

ZION NEWS

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

JOIN US FOR

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Worship Resumes at
8 & 10:30 am

Masks Required

FROM THE PASTOR:

Recently there was a video clip of an MLB game that got quite a bit of attention on the internet. As far as the game goes, and the record books, it is really quite insignificant. However, it is likely to be the thing that Ketel Marte, and many others, will remember about that game for a long time.

Ketel hit a foul ball into the stands. Stands that are empty of actual fans in these times, except for a few stadium workers that can be seen

wearing masks. The only things occupying the seats are some cut out pictures of people (kind of like what we had here in our sanctuary) and some giant stuffed teddy bears. That is where the story comes in. Ketel's foul ball hit one of the teddy bears square in the head. What did the bear do? Well, it bounced right back as teddy bears do so often for us. What the commentators did was equally, if not more, impressive. They laughed. Not only did they laugh, they provided actual commentary on it.

Whoever makes the calls behind the scenes also played it back several times, in slow motion. Just as if an amazing play had been made on the field.

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Here, in a time that has gotten to be so very awkward for players, sportscasters, camera operators, producers, fans, not to mention the hot dog vendors, they found something. They found a combination of perseverance and humor that is so very rare, and so sorely needed.

Folks, I believe that things are not done changing yet. Are they ever? We will possibly have to adjust plans, shift procedures, make tough decisions, and remain flexible for quite some time. In reality, for a faith that speaks so much about change and transformation in our lives, we should be fairly good at that by now. If we aren't, maybe we haven't been allowing Christ in our lives as much as we have previously claimed.

We will make mistakes. Worse yet, some things will be total disasters or considered failures. And we should be grateful as a faith community for all of it. I would much rather pastor a church willing to attempt to stay relevant and active in The Gospel in creative ways, than a church that resists change for the sake of keeping the perceived comfort of the status quo. Because here is the thing: if a "living body" isn't changing, it is dead already. That's not only scripturally based, it's science.

But here's the best lesson from the MLB video: the ability to laugh in times of adversity is ultimately a sign of hope. When we make mistakes, as we will. When something goes wrong online, in our sanctuary, in a baptism, wedding, even a funeral... and things will go wrong, laughter brings us hope. And hope is a clear mark of Christian faith.

So, in the future, as we continue on this journey. I invite you to remember to laugh with me....to keep hope strong.

"And not only that, but we also boast in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." - Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 5:3-5



Each week, we have been fortunate to have Pastor Jason Stump come into our living rooms or wherever you watch the service.

If you would like to see some of the past services or other posts from Zion Blue Mountain UCC the link to the site is listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Av0IHvz0jBFaUYxOg3MZQ>

FREE



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday September 9

5 - 6 pm

The meal includes fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll and a brownie. It runs from 5 pm to 6 pm (or as long as supplies last, whichever comes first). Pull into the rear parking lot. You will not need to get out of your car.

The meal is free, but monetary donations will be accepted to support mission work in our community.

Hope to see you there!

Hello

"Hey everyone! I'm going to need some help in the coming months from you, and I'm certain it will also be helpful to each other and any visitors. If folks could take the time to "reintroduce" themselves and others, that will be so helpful. This pandemic has certainly changed some things. By now I would've hoped to know each of you so much better than I do.

Sadly, this includes the fact that I will have forgotten which names go with which faces as we hopefully continue to return to in person worship. Please don't be afraid to tell me your name, or introduce those around you. Also, if you happen to know a person and are unsure if another person around knows them, simply saying, "Have you met. _____?" or "I'd like to introduce you to _____" will be very helpful. Thanks in advance! -Pastor Stump

QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSISTORY BUSINESS

Please contact:

Clint Faust, President & Treasurer

Wendy Schutt, VP & Secretary

God is Awesome!

— STAYING —

CONNECTED

A new Online Community Committee has been formed and anyone is welcome to join. The committee is looking at ways to enrich our online experience both now and upon return to in person worship. How will Sunday morning services look online? Can we add segments during the week that make people feel more connected to the church? How about a game night, hymn sing or tea time chat session? What would our members – that's YOU - like to do or see? If you have any ideas or are interested in participating please email lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org.

The journey of the confirmation student is an important one within our congregation at Zion Blue Mountain. It is the culmination of the promises made by their parents and the congregation at their baptism - the promise we made to raise them up in the Lord so they might claim Christ as Savior in their life. Confirmation students are asked to choose Christ and to follow Him as their Lord. In this they affirm the commitment made by their parents and the congregation. On Sunday August 23rd, **Brady Breininger** and **Alex Bentz** were confirmed and Please share the joy of this celebration.



Congratulations!

