

ZION CHURCH NEWS

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. (Jer 29:11) NRSV

Zion Easter Cross

The Easter Flower Cross holds a special place in my heart. Every year, God shows us the promise of new life with the beautiful flowers he provides.

Zion has been building the Easter cross for many years. I am amazed to see how many helping hands gather to decorate the cross on Holy Saturday, rain or shine. All these helping hands show God's love. Zion continues to share with the community that God is still speaking, because "Christ has Risen! Risen indeed!"

My family always looks forward to being a part of the helping hands group on Saturday evening. We marvel every year at the changes in design and beauty. It is always breathtaking. If you would like to be a part of this, please let me know.

This year the Easter cross has a special meaning for us. Mom, who enjoyed the beauty of the spring flowers, loved being a part of the helping hands group. This year we are dedicating the Easter Cross to mom, Sylvia Ridenour, and other love ones who have passed away this year.

Please join us at 10:00 am for a service to celebrate Easter at the cross.

-Kim Ridenour



Words Of Faith and Strength

No person can stand against our God: no bad break, no sickness, and no trouble. God controls the universe. He said, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy is coming in the morning." (Psalm 30:5) Receive it in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Volume 62 Issue 4

Topics of Interest

- Pastor's Pen
- Parish Nurse Article
- Zion Book Club
- Soup Kitchen

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ZION REFORMED UCC

201 N. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-739-7244
www.zionreformed.church
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2021 APRIL

PASTOR'S PEN

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:6

It has been a long, difficult year, Beloved, and we are all desperate to find glimpses of light. During the holy season of Lent, we prayerfully look forward to new life rising out of the shadows of death. As we see the first glimpses of daffodils and crocuses, we know that soon we will be surrounded by blooming flowers and new leaves. And, as we prepare to celebrate Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, we also long for the day when we can resume the rhythms of our lives and our worship. In John's Gospel, Jesus leaves with these words: "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe." There are so many things our hearts hunger for and our spirits thirst for in these uncertain times. There is so much that our eyes long to see. Many things are yet before us, but we hold on to our dreams for the future... Our vision for what can be. We long for the fulfillment of God's promise, and we have faith that our God is One who keeps promises. With eyes of faith, we see the world as it could be... as God intends it to be, and then we put our faith in action. As we look forward to gathering again, I hope we will explore new opportunities to serve and be served. We act in faith and hope, answering Jesus' call to go out and spread the Good News—the Gospel. Our commitment to God's vision reveals us as the kind of blessed people John's Gospel was talking about. There is no place I would rather be for Holy Week and Easter; no people I find more inspiring than you who make up Zion Church. You give life and breath to the truth and the promise of the Gospel. Thank you for your witness. You give me hope, and a sense of the possibilities before us. As God once reminded us through the prophet Jeremiah:

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. -Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

For this resurrecting blessing, I thank you, and look forward to seeing what God has in store for you next.

