



ZION CHURCH NEWS

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION, DECLARE A HOLY FAST, CALL A SACRED ASSEMBLY. (JOEL 2:15)

December 2021

Volume 62 Issue 12



Special Services for November

Dec 12 11:00am	Dec 21 6:00pm	Dec 24 7:00pm
Christmas Fund Offering	Longest Night Service	Christmas Eve Service

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45 – 10:45am Sunday School Classes

Ready, Set Grow for ages 4-18 (songs, crafts, Bible stories)	Rev. Arthur Grove Class Young Adult Bible Study Class Journeys Class (via zoon)
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11:00am Communion Service

Children's Church offered during worship

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

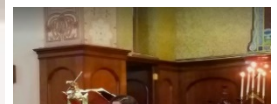
201 N. Potomac St. Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 301-739-724

Join us Sunday mornings either in church or online at

www.ZionReformed.Church

Like us on Facebook.



The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it – John 1:5

I recently asked many of you what your vision for a reforming church would be. How do you see the Spirit blowing through us today? I gathered your answers and we incorporated them in worship. As I read each of your hopes and dreams, we lit a candle to remind us that God's Holy light continues to shine.

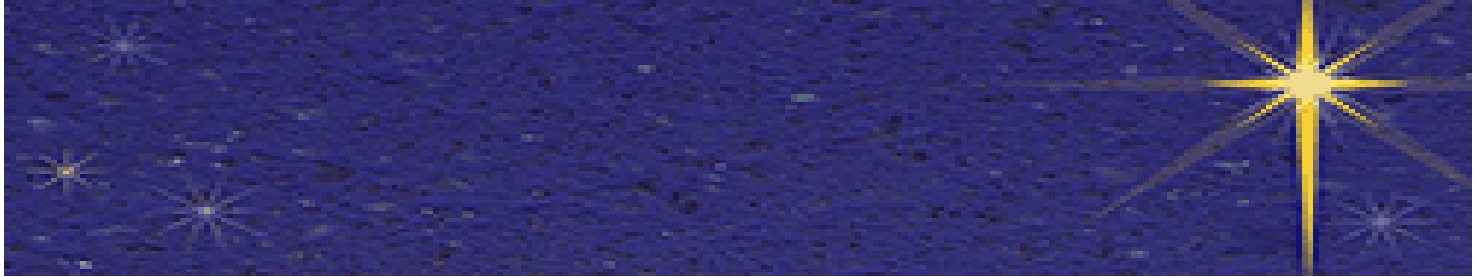
Our Candles of Reforming Hope and Love

- ∞ *We will redefine what "Church" means!*
- ∞ *We will bring God's Word into the 21st Century*
- ∞ *We will be a thriving, active, impactful community*
- ∞ *We will love one another – always!*
- ∞ *We will create a place where racism and homophobia have no place*
- ∞ *We will have giving hearts*
- ∞ *We will challenge traditions and move them into the future*
- ∞ *We will bring kindness into the church and send it out into the community*
- ∞ *We will be open to dialogue with other UCC congregations: "That they all may be one"*
- ∞ *We will increase our awareness of others needs*
- ∞ *We will stand up for justice and strive for peace*
- ∞ *We will provide a safe and non-judgmental environment for all people*
- ∞ *We will share our space as a community asset*
- ∞ *We are the future!*

These are the common dreams and visions of our congregation. May we live into them as we move into a new year.

Merry Christmas, my Beloved Friends

Pastor Katie



Outreach

Church Happenings

Zion Book Club

The Book Group will not be meeting until January. We are taking a "Christmas break" to enjoy time with family and friends. We will meet on January 28, 2022 at 7pm at the home of Sue Graff, or you may use the link for the Journeys Sunday School Class to join us via Zoom. We will be discussing "Fly Away" by Kristin Hannah (The October selection), "The Christmas Sisters" by Sarah Morgan (the November selection), and "The Christmas Table" by Donna Van Liere (the December selection). If you want to read ahead, you can read "The Wish" by Nicholas Sparks, which we will discuss in February.

Please join us as we have lively discussions and lots of fellowship!

Soup Kitchen & Food

Pantry Tuesdays @ 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Our numbers are growing each week at the Soup Kitchen and the Food Pantry. In November we served as many as 60 dinners in one night and 30 people were able to take home some food that night. As a result, we are in need of donations of non-perishable food items or cash donations for the purchase of food. Please see the enclosed list of items needed.

Service Workers are collecting hats and gloves for children ages 5 - 7. There will be a container at the middle door for donations. Let's try to fill the container.

During the Advent season, we are planning to offer a hybrid class during Sunday school for both youth and adults. The class will be based on the movie "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". We are planning on showing the movie after we decorate the Christmas trees on November 28th. Come and join us.

Micah's Backpacks
 We began our 11th year in September. If anyone would like to help, please see Scherry Sellers. All donations are welcome – food and monetary.



