally, I'm looking forward to Spring, though I've enjoyed what I think has been a fairly mild winter. Soon I'll be dreaming of catching some fish and listening for turkeys gobbling on the Blue Mountain somewhere.

I won't hide though, that I'm a bit nervous. Nervous with a bit of excitement that I may not get to do that fishing, hunting, and hiking I enjoy because of the busy life of this church. On the other hand, I know that many folks here will be charitable with their time, talents, and treasure; and I'll be able to take some time alone with God, and a few trout.

We've got a lot coming up here in the life of our church, and in our connected life to the larger church. Everything from our Cross Training worship experience each Wednesday during Lent, to our Pot Pie sale (don't forget to place your order and seek out Doris Wagner to see how you can help), to Holy Week, and several upcoming missions. There will be several ad hoc groups forming in the near future, I hope. These groups will focus on specific goals and each will be advancing our missions and ministry.

Everything from improving worship to welcoming folks to literally helping people living in poverty erase their medical debt. I'm very excited about each of these, and I'm grateful for the opportunities presented to us. Can you imagine being able to give \$1 and know that it will release someone from \$100 in medical expense debt? Or that \$100 will cover \$10,000 ? Even better, if we can raise \$1000, we will erase \$100,000 in debt! I believe we can actually go beyond that. There will be more information on that coming your way. However, together with our sister churches of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, we are going to be a part of a campaign to help those in the greatest need erase \$6 million+ of medical debt. Absolutely amazing work for God!

Continued on pg. 2...

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. Starting Wed. March 4 @ 7 pm. 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.

Continued from pg. 1... The scriptures are full of lessons about working hard. Though the saying, "Idle hands are the devil's playground" is not from scripture, I think there is some truth to it. We aren't short of hard work around here. No doubt, in this community folks understand that planting seeds are necessary if we are ever going to have a chance to harvest any crop at all. Even more so, in our faith life, we must understand the reasons why we plant those seeds. Simply put, "for the glory of God." We forgive debts, we improve our welcome, we make worship more accessible; ultimately all for the glory of God. Whether or not it helps us, we know it helps others, and that pleases God.

Ecclesiastes 11: 4-6 says, "Whoever observes the wind will not sow; and whoever regards the clouds will not reap. Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good."

Friends, not everything we do will be considered by all to be "successful," or even necessary. However, God may be the only one to determine whether or not it is good. And as we know..."God is good..._____."

So as we head towards spring, don't sit idle. Jump on in and find a place to start planting some seeds.

Blessings, Pastor Stump

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

Sometimes things present themselves and we answer the call. In February we answered a call from the Salvation Army for blankets. Their goal was to have 50 blankets donated. Through congregational and community donations we were able to collect double the amount we were hoping for. Blankets were distributed through Servants to All, Salvation Army, and our Food Pantry.

Our Community Dinner on February 15 was a Taco Night. We had close to 100 folks come by, many of them for the first time. Some visited the next day for worship, and some promised to come back. All in all it was a great evening for members and neighbors.

On February 2nd we hosted a soup buffet, we raised close to \$330 for school lunch debt. We plan on having this event again next year with a few changes. In the near future, Pastor Jason will deliver the check when he and Brad Faust meet with the Superintendent of Hamburg Schools.

We can't forget our trip to Kennedy House. Thank you for everyone who donated food or their time. We served 129 meals of Baked Ham, Macaroni and cheese, Choice of Broccoli or corn, Dinner roll w. butter, Choice of fresh Apple or Orange, Brownies with Vanilla ice cream, Milk, Fruit Juice and coffee. Thank you to everyone that help make these projects possible. Please come and join us in making the world a better place!

MARCH FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH



Peanut Butter & Jelly

BOYER'S FOOD MARKET REWARDS

Don't forget that we still participate in the Boyer's Food Market Rewards. If you shop at Boyer's present your savings key card and a percentage of your total bill will be donated back to Zion Blue Mountain UCC. Pick up your key card in the Narthex! Thank you for your continuing participation!



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: _____

Bingo Kitchen March 13

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

A candle loses none of its light by lighting another.

Hot Pot – Wendy Schutt
Doris Wagner

Bakers – Karen Miller
Amy Yeager
Keith Hamm
Lisa Shupp



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 March 2020

Chocolate Caramel Cashew Bark

1 lb. box \$10

Orders due March 15 - Pick up March 29, 2020

***Place order forms in the box in the Narthex or mail to PO Box 98
Strausstown***

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of boxes _____

Total price _____

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

For office use only

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



On March 31 Brian & Anne Binner will celebrate 30 years of marriage

Church Consistory Meetings are the fourth Sunday of every month.

Anyone interested may attend.

COMING UP

Join us on Sundays

8 am quiet worship
10:30 am traditional
worship

March 4 – April 1

Lenten Services @ 7 pm

March 7

Pot Pie Quart Sale Orders
Due 2/26

March 15

String Ensemble @ 10:30 am
worship

March 25-26

Candy Making

Deepest Sympathy

*Our Hearts and Love go out to
Shirley Breininger and family
after Gerritt's passing.*



Announcing the **Installation of Pastor Jason W. Stump**

Sunday

April 19, 2020


at

3 o'clock in the afternoon

Zion Blue Mountain UCC
Strausstown

All members, family and friends are
invited to participate.

A reception to follow in the
fellowship hall



<https://www.facebook.com/zionbluemountainucc/>



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

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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.