Blessings,

Pastor Katie



Worship Services for April

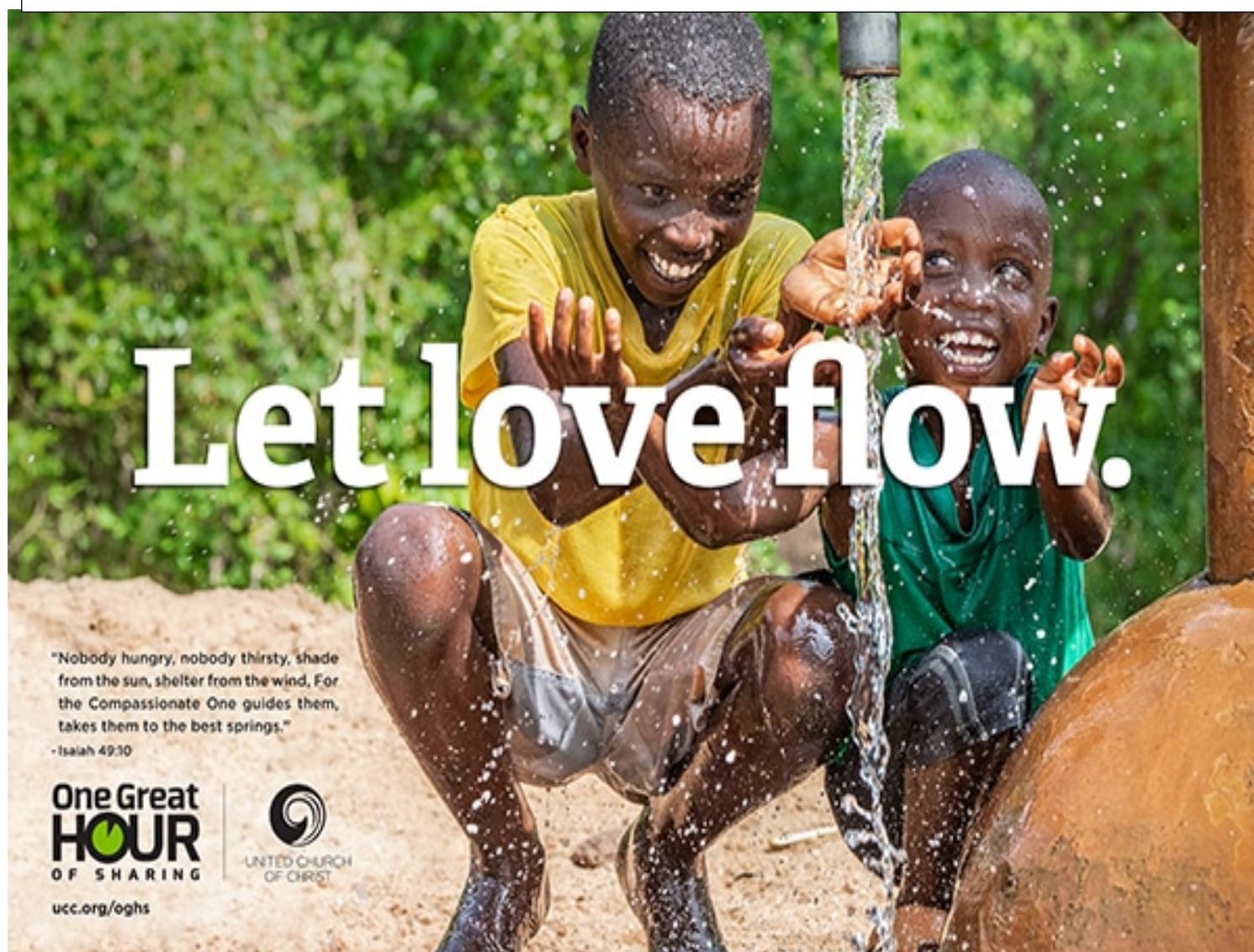
- Apr 1 Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom
- Apr 2 Good Friday Service (Virtual)
- Apr 4 (10 am) Communion Service
New Life (Easter Cross Service In-Person)
- Apr 11 Conference Worship on Zoom
OGHS Special Offering
- Apr 18 Faith Sunday (In-Person Services resume)
- Apr 25 Hope Sunday

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
Children and Adult classes available via Zoom.
- 11:00 am Virtual Worship Service
www.zionreformed.church/sermons
- 12:30 pm Zoom Fellowship Hour (changes to
1:00 pm as of April 18, 2021)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS AN OFFERING THAT BENEFITS PLACES LACKING HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND FOR PLACES WHERE DISASTER HAS STRUCK. ZION REFORMED WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS SPECIAL OFFERING ON APRIL 11, 2021.



"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade
from the sun, shelter from the wind, For
the Compassionate One guides them,
takes them to the best springs."

- Isaiah 49:10

**One Great
HOUR**
OF SHARING

ucc.org/oghs





Church Happenings

Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club meets on 3rd Friday of every month, 7pm at the home of Sue Graff. The selection for April is 'The Last Promise' by Richard Paul Evans- this months meeting date will be 4/16 at 7pm. Please join us for a great discussion and wonderful fellowship!

Soup Kitchen is held every Tuesday from 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm; serving a warm meal to our community. If you would like to volunteer please contact the church admin.

Micah's Backpack

We have started our 10th year in September. If anyone would like to help, please see Scherry Sellers. All donations are welcome — food and monetary!

At this time we currently have 20 children from Bester Elementary School we deliver to every Friday.



