

ZION CHURCH NEWS

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

Pastor's Pen

Is anything too wonderful for God?" (Genesis 18:14)

Generations ago, God had a vision for the world. A vision of nations filled with God's chosen people. God chose an elderly couple to be the parents of these nations: Abraham and Sarah. The problem, of course, was that they did not have any children. So, God sent messengers to Abraham to tell him that soon Sarah would conceive. "Impossible!" she cried, "I am too old." But as the reality of this promise hit home, Sarah laughed and cried out, "Is anything too wonderful for God?" When her precious son was born, Sarah named him Isaac, which means laughter. Sarah learned that nothing is too wonderful for God!

There are signs of God's presence all around us, and we are reminded of how wonderful God truly is. God is at work in our lives. As a community, we have come a long way since I first walked in the door. We have persevered through the pandemic lockdowns, and we are starting to see what our new reality looks like. The world may seem different, but God's wonderful presence still surrounds us and inspires us. Every step of the way.

And where do we see our wonderful God? We see God's presence as we gather for worship with the added capability of providing virtual worship to those who can't attend live worship at this time. The technology implemented during a time of crisis will benefit us for years, enabling us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in new and creative ways. We feel God's blessings as children laugh at our neighborhood block parties. We see Christ reflected in the eyes of each person served at our Soup Kitchen and the newly formed Food Pantry. We see the Spirit blowing through our memorial garden, reminding us to embrace our faith. God's presence is all around us, reminding us repeatedly that nothing is too wonderful for God... nothing is too difficult for God. God is with us, my friends, and speaks directly to our hearts and will bring us to the place that we are meant to be.

Is anything too wonderful for God? No, of course not! Praise be to God.

*Blessings,
~Pastor Katie*



Volume 62 Issue 8

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 Like
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2021 AUGUST



Church Happenings

Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club meets on 4th Friday of every month, 7pm at the home of Sue Graff. The selection for August is "The Heirloom Garden" by Viola Shipman this month's meeting date will be 8/27 at 7pm.

Soup Kitchen/ Food Pantry

Every Tuesday from 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm; serving a warm meal to our community and helping with hunger throughout the week. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church admin.



Children, grandchildren, teachers, and school staff are all invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 29th for a special blessing. In early September, we will be donating school supplies to Title One schools, Bester Elementary and the local Head Start program. We will also be blessing our Micah's backpacks and all donated school supplies (#2 Pencils, Sharpener, Erasers, Coloring books, Dry erase markers, wet wipes, colored pencils, washable markers, glue, crayons, notebooks, and socks). Please join us on this special day.

JOIN US FOR A BLOCK PARTY

All are welcome!!

Zion Reformed UCC
(in the Parking Lot)
201 N. Potomac St.
August 7, 2021
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Food, Games, Crafts, Music and more



Bring your family and friends!!

Phone 301-739-7244
www.zionreformed.church

Donations are welcome for Micah Backpack and Soup Kitchen Food Pantry.

MONTHLY FIGURES	JUNE	2021 (YTD)
Income	\$6,076.08	\$44,596.88
Transfer from Special Funds	\$145,000.00	\$255,000.00
Expenses	-\$183,715.05	-\$291,110.26
Net Income	\$17,361.03	8,486.62

Church Calendar

August 2021

August 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				

September 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		

August

SUN 8/1	Worship Service	10:00 am
	Children's Church via Zoom	10:15 am
TUE 8/3	Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry	5:00 pm
THU 8/4	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SAT 8/7	Back to School Block Party	3:00 pm
SUN 8/8	Worship Service	10:00 am
	Children's Church via Zoom	10:15 am
MON 8/9	Pastor Search Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
TUE 8/10	Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry	5:00 pm
THU 8/12	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SUN 8/15	Worship Service	10:00 am
	Children's Church via Zoom	10:15 am
MON 8/16	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	12:00 pm
TUE 8/17	Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry	5:00 pm
THU 8/19	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
SUN 8/22	Church Picnic / Outside Worship Service (City Park)	10:00 am
	Children's Church via Zoom	10:15 am
MON 8/23	CE Meeting	4:00 pm
TUE 8/24	Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry	5:00 pm
THU 8/26	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
FRI 8/27	ZION Book Club	7:00 pm
SUN 8/29	Blessing Of The Backpacks	
	Worship Service	10:00 am
	Children's Church via Zoom	10:15 am
TUE 8/31	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm

Come and join us Sunday mornings

Virtually/ In-Person

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/ZionRUCC

Web: www.zionreformed.church/sermons

ALL are welcome!



