

ZION NEWS

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

OFFICIAL CALL

Zion's UCC Annual Congregational Meeting, November 15, 2020
following the 10:30 AM worship service.

Nominating Report

DEACON:

Caroline Bashore

ELDER:

Bernie Himmelberger

TRUSTEE:

Kerry Holzman
Dan Brown




Hunger isn't seasonal, which is why our year-round food drives are so important. Bring any nonperishable food item to offer on the 15th. Join us to celebrate the bountiful harvest with music to fill your soul.

Come out to welcome some guest musicians!

Sunday December 27 at 9 am

We will be offering an "Old Fashion Christmas" concert. Songs, hymns, and carols. From the traditional to the modern. Christmas music the entire family can enjoy! Because of Covid - 19 restrictions this will be a musical concert ONLY with no singing.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I always have a hard time picking my favorite season of the year. They all have their gifts. However, when forced to I always will finally answer with the season of Fall. Now that we are here in it, I don't regret it. The air, the leaves, the breezes, the clear signs of change. Yes, things are dying, but we know they will come again, and in their dying, often give back. Yes, many things stop growing, but we harvest now as well. There's another thing about the Fall I've come to appreciate. The Autumn Rain.

Now, I'm not talking about the hit rock song by Guns n Roses, "November Rain," though I love that as well. And it has several great lines like, "nothing last forever, even cold November rain." It's worth listening to again, if you like that genre.

Honestly, I don't really associate rain with Fall like I might other things. Usually when I think of seasonal rain, I think of those April showers or maybe late afternoon Summer storms. Yet, rain is a thing in Autumn. Rain is a "thing" in all the of the seasons for us. It just happens, and it is something we need to sustain life. Despite my lack of attention to it, most years it just comes...droughts do occur, but they are not the norm in our area.

Rain is mentioned often in scripture, even Autumn rains. Here is just one place:

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. James 5:7 (NASB)

It is most often a sign of blessing being poured out. As tragic as even the great flood was, part of its literary purpose is ultimately to express renewal of life and our covenantal relationship with God. So though I may not have always thought of rain in Autumn as a thing to delight in, the fact that it does come, and it does provide, reminds me of God's constant presence in our lives through all our seasons.

My hope is that the next time it rains one of those nourishing steady rains, maybe this Autumn, you can be reminded of God as well. Sometimes it's just what is needed to move things along. To push some dying leaves were they need to go, to quench the thirst of animals busy preparing for winter, to make us slow down for a much needed respite. Amen.

DRIVE THRU MISSION & MINISTRY DAY



From 9 - 10 am on Sunday December 6

- **Receive communion**
- **Pick up your soup order**
- **Pick up your 2021 offering envelopes**
- **Drop off Christmas cards for shut ins**

SHUT INS: Pat Breidigan, Kenny Grimes, Polly Himmelberger, Gloria Kauffman, Nancy Fitzgerald, Judy Lando, Marian Long, Mildred Long

Stated Purpose of Zion Blue Mountain UCC

- To worship God
- To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- To celebrate the Sacraments
- To realize Christian fellowship and unity within this congregation and the Church Universal
- To render loving service toward all humans and
- To strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

6 INCH POT WITH 4-6 BLOOMS; \$9.00 EACH RED ONLY
PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORMS WITH PAYMENT NO LATER THAN 12/6

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TOTAL # OF PLANTS _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

IN THANKSGIVING OF _____



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

_____ AMOUNT PAID _____ # OF PLANTS Pd _____

NOVEMBER 1



Salvation Army Angel Board will be in the Narthex beginning October 25th. Donations this year will be for gift cards. Specifically – Walmart for a child and Redner's, Weis or Walmart for seniors. The activation receipt must be attached. Walmart gift cards can be purchased online at Walmart.com and shipped directly to:

Salvation Army Hamburg Service Center
700 S. 4th St. Suite C
Hamburg PA 19526

Winter Soup Sale Order Form

Drive Through Pick up Sunday December 6, 2020

Zion Blue Mountain UCC, Strausstown

We are offering delicious homemade soups for sale by the quart,
using recipes from our congregation.

