

ZION NEWS

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

“Where Did I Hide Those Walnuts?”

Sharon and I have lived in homes that were surrounded by trees. Consequently, we had a lot of squirrels for neighbors, The home with the most squirrels was our home in Blandon. Our house butted up against a tree line and that tree line was home for many squirrels. I even put up squirrel feeders along with bird feeders. I enjoyed watching their play from my deck chair. The trees in my yard at Womelsdorf are not big enough for squirrels but I do see them in our development from time to time.

I remembered what someone told me about squirrels. I was told that of all the nuts that squirrels bury for winter they can only remember where they hide 25% of their stash! No wonder they seem to be so busy. If they suffer an 75% loss in nuts stored, they had better stay on the move.

As I reminisced about my squirrel friends, I realized that we are not unlike these forgetful creatures. We are just as active. Many of us are busy with our jobs, storing up for the future. Many of us are busy with our families, running here and there, taking our children to this and then that, busily visiting family up here and across there. Life can at times be a very hectic adventure; this is especially true during the holiday seasons. There is a danger that we may end up like the squirrels. We become so busy with living life that we only remember a small portion of what we have been about throughout the past year.

During this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take time to remember life's simple pleasures, the things we take for granted, the things that might fall into the 80% we might forget about. Take time to remember things like the beauty of a sunset, the sweet smile of a loved one, the touch of a caring friend, the embrace that saw you through a rough day. And remember that all things come from God, the one who made us and sustains us. To God, give thanks.

"It is good to praise the LORD and make

music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night . . . For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands" (Psalm 92:1-2,4 NIV).



God's Blessings, Pastor Pat



Zion's Congregation always rises to the occasion. The Consistory would like to thank everyone who has pledged to help with the parking lot repairs. Parking lots are more than just a place for our members to park. A well-maintained parking lot says a lot about our church and is part of the overall experience when you visit. What message do you want our parking lot to be telling our visitors to the church? The first thing a visitor sees as they pull into our church is our parking lot. If the lines are worn and there are potholes in the asphalt and the entrance and exits are poorly marked, they may turn right around and leave. We love visitors and want them to come back as often as they'd like. So on behalf of everyone that uses our facility, parents of our preschoolers, bingo friends, clients of the food pantry, Sunday worshippers thank you for your caring contributions. If you are making a contribution along with your regular giving kindly write a separate check for your parking lot contribution. Funds are being kept in a separate account.

Celebrate with us on October 27th with a celebration service at 10:00 AM and potluck meal following worship. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a side or dessert, the church will provide the entrees.



Please shower Ruth with Birthday Cards she is turning 95 on October 26!

Ruth Zerbe
PO Box 119
Strausstown PA 19559



10/01 Allison Bashore
10/02 Seth Stankiewitch
10/03 Sarah Bentz
10/05 Kyle Machmer
10/07 Robert Blatt
Richard Freed
10/08 Grant Baver
10/15 Bailey Unterkofler
10/17 Shirley Breininger
10/18 Nicole Wessner
10/19 Karen Kissling
10/20 Dwain Schlappich
10/22 Justin Bentz
Pat Moyer
10/25 Vera Breidigan
10/26 Ruth Zerbe
Travis Breininger
10/30 Jackie Stankiewitch
Marjorie Bashore



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE BASHORE FAMILY AFTER THE PASSING OF MICHAEL.

WE ALSO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS THE STAMBAUGH FAMILY AS THEY MOURN CHICK'S PASSING



Bosco's
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS
IN-STORE ONLY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2023
ALL BOSCOV'S STORES**
8AM-11PM

Shopping Pass Proceeds Benefit the Participating Non-Profit Organization of Your Choice

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

25% OFF^{LOWEST SALE PRICE} SHOPPING PASS

DONATE \$5 TO YOUR FAVORITE PARTICIPATING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND GET A 25% OFF SHOPPING PASS THAT CAN BE USED ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE STORE.

WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S SHOPPING SPREE
EACH STORE WILL GIVE AWAY A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD

We are participating in the Friends Helping Friends campaign. We are teaming up with Bosco's to offer a 25% off ALL DAY shopping pass for \$5.00.

The church keeps all proceeds from the purchase of this ticket.

The shopping pass is for in-store only purchases on **October 22, 2024.**

If you are interested in purchasing a shopping pass stop by the church

Monthly Bingo October 11

October	October
3:30 – 7:30 pm	4:30 – 8:15 pm
Sharon Eaton	Lolly Leshner
Missy Miller	NEED HELP
Joyce Deisemann	

	Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Baker	Baker	Baker	Baker
October 11	Amber Brown	Melissa Miller	Barb Hoffman	Sharon Eaton	Sue Etchberger	Susan Harbonic	Joyce Deisemann

BRINGING HOPE HOME CONCERT SUNDAY OCTOBER 6 @ 3 PM

At Zion Blue Mountain UCC, Strausstown

Refreshments following

Proceeds benefit families battling cancer in Berks County!

Gentle Rain Preschool News



We have our first month of school almost behind us, we look forward to the months of learning ahead. We like to ease into September since this is the first time for some of the children to be in a school type environment. We are still working out some kinks but they are starting to grasp the concept of being at school.

We are excited to celebrate Fall and Harvest Season. We have a lot of fun activities planned for our classes. We have been learning to sing Jesus Loves Me and some other fun songs. Recess time still remains one of their favorite times and the playground gets lots of action. It has truly been a gift seeing the children's smiling faces and getting to know each one of them. We are happy that our families have chosen Gentle Rain Preschool and feel very blessed to be part of Zion Blue Mountain UCC.

Thank you to the church for their support in helping us gather items over the summer. We can always use paper towels and tissues!!!

2024-25 teachers are:

Ms. Carrie - Director

Ms. Kimi - 3-4-year-old lead teacher

Ms. Kate - Pre-K teacher

Ms. Rachel - 3-4-year-old teacher

Ms. Sharon - teacher

In His love,

Gentle Rain Staff



Holiday Hygiene Drive October 1 - December 15



Help us fill bags of
personal items
for those in need.



Pastor Appreciation

Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated. Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me."

St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love.

October Greeters

10/06 Susan Etchberger
10/13
10/20 Amber Brown
10/27 Rose Freed



- 10/02 Melinda & Jonathan Schaeffer married 53 years
Russ & Joan Hartman married 53 years
- 10/03 Vera & Pat Breidigan married 71 years
- 10/04 Jackie & George Stankiewitch married 27 years
- 10/07 Monica & Scott Sechler married 35 years
Justin & Corinne Bentz married 18 years
- 10/08 Stephanie & Michael Miller married 30 years
- 10/09 Doris & Byrd Wagner married 31 years
- 10/10 Scott & Shelby Sechler married 4 years
- 10/11 Sandy & Allen Readinger married 38 years
- 10/14 Elaine & Dennis Hamm married 57 years
- 10/16 Rose & Richard Freed married 53 years
- 10/23 Joyce & Stanley Deisemann married 59 years



Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser

Begins the first week of October. If you are thinking about purchasing gift cards for friends or family why not support the church at the same time. Complete an order form, return it to the church office and pick up your cards the next week. SIMPLE!





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 (VP), Robin Faust, Dan Brown (Pres), Barry Driesbach

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.