MONTHLY FIGURES	FEBRUARY	2021 (YTD)
Income	\$4,759.00	\$11,693.00
Transfer from Special Funds	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
Expenses	-26,396.25	-64,838.98
Net Income	\$3,362.75	-\$3,145.98

Church Calendar

APRIL 2021

April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

THU 4/1	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 pm
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
	Maundy Thursday via Zoom	5:30 pm
FRI 4/2	GOOD FRIDAY (Virtual Service)	
SUN 4/4	EASTER SUNDAY	
	Sunday School (via Zoom)	9:45 am
	Worship Service (Easter Cross Service)	11:00 am
MON 4/5	Consistory Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
TUE 4/6	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 4/8	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SUN 4/11	Sunday School (via Zoom)	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
	Journey Adult Sunday School via Zoom	7:00 pm
MON 4/12	Pastor Search Committee Meeting	5:30pm
TUE 4/13	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 4/15	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SUN 4/18	Children's Sunday School (via Zoom)	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
	Journey Adult Sunday School via Zoom	7:00 pm
MON 4/19	May Newsletter Deadline	12:00 pm
TUE 4/20	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 4/22	EARTH DAY	
	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SUN 4/25	Children's Sunday School (via Zoom)	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
	Journey Adult Sunday School via Zoom	7:00 pm
TUE 4/27	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
WED 4/28	Pastor Search Committee Meeting	5:30pm
THU 4/29	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm



4/4	Aaron Kelly
4/5	Tess Summers
4/7	Betsy Roulette
4/7	David Rhodes
4/9	Randy Hendershot
4/10	Lynda Graves
4/10	Kim Ridenour
4/12	Robert Kefauver
4/17	Sally Stewart
4/21	Michael Mooers
4/21	LoriBeth Martin
4/23	Krista Burgan
4/24	Kenlin Martin
4/26	Burnie Clutz
4/28	Mike Heyser



4/9	Julia & Dan Springer
4/12	Mary & Robert Kefauver
4/30	Alice & Scott Barr

Consistory Highlights

ZION's committee reports shared lots of great information during our March 1 Consistory meeting. Of note, the number of virtual viewings of the Sunday services are way up which confirms the decision for ZION to have an online presence. The new Adult Sunday School class led by Sue Graff has had a robust turnout. The Pastoral Search Committee is meeting twice a month. Kim Ridenour stressed the importance of the congregation understanding that the entire Search process will take time. Some of the resources that are developed through the Search process will be helpful when we have the new minister installed. Katie indicated that she is working closely with the Association on Congregational Vitality. This work was highlighted in the February 28 virtual worship service.

The planned home presentation of ashes on Ash Wednesday unfortunately was interrupted by delays in the US Postal Service deliveries. Katie is planning to do more "safe" home deliveries of materials as needed. To that end, Wells has contacted various retirement community homes where more than one congregation member is residing to see if he can deliver a bundle of mail to the retirement community's main office.

It has been confirmed that Celebrate Recovery is moving out of ZION and into a new home. They have been actively clearing out their belongings and it is expected that all of their belongings should be out of the building by the time you are reading this. We thank them and wish them luck in their new location.

Consistory is seeking interested members to be part of the constitution and bylaws review committee. The committee already has 3 confirmed members and will begin their review in the late spring or summer. Interested folks should contact Becky Owens.

The hiring of a security guard for the Soup Kitchen was unanimously approved at the March 1 meeting. We hope to have a qualified person in this role as soon as possible.

During the on-going repair work in the Bell Tower, dry rot was found in flooring supporting the bells. The Consistory approved the cost of a structural engineer to examine this situation and make recommendations of needed repairs to ensure the safety of the bells and of the congregation.

Christian Education has been discussing the possibility of creating a smaller flower cross to celebrate Easter this year. Due to the closure situation, building our usual tall flower cross is not reasonable. Please contact Kim Ridenour if you are interested in helping and/or have suggestions.

ZION has submitted 2 new community grant requests to support the operation of the Soup Kitchen and the restoration of 7 headstones in the cemetery. We should hear if these will be awarded to us later this spring. We also are awaiting final confirmation on the UCC grant for the Soup Kitchen that we submitted this winter. Finally, we have looked into another grant opportunity. The National Fund for Sacred Places (NFSP) works in conjunction with Historic Preservation to help places of worship maintain their historic buildings. The process potentially is very exciting but will require ZION to identify a worthy project, develop a solid grant request, identify a contact person, commit to a capital campaign for the project with matching funding coming from NFSP, and complete the project within a 2-year timeframe. Letters of Intent for this grant year were due on March 15 and we had not yet held any substantive conversations about pursuing this. We are open to exploring this opportunity for possible application next year. Please share suggestions for projects with any Consistory member.

We recognize that everyone is looking forward to in-person worship services as soon as possible. It is felt that we should not rush into re-opening and the current Conference guidelines support that thinking. Re-opening guidance from Barb Hendershot, our Parish Nurse, was shared and Katie urged us to examine the trends. The impact of the covid variants is a question mark at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation closely. An alternative to in-person worship services could be some outdoor social activities as the weather improves. We hope you are doing well and staying safe. Join us virtually every Sunday and for our special Good Friday and Easter Services.

Some Springtime Humor
A Parish Nurse Note April 2021

Spring is a wonderful time to be out in God's creation. For me, seeing the changes in the seasons and working outside in them is the best way I know to connect with God. Nature and its changes helps me keep things in perspective. In 2018, I completed the 40 hour volunteer Master Gardener Program offered by the University of Maryland Extension Office. This course trains volunteers to share their knowledge of the environment, horticulture and pest management with the public. Public education is geared toward "safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities." Master Gardeners also share food, fellowship and fun while offering this education. The following is an email that was shared with our group. Please feel free to laugh out loud!



A Conversation between God and St. Francis

God: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started cons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and earthworms. It's sensitive to temperature. Do the Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really quickly. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

God: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No, Lord, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, Lord.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so quickly, they drag out the hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle.

St. Francis: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, You're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about.....

God: Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Enjoy God's world!
Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN Parish
Nurse

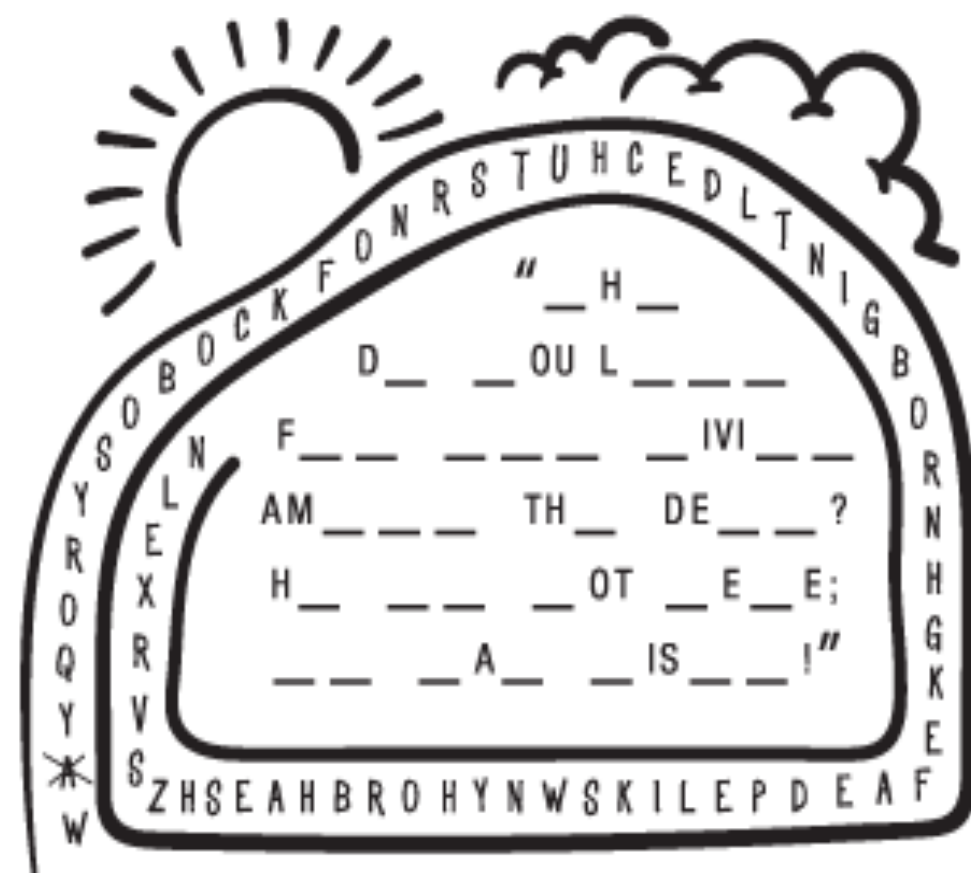




EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV



The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Bible Quiz

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4.)

Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:13.)

Special Announcements:

We will be resuming In-Person Services April 18, 2021

Please stay tuned for more information....

(Sunday School Classes)

As Of April 11, 2021 the Journey Adult Sunday School class, led by Sue Graff will be available from 7:00 – 8:00 pm each Sunday via ZOOM video and phone options. To Join go to <https://Zoom.us/Join> or by calling **301.715.8592**. Enter Meeting ID: **894 3614 5937**, and Password: **536** when prompted.

Our Children's Sunday School Class is hosted via Zoom with Kim Ridenour every Sunday at 9:45 am. If you have a young child that would like to participate please contact the church office at **(301) 739-7244** for more details.

(All Sunday School connection details are available at any time on the Church website at www.zionreformed.church/education.)

We have started Fellowship Zoom Meetings... Sundays.

<https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

Join Sunday Fellowship Hour (1:00 pm): (Upon resuming in-person services April 18 fellowship time will change from 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm)

By Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854041994?pwd=OEVwVTVLSDJhcnRlekZ3QWZOdz09>

By Phone: Call 301.715.8592, enter Meeting ID: 868 5404 1994 and Passcode: 519568

Maundy Thursday Service April 1, 2021 (5:30 pm):

By Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84272676444?pwd=V09ldEdEOVpDM2ZnTmNLNzhMM0RTdz09>

By Phone: Call 301.715.8592, enter Meeting ID: 842 7267 6444 and Passcode: 337217

Please contact the church office **(301) 739-7244 for further assistance with any of these announcements or If you need to make any announcements. God Bless and Stay Safe...**



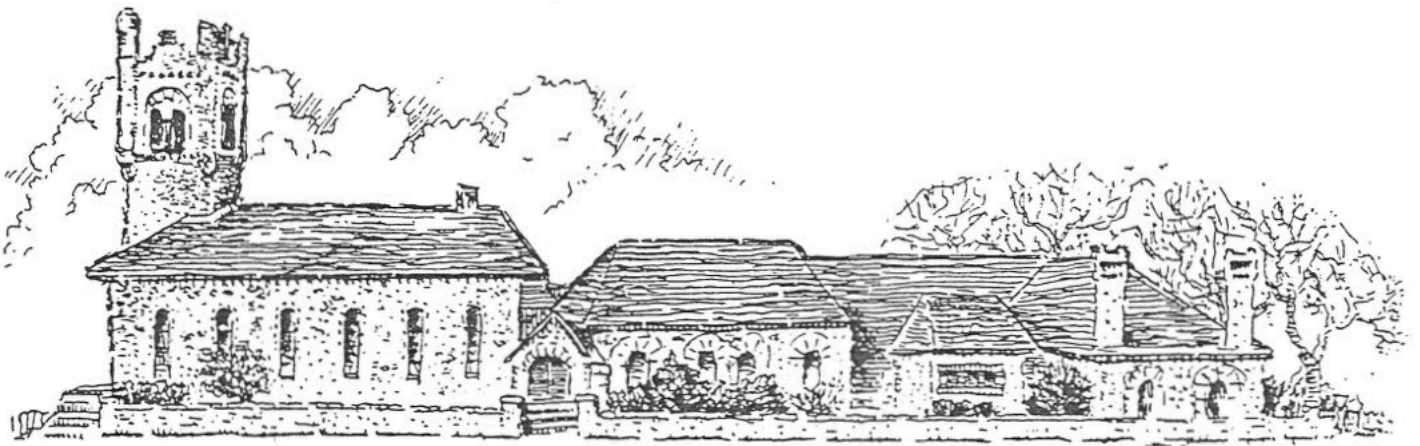
**Come and join us Sunday mornings
Virtually**

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Web: zionreformed.church/sermons

ALL are welcome!

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