8/5	Judy Thompson
	Angie Shafer
8/8	Doug Wade
8/9	Barry Newlin
8/12	Michelle Ferguson
	Carol Mooers
8/13	Stacey Shealer -
	Broadwater
8/15	Frank Ebersole
8/16	Megan Shroyer
8/22	Rae Smith
8/25	Felicity Shafer
8/27	Peggie Roscoe



8/23	Carol & Randy Schultz
8/24	Susan & Burnie Clutz

That Four Letter Word- Volume II
A Parish Nurse Note August 2021

In January of this year, you may have read the first article I wrote about HOPE. During May, I received an email from our Parish Nurse coordinator that celebrated Mother's Day and Nurses' Day; the message in the email could refer to Everyone's Day. Some quotes from Scott Stoner of the Samaritan Family Wellness Foundation were printed that he referred to as "Momisms." I think a better term is "truisms." Here are a few that caught my eye.

- *A good sense of humor goes a long way.*
- *Just because you are thinking something doesn't mean you should speak it.*
- *It's not what happens to you that matters, but how you handle it.*
- *Always remember to be kind.*
- *Take care of each other.*



However, the most important one was the acronym HOPE, meaning "help one person everyday." Just the simple act of caring for someone else is uplifting to you and the one you help. Studies show that helping others can result in lengthening your life! Helping relieves stress, gives you joy and purpose, and shifts the focus from you to others. A University of Michigan 5 year study showed that people who did not HOPE (help one person everyday) during that 5 year period were more than twice as likely to die than those who helped others. The participants' health, age, income, activity level and education did not affect this outcome.

The Bible is full of teachings about helping others. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another." A much used quote from Acts 20:35 is, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Matthew 20:28 reminds us that, "...the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." In Exodus 17 we read that Aaron and Hur helped Moses by holding his arms so that the rod of God was up during the fight of the Israelites and the Amaleks. This assured the Israelites' victory. Galatians 6:9 tells us, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up." The story of the Good Samaritan comes to mind as one of the greatest examples of HOPE.



If you are young or older, active or homebound, rich or poor, you can still be very effective in the HOPE department. Make a phone call to someone you know is struggling, help a stranger by holding open a door or carrying part of their packages, share a meal with someone you know is lonely. And of course...pray, pray, pray!! The list of HOPE possibilities is endless!

A lesser quoted book of the Bible, Hebrews, tells us in chapter 6, verse 10 that, "God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." Hebrews also includes one of my favorite scriptures that is a great way to HOPE. Chapter 13, verse 2 sums it up very well: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

So get out there and HOPE.... you might be helping an angel!

Blessings and Health,

HOPE

Barb Hendershot, RN

Parish Nurse

Sources: apa.org/monitor/feb03/giving
abwc.org
cometothecrossing.com

PUZZLE

Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party – t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask – b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps – p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define – ee = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift – t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky – y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

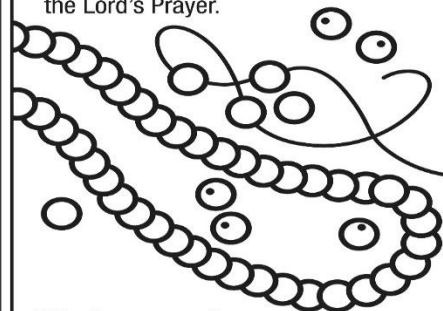
What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

Answer: pray, daily, bread, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

- A. Esther
- B. Jael
- C. Vashti
- D. Milcah



Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)

Special Announcements:

(Sunday School Classes)

Adult Sunday School will resume September 12, 2021.

