

ZIONNEWS

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

"The Greatest of These Is Love"

Faith is the bedrock upon which we build our convictions, whether in the spiritual, moral, or personal sense. Faith requires courage. It asks us to believe in something greater than ourselves and to trust the journey, even when we cannot see the destination. In life's darkest moments, faith becomes a lantern, illuminating the next step forward.

Hope is the expectation that good is possible. It is the optimism that motivates and sustains us, even when circumstances are difficult. Hope allows us to look beyond the present moment and envision a better future. It is the force that keeps us moving, even when the road is long and the outcome is uncertain. Hope inspires, uplifts, and gives us reasons to continue reaching for our dreams.

While faith and hope are essential, love is described as the greatest. Love transcends boundaries, heals wounds, and unites people. It is selfless, enduring, and unconditional. Love compels us to act with kindness, to forgive, and to seek the well-being of others. When we choose love, we create ripples of goodness that extend far beyond ourselves. Love is not just an emotion but a deliberate choice that shapes our actions and defines our character.

Love encompasses and elevates both faith and hope. Through love, faith is expressed in action, and hope is made tangible. Love is the ultimate expression of our humanity. It is the glue that binds families, friendships, and communities. In moments when words fail and hope wavers, love remains steadfast. It is the legacy we leave behind and the most profound gift we can give.

Something to think about this Valentine's Day. 





Doris Moyer
1800 Tulpehocken Rd Room # 35 Wyomissing 19610

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 2/1 | Alex Bentz |
| 2/5 | Olivia Leshar |
| 2/9 | Doris Moyer |
| 2/11 | Barbara Spohn |
| 2/14 | Jim Schutt |
| 2/19 | George Stankiewitch |
| 2/20 | Steve Shollenberger |
| 2/21 | Scott Sechler Jr. |
| 2/23 | Mike Kamp |
| 2/26 | Ivy Bentz |
| 2/28 | Barbara Grimes |

ANNIVERSARIES

Terry & Sharon Kominsky married 39 years on February 14

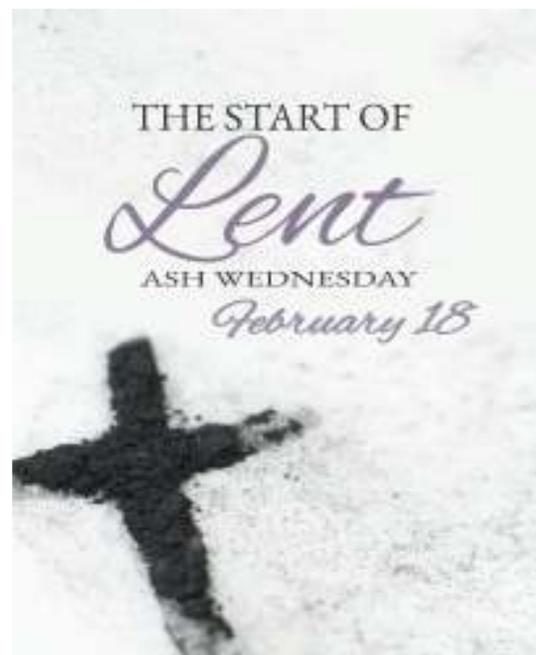
Feb. 1	Communion
Feb. 2	Groundhog's Day
Feb. 13	Bingo
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	Transfiguration Sunday
Feb. 16	President's Day
Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 19	Lent Service 11:30 am



GREETERS

February 1	Joan Hartman
February 8	Audrey Kirkhoff
February 15	Sharon Eaton
February 22	Janice Blatt
Downstairs	Pat Moyer

2025 Giving Statements are ready and in the Narthex for pick up. If you would like your statement emailed, please email Lisa. lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org. Statements will not be mailed through USPS.



Monthly Bingo February 14

February
3:30 – 7:30 pm

February
4:30 – 8:15 pm

Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Hot Pot	Baker	Baker	Baker	Baker
Melissa Miller	Shirley Breininger	MaryAnn Eckhoff	Rose Freed	Steve Shollenberger	Sue Etchberger	Amber Brown

“You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.”

