

ZION NEWS

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

Welcome Back To Sunday Services!

As we once again gather together for worship at 9 am on Sunday July 12 you will notice certain changes that we have had to adopt because of COVID-19.

Thanks to the help of the Consistory and worship committee and other willing members who will be in attendance at worship, we will ensure that entrance doors are propped opened for you, and that you can find the bulletins and other information on your seat as we joyfully welcome you. If you plan to attend services regularly at this time and would like to be part of this Sunday morning corps of volunteers, please let Pat Moyer (610-488-7038) know!

If you are unable to physically attend services, please continue to join us on Facebook or continue to watch through links in weekly emails.

Your safety is important to us. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the entrance to the Summer Sanctuary (Fellowship Hall).

Consistory and Worship Committee members are cleaning and disinfecting areas prior to services.



August 2, 2020 Summer Communion

You will receive a Fellowship Cup containing wine and wafer. This will ensure proper measures are taken against contamination.

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20*

We aren't going back! I said, "We aren't going back!" Now that I've got your attention, have you ever had that sentiment before? It's likely you have. As all God's people have at times. Granted, it can be said in a variety of ways and for just as many reasons. Throughout scripture God is always calling God's people to a journey. Often, as the adage says, that journey is really more important than the place to which people think they are headed. If you are like me, you have probably found yourself in an entirely different place than you expected after setting out for a journey or goal. Especially if you know you have been called by God to that journey.

Friends, while we will be returning to our physical site for worship, and that is very good news, I have a feeling we will never again be entirely "back" to where we were before. As sad as that feels right now, and rightly so, that itself might be even better news.

God is surely with us. As we discern, discover, and even stumble while towards a destination in the coming months, and perhaps years, know that God is always doing a new thing. We can, and should, reconnect to what our core Christian values are. We should travel on this journey with those values in mind. However, we should know that even if we completely intend to "go back" to the way it was before, it will always look different. That is certainly a thing that must be understood and experienced, and for many that is in the form of grief.

However, what if going back meant going waaaayyyy back? Like to some model of the early church in the book of Acts. While I can't say for sure that is where we are headed, many seem to think that their churches are, and it isn't exactly a bad place to work towards.

Where we end up in the time ahead, I don't know. However, I do believe that it is time we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for a journey. An ancient journey that the Church has always traveled. Perhaps this ancient journey will put us on new paths, but still God is with us as always. And God is doing a new thing in this world. Of that I'm certain. May this bring you peace!

Pastor Stump

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

It has been awhile since we talked! Missions committee has not stopped working on projects during the pandemic. Pastor Jason started distributing the Hiker Ministry items you all donated, at the top of Rt. 183. Our food pantry has continued to serve our community monthly. We would also like to have another drive-through Community Dinner. If you are interested in being a part of that event, please contact Lisa Shupp at 610-780-6017 or lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org. Recently, the Missions committee has proposed a Free Little Library to be placed on the church property near the entrance to the preschool. We will be sponsoring a lemonade stand in Strausstown on July 18 in order to purchase books for the new library. Please come out to support the church's mission in our neighborhood. Join us in making the world a better place!



Our Hearts and Love go out to the family of Joyce Balthaser after her passing in June.