PRE-ORDERS ONLY: Pre-order your soup by November 22, 2020

Pickup on Sunday 12/6 from 9 am - 12 pm. Please include payment with your order
(make checks payable to Zion Blue Mountain UCC, memo: Soup Sale)

Soup	# Quarts - \$8.50
Chicken Corn Noodle	
Beef Rival	
Ham & White Bean	
Potato	
Total # Quarts	

Name: _____

Phone: _____

You may also pre-order online using a credit or debit card:

<https://zion-blue-mountain-ucc.square.site/>

Any questions please contact the church office at 610-488-7361



Amber Dietrich and Dustin Fessler were married at Zion on Saturday October 3, 2020. Amber is the daughter of Dennis and Adele Dietrich.

Shelby Kauffman and Scott Sechler Jr. were married at Zion on Saturday October 10, 2020. Scott is the son of Scott and Monica Sechler.

October 11, 2020 we welcomed Addison Grace Mcnelis into our church family through baptism. Addison is the daughter of Rachael and Michael Mcnelis and the granddaughter of Tony & Judy Stafford and the great granddaughter of Diane Heflich. Amy and April Stafford are Addison's godparents.



Next Drive Thru Communion
November 1, 2020 @ 9 am

Drive Thru Communion will continue until
the end of the year on the first Sunday of
the month



December 5th a few members of the church will be providing breakfast for the residents of Opportunity House. If you would like to give a monetary donation you may drop it off at church in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or mail it directly to the church with designation to “Opportunity House Breakfast”

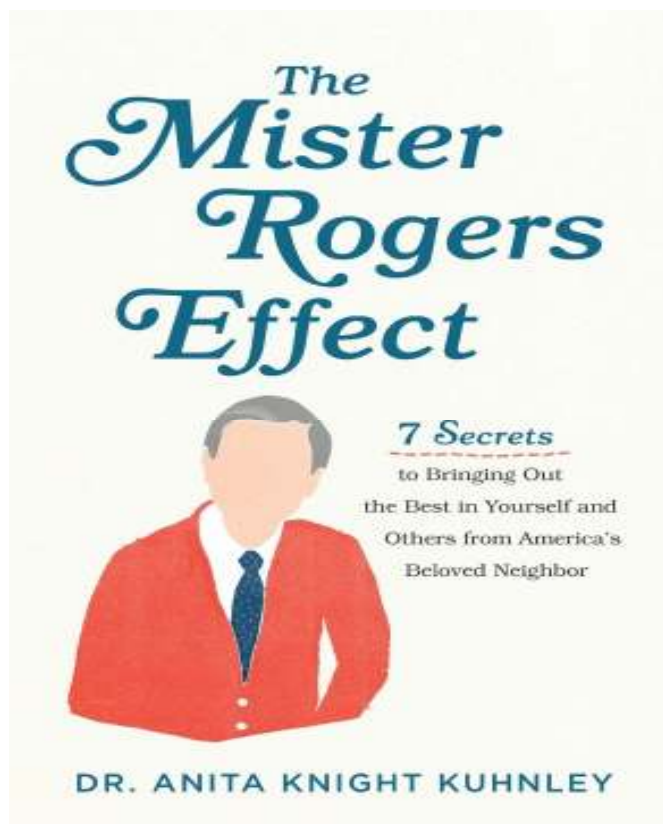
CHURCH LIBRARY

“Love the Lord your God with all your mind.”



New to the library:

Each month we will be introducing a new book for you to check out. The book will be on a table in the library for the month and then be placed on the shelf once we have received another new book. You may borrow the book at any time! Just sign the notebook.





Zion (Blue Mountain) Church
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Strausstown, PA 19559

Staff

Minister: Rev. Jason Stump (pastorstump@gmail.com)

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

Consistory

Elders: Ruth Himmelberger, Karen Miller, Todd Moyer

Deacons: Audrey Kirkhoff, Cindy Emore, Debra Carles

Trustees: Jon Schaeffer, Steve Shollenberger, Bryan Houpt, Clint Faust (President & Treasurer)

Contact Information

Pastor: 757-630-6577

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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.