MONTHLY FIGURES	Oct 2021	Year to Date 2021
Income	\$4,741.53	\$69,468.41
Transfer from Special Funds	\$25,000.00	\$330,000.00
Expenses	-40,275.04	-395,854.40
Net Income	-\$10,533.51	\$3,614.01

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2021

SUN	12/5	Sunday School	9:45am
		Communion Service	11:00am
MON	12/6	Consistory Meeting	7:00pm
TUE	12/7	Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	12/9	Staff Meeting	11:00am
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
SUN	12/12	Sunday School	9:45am
		Communion Service	11:00am
		Congregational Meeting	12:00pm
TUE	12/14	Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	5:00pm
WED	12/15	<i>January Newsletter Deadline</i>	
THUR	12/16	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
SUN	12/19	Sunday School	9:45am
		Communion Service	11:00am
TUE	12/21	Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	5:00pm
		Longest Night Service	6:00pm
THUR	12/23	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
FRI	12/24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00pm
SAT	12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE	
SUN	12/26	Sunday School	9:45am
		Communion Service	11:00am
TUE	12/28	Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	12/30	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm

DECEMBER Birthdays

Matthew Cook	12/01
Richard Owens	12/02
John Dwyer	12/05
Jeanne Stoner	12/10
Carol France	12/13
Scherry Sellers	12/15
Howard Kaylor	12/20
Anissa Wade	12/20
David Ridenour	12/21
Carol Schultz	12/22
Ralph Sellers	12/23
Michael Jones	12/23
Sandra Rhodes	12/24
Mackenzie Ridenour	12/29



*Happy Birthday
Jesus*

Artwork by Clyde Roberts



DECEMBER Anniversaries

Peggy & Bob Lowman	12/07
Karen & Wells Ridenour	12/12
Susan & Richard Lowman	12/29

Happy Belated
Anniversary to
Lisa & Gerry Saum 11/17

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Now that we are officially into the fall season, our Consistory focus has shifted to developing the 2022 budget and recruiting volunteers to serve on the Consistory. The Consistory met twice this month to address these issues in addition to reviewing reports for the various Church committees. Our attendance numbers have remained steady this year but are down from previous years as are the offering contributions.

Given the age of our church structure, 2021 included many repairs and general maintenance projects much of which was funded by ZION's endowment. The proposed 2022 budget will see a continuation of these same types of projects. Relining of the roof gutters should be completed by the end of 2021. In the 2022 proposed budget are the following major projects: installing a new roof for the church structure; painting of the exterior eaves; repairing of a pipe providing heat to the Sanctuary; painting and freshening of the Fellowship Hall (Soup Kitchen area); restoring of more headstones in the cemetery; installing of a new A/C system in the Sanctuary; repairing of exterior water drainpipes and landscaping; repairing of the front wall masonry; and installing of new shed doors.

The restoration of 7 gravestones in our cemetery has begun. Funding for this part of the project was made possible by a grant from the Bowman Foundation. The restoration of the remaining headstones will be an ongoing process due to the age of many of the headstones, the impact of the environment, and the topography of the cemetery.

The congregational vote on the 2022 budget and the election of Consistory members will take place on Sunday, December 12 immediately following the worship service. Voting will be open to those in the Sanctuary and to those who participate online.

The Pastoral Search Committee reported that the Congregational survey responses are still being accepted. These responses will assist in crafting a church profile that reflects who we are as a faith community and what our dreams are for the future. If you haven't responded yet, please do so as soon as possible.

The Central Atlantic Conference has adopted a Resolution of Witness. This is a statement of commitment to anti-racism, to anti-homophobia, and to all types of hate crimes. Churches in the conference may choose to make their own resolutions.

New outdoor lighting will be featured during the holidays. It will include lighting the Christmas wreath and the Bell Tower as well as displaying a lighted Nativity Scene.

And finally, this year there will be a special hybrid, multi-generational holiday Sunday School program open to all. The movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," will be the focus of these sessions and will be shown on Sunday, November 29 following the Hanging of the Greens. Regardless of your age, new insights into this beloved Christmas classic will be made during these special Sunday School sessions. Please join us for this special program.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The Best Gifts
A Parish Nurse Note December 2021

The season of giving is here. Many stress over finding the perfect gift- if there is such a thing. Gift giving goes back to the three Wise Men who traveled to visit the Christ-child, bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh. As early as the 13th century in what is now Turkey, a Christian monk or bishop named Nicholas was recognized for helping those in need; he became the patron saint of children. After the Reformation, honoring saints was discouraged, but the people in Holland continued to remember the good deeds of St. Nicholas. Dutch immigrants that settled in the New York area continued to celebrate this saint. Santa Claus is a shortened form of St. Nicholas and gift giving to children in his name started in America in the 1800's.



Money shouldn't be the focus when buying gifts; the old saying, "It's the thought that counts," rings true. Gifts of time, help and just your presence can be priceless to others. Bake something as a gift or take a meal to someone who is lonely or in need. Visit someone you haven't seen in a while or take them on an outing. Help them prepare a new recipe or teach them a skill that you have mastered. Sometimes just your presence is the greatest gift you can give someone.