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

09/01 Jeremy Bentz
09/02 Brianna Bashore
09/03 Russell Hartman
09/04 Lily Bentz
09/05 Amy Stafford
09/08 Julie Schlappich
09/10 Harvey Stambaugh
Sharon George
09/11 Eileen Deisemann
09/12 Caroline Bashore
09/13 Andrea Faust Lechner

09/20 Larry Newhard
09/24 Mike George
David Breidigan
Samantha Moyer
09/25 Barry Harbonic
09/26 Sara Ruth
09/27 Margaret Luckenbill
09/28 Stanley Deisemann
Amy Yeager
09/30 Dean Kirkhoff
Anne Binner

09/02 Dennis & Adele Dietrich married 31 years
09/07 Barbara & Kenny Grimes married 52 years
09/08 Brad & Robin Faust married 47 years
09/10 Ronald & Myong Emerich married 53 years
09/12 Robert & Susan Deisemann married 22 years
09/16 Pinky & Lynda Himmelberger married 59 years
John & Melissa Miller married 14 years
09/19 Arthur & Karen Kissling married 22 years
09/20 Tim & Lori Rentschler married 34 years
09/21 Jim & Lisa Shupp married 29 years
09/24 Brian & Sherry Wessner married 37 years
09/26 Barry & Susan Harbonic married 50 years
09/30 Dwain & Julie Schlappich married 25 years

Dear Friends,

Please accept my own and my entire family's gratitude for your support and caring over the past few months. Your cards, phone calls, offers (and actions) of help, and prayers gave us comfort through my knee replacement surgery in late June and then, to our shock, Barry's untimely passing on August 1. Even with social distancing, we felt your compassion. We are most grateful.

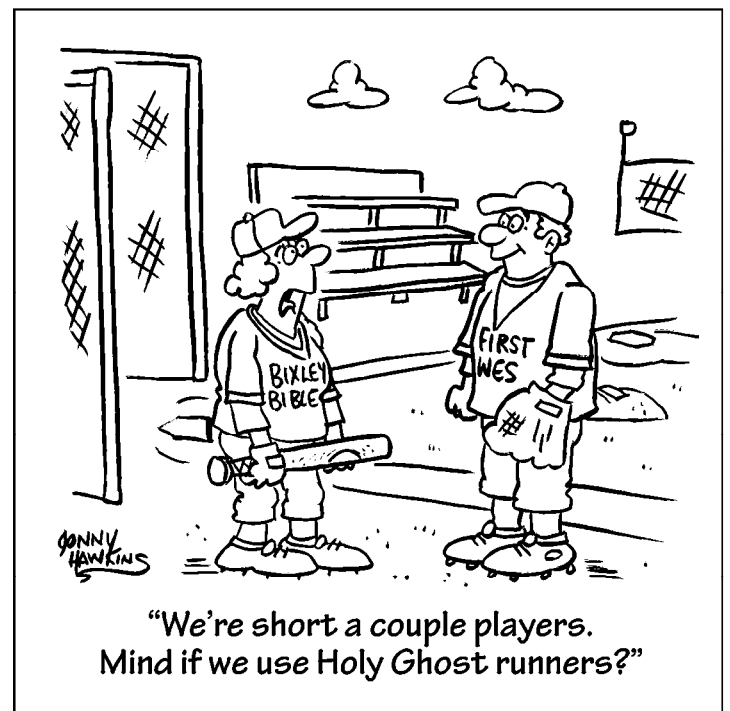
Blessings, Karen Miller and family

MAKE MUSIC TO GOD

Sunday October 4 at 10:30 am service we will celebrate the one-year anniversary of our Music Minister, Barry Driesbach, with a "Communion Concert". The service has been designed to incorporate hymns throughout the communion celebration. We hope you will join us for this very inspiring service and to show your appreciation of our first year with Barry.

DRIVE THRU COMMUNION

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 6 AT 9 AM



Articles for next month's Newsletter must be submitted by September 20



Boy, this sure is a different back – to - school, but that is not hindering us from looking forward to continuing our Early Childhood Education ministry with those most precious little ones in our community! We established a School Reopening Logistic Plan to review and determine the policies and procedures which would need to be in place and are looking forward to reopening for the 2020-21 school year. The staff members of Zion and Gentle Rain have attended numerous Zoom meetings and webinars to ensure we are following the proper guidelines and implementing the mandated procedures for the safety and health of our staff, students and families. The entire staff of Gentle Rain has also met to review and go over these practices. We will continue to change these as necessary. The parents have received information regarding the necessary changes in policies and procedures as needed in regards to COVID -19. Yes, this school year will certainly look a lot different; however, one thing that will not change is the love and learning that will be occurring in our facility. Despite the challenges, we feel ready to reopen our doors with the same expectations for an outstanding experience in a loving Christian environment thanks to the support of our amazing congregation and dedicated staff, as well as our beloved students and their wonderful families. Gentle Rain will be opening their doors on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. We wish them all a happy and healthy new year!



As you pray, please uplift these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Pat Breidigan, Logan Ehrets, Glendene Faust, Kenny Grimes, Polly Himmelberger, Gloria Kauffman, Erma Koenig, Judy Lando, Nancy Fitzgerald, Marian Long, Amber Martinez, Linda Garmen, Brett Schlappich, Mark Fidler, Colby Scheffler, David Stambaugh Karen Miller and Family, the family of Laura Ditzler and the family of Betty Symanowicz.

Please help us keep our prayer list current. If you know anyone on the prayer list, kindly keep Pastor Jason or the church office informed of their status. Thank you.



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Staff

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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.