Our Children's Church is hosted via Zoom with Kim Ridenour every Sunday at 10:15 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.)

Zion Dinner Theater (Nov 20th) Rehearsals every Sunday at 12:30 pm starting in September.

40 Days Of Prayer (Oct 11 – Nov 20, 2021)

On October 11, 2021, we will launch 40 Days of Prayer, where we will pray for each congregation, by name. We want to kneel in prayer as one association in prayer for each other through 40 days, to practice our covenant commitments to each other to love and support one another as siblings in Christ, to strengthen and encourage each other as a new chapter of faith emerges in our region. Congregations will select a day to be prayed for (excluding Sundays), or be assigned one. Congregations will also submit a short prayer that the association churches can pray for them that speaks to their life and ministry.

57th Annual Meeting (Oct 12 – 16th, 2021)

Theme: Remember, Renew, Rejoice.

Oct 12-14 (Virtual)

Oct. 15 – 16 (Hybrid) Hosted by the Shenandoah Association

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...



ZION REFORMED UCC invites you to our annual church picnic. This outdoor worship service will be held **August 22nd, 2021, 10:00 am** held at City Park's West Pavilion (near the tennis courts) and is a **BYOP** (Bring Your Own Picnic) event.

Families are invited to bring their family unit a picnic lunch to enjoy after worship. No shared foods outside of family units due to pandemic safety precautions.

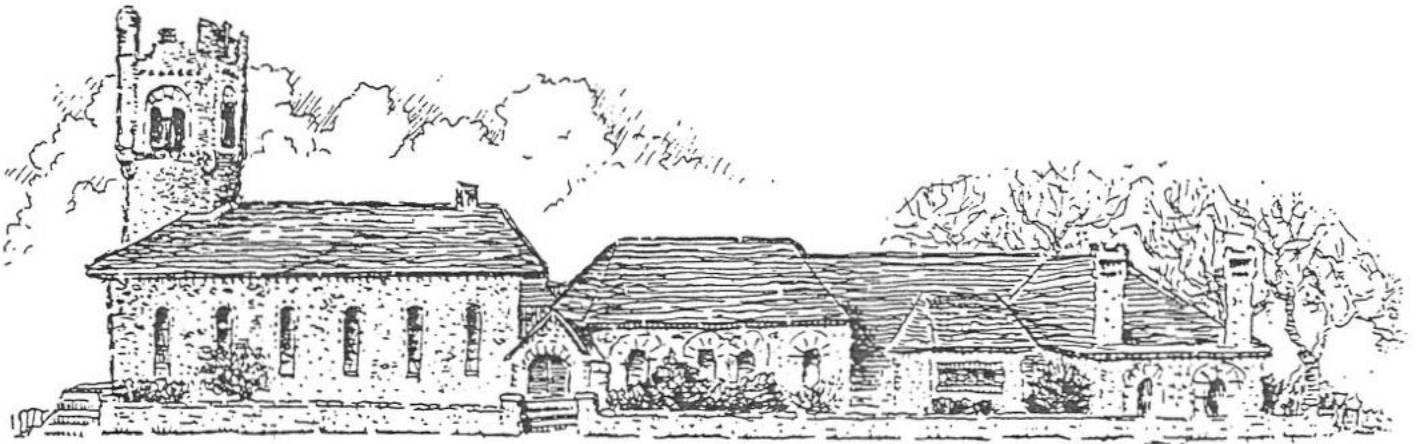
Let us worship God together in the beauty of God's creation!

HAGERSTOWN CITY PARK-WEST PAVILION
CITY PARK DRIVE, HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
(BTWN SOFTBALL FIELD AND TENNIS COURTS)

Map* For August 22nd Church Picnic / Outdoor Service.
***(Follow RED arrow)**



ZION REFORMED UCC
201 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST