

ZIONNEWS

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 2 Holy Communion
March 5 Bible Study 10 am
 Ash Wednesday 1 & 7 pm
March 6 Community Lent Service
 11:30 am
April 6 Holy Communion
April 13 Palm Sunday - Cantata
April 17 Maundy Thursday
April 18 Good Friday, Tenebrae
 Service, 7:00 PM

April 20 **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

**Wednesday Morning 10 am Bible Study
 begins March 5**
Wednesday Evening 7 pm Bible Study

The Journey Begins

As enter into the beautiful month of March, we are reminded of renewal and hope. The arrival of spring brings with it the promise of new beginnings and the joy of witnessing God's creation in full bloom. Let's take this time to reflect on our spiritual journey and renew our commitment to living a faithful life.

Zion Blue Mountain will be offering several opportunities to enrich your Lenten journey. I continued to do a Wednesday morning Bible Study. On March 12, we begin a new unit of study entitled *Luke: Jesus and the Outsider, Outcasts, and Outlaws* at 10mAM. At 7 PM starting Wednesday, March 12, I will also be leading a Bible Study entitled *The Final Words From the Cross*. Both were written by Adam Hamilton, and both are very inspiring as we journey through the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday I will be offering two Ash Wednesday services. The first will be a contemplative service at 1 PM with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. A second service with music will be at 7 pm offering the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

On Thursday, March 6 I will be conducting a mid-day Lenten service. This is the first in a series of services sponsored by the Northern Berks Ministerium Lenten Worship series. The service starts at 11:30 AM with soup and sandwiches to follow at noon. Barry will be playing

for this service as well. The focus of my message is the *Prodigal Son*. I hope you will find these services inspiring. Let us remember to look for God's presence in our daily lives. Whether in the blooming flowers, the warm sunshine, or the kindness of a stranger, His love is always with us. We look forward to seeing you at our services and events. May you have a blessed and joyful March.

Blessings, Pastor Pat

Ash Wednesday
 1 pm contemplative
 7 pm with music

All go unto
 one place;
 all are of the dust,
 and all
 turn to
 dust again.

Ecclesiastes 3:20, KJV

LENT Lent LENT Lent



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of our special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

On **Sunday, March 30, 2025** Zion's UCC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting a special offering on that day. Please consider giving to this special project.

Be someone's lucky charm!
 Food Pantry Needs:
 Boxed Potatoes, mashed,
 scalloped, au gratin or
 flavored boxed rice such as
 Rice a Roni or Knorr sides

March Greeters

03/02 Robin Faust
 03/09 Melissa Miller
 03/16 Sharon Kominsky
 03/23 Janice Blatt
 03/30 Sharon Eaton

Bingo Kitchen March 14, 2025

3:30 – 7:30 pm

Joyce Deisemann
 Robin Faust
 Joan Hartman
 Amber Brown

4:30 – 8:30 pm

Alice Hartman
 Amy Yeager

03/20 Ruth Klinger

Bakers – Amy Yeager
 Joan Hartman
 Susan Etchberger
 Steve Shollenberger

Hot Pot – Joan Hartman
 Barb Hoffman
 Pastor Pat



GENEROSITY LEADS TO ABUNDANCE

Don't forget when we miss church the church is still here for YOU. Your giving is vital to keeping the church here for YOU. Offerings fund more than our electric bill, we give to missions through our Conference, your benevolence envelope anonymously helps those who are in need of help in our church family. So think of how your generosity is at work when you are filling your giving envelope.

March 31 Brian & Anne Binner will celebrate 35 years of marriage

03/04 Allen Bashore

03/08 Allen

Readinger

03/13 Thomas Eaton

03/17 Hayden & Avery Miller



03/21 Robin Sebastian

03/24 Amber Brown

03/26 Dorsen Berger

03/27 Sharon Eaton

03/30 David Emore

Hudson Brown



To search our souls, to meditate, will not suffice for Lent. To share the cross, to sacrifice; these are the things God meant.
—Jane McKay Lanning

On Sunday February 23, 2024 a group of members from the church met to pray. ***THIS IS NOT A PRAYER CHAIN.*** The group will be praying daily on their own and monthly as a group. They will be using the newly furnished prayer room on the 1st level of the church. We would like to thank those who donated to help provide the furniture for the room.

Sharon Eaton in memory of Paul Eaton Jr.

Sharon George, Amy Shanaman, Julie Newhouse in memory of their parents, Pat & Chick Stambaugh

Chrys and Gary Heck

The list of people for the prayer group will be fluid depending on the needs of friends, family and community. What will put you on the list? Homebound, recent widow/er, ongoing health concerns, hospitalized (surgeries etc.) or ill, caregivers, requested prayers, clergy and each other.

If you have a prayer to request, you or your person may remain anonymous, they will pray as group for them whether we know their issue or not. The person who makes the request may share whatever they feel comfortable with.

Prayer requests may be given using the blue cards in the Sanctuary or to Lisa or Pastor Pat. All prayer requests will be kept confidential unless otherwise discussed.

Easter Flower Order Form

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.

**\$10.00
EACH**

Orders are due by Sunday, April 13

Please write the # of each plant requested:

_____ Lily _____ Tulip _____ Daffodil



Your Name: _____

In honor of / memory of (circle one) :

CALENDAR RAFFLE

Come support the church by contributing to our new fundraiser! We need volunteers who could contribute a gift card worth \$25 or any amount of cash toward the purchase of gift cards. If you know a business that would participate by donating a gift card we would love if you would ask for a donation.

How it works:

There is no limit on how many calendars you can purchase or SELL TO YOUR FRIENDS. Each calendar purchased gives you one entry into the raffle drawing and increases your odds of winning a prize! Calendars cost \$5 each. Every day a drawing will be done to select a lucky winner of that day's prize. Winners will be posted to Facebook and seller notified.

Any questions please speak to Pat Moyer or Susan Deisemann.

We hope to have our calendar ready for June 2025.



Did you know?
Sunday morning water, coffee and mints are donated by other members. If you can donate a small case of water to share, please place it in the playground area or in the small refrigerator. We appreciate your generosity!



Enroll now for preschool

Gentle Rain Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2025-26 school year. If you would like more information, please visit our website at: Zionbluemountainucc.org under the preschool tab or contact Carrie Fox, Director at 610-488-0509 or Preschoolgentlerain@gmail.com.

As we look back on the school year, I am extremely proud of the hard work each of our Gentle Rain students has put in. In our PreK class we are working on letter sounds and even spelling words during circle time along with counting and numbers from 11-20 (or higher). Our 3 & 4-year-old class is becoming more and more independent each day. They are mastering their letter recognition and counting as well! We have had a lot of bumps in the road this winter with weather delays and closings but our Gentle Rain students have taken it in stride and have not let that slow them down!

Looking forward to our last few months of this school year we are excited to again be planning our Spring Art Show and Basket Raffle fundraiser. This year we are opening our basket raffle up to you all as well! Baskets will be on display with tickets available for purchase on 4/27/2025 as well as the evening of our Art Show on 5/2/2025, which is open for you to attend as well. We are also looking for donations toward the baskets.

Not long after our Art Show we will be celebrating our newest Gentle Rain graduating class on 5/23/2025.

We would also like to extend a huge welcome to our newest teacher. Connie Ringler, a Gentle Rain graduate herself, she will be joining our staff as a part time assistant teacher in the PreK classroom. We are very excited to have her join us!





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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.