

ZION NEWS

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

On Monday February 5 I will be on my way to Ghana, my second home. My first trip to Ghana was in January of 1991. I made a promise to God if He would get me out of that God forsaken country I would never go back again. This trip will mark my 13th journey to what I refer to as my second home.

There is something addictive about the Ghanaian culture. For me the addiction is the people. I have many very close friends in Ghana. They range from farmers to taxi cab drivers; teachers to nurses; people with Ph.D. to people with very little education at all. They are just like family to me, and I cannot wait to get there as I go home once again.

I have been fortunate to have shared my Ghanaian family with my family here at Home. Both of my parents went to Ghana with me, so did my brother Ed, my sister Carol, my nephew Willie and his wife Hillary and my niece Meridith. I have lost track of how many people I have taken to Ghana over the years. I suspect it is over 50. When I return next week, my Ghanaian family will want to know about my American family.

That is a good thing about being part of a family. We are interested in each other's lives. We support each other. We pray for each other, and we want only the best for them.

The same is true about our Zion Blue Mountain church family, Earlier this year I sent out a letter to our members introducing myself. I also sent out an invitation for those who have stopped attending regularly to come home, come home to the place that loves you, that supports you, and that only want what is best for you.

Part of that letter was an information sheet for you to update your address and cell phone numbers and your emails. If you did not receive the questionnaire one is included in this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it to the church.

I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces in Ghana and new ones as well. I look forward to seeing your face as well, so come home to Zion Blue Mountain!

Blessings. Pastor Pat



MY PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN PEACEFUL DWELLING PLACES.

ISAIAH 32:18, NIV

We are updating our membership database. You may have already received this, but if you haven't, please take a minute to complete and return this form with the following information for every person in your household. So that our records reflect your wishes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (cell) _____

(landline) _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically

I would only like to receive important church announcements electronically

Name: _____

Phone Number: (cell) _____

(landline) _____

Email: _____

You are important to us, so let us know if:

I would like a home visit from Pastor Pat

I would like to speak to Pastor Pat on the phone

I would like to set up an appointment to meet at his office at church.

Please return this form to the church by using the self-addressed stamped envelope or by dropping it in the offering plate when we see you next!

Contact Info for Pastor Pat Morris: Cell: 610-207-7361 Email: revpmorris55@gmail.com

Monthly Bingo February 9

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|-----------------------|
| February |
| 3:30 – 7:30 pm |
| Ruth & Bernie |
| Joan Hartman |
| Dan Brown |

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|-----------------------|
| February |
| 4:30 – 8:15 pm |
| Amber Brown |
| Beth Machmer |
| Alice Hartman |

| Hot Pot | Hot Pot | Hot Pot | Baker | Baker | Baker | Baker |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| MaryAnn Eckhoff | Melinda Schaeffer | Beth Machmer | Elaine Hamm | Lisa Shupp | Alice Hartman | Susan Etchberger |

If you volunteer to bake, work or make a soup for Bingo Fridays, please do not arrive prior to 3:30 pm the day of bingo. If that time conflicts with your schedule please call Amber Brown, 717-644-3448 to make alternative arrangements.

Pastor Mark DeWald will be preaching February 11 – 25 while Pastor Pat is visiting Ghana. If you need pastoral care or are in the hospital, please contact the church office to have someone visit or meet your need.

GHANA DONATIONS

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the Ghana Mission fund. Today we have collected \$1,850.00. Once I get to Ghana, I will be exploring ways the funds can be put to use. Our original intent was to buy computers for schools. Regardless, I will be giving a full report on my return trip home.

~PASTOR PAT



When Bad Weather Arrives and a decision is made to cancel Sunday services, the congregation shall be notified immediately. An announcement will be placed on the answering machine, Zion's Facebook page and a message will be sent out to all those on the church's E-mail list.

JANUARY CONSISTORY NEWS

The 2024 Consistory president is Dan Brown and Vice President is Candie Riehl. Elders are Susan Etchberger, Bryan Houpt, Brad Faust. Trustees are Bernie Himmelberger, Kerry Holzman and Jon Schaeffer. Deacons are Barry Driesbach, Candie Riehl, Dan Brown and Robin Faust. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with one of the members to see if they can help. Your Elders care for your spiritual well-being, the trustees care for our properties and the deacons oversee finances.

The new Consistory met on January 21, 2024 following the installation into their positions. The confirmation class joined them for the regular portion of the meeting. Following the regular meeting Pastor Pat led them in a discussion on how to be a productive part of the church through their Consistory positions. Finally, they gathered for lunch and communion worship to close the meeting.

If you are ever curious about meeting happenings the minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex hall near the elevators.



PAUL EATON JR.

Proceeds benefit Paul's medical expenses



BINGO

FUNDRAISER

Doors open 11:00 am
Games begin 12:30 pm

PRESALE \$25

610-488-7361 FOR TICKETS

INCLUDES:

- 6 BINGO CARDS
- 20 GAMES
- 1 HOT DOG
- 1 SODA OR WATER

EXTRA CARDS
 3 FOR \$10
 6 FOR \$20
AT THE DOOR



\$30 at the door



Sunday February 25, 2024
12:30 - 3:00 pm



ZION BLUE MOUNTAIN UCC
STRAUSSTOWN
6573 OLD ROUTE 22

CASH PRIZES TO BINGO WINNERS!

MUST BE 13 YRS. OR OLDER TO PLAY



**Full kitchen, raffles,
bake sale, door prizes**

New Member Sunday

March 10, 2024



New Member Sunday will be March 10. Cake and coffee will be served following worship.

Have you ever considered becoming a member of our congregation? On March 10, 2024, we are hosting a new member day! This is a day where anyone who's ready can make their commitment during worship.

We would love to help you begin your faith journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ. *If you'd like to join us in making your commitment on March 10, please call Pastor Pat at 610-207-7361 or email revpmorris55@gmail.com*

Several faces are joining including Pastor Pat and we'd love to celebrate with you too!

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- 2/1 Alex Bentz
 - 2/5 Olivia Leshar
 - 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
Pam Guinther
 - 2/21 Scott Sechler Jr.
 - 2/23 Mike Kamp
 - 2/26 Ivy Bentz
 - 2/28 Barbara Grimes



ANNIVERSARIES

Terry & Sharon Kominsky married 37 years on February 14



We are back in full swing after our holiday break. For this second half of our school year in PreK we are focusing on numbers and counting 10-20 (and for some even higher), recognizing lower case letters, working on letter sounds, opposites, rhyming, and continuing to encourage kindness and self-help skills. In our younger preschool class they will continue to work on numbers 1-10, capital letters, colors, shapes, and getting ready to join us in PreK in the fall. Some of the topics we have learned about to start the year are winter, polar animals, and bears. Looking forward we have our Valentines Day parties and spring picture days coming up. We have a busy spring planned and before we know it, graduation will be here for our PreK class!

Blessings, Ms. Carrie

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Bible Quiz

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love:

"Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs





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

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Morris (revpmorris55@gmail.com)

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

Consistory

Elders: Susan Etchberger, Bryan Houpt, Brad Faust

Deacons: Candie Riehl (Vice President), Barry Driesbach, Dan Brown (President), Robin Faust

Trustees: Kerry Holzman, Bernie Himmelberger, Jon Schaeffer

Contact Information

Pastor: 610-207-7361

Office Phone: 610-488-7361

Website: www.zionbluemountainucc.org

ZIONNEWS 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.