Psalms 86:5

As time passes, we become increasingly aware of the frailty of life all around us. Devastation unfolds in different parts of the world, and while it can be easy at times to sit back and dismiss what is happening, it becomes much harder to look the other way when lives are being lost. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond with compassion and mercy toward those who are suffering great loss.

What can we do? How can we help? For some, financial support is possible. For others, the response may be to call upon the Lord in prayer. When disaster strikes, what is our first response? Can we say it is prayer—asking for God’s love to pour out in whatever way He chooses? Do we truly grasp the essential magnitude of forgiveness and grace?

February is often a month that reflects love for our spouses or significant family members. This year, let us extend that love beyond our immediate circles and lift a call in prayer to God for all people. It is easy to become consumed by our own lives and overlook the needs of humanity at large. May God not only meet us where we are, but also reach those who are desperate for His powerful touch of love and forgiveness.

Calling out to God is the single greatest thing we can do when we don’t know what else to do. Peace be yours.

Soup and Bread Lunch
Everyone Welcome

COMMUNITY
Lenten
SERVICES

Thursday Feb. 19
11:30 am
Zion Blue Mountain UCC



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli.
If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

Consistory meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Anyone interested in Church happenings is invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like to address the Consistory, please contact Lisa to be added to the agenda.

Help Us Build a Gift Card Calendar!

We are collecting **gift cards** to create a Gift Card Calendar Fundraiser to support our church ministry.

 \$25 denominations • Any store • Every card makes a difference

Drop-off at church office or with Susan Deisemann or Pat Moyer.

Deadline Sunday, March 22, 2026

This was a very fun and easy fundraiser last year HELP US MAKE OUR GOAL AGAIN.

Thank you for your generosity!

Come Celebrate

WITH PASTOR SHARON AND PASTOR PAT
**SHARON'S 70TH BIRTHDAY AND
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**
28 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 12:30 PM
ZION BLUE MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP HALL

IN LIEU OF GIFTS A MONETARY DONATION MAY
BE MADE TO THE
ZION BLUE MOUNTAIN FOOD PANTRY

RSVP BY 20 FEBRUARY 2026 TO
REVSMORRIS@GMAIL.COM

YOU MUST RSVP TO ATTEND

“No matter what sin we have
committed, no matter how terrible it
may be, God loves us.”—Billy Graham



The Last 24 Hours That Changed the World

Northern Berks Ministerium Lent Series

Thursdays, 11:30 AM

Service of Prayer

Soup & Bread Lunch

Free Will Offering

Supports the Ministerium's Outreach Assistance

February 19

The Last Supper

Zion's Blue Mountain UCC Strausstown

February 26

The Garden of Gethsemane

1st Reformed UCC Hamburg

March 05

Condemned by the Righteous

St. John's Lutheran Hamburg

March 12

Jesus, Barabbas, & Pilate

St Michael's Lutheran, Tilden Twp

March 19

The Torture & Humiliation of the King

Zion's Perry Lutheran, Perry Township

March 26

The Crucifixion

Friedens Church, Lenhartsville



tacklehunger.org

"What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just one dollar or item to make sure no one goes without a bowl of soup to eat?"

On Sunday February 8 the food pantry will have a soup kettle in the Narthex for donations to purchase soup for the pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

2026 CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Elders: Pat Moyer, Susan Harbonic, Susan Etchberger

Deacons: Candie Riehl, Barry Driesbach, Deb Hosler and Audrey Kirkhoff

Trustees: Kerry Holzman and Steve Shollenberger

Weather-Related Cancellations

Please know that we love gathering together, but when the weather looks dangerous, or if our parking lot is not yet cleared, we may cancel events. We make this decision based on a lot of factors, but the main one is the safety of each person at Zion.

When decisions are made, we will update the church voicemail (610) 488-7361 and our Facebook page. If you are ever uncertain, please call or check those places first before heading in. Also, make the best decision for you!



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, Pat Moyer, Susan Harbonic

Deacons: Candie Riehl, Barry Driesbach, Deb Hosler, Audrey Kirkhoff

Trustees: Kerry Holzman, Steve Shollenberger

Contact Information

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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.