We also grieve the loss of Guy Petery in April

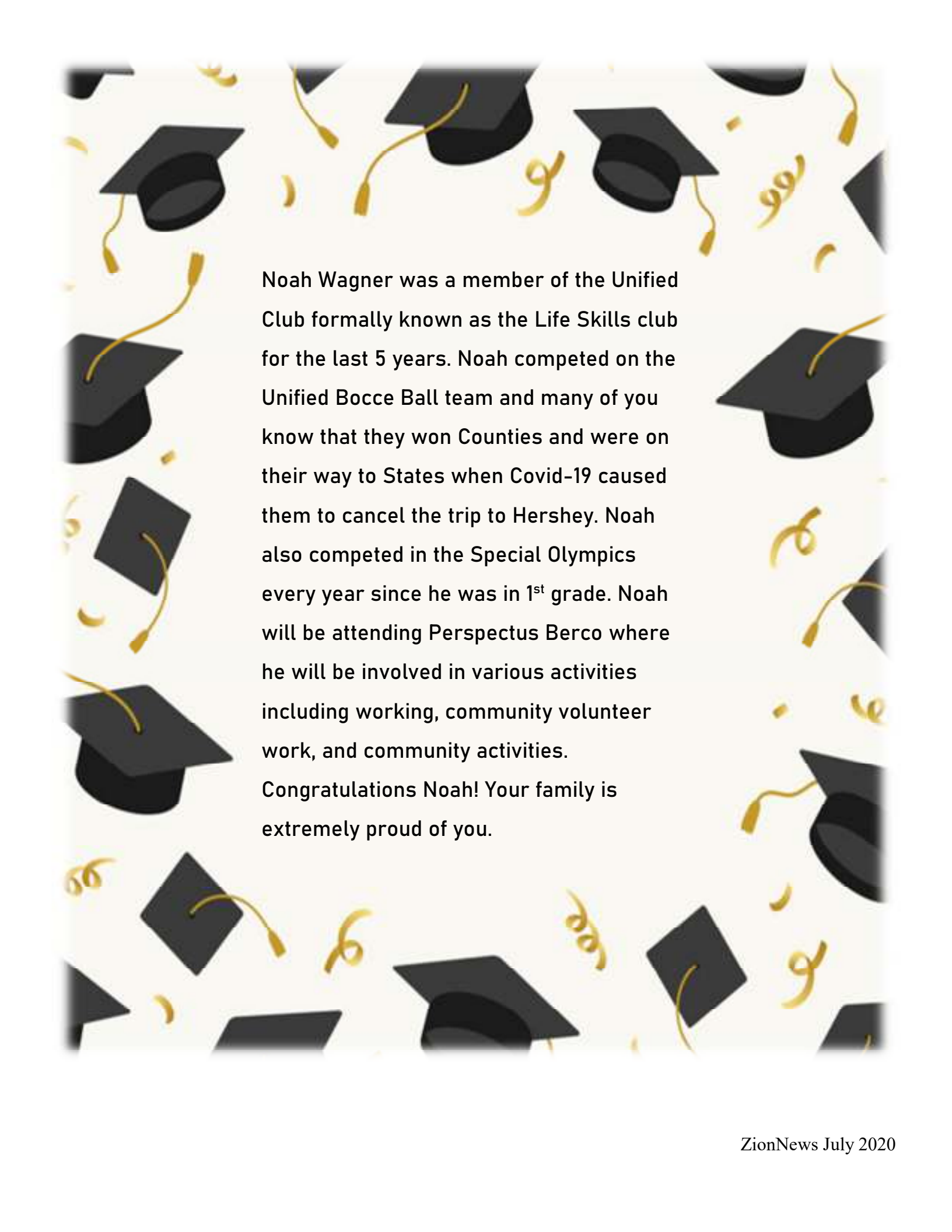


JULY FOOD PANTRY ITEM

Place items in the pantry box which is located in the room by the dumpster, please use the outside entrance by the dumpster.

Boxed

Macaroni & Cheese



Noah Wagner was a member of the Unified Club formally known as the Life Skills club for the last 5 years. Noah competed on the Unified Bocce Ball team and many of you know that they won Counties and were on their way to States when Covid-19 caused them to cancel the trip to Hershey. Noah also competed in the Special Olympics every year since he was in 1st grade. Noah will be attending Perspectus Berco where he will be involved in various activities including working, community volunteer work, and community activities. Congratulations Noah! Your family is extremely proud of you.



July 2	Terry Kominsky	July 18	Sharon Witman
July 4	Sherry Wessner	July 19	Christine Bashore
July 6	Robin Faust		Susan Etchberger
	Rob Deisemann		Cole Schlappich
July 7	Holly Kline		
July 8	Janice Blatt	July 21	Dennis Hamm
	Walter Shirey	July 25	Julia Dunn
July 10	Anthony Moyer	July 26	Melinda Schaeffer
July 15	Sarah Kline	July 28	Elaine Hamm
	Ciara Guinther		Adele Dietrich
July 16	Josh Lesher	July 29	Joan Hartman

Congratulations to Bob & Ruth Klinger, married July 24, will be married 49 years!



Are you on our email list?

Make sure you are receiving the latest updates and newsletters from Zion Blue Mountain.

Email the church office at
lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org

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





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Consistory

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

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

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Steve Shollenberger, Bryan Houpt, Clint Faust (president)

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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.