

ZION NEWS

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

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9 AM

Holy Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

March 3	Holy Communion
March 10	New Member Sunday
March 17	Caroline Bashore's Ordination 3 pm
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 29	Good Friday, Tenebrae Service, 7:00 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday
6:30 AM	Sunrise Service.
In the Prayer Garden	
	In the event of inclement weather we will be inside.

9:00 AM Easter Worship
In the Sanctuary

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Morris
 Music Minister: Barry Driesbach
 Office Administrator: Lisa Shupp
 Consistory President: Dan Brown
 Vice President: Candie Riehl
 Worship Committee Chair: Pat Moyer
 Gentle Rain Preschool Director:

I have always been a "Spring Guy". It is in my DNA and not just because of my agricultural background. I absolutely love watching things grow. I love to see nature in action and I love being a part of it. I love the themes of rebirth and renewal, a time when life around us is energized from the heat and moisture of God's good earth. We see spring as a time of procreation for many of God's creatures. Spring is a prelude to life and life's abundance around us, to be enjoyed until the postlude of winter.

The Easter season has the same potential for Christians. Easter is a time of renewal. It is a time for all of us to take a closer look at the relationship we have with Jesus. As we progress through Lent in preparation for Holy Week, we have the opportunity to see the suffering in our lives as we reflect on the passion of our Lord.

Easter is also a time for us to be energized by the power of God's spirit within our own lives. As we observe the church year in our tradition, there is the potential for us to become lackadaisical in our participation in the life of the church. Church life becomes predictable and boring; therefore we disengage. But there is always the Easter season to breathe life back into our sleeping souls.

Most importantly, Easter is a time for new-life. Jesus Christ went to the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. No longer would men and women be held in bondage to the sin in their lives. Jesus' death on the cross, and the power of the resurrected Lord, was and is a act of procreation. Because we believe, we are created anew through Jesus. (John 3:3)

I encourage you to see this Easter season as a time of new birth and growth in your life. There are many opportunities in the life of Zion Blue Mountain where you can experience the signs of the Easter season. My prayer is that you will not only experience the season but also you will experience the power and presence of the risen Lord. ~Blessings, Pastor Pat

A graphic with a dark blue background. At the top center is a yellow and white candle with thin white lines radiating outwards, resembling a starburst. Below this, the words "SERVICE OF DARKNESS" are written in large, bold, blue capital letters.

SERVICE OF DARKNESS

The word Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history that took place on one of the last three days of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. The purpose of this service

was to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday. The most distinctive aspect of the service are the candles on the Lord's Table. The flames of these candles are extinguished one by one as Scripture readings are shared to tell the story of Holy Week. This gradual descent into gloom is a representation of Jesus' increasing sorrow as the events of Passion Week unfolded. After the last verse is read, the last candle is put out, and the room is plunged into darkness. As the scriptures are read and the candles extinguished, we will be undressing the altar as well so that at the end of the service the chancel area is bare. I strongly urge you to come to this service and experience the power of the service.

"God proved his love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'"





Pennsylvania Southeast Conference ~ United Church of Christ
1441 Laura Lane,
Suite 100
Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

**The Covenant Association
and the
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
invite you to attend the**

ORDINATION

into

Christian Ministry

of

Caroline Bashore

as Pastor for First UCC and Linfield UCC, Royersford
at

Zion Blue Mountain UCC

6573 Old Route 22

Bernville, PA

March 17, 2024

@ 3:00 pm

A reception will follow.

Please RSVP to caroline.bashore@gmail.com by March 5th.

The service will be live-streamed on You Tube at

https://youtube.com/live/PH718eD_qk0

March Greeters

03/03 Susan Etchberger

03/10 Sharon Eaton

03/17 Janice Blatt

03/31 Brown Family

Be someone's lucky charm!
Food Pantry Needs:
Toilet Paper, Tissues or
Paper Towels

Bingo Kitchen March 8, 2024

3:30 – 7:30 pm

Bernie Himmelberger

Ruth Himmelberger

Joan Hartman

Sandy Behm

4:30 – 8:30 pm

Alice Hartman

03/04 Allen Bashore

03/08 Allen Readinger

03/13 Thomas Eaton

03/17 Hayden & Avery Miller

03/20 Ruth Klinger

On March 31 Brian & Anne Binner
will celebrate 34 years of marriage

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far. Sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet, but who are in need of our compassions. Gifts through this special offering empower ministries and make a difference. Your dollars count! Give Generously! Your gift can be given in the same way as your regular church offering. Simply mark your gift as "One Great Hour of Sharing" or use the special envelope provided in your Sunday bulletin.

