



# ZION CHURCH NEWS

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

January 

Volume 63 Issue 1



## NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

## Special Worship Update

In-person worship services have been temporarily suspended due to the exceedingly high positivity rate in Washington County. Currently Washington County has a positivity rate of 22.56% as of Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. This rate exceeds the 10% rate determined by our Consistory as a rate to safely congregate together for corporate worship. In-person worship will resume once the positivity rate reaches 10% or below. In the meantime, please worship with us virtually in an effort to keep us all safe during the pandemic while we navigate holiday surges and the new omicron variant. All in-person activities are suspended during this time except for Tuesday's Supper which will offer carry-out meals only.

Virtual worship will be available at [www.zionreformed.church/worshiplate](http://www.zionreformed.church/worshiplate) at 11am every Sunday. Sunday School will be available via ZOOM every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:45am with the Children's Sunday School Class (ages 4-18) and Journeys Adult Class offered virtually (see insert for details). The Rev. Arthur Grove Adult Class and the Young Adult Class are considering virtual options, should they become available, we will share that information as soon as possible.

Should you need anything, Pastor Katie and the Church Office are available by phone or email to assist you.

**Zion Reformed United Church of Christ**  
201 N. Potomac St. Hagerstown, MD 21740  
[www.ZionReformed.Church](http://www.ZionReformed.Church)  
Phone: 301-739-7244  
*Like us on Facebook!*



*"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."  
(Proverbs 9:10)*

This holiday season has an eerie feeling of "déjà vu all over again." As I write this, family members, friends and many of you are re-configuring our holiday plans as COVID-19 rears its ugly head again. We are beginning to grow weary and frustrated... and reports are that this national trauma is not going to be over any time soon.

But then...

Then we are reminded of a God who chose to come to be with us in times of uncertainty and chaos... and bring us hope.

Then we remember that God walked among us and showed us how to love one another in radical hospitality.

Then we see a glimpse of the God of wisdom of who accompanies us as we enter into a New Year... a time of New Beginnings.

There's something special about the New Year. As we stand on the cusp between the past and the future, we have new opportunities to live into God's vision. This past year, we have begun to explore God's vision for Zion and for each of us, but we are not done! During this season of new beginnings, take a moment to think about what God has in store for all of us as we move forward. God's hopes and plans continue, God knows us and has known us from the beginning: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." God tells Jeremiah. God knows us and God loves us... and God's plans for us are beyond our imagination!

Remembering that God has a plan for each of us gives us the first insight we need towards God's Holy wisdom. And make sure you also take a moment to thank God for all the gifts we have already received and the dreams that God has for each of us.

May each of you have a Blessed and Happy New Year,

*Pastor Katie*

## Special Worship Announcement

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If you are unable to participate virtually and would like a written format of the service to read instead, please contact the church office.

If you require assistance connecting virtually or have any technical difficulties, please contact the church office at 301-739-7244 or by email at [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net).

And please remember, should you need anything, Pastor Katie and the Church Office are available by phone or email to assist you.

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**To join Children's Sunday School virtually:** Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 865 7471 1577 and Passcode: YouthSS.

**To join Journeys Adult Sunday School virtually:** Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937 and Passcode: 536055.

For a One-Click Join option, simply copy and paste the following URL into your browser:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436145937?pwd=SGxMbWNlYzBqbzJvVE9iUlJYTl0dz09>

**Worship virtually:** Go to [www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive](http://www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive) at 11am Sunday morning (or any time after to participate on-demand).





## Church Happenings

### Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club 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!

## Tuesday's Supper

Free Community Dinner & Food Pantry

Every Tuesday from 5 – 6:30 pm

This ministry is growing in leaps and bounds, especially during a pandemic! Our guests continue to be able to get a hot meal to take with them and items from the food pantry each week. Due to the high positivity rate meals are served as carry-out only with no in-house dining option. Donations are still needed and welcome as we are still serving the same number of guests. Non-perishable food items, toiletries, or cash donations are greatly appreciated.

## Outreach



Over 10,000 students in Washington County Public Schools receive free or reduced lunches and for many this lunch will be the last hot meal of the day. Children are especially hungry over the weekend when schools are closed. This is our 11th year working with this wonderful organization by helping to feed 20 children each weekend. If anyone would like to join us, please call the office at 301-739-7244. All food and monetary donations are welcome.

