

ZIONNEWS

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



Symbols of our Faith

I have been busy in my work shop working on various items for a craft show. There are two crafts that I make that are symbols of the meaning of Easter. The first is what Sharon and I call "The Empty Tomb". I make them out of 2x6's and 2x4's. I make Mt. Calvary out of the 2x6. I distress the wood and carve it like a mountain or hill. At the peak of the mountain is a gnarled wooden cross. In front of the mountain is the 2x4, also carved to look like a mountain and distressed; there is a hole in the mountain and a stone carving beside the opening. No explanation is needed.

The other symbol of Easter that I make is pectoral crosses, the majority of which will be going to Ghana. I took crosses with me in February 2024 and gave them to the church choirs of the Evangelical Church in Ho where I am a member. There was not enough to go around, so I am taking 100 in July!

People like these crafts because they preach the message of Easter without saying a word. We know the message of Easter. We have heard it hundreds of times. No one has to explain it to us.

This month, we will hear the story again—the same story we have heard a hundred times. The challenge for me and all others who shape our worship is how can we tell the story in a new way. I am not sure we can but as a worshiper, you can hear the message more deeply.

As we prepare for Holy Week, open your hearts and minds to receive the good news. Embrace the passion narrative and allow it to touch the brokenness that may be inside you. Celebrate the message of Easter morning, a message of new life.

There are three special services that will help you engage the Easter story: Palm Sunday, Good Friday Tenebrae service, and Easter morning worship; dates and times are listed below. My prayer is that you too, can come to the tomb and shout with full confidence,

"He is not here! He is risen!" the same story we have heard a hundred times with the same ending! Glory be to God!! Blessings, Pastor Pat

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

4/13 Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Cantata

Easter Morning 6:30 am Outdoor Sunrise

4/18 Good Friday 7 pm

9:00 am Sanctuary

April Greeters

04/06 Marlene Adams

04/13 MaryAnn Eckhoff

04/20 Susan Harbonic

04/27 Lori Rentschler

Bingo Kitchen April 11

3:30 – 7:30 pm

Joyce Deisemann

Ruth Himmelberger

Sandy Behm

4:00– 8:30 pm

Alice Hartman

Amy Yeager

Bakers –

Gail Hamm

Lisa Shupp

Sharon Eaton

Rose Freed

Hot Pot –

Gail Hamm

Mary Ann Eckhoff

Melissa Miller



*As a church family, we extend
our sincere sympathy and
Christian love to the family
and friends of
Mildred "Millie" Long &
Vera Breidigan*

The background of the entire poster is a soft-focus image of pink flowers, likely tulips, with delicate petals and yellow centers. The flowers are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a gentle, spring-like atmosphere.

6:30 am Prayer Garden

9:00 am Sanctuary

JOIN US FOR

EASTER
Sunday

Christ is Risen!



OFFERING DATE MARCH 30, 2025

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. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within the Love of Neighbor campaign. 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 bulletin.

preschool registration



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

We look forward to hearing from you!

WHAT IS A GIFT CARD CALENDAR?

We will be selling gift card calendars for a June Fundraiser. Calendars cost \$5 and you may buy as many as you want.

Each day is assigned a gift card that has been donated to the church in the amount of \$25. Everyday a name will be drawn for a winner of the designated gift card of the day. If you would like to donate a gift card please speak with Pat Moyer or Susan Deisemann asap.

Calendar sale will begin the second Sunday in April, let your friends, relatives and neighbors know!

04/01 Gloria Kauffman
 Randy Sebastian
 Paul Eaton Sr.
 Sue Deisemann
 Kaydence Brandt

04/02 Bonnie Herb

04/07 Brad Faust
 Dennis Dietrich

04/12 Jerry Hosler

04/13 Andrew Moyer

04/14 Maile Bentz

04/15 Brian Wessner

April Faust
 04/16 Sandy Readinger

04/17 Alice Hartman

04/20 Donna Greim

04/22 Owen Bentz

04/23 Bernie Himmelberger

04/04 Jill & Dennis Baver married 33 years

04/12 Deb & Jerry Hosler married 39 years

04/19 Barry & Rita Bentz married 50 years

04/23 Jeremy & Ivy Bentz married 20 years

04/27 Todd & Pat Moyer married 40 years



04/24 Bob Klinger

04/26 Annie Phillips

04/29 Bill Palmer

Dalton Moyer

Gabby Moyer





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 Houtt, Brad Faust, Pat Moyer

Deacons: Candie Riehl (Vice President), Barry Driesbach, Robin Faust

Trustees: Kerry Holzman, Dan Brown (President), Jon Schaeffer

Contact Information

Pastor: 610-207-7361

Office Phone: 610-488-7361

Website: www.zionbluemountainucc.org

ZIONNEWS 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.