This story comes to mind during this season of gift-giving: A young boy asks his father how much money he makes in an hour. The father, stressed and angry that his son is still up when he gets home from work late, tells his son to go to bed without answering the question. The boy is persistent, and finally his father tells him what he makes in an hour. The boy then asks his father for half of that amount. The father at first refuses to give his son any money, but after reconsidering, he gives his son the money. When the boy puts that money with some other money he had saved, the father is less than happy. Wanting to know why the boy needed more money, the boy told his father that he just didn't have enough for what he needed; but with this added amount, the boy now had just the right amount. The boy handed all the money to his father (the amount of one hour of his father's wages) and asked him if he could now have an hour of his father's time.

Giving of yourself and your time is the best gift ever. Not only does the recipient benefit, but giving is good for the giver's mental and physical health. Your time is a gift that cannot be assigned a monetary value. These past months of Covid-19 restrictions and regulations makes it even more important to give of yourself and your time to others.

Think wisely about your gift-giving this year and remember this Irish Christmas Prayer:

The light of the Christmas star to you;
The warmth of home and hearth to you;
The cheer and good will of friends to you;
The Love of the Son and God's peace to you.



Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN
Parish Nurse

Sources: apartmenttherapy.com
worklife.coloniallife.com
faithgateway.com
wearesoliving.com



Each line below contains the letters to form a word that is part of the Christmas story. But each group of letters has 1 that is extra! Unscramble the words and write the extra letter on the lines at the bottom. What did we all receive at Christmas?

- | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|-------|
| ① | TGLBEHHEME | _____ | _____ |
| ② | NEAGLO | _____ | _____ |
| ③ | NRMEDAG | _____ | _____ |
| ④ | ODEKSNY | _____ | _____ |
| ⑤ | AMGYR | _____ | _____ |
| ⑥ | OHESJIP | _____ | _____ |
| ⑦ | EFJSUS | _____ | _____ |
| ⑧ | ITEENMSW | _____ | _____ |
| ⑨ | SPHDSREEO | _____ | _____ |
| ⑩ | EMCFAL | _____ | _____ |
| ⑪ | TLSRA | _____ | _____ |
| ⑫ | CSSNUEO | _____ | _____ |
| ⑬ | HEVSPE | _____ | _____ |
| ⑭ | ENIN | _____ | _____ |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| " | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | " |
| | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | |
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | |

God's gift of love

Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E)

In honor of J. Dixon Roman, whose stained-glass window reminds us that it is **Better to Give Than Receive**, please help us to restock our Food Pantry. In so doing you will be helping those less fortunate than yourselves to have a Merry Christmas.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

Interim Minister: Rev. Katie Penick (240)418-8028.
Interim Administrative Assistant: Rae Smith. Music
Director/Organist: Claire Marie Moblard. Choir Director:
Byron L. Stay. Treasurer: Lisa Saum. Special Funds Treasurer:
Carol Mooers, Parish Nurse: Barb Hendershot.

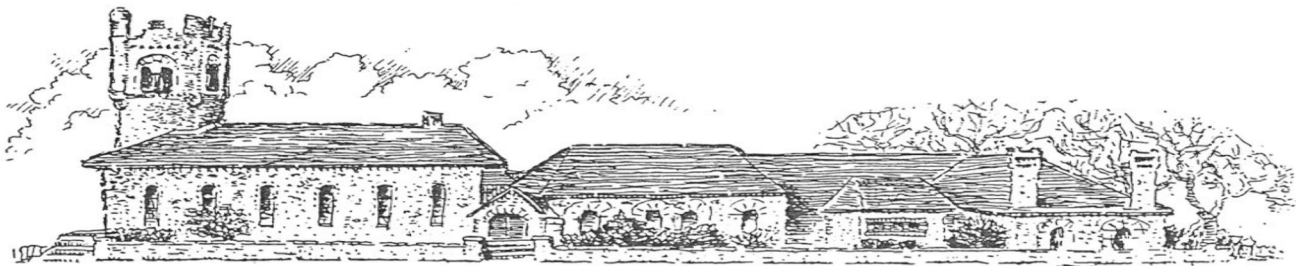
Consistory Elders: Becky Owens-President, Kim Ridenour-
Vice-President, Carroll Sager-Secretary, Carol Mooers.

Consistory Deacons: Michael Jones,
Dee Krause, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Tina Shafer

ZION CHURCH NEWS is published monthly by
Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
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Hagerstown, MD 21740
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Website: www.zionreformed.church Email: zionrucc@yact.net
Office hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm

Deadline for articles: the third Monday of the month prior to the month of publication. All articles are subject to editing for space. The medical information in our newsletter is provided without any representations or warranties, express or implied. You must not rely on the information in our newsletter was an alternative to medical advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider.

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



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