## Treasurer's Report

	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	YTD 2021
Income	\$9,449.72	\$10,813.00	\$89,731.13
Transfer from Special Funds	\$85,000.00	\$0.00	\$415,000.00
Expenses	-\$89,436.55	-\$24,442.91	-\$509,733.86
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$5,013.17</b>	<b>-\$13,629.91</b>	<b>-\$5,002.73</b>



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## January 2022

SUN	1/2	Sunday School (virtual only)	9:45am
		Sunday Worship (virtual only)	11:00am
TUE	1/4	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	1/6	<b>Epiphany</b>	
		Staff Meeting	11:00am
		Executive Committee Meeting	2:00pm
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
SUN	1/9	Sunday School (virtual only)	9:45am
		Sunday Worship (virtual only)	11:00am
		<i>*Installation of 2022 Consistory</i>	
MON	1/10	Consistory Meeting	7:00pm
TUE	1/11	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	1/13	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
SUN	1/16	Sunday School (virtual only)	9:45am
		Sunday Worship (virtual only)	11:00am
MON	1/17	Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed	
TUE	1/18	February Newsletter Deadline	
		Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
WED	1/19	Staff Meeting	11:00am
THUR	1/20	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
SUN	1/23	Sunday School (virtual only)	9:45am
		Sunday Worship (virtual only)	11:00am
MON	1/24	CE Meeting	4:00pm
TUE	1/25	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	1/27	Executive Committee Meeting	2:00pm
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
FRI	1/28	Book Club at home of Sue Graff	7:00pm
SUN	1/30	Sunday School (virtual only)	9:45am
		Sunday Worship (virtual only)	11:00am

January 2022						
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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					

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### JANUARY Birthdays

Brooks Grosh	1/17
Alden Grosh	1/17
Thelma Summers	1/20
Chris Shaffer	1/21
Scott Richardson	1/22
Holly Bell	1/22
Sarah Kalkbrenner	1/25
Benjamin Kelly	1/29
Jessica Green	1/31

### JANUARY Anniversaries

LoriBeth & Kenlin Martin	1/1
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# CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

We welcomed Pastor Katie's invited guest, Reverend Sheresa Simpson-Rice, to join our December consistory meeting. Sheresa is an Associate Conference Minister within the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ whose focus is on developing leadership.

During the committee reports, Lisa answered questions about various companies that we do business with. She also offered to complete the Financial Secretary's Report since Rae is employed in another position at this time. Katie noted that we received a new member on our rolls but also lost a long-term member. Our membership numbers appear to be steady. She also explained the plan for the Longest Night service and noted that Soup Kitchen guests will be encouraged to join in this special service. Kim talked about the special multi-generational Advent Sunday School study focusing on the story, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

A draft of the amended and updated ZION Articles of Incorporation (formerly called Constitution) and Bylaws were given to the Consistory members for their review. A discussion of the changes is planned for the January Consistory meeting. Once the Consistory has approved the changes, these two documents will be presented to the Congregation for a final vote of approval at our planned spring congregational meeting, date to be determined.

Under Old Business, Katie shared information about job performance reviews, goal setting, and the need for a new job performance evaluation tool. Becky presented a Covenantal Agreement for the Consistory. After much discussion it was decided to let the new Consistory determine if such a document is needed.

The topics for the December 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting were reviewed including which members are on the ballot for the 2022 Consistory, the proposed 2022 budget, and consideration of a possible year-round uniform worship time (to be voted on at the spring meeting).

Under New Business, Becky and Katie presented a new format for committees in hopes of streamlining the number of committees that exist and maximizing the manpower we have to do the committee work. This too will be a topic for discussion in 2022 with the new Consistory.

Sheresa spoke about developing a shared vision for Zion which is especially important as we move forward with our search for a settled minister.

This marked Becky's last Consistory meeting. The Consistory thanked Becky for her leadership especially with the many structural issues that she addressed.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas!

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## Installation of the 2022 Consistory Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> During Worship

### ELDERS

Kim Ridenour  
Carol Mooers  
Michael Jones  
Carroll Sager  
Tina Shafer  
Susie Clutz

### DEACONS

Daisy Schlotterbeck  
Dee Krause  
Calvin Livingston  
Rich Owens  
Alex Jones  
Rae Smith ( Temporary leave of absence)

The first meeting of the 2022 consistory will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

# Parish Nurse Notes

## Why Do We Do This?

*A Parish Nurse Note ~ January 2022*



Why do we worship? Do we really understand what happens when we worship? Is worship just a weekly ritual that we perform from memory? Is worship just singing and music? Is worship just taking communion? How do we know if we are worshipping correctly? What exactly do we get out of worship? In this new year, maybe we can figure this out; maybe we can be sure to be true worshippers.

Worship is more than going through the motions on Sunday or other days of the week. Worship is a selfless act. It is a lifestyle, not just something we do for a few hours every week. In order to be an effective worshipper, you must actively magnify God as well as express reverence and adoration for God. Why should we do this? Studies have shown that actively worshipping changes your brain (for the better) and improves your health! Some researchers believe that our brains are wired to communicate with God. A study of Carmelite and Franciscan nuns showed actual changes in brain structure and an immune system that was up to 5 times stronger – believed to be related to worshipping God. Those who attend church regularly were found to have a 30-35% less chance of early death from digestive, circulatory and respiratory problems as well as better stroke prevention. Vanderbilt University study results showed that non-worshippers had higher scores in stress related health areas (blood pressure, cholesterol and inflammation). Those aged 40-65 who attended church regularly also had a 55% reduction in their mortality rate; this was attributed to decreased stress.

When you truly worship, you let go of yourself. You shift your focus from yourself and your problems to seeking God. Your heart is renewed through worship and healing takes place. You are refreshed and are able to put your life and your problems in perspective. Doors can be opened or doors that are detrimental can be closed. Forgiveness is received and guidance is shown. You find that God's love and protection are freely given. Glory is given to God and that same glory will eventually be experienced by those that truly worship. It is impossible to truly worship and not be filled with love. As God fills your heart with love, you are able to pass that on to others. All these things that happen during worship are great for both your mental and physical well-being. It's free for the taking if you just make yourself available!

As we embark upon a new year, let's try to focus on being a true worshipper of God.....and many good things will fall into place. Be an active worshipper every day of the week, no matter where you are or what you are doing. Your body, soul and spirit will benefit, and so will those around you!



*Blessings and Health,*

Barb Hendershot, RN  
Parish Nurse

### Sources:

*Our Daily Bread*, November 2021  
[positivelygood.co/the-benefits-of-praise-and-worship](https://positivelygood.co/the-benefits-of-praise-and-worship)  
[medium.com/mustard-seed-sentinel](https://medium.com/mustard-seed-sentinel)  
[joydigitalmagazine.com](https://joydigitalmagazine.com)



## MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

*Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.*



A type of horn \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ MURTEP

Played by ☐ \_ \_ \_ King David PRHA

Plucked to make sound \_ ☐ \_ \_ \_ \_ IGSNSTR

Similar to a \_ \_ \_ ☐ \_ \_ MRBELIT

A type of harp \_ \_ \_ ☐ ELRY

Blown through to make sound \_ \_ ☐ \_ EPPI

A percussion instrument \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ☐ YBLACMS

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals, Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Make a  
joyful  
noise  
to the LORD,  
all the earth...



Psalm 98:4



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."

Interim Minister: Rev. Katie Penick (240) 418-8028  
Interim Administrative Assistant: Rae Smith  
Technology & Multimedia: Michael Jones (240) 203-0854  
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, and Carol Mooers.

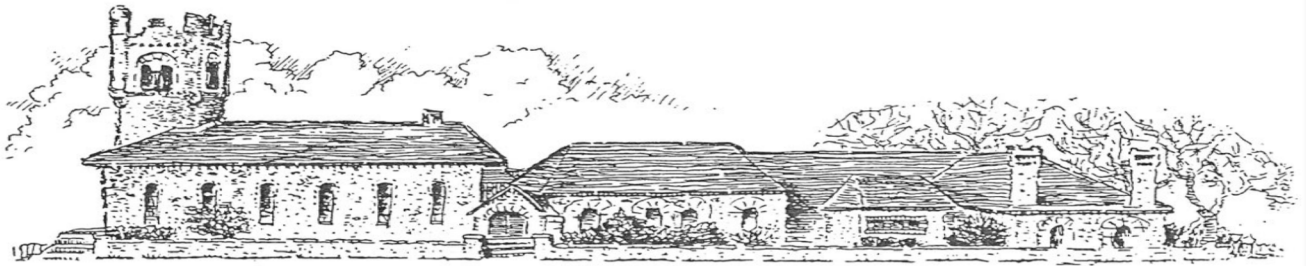
Consistory Deacons: Michael Jones, Dee Krause, Daisy Schlotterbeck, and Tina Shafer

ZION CHURCH NEWS is published monthly by Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, 201 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740.  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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