

# ZION NEWS

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

On Sunday, July 21 at a called congregational meeting the members in attendance voted to accept a bid submitted by Hackman Paving to pave the entire church parking lot. The congregation accepted the bid \$90,972. The consistory agreed that we should engage in a capital campaign to raise the funds to complete this project. I want to share with you several important details concerning the campaign.

- We have chosen John 14:6a as the scripture focus for the campaign, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."*
- The theme of the campaign is *"Paving the Way"*.
- The campaign will start on Sunday, September 15 which will be *Kick-off Sunday*.
- The campaign will end on Sunday, October 27 which will be *Celebration Sunday* when all commitments will be counted and hopefully, we will have the funds committed to complete for the project.
- The campaign will last for three years, ending on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.
- A sample commitment card is included in this newsletter for you to see various ways of giving.

I hope you will make every effort to be in worship on September 15 and I hope you will be willing to pray for the success of this campaign. I am keenly aware of the challenge before us. It will take a serious effort on each and every one of us to reach our goal. But just remember, with each of us doing our part we can easily accomplish our goal. Again, please keep this campaign in the forefront of your prayer life and rest assured that through God all things are possible.

Blessings, Pastor Pat

## "Pave The Way"

Zion Blue Mountain United Church of Christ

### Payment Options:

A pledge commitment over 3 years totalling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

One time gift, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

The Pave the Way Campaign will provide funds for repairs to the parking lots, asphalt overlays, and maintenance on the 3 church lots. The campaign seeks to address the issue of growing pot holes and improve safety for those walking. Our goal is to raise these funds in the amount of \$90,972 by September 1, 2027. We will be holding a campaign kickoff celebration on September 15th. We ask you to bring, or mail, your initial contribution on that date, or before, as we dedicate them to the work of the Lord.



Zion Blue Mountain UCC

# FALL

## Vendor/Craft Show

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 5th**  
8am-1pm

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





# MUM SALE

Help decorate the Sanctuary 9/29/24

**August 25 – September 15**

Pick up after worship

quantity  Yellow  
quantity  Bronze  
quantity  Burgundy

Mum 9" Pot - \$8

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use: Paid cash  check#

## September Upstairs Greeters

- 09/01 Margaret Luckenbill
- 09/08 Bonnie Herb
- 09/15
- 09/22 Amber Brown
- 09/29

After September members will automatically be signed up to greet on Sunday mornings.

*Beginning Sept. 15, 2024 there will be someone to open doors for those that would like to use the elevator to attend worship. We continue to encourage people to park at the main entrance on the curved driveway. Please park single file and if you are parking first, please pull as far forward as possible to allow for others to park behind you.*

## September Downstairs Greeters

- 09/15, 22, 29 Candie Riehl
- 10/06, 13, 20 Robin Faust

If no greeter has signed up the doors will remain locked

2024-2025	Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Baker	Baker	Baker	Baker
October 11	Amber Brown <i>Pot Pie</i>	Melissa Miller <i>Lasagna</i>	Barb Hoffman <i>Chili</i>	Sharon Eaton	Sue Etchberger	Joyce Deisemann	Susan Harbonic
November 8	Joyce Deisemann <i>Chicken Noodle</i>	Mary Ann Eckhoff	Shirley Breininger	Sandy Readinger	Rose Freed	Robin Faust	Lolly Leshar <i>Shoofly Pie</i>
December 13	Lolly Leshar <i>Chili</i>	Joyce Deisemann <i>Chicken Noodle</i>	Gail Hamm <i>Ham &amp; Bean</i>	Elaine Hamm	Amber Brown	Gail Hamm	Alice Hartman
January 10	Joyce Deisemann <i>Broccoli Cheddar</i>	Joan Hartman <i>Sausage Stew</i>	Candie Riehl	Lori Rentschler <i>White Cake Choc Icing</i>	Steve Shollenberger	Joan Hartman <i>2 Shoofly Pies</i>	Lisa Shupp

# Monthly Bingo Returns October 11

## Please sign up for any empty shifts at church

October	November	December	January
3:30 – 7:30 pm	3:30 – 7:30 pm	3:30 – 7:30 pm	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Sharon Eaton	Sandy Readinger		Joan Hartman
Missy Miller	Ruth Himmelberger		
Amber Brown	Amber Brown	Amber Brown	Amber Brown

October	November	December	January
4:30 – 8:15 pm	4:30 – 8:15 pm	4:30 – 8:15 pm	4:30 – 8:15 pm

We serve and volunteer confidently, knowing that God has prepared the way for us!



# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

## GENTLE RAIN PRESCHOOL

We are so excited to be starting school again. Summer is great but getting back into a routine is always somehow comforting.

We anticipate a wonderful year full of fun and learning. I would like to personally thank everyone from Zion who donated from the Wishlist of school supplies. You have no idea how many tissues we use in a day 😊

Our teaching staff this year is:

Miss Carrie - Director of Preschool

Miss Kimi -3/4 class Lead Teacher

Miss Kate - Part time teacher

Miss Sharon - Part time teacher

Miss Rachel - Part time teacher

Our Pre-K class works on introducing and developing kindergarten readiness skills while our 3/4-year-old room, works on foundational and fine motor skills.

Teachers use creative teaching techniques in ensure each session is fun, active and most of all educational. Our focus is on the whole child in a safe environment where each one can grow socially, emotionally and spiritually.

This year we are adopting a calf through Adopt a cow. class will follow along with the growth and progress of the calf. The kids will really enjoy this. We hope to be able to visit a dairy farm to give the children a real-life experience.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 610-488-0509 or email me at [preschoolgentlerain@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolgentlerain@gmail.com). I am always available to listen and share.

Wishing everyone God's Blessings this school year,

Ms. Carrie Fox



# CHANGE of ADDRESS

Laura Keener

Stoneridge Retirement  
440 E. Lincoln Ave  
Apt 161  
Myerstown PA 17067

Doris Moyer

Country Meadows  
1800 Tulpehocken Road  
Room 35  
Wyomissing PA 19610

## UPCOMING *Events*

### September

- 15 **Return to the Sanctuary**
- 16 **Consistory Meeting**
- 19 **Food Pantry Distribution**
- 29 **Gentle Rain Preschool Sunday**  
**Harvest Home**

### October

- 5 **Craft & Vendor Show**
- 6 **World Communion Sunday**
- 11 **Bingo Resumes**
- 17 **Food Pantry Distribution**
- 21 **Consistory Meeting**
- 22 **New Journey lunch packing**



If you shop at Boyers, use the Key Card to help earn money for the church. One percent of all money spent using the Key Card will be given back to the church. The old Key Cards still work and new ones are available at the table in Narthex.



Use the Redner's Rewards Card when you shop at Redner's Market and one percent will be given to the church. The entire receipt should be placed in the basket.

## *Reminder*

*Monthly Consistory minutes are posted  
on the bulletin board in the upstairs  
Narthex*

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



Chick Stambaugh's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - 9/10  
 PO Box 153  
 Strausstown PA 19559

09/02 Dennis & Adele Dietrich married 35 years  
 09/08 Brad & Robin Faust married 51 years  
 09/10 Ronald & Myong Emerich married 57 years  
 09/12 Robert & Susan Deisemann married 26 years  
 09/16 Pinky & Lynda Himmelberger married 63 years  
 John & Melissa Miller married 18 years  
 09/19 Arthur & Karen Kissling married 26 years  
 09/21 Jim & Lisa Shupp married 33 years  
 09/24 Brian & Sherry Wessner married 41 years  
 09/26 Barry & Susan Harbonic married 54 years  
 09/30 Dwain & Julie Schlappich married 29 years



**Coffee Hour:** We are resurrecting weekly coffee hour in the parlor beginning September 15. Coffee hour is a wonderful time of weekly fellowship that is enjoyed by all ages. There will be coffee or tea available using the Keurig. We will have snacks occasionally, consider bringing a snack to share. Breakfast snacks can be as simple or involved as you choose. Doors open at 8 am – worship begins at 9 am.



# CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets

You can help make the road to recovery easier with a CWS Bucket filled with essential home recovery supplies.

**We continue to collect items or complete buckets for Church World Services.**

Here's what you'll need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- One 4-8oz. pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry-cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64oz. or two 25oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40oz. bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100ft. clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30 - 45-gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- One 6-9oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

Drop your items off at the church either on a Sunday morning or during the week when someone is available to receive your items. All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape. Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes.



Food Pantry September:

**Shampoo** – We are hoping to make hygiene bags to give out closer to Christmas. Last month we collected bar soap and so if you missed that donation, we would still accept bars of soap along with other requested hygiene items.



Church growth has been the buzz word/term for the last few years. How do we grow? The Church is shrinking and so we focus on growth. There is a simple solution and here is the secret. Stop worrying about church growth! Seriously! That's NOT the reason the

church exists. You want to have a growing church? Then be a growing church. Get off our assets and make a difference in the world. Be a change agent in the community, offer a welcome to those who need one. Be a voice for those without one. When people see the church making a real difference in the world they will want to know more.

The largest church growth organ is the brain! Churches that act and think like vital churches will become active vital churches. This takes perseverance and patience, not every idea is a God send. Zion doesn't want to be the church that says "You wanna come to our church? We are tired and dying out and we really need you." Well heck yeah, sign me up! Who wouldn't want to be a part of that church?

But what if our attitude was "Our church is a vital, fun place that makes my week better and leaves this world a better place?" We have an active congregation, meaningful worship that connects with our faith, beautiful music, a strong connection to those struggling financially, an online presence that meets the needs of the homebound and those that can't attend in person. Well guess what? That's a church someone would be happy to be part of. And that's the church we have. Praise God!



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.*