

ZION NEWS

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

Enough.

I have had it!!! I have had it with snow, temperatures below 30°, and bone-chilling wind. I am ready for 80 in the shade. But it looks like I will have to wait. (I am writing this article on February 23. As I look out my home office window, I see a fresh coating of snow.) Enough is enough!!

There are those who like snow. God bless you. Evidence of the joy people derive from snow are the snowmobile tracks crisscrossing a farmer's field. I see snowmobile tracks, but I haven't seen the snowmobilers all winter.

But things are looking up! As we welcome the month of March, we find ourselves on the journey of Lent—a season of reflection, renewal, and preparation and hopefully warmer weather. Lent is a sacred time to pause and focus on our relationship with God, to seek forgiveness, and to extend grace to others. Whether you have chosen to fast, add a spiritual discipline, or simply spend more time in prayer, I encourage you to use these days to draw closer to Christ and to one another.

With spring just around the corner, we are reminded of the hope and new life that Easter brings. Let us open our hearts to the transformation God is working in us, and look for opportunities to share His love with our neighbors and community. May this season fill you with peace, purpose, and the assurance that God walks with us every step of the way, even through the snow!

Grace and blessings,
Pastor Pat



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Simply mark your gift on your envelope or use the envelope provided in the bulletin.

Our collective giving to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) shows up in tangible, practical act of love, compassion and care, helping to rebuild lives both physically and spiritually. It shows up in places like Thailand to educate young girls, in Kenya to access clean water, and in Ohio to rebuild tornado-ravaged communities! OGHS, in collaboration with local and international partners, shows up all over the world, delivering your love offering in practical, life-changing ways. We give generously because we have been blessed. We give cheerfully because we care. ***It's our love offering to the world.***

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE! BE SOMEONE'S LUCKY CHARM!

We are looking for green food or green packaging. Peas, Green Beans, Lucky Charms, Apple Jacks, Nature Valley Granola Bars. You get the idea. Look closely on your next shopping trip!

Please choose the healthiest choices you can we prefer no soda or candy.

NO PICKLES as we were gifted 1500 jars of Vlasic pickles



Join us for worship on Sundays at 9 AM

Holy Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

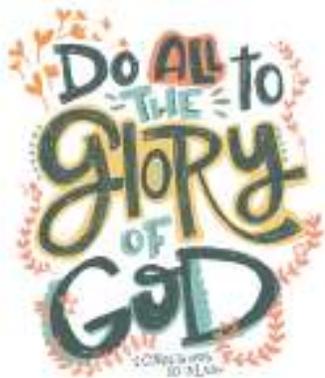
March 1 Holy Communion
March 19 Food Pantry Distribution
March 29 Palm Sunday
April 2 Maundy Thursday
April 3 Good Friday, Tenebrae Service, 7:00 PM

April 5 **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

April 26 Compassion Sunday

Wednesday Morning 10 am Bible Study



2026 Consistory Officers

President - Barry Driesbach

Vice President - Pat Moyer

Secretary - Lisa Shupp

Financial Secretary - Audrey Kirkhoff

Committee Liaisons

Property - Bryan Houpt, Kerry Holzman & Steve Shollenberger

Missions & Evangelism - Pastor Pat

Food Pantry - Susan Etchberger

Food Kitchen - Candie Riehl

Preschool - Pat Moyer

Music and Worship - Barry Driesbach

March Greeters

03/01 Lisa Shupp

03/08 Deb Hosler

03/15 Robin Faust

03/22 Margaret Luckenbill

03/29 Christine Bashore

Downstairs - Susan Etchberger

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, and 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. The truth of God's offerings is that we bring ourselves closer to Him when we give. Jesus says in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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, March 22

Please write the # of each plant requested:

_____ Lily _____ Tulip _____ Daffodil



Your Name: _____

In honor of / memory of (circle one) :

CALENDAR RAFFLE

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 2026



Gentle Rain Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2026-2027 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 on Friday, May 1st. We are also looking for donations toward the baskets you may drop off items in the church office.

Not long after our Art Show, we will be celebrating our newest Gentle Rain graduating class on 5/22/2026.

We would also like to extend a huge welcome to our newest teacher. Rebecca Dunlap, she joined our staff as the lead teacher in the 3-4 year old classroom. We are very excited to have her join us!



March 13, 2026 Bingo Kitchen

3:30 – 7:30 pm
Joyce Deisemann Amber Brown Please sign up at church
4:30 – 8:30 pm

Bakers –	Amy Yeager Sharon Eaton Susan Harbonic Sandy Readinger
Hot Pot –	Lisa Shupp Beth Machmer Bonnie Herb

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently trying to staff the kitchen for the 2026-2027 Bingo Season. We already have quite a few members stepping up to bear some of the load. But we still need a few volunteers to help supply the kitchen with food necessary to stock the kitchen for a bingo night. If you have time to pick up some food items or help prepare things such as the specials or salads please reach out to Lisa Shupp in the church office lshupp@zionbluemountainucc.org. If you are shopping your cost is reimbursable or can be added to your giving statement.

03/04 Allen Bashore
03/08 Allen Readinger
03/13 Thomas Eaton
03/17 Hayden & Avery Miller
03/20 Ruth Klinger
03/21 Robin Sebastian
03/24 Amber Brown
03/26 Dorsen Berger
03/27 Sharon Eaton
03/30 David Emore
Hudson Brown



March 31 Brian & Anne Binner will celebrate 36 years of marriage



March Bible Verse of the Month:

Memory Verse
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

MISSION UPDATE

On one of our earlier trips to Ghana we were introduced to Nenyio Harborbor (Pronounced Ha-bo-bo) mission site to reach out to the homeless children in Ho. Nenyio Harborbor provided a place where the children could come for a meal, take a bath, wash their laundry, and address any other needs they might have. I immediately became a supporter and through the years, the churches I have served were supportive as well.

The majority of the children who come to Nenyio Harborbor are between the ages of 10-16. Through our support Nenyio has developed an intern program where older children receive training for a trade. Eli Emmanuel, whom we are supporting, is one of the graduates of the program.

As another trip to Ghana is preparing to leave in July, my nephew, Willie will take monetary donations from Zion to Nenyio Harborbor. Please support the mission in Ghana through giving marked "Ghana" ~Pastor Pat

ALL DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO THE SANCTUARY.





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Consistory

Elders: Susan Etchberger, Pat Moyer (Vice President), Susan Harbonic

Deacons: Candie Riehl, Barry Driesbach (President), Deb Hosler, Audrey Kirkhoff

Trustees: Kerry Holzman, Steve Shollenberger, Bryan Houpt

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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.