

ZIONNEWS

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



The graphic features a teal vertical band on the left side with white and green text. To the right is a photograph of an empty tomb with a large stone rolled away, set against a background of a landscape with crosses on a hill under a sunset sky. A white cloth lies on the ground in the foreground.

JOIN US
for
EASTER
Sunday
He is
Risen!
April 5
6:30 & 9:00 am



A circular icon on the left side of the teal band depicts an open tomb with a white cloth and a sunburst above it.

When I was on the farm, Spring was always my favorite time of the year. There were always clear signs on the farm that spring was very near. The morning air was not as cold as it had been several weeks ago. The mud holes and wet spots around the barn were beginning to dry up. The pasture gradually began to change color, from a brown to a deep green. I knew when I saw these signs, that spring could not be far around the corner.

As with spring, there are certain signs that mark the Easter season. We use some of the same imagery; the blooming of flowers, the newness of birth in nature, and brilliant sunrises, are all images we use to signify the spring season as well as Easter. Have you ever stopped to wonder why we make these connection?

In nature, we see spring as a time of renewal, a time when life around us is energized from the heat and moisture of God's good earth. We see spring as a time of procreation for many of God's creatures. Spring is a prelude to life and life's abundance around us, to be enjoyed until the postlude of winter.

The Easter season has the same potential for Christians. Easter is a time of renewal. It is a time for all of us to take a closer look at the relationship we have with Jesus. As we

progress through Lent in preparation for Holy Week, we have the opportunity to see the suffering in our lives as we reflect on the passion of our Lord.

Easter is also a time for us to be energized by the power of God's spirit within our own lives. As we observe the church year in our tradition, there is the potential for us to become lackadaisical in our participation in the life of the church. Church life becomes predictable and boring; therefore we disengage. But there is always the Easter season to breathe life back into our sleeping souls.

Most importantly, Easter is a time for new life. Jesus Christ went to the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. No longer would men and women be held in bondage to the sin in their lives. Jesus' death on the cross, and the power of the resurrected Lord, was and is an act of procreation. Because we believe, we are created anew through Jesus. (John 3:3)

I encourage you to see this Easter season as a time of new birth and growth in your life. There are many opportunities in the life of Zion Blue Mountain where you can experience the signs of the Easter season. My prayer is that you will not only experience the season but also you will experience the power and presence of the risen Lord.

Easter Blessings ~Pastor Pat

04/01 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
 04/23 Bernie Himmelberger



04/24 Bob Klinger
 04/26 Annie Phillips
 04/29 Dalton Moyer
 Gabby Moyer

04/04 Jill & Dennis Baver married 34 years

04/12 Deb & Jerry Hosler married 40 years

04/19 Barry & Rita Bentz married 51 years

04/23 Jeremy & Ivy Bentz married 21 years

04/27 Todd & Pat Moyer married 41 years

New Membership Session

April 12 after worship

Please see Pastor Pat or relay to anyone in leadership your desires.

This can be membership transfer as well as reaffirmation of faith.

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9 AM

Holy Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

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



April Greeters

04/05 Bonnie Herb
04/12 Joan Hartman
04/19 Mary Ann Eckhoff
04/26 Marlene Adams
Downstairs - Susan Harbonic

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)



Bingo Kitchen April 10

| |
|--------------------------------------------------|
| 3:30 – 7:30 pm |
| Joyce Deisemann Sue Etchberger Help needed |
| 4:00– 8:30 pm |
| Joan Hartman Sue Etchberger Help needed |

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bakers – | MaryAnn Eckhoff Lisa Shupp Melinda Schaeffer Alice Hartman |
| Hot Pot – | Barry Driesbach Lolly Leshner Candie Riehl |

**Pick up your gift card
calendars starting April 1st.
\$5 Donation
One winner per day!**

April Bible Verse of the Month:

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 1:7

New King James Version

For God has not given us
a spirit of fear, but of
power and of love and of
a sound mind.



APRIL 26TH

JOIN PASTOR PAT AS HE CENTERS WORSHIP
AROUND THE MISSION OF
NENYO HARBORBOR IN GHANA. HE WILL BE
SHARING HIS HEART WITH THE CHURCH
ABOUT THE CHILDREN IN POVERTY AT THE
SAFE HOUSE AND HOW CHILDREN HAVE
OVERCOME THE ODDS AND BECAME
SUCCESSFUL THROUGH DONATIONS,
ENCOURAGEMENT AND FAITH.

CHICKEN BBQ & YARD SALE

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
MISSIONS IN GHANA

Saturday May 30, 2026

YARD SALE

8 AM - 1 PM



BAR-BE-QUE

10 AM - 2 PM

\$12.00

- **½ CHARCOAL GRILLED CHICKEN**
- **BAKED POTATO**
- **APPLESAUCE**
- **ROLL**

ZION BLUE
MOUNTAIN UCC
6573 OLD RT 22
STRAUSSTOWN

PURCHASE TICKETS THROUGH CHURCH

OR CALL **610-488-7361**

BIBLE QUIZ: According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days

Answer on page 4



National Wreaths Across America Day 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, December 19, 2026, featuring nationwide wreath-laying ceremonies to honor veterans. Volunteers will place over 2 million sponsored wreaths at local, national, and military cemeteries, saying each veteran's name aloud to ensure their memory lives on.

This year the Strausstown Union Cemetery will participate in this event. Many members have loved ones buried in the cemetery who gave us the freedoms we have today. We are asking you to consider sponsoring a wreath or volunteer to lay them. Many hands make light work.

Gail Hamm will be in church in May to discuss the program and to explain how the goal is to remember, honor and teach. Stay tuned for the upcoming Sunday date.

"... and you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free."
John 8:32, 188V





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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.