

# ZION NEWS

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

**WHY ARE THE OCEANS BLUE?** While I was completing my undergraduate degree at James Madison University many years ago, I took a course in Oceanography. I was fascinated then, and continue to be fascinated with the ocean and all of its life. When our children were at home and much younger, we vacationed at Emerald Isle, North Carolina. When we would go to our ocean hide-a-way, I was always quite willing to share with them the bank of knowledge I had retained about our oceans. I always remind my family why there are waves on the ocean and what creates them; why there is a high and a low tide; where all the sand came from; why there is salt in the ocean, and so on. After the first day, they usually would have enough of my "ocean wisdom," and they would tell me to keep my "wisdom" to myself.

Not to neglect my Zion Blue Mountain family, have you ever wondered why ocean water looks so blue? Perhaps you have not because the ocean waters along the coast are not blue. They range from a light green to brown. However, if you get far enough off shore, the waters of the ocean are a beautiful deep blue. Why the change?

The reason the ocean appears to be blue is because the surface of the water acts as a huge mirror and reflects the light. The color of light that it reflects most brilliantly is blue light. When the water is undisturbed and unpolluted, the color that you see is blue, hence the ocean water appears to be blue. The reason ocean water along the coast is not blue is because of the turbulence. The water flowing in from the main land carries everything from dirt to toxic chemicals. The waves crashing against the seashore keep the sand and silt agitated. Because of the turbulence and the presence of dirt and filth, the blue light is distorted causing the water to appear green or light brown. Not until you get far enough away from the turbulence do the particles filter out allowing the blue light to be reflected in its purist form.

Our lives are, in a way, very much like the ocean. We are reflectors of light, the light of Jesus Christ. In our purist form, we reflect the very essence of who Christ is. In our purist state we reflect the "blueness" of the life of Jesus. The problem is, often there is so much turbulence within us that our lives become muddied and the light we reflect becomes distorted to shades of green and brown. We need to take a lesson from our oceans. There are times when we need to get far enough away from shore to let the turbulence settle out of our lives. We need to take time to be still and hear the voice of God among the noise that pollutes our beings.

This is one of the things that can happen on a "vacation." We vacate the shores of our daily routine, getting far enough away to let things settle out. My prayer for you and your family is that you will have time this summer to allow the turbulence in your lives to settle a bit.

However, we do not have to go hundreds of miles away to enjoy these settling times. It can happen early in the morning as you sip your first cup of coffee. It can happen late at night when all are in bed and the house is quite again.

Where ever your peaceful place is, take advantage of these settling times. Know that God's presence is only a prayer and a whisper away. And above all enjoy your summer! God's Blessings ~Pastor Pat



# Congratulations to Kay & Owen our 2024 Confirmands

## June/July Greeters

06/02 Linda Bausher  
06/09 Janice Blatt  
06/16 Bryan Houpt  
06/23 Mary Ann Eckhoff  
06/30 Joyce Deisemann

07/07 Susan Deisemann  
07/14 Joan Hartman  
07/21 Robin Faust  
07/28 Audrey Kirkhoff



**SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS  
JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
AT 9 AM**

**Joyce Kline is turning 90 on June 9th!  
Please show her our love by sending her a card**



**Joyce Kline  
14 East Berks Drive  
Wernersville PA 19565**

- 6/2 Amber Dietrich
- Tori Dietrich
- Faye Bigman
- 6/3 Shelby Sechler
- 6/8 Beth Machmer
- Kristen Breininger
- 6/9 Joyce Kline
- 6/13 Scott Sechler Jr.
- 6/17 Amber Martinez
- 6/20 Tammy Davis
- 6/21 Peg Wagner
- 6/26 Michael Bashore
- 6/27 Ryan Gebely
- 6/30 Pinky Himmelberger



- 
- Glenn & Cindy Snyder married 47 years on 06/04
  - Dean & Audrey Kirkhoff married 37 years on 06/06
  - William & Laura Leshner married 35 years on 06/10
  - Richard & Amy Yeager married 22 years on 06/17
  - Dorsen & Cindy Berger married 48 years on 06/19
  - George & Mary Brown married 56 years on 06/22
  - Tony & Judy Stafford married 40 years on 06/24

- 7/2 Terry Kominsky
- 7/4 Sherry Wessner
- 7/6 Robert Deisemann
- 7/7 Holly Kline
- 7/8 Janice Blatt
- 7/10 Anthony Moyer
- 7/16 Sharon Witman
- 7/19 Susan Etchberger
- Christine Bashore
- Cole Schlappich
- 7/21 Dennis Hamm
- 7/24 Susan Shollenberger



- 7/26 Melinda Schaeffer
- 7/28 Adele Dietrich
- Elaine Hamm
- 7/29 Joan Hartman

*2024 Honor Society  
Inductees at Hamburg High*

*Lily Bentz  
Daughter of Ivy & Jeremy Bentz*

*Brady Breininger  
Son of Kristen & Travis Breininger*



**FOR A LAUGH**



## Consistory Update:

Consistory is getting a lot of items checked off the list of things that need attention.

The Consistory met May 20<sup>th</sup> and Barry Driesbach listed events the worship committee is working on:

- June 9 – 2 ladies will bring bells to worship. There will be 36 bells played
- Sunday Services will start on June 23 in the fellowship hall
- Harvest Home – Sept 22
- Preschool Sunday– Sept 29
- Concert benefitting Bringing Hope Home 10/06/2024 @ 3pm in memory of Barry's wife.
- Homecoming Sunday – Oct 6 – volunteers needed to help organize
- The next cantata is "Christmas Around the World on 12/15/2024

Although bingo is suspended for the summer months we continue to plan fundraisers. The Craft and Vendor show is planned for the first Saturday in October and don't forget the return of the Holiday ticket auction.

The preschool is wrapping up the year with Graduation of the Pre-K class on Friday May 24. They finished out the year with picnics in the park. There are still openings for fall if anyone knows of someone looking for a preschool. Call 610-488-0509 and speak with Ms. Carrie.

Kerry Holzman secured bids from 3 paving companies to address the parking lot situation. The lowest bid to have the lots fixed, repaved and lines repainted was approximately \$90,000. This is a big project and the church lot is continually used by our preschool, Sunday worshipers, monthly food pantry and no doubt the lot needs attention. The Consistory has put the plan on hold until they investigate other projects that members felt needed to be addressed before the parking lot. They are looking for someone to repair window frames around some of the stained glass, there is ongoing Bell Tower needs, the front door will not lock correctly and the slate roof is causing some leaks in the Sanctuary again. Once these are all addressed the parking lot project can move forward. They discussed a capital campaign to fund these projects along with the parking lot. All the needed repairs would be included in this operation.

If you would like to contribute to the discussion on the parking lot or other repairs, please join the Consistory members on June 17 at 7 pm as they continue to work hard to maintain the church and build the church's mission.



Zion Blue Mountain UCC

# FALL

## Vendor/Craft Show

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 5th**  
8am-2pm

ZION BLUE  
MOUNTAIN UCC  
6573 Old Rt. 22,  
Bernville PA  
19506

**ENTRY FEE: FREE**

**BAKED GOODS  
HANDCRAFT MARKET  
VENDORS - CONSULTANTS -  
RAFFLES -  
AND MUCH MORE!**

For more information:  
visit our website:  
[www.zionbluemountainucc.org](http://www.zionbluemountainucc.org)  
or call: 610-488-7361



June

- 9 Bell Choir at worship
- 23 Worship begins in fellowship hall at 9 am

Sept

- 22 Harvest Home
- 29 Preschool Sunday



Oct

- 6 Homecoming Sunday
- World Communion
- Bringing Hope Home Concert 3 pm

\*Communion served the first Sunday of the month

## Food Pantry News:

According to US News food banks saw an influx of cash and food donations during the first year of the pandemic, but donations have since dropped.

With less food donated by the congregation and the public, our pantry will have to continue to **buy** food and battle inflation alongside of everyone else.

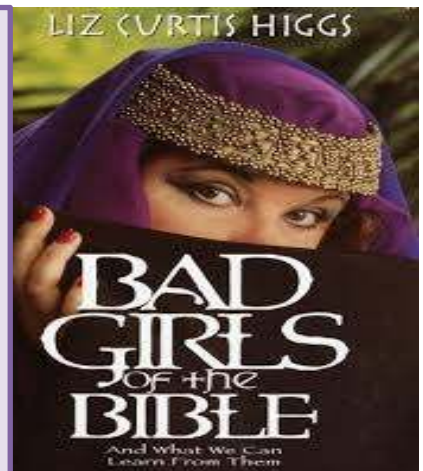
We are providing a monthly suggestion in the newsletter and haven't been receiving many of those donations. As well as we haven't received one of our largest monetary donations from a local group.

Please consider giving to the church's food pantry. Buy any nonperishable that might be on sale, donate a buy one get one free item, or select the item of the month from our bulletin and newsletter.

## JUNE: Canned Tuna

Everyone is invited to come join us each week on a Wednesday morning as we gather together to glorify God through fellowship with one another and to study God's Word, the Bible. The Bible studies provide practical answers to life's questions for all who are willing to listen and obey what it teaches.

Bad Girls of the Bible Book Study starts Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. We meet in the parlor – light refreshments





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](http://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.*