UPCOMING

Sunday April 21

**Pastor Pat's Installation
at Zion Blue Mountain**

3 pm - Reception to follow

Bakers – Sharon Eaton
Lolly Leshar
Susan Etchberger
Steve Shollenberger

Hot Pot – Melissa Miller
Candie Riehl
Sandy Behm



03/21 Robin Sebastian

03/24 Amber Brown

03/26 Dorsen Berger

03/27 Sharon Eaton

03/30 David Emore

Hudson Brown



May 12 9 am

Mother's Day
Cantata

Easter Flower Order Form

Please help us adorn our altar on Easter morning by contributing a lily, tulip, or daffodil in honor or in memory of a loved one. Plants may be taken home after the Easter Service.

Orders are due by Sunday, March 17

The cost is \$10.00 per plant.

Please write the # of each plant requested:

_____ Lily _____ Tulip _____ Daffodil



Your

Name: _____

In honor of / memory of (circle one) :

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for the entire Eaton family on the loss of Paul Jr., who passed away on February 13.

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy & Christian love to Bryan Houpt, on the loss of his wife, Vicky, on February 13.

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy & Christian love to the family & friends of Kermit Wagner, Kermit passed away on February 21.

Ghana Report

I returned home from Ghana on Saturday, February 24. Since then I have been readjusting to the temperature and the time change. It is extremely hot this time of the year in Ghana so I have enjoyed the drop in temperature in western Berks County.

I want to make a brief report to you as to how your Ghana contribution were used in Ghana. I will be putting together a PowerPoint presentation to be shared with you at a later date. I had originally thought we would be buying computers for a school in Ho but that was no longer needed. Your donations for Ghana totaled \$4200. At my discretion the money was distributed to three mission projects.

- 1. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church Health Care Center, Ho, Ghana** I gave the clinics \$1000. The clinic is in need of lab equipment, upgrades in both hospital furnishing and bed space. There is only one ward so they need to construct another building. The furnishings are antiquated and in need of replacement. At the present time they are unable to do lab work in house so blood has to be sent out which delays treatment for the patients.
- 2. The Women's Resource Center Ho, Ghana** The Women's Resource Center has a long history as a helping ministry for women in the EP Church community. Programs are in place to give young women the skills to make a living. Currently the emphasis is on teaching cooking skills. The kitchen they have is poorly equipped. They are in need of an upgrade. I gave them \$1200.
- 3. School Uniforms, Northern Ghana** All children are required to wear school uniforms. In the northern region of Ghana there are very poor children who do not attend school because they do not have a uniform and if they do have one it is very tattered. The Synod of the EP Church is raising funds to make sure all children have a uniform. The uniforms cost \$5 a piece. I gave \$2000 for this project.

The bingo fundraiser for Paul Eaton Jr's family was a huge success. I would like to thank everyone for your hard work the day and days leading up to the event and for your generosity, if you baked for the bake sale, if you donated baskets, worked that day or came to play bingo! Every person played an important role. Kimi was very overwhelmed by everyone's support.

This gave your church the opportunity to show the community what it means to be part of a church family, so many stepped up and offered their help with one of the many moving parts of the day. Everyone who participated helped make it a success. We wouldn't be able to fulfill the goal we set forth to accomplish without the commitment and generosity of our members and volunteers.

Thank you for all that you do, I cannot thank each and every person but I am truly grateful for your willingness to give your time and talents! ~ Lisa Shupp

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT COMPLETED THE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE QUESTIONNAIRE. COMPLETING THIS DOES NOT ASSURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT ZION BLUE MOUNTAIN UCC. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL ACTIVE AND INACTIVE MEMBERS.

THE BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH STATE THE FOLLOWING:

A member who for a period of one (1) year, has not

- attended the Church's worship,
- or contributed,
- or communed

will be removed from the membership roll and placed on an inactive list. Inactive members will be able to reactivate membership by:

- attending the Church's worship and it being recorded on church records through,
- contribution
- or communing

An inactive member of the congregation you have no voice or vote, cannot hold church leadership positions and cannot receive any membership benefits.

IF THIS IS YOUR SITUATION, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CONTRIBUTE OR COMMUNE YEARLY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP, OTHERWISE YOU WILL BE PLACED ON THE INACTIVE LIST.



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

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.