



ZION CHURCH NEWS

BLOW A TRUMPET IN ZION -- FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING. (JOEL 2:1)

MARCH 2022

Volume 63 Issue 3



MERCIFUL GOD

Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days, bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent.

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross

you proclaim your love for ever and ever.

AMEN

Special Services for March Women's History Month

March 2 7:00pm Ash Wednesday	March 10, 17, 24, 31 Lenten Worship	March 6 – 12 UCC Women's Week	March 13 Daylight Savings Spring forward	March 27 11:00am One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering
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"Jesus Remember Me" Hybrid Lenten Worship Service Thursday at 7:00pm

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45 – 10:45

Sunday School Classes

Ready, Set, Grow for ages 4-18

Journeys Class

Arthur Grove and the Young & Restless

All classes will be participating in a Joint hybrid class during lent. "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton

11:00am Sunday Worship – Journey to Jerusalem

Children's Church offered during worship

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

201 N. Potomac St. Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 301-739-7244

Join us Sunday mornings either in Church or online at

www.ZionReformed.Church

Like us on Facebook



"Therefore, God blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Ex 20:11).

Lent is what we call the time of year when we prepare for Holy Week, leading up to Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday, which is a penitent service that uses ash to mark the sign of the cross on the believer's forehead, symbolizing our separation from God and our need for salvation. Traditionally, we use the ashes of Palm Sunday branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service.

This beautiful service reminds us of our humanity as we begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is traditionally a 40-day fast (not including the 6 Sundays) and is a time when we seek to prepare our hearts to remember Jesus' own death.

Lent owes much of its spirit to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. The desert that Jesus went to during this time of temptation and testing was a place where winds would howl around tall, rough stone. It must have been terrifying at night: dark, looming shapes, unearthly wailing of wind, and nothing else. In this place, Jesus was offered the opportunity to be the wrong kind of messiah. He rejected each possibility and committed his life and ministry to God.

The number forty is important to our religious traditions. When God's Chosen Ones were led from Egypt to the Promised Land, they refused to go in because they did not trust God's promise. God led them into the desert for forty years, until they learned the trust they lacked. In Noah's day, forty days of flooding washed away the evil that had infected the world.

When Jesus entered the desert, he left behind all the expectations of others, all the hopes, all the illusions. We face the same distractions that Jesus did, and we are asked to rise to the challenge. We are still people dependent on our illusions. We think we understand God, we think we know ourselves and those around us. We plan our lives and are shocked when these plans fall through. We impose our wills on God or declare that we know God's plans. Just as Jesus let go of his illusions, each year at Lent we are reminded that we must give up ours. People often try to reconnect with God by giving things up – chocolate, TV, shopping, no meat on Fridays, etc.

This is to offer us the opportunity to hear God's voice. If we are brave, we can run through this desert trying to find the real God amid the distractions of our day to day lives.

This Lent, my hope is that each of us will enter Holy Week refreshed and renewed by a deeper connection to the God who creates, sustains, and loves us... not just during Lent, but throughout the days of our lives.



Church Happenings

Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club will meet on March 25, 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 "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult. A very timely story of a young couple separated by Covid, in more ways than one.

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

A separate evite will be sent out the week before the group's meeting date.

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 the pandemic! Our guests continue to be able to get a hot meal and items from the food pantry each week. Donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, or cash donations are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTIAN ED

We are planning a joint hybrid (in person & zoom) Sunday School session each week during Lent that will include both adults and youth. Please join us for "The Walk", Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Rev. Adam Hamilton.

Zoom link:

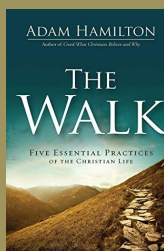
<https://zoom.us/join>

enter Meeting ID:

894 3614 5937

and Passcode:

536055



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.

CANS! CANS!

Thanks everyone for recycling your aluminum cans for the Tuesday Supper/Food Pantry. Dave Ridenour picks up cans approximately every 2 months. All proceeds help to feed the community and at the same time save the earth.

Contact Dave if you have cans to be picked up.

MONTHLY FIGURES	JANUARY 2022	Year to Date 2022
Income	\$2843.00	\$2843.00
Transfer from Special Funds	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Expenses	\$35,560.38	\$35,560.38
Net Income	\$-7,717.38	\$-7,717.38



CHURCH CALENDAR

March 2022

TUE	3/1	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
WED	3/2	Ash Wednesday	
THUR	3/3	Staff Meeting	11:00am
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
FRI	3/4	World Day of Prayer	
SUN	3/6	Sunday School	9:45am
		Sunday Worship	11:00am
MON	3/7	Consistory Meeting via Zoom	7:00pm
TUE	3/8	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	3/10	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
		Lenten Worship	7:00pm
SUN	3/13	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
		Sunday School	9:45am
		Sunday Worship	11:00am
MON	3/14	Search & Call Committee Meeting	5:30pm
TUE	3/15	April Newsletter Deadline	
		Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	3/17	St. Patrick's Day	
		Staff Meeting	11:00am
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
		Lenten Worship	7:00pm
SUN	3/20	Sunday School	9:45am
		Sunday Worship	11:00am
TUE	3/22	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
WED	3/23	Search & Call Committee Meeting	5:30pm
THUR	3/24	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
		Lenten Worship	7:00pm
FRI	3/25	Book Club at home of Sue Graff	7:00pm
SUN	3/27	Sunday School	9:45am
		Sunday Worship	11:00am
		One Great Hour of Sharing	
		Special Offering	
MON	3/28	CE Meeting	4:00pm
TUE	3/29	Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry	5:00pm
THUR	3/31	Staff Meeting	11:00am
		Executive Committee Meeting	2:00pm
		4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm

****March 13 Daylight Savings Time begins
Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead****

March 2022							April 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH Birthdays

Jim Rhodes	3/2
Page Wise	3/3
Billie Keller	3/5
Ellen Barr	3/5
Linda Frakes	3/7
Tina Shafer	3/7
Christian Grosh	3/8
Liz Dattilio	3/9
Julia Patterson	3/11
Christine Coleman	3/14
Brooks Heyser	3/16
Halie Green	3/18
Kent Shaffer	3/20
Calvin Livingston	3/23
A J Atwell	3/25
Ralph Hess	3/29
Sue Graff	3/31

MARCH Anniversaries

John & Bobbie Schnebly 3/22



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

ZION Consistory Highlights for February 2022

In spite of the cold weather and the lack of in-person worship, lots has been happening at ZION. The new roof is coming along well and should be completed in the near future. Once the roof is finished, the eaves will be painted. The installation of the new A/C unit for the Sanctuary will be starting in February as well.

The Pastoral Search Committee and the Consistory held a joint meeting to look at our Mission Statement, our Values, and our Vision. This discussion will be continued on February 19. All of this work will lead to strengthening our church profile. A lay leadership conference offered through the UCC Conference will be held sometime this spring.

A new draft of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were approved by the Consistory. This document will be shared with the Congregation for their vote of approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting following the Sunday Service on March 27. The changes primarily deal with updating the language to include the use of electronic meetings and votes and with adding Bylaws which were not previously part of the Articles. The Articles had not been updated since 2009. However, the Consistory agreed that a review of these two documents should be conducted every 2 – 3 years to ensure that the documents reflect our needs and operating processes.

New job descriptions for the Director of Music/Organist and the Choir Director were approved. These will facilitate the annual job performance evaluation process and more clearly reflects our expectations and needs in these positions.

The redrawing of the plat of the church and parsonage property was discussed and agreed upon. This redrawing would preserve ZION's control of the parking lot should ZION ever decide to sell the parsonage. More discussion and information will be offered on this topic over the next few weeks and months.

In 2021, ZION received a \$4725 Bowman Grant from the Community Foundation to restore 7 headstones in our cemetery. Due to the challenging weather of last year, the headstone restoration work was not started by the company hired to do this work. It is hoped that the 2021 grant award can stay in place and that a new application for 2022 will be approved by the Foundation to continue with this project. The Consistory is carefully monitoring the covid positivity rate. At this time the rate appears to be dropping. Should this drop continue, it is hoped that in-person activities can be started up again soon. In the meantime, our new virtual streaming service, Live Control, is working well. Please check it out if you haven't already.

As mentioned before, the Congregational Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 27 immediately after the worship service. It is planned to be a hybrid meeting of in-person and virtual participants. Annual reports of committees are being gathered so the documents can be shared with the Congregation 2 weeks in advance of this meeting. Please be on the lookout for this important information.

And please stay safe. Spring arrives next month!

Parish Nurse Notes

*It's Time to Give and Grow
A Parish Nurse Note March 2022*

As we enter into the season of Lent, we remember God's love given to us through Jesus, His death on the cross, and our preparation for the Easter season. Lent means to give something up temporarily. We also need to grow during Lent- we need to cultivate patience, love and community. How can we combine these ideas? There are many things you can "give up" for Lent in the spirit of remembering God's love. Give something away for the 40 days of Lent. It can be little things each day or a big project that revolves around giving of yourself. The possibilities are endless. Hugs are a great thing to give away; they have been sorely missed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Maybe just a kind word or a hand written note can be used as a temporary replacement for a hug. Give away a meal to someone that is lonely or in need of a little help. Sharing food is always a great way to give to someone. Give up some of your time to help someone with their housework or yard chores. Help with spring clean-up is always appreciated. Give of yourself as a volunteer; our soup kitchen can use help with donations, meal preparation and serving. Helping our food bank by donating non-perishables is a great thing to "give away" during the Lenten season. Give up some of your time to read a daily Lenten devotional or a daily scripture; lots of reading material for Lent is available. Give up some of your time to run errands for a shut-in or someone going through a tough time. Give up some of your time to actually call someone (no texting) and talk to them. Hearing another's voice is a great comfort and creates much needed connection with others.



Why not grow your commitment to Zion? Volunteer and become more active in attending services and functions. This giving of your time to church has been proven in numerous studies to prolong your life; church promotes a healthy lifestyle as well as the benefits of prayer and meditation. People that are regularly involved in church lead happier lives! Couples that are both active in the church are less likely to split up. Studies have also shown that children who regularly attend church have less chance of a divorce in later life and are more apt to overcome poverty. Better academic performance is also achieved.

The arrival of spring occurs during Lent. Why not give away your time to help better your health and that of the earth? Gardening (both vegetable and flower) has many benefits. It burns calories, decreases stress, decreases anxiety and depression, and keeps you goal oriented. It is great to focus on living things after the past months of dreary weather and even drearier Covid-19 happenings. Actually getting your hands in the soil is beneficial; a healthy bacteria in the soil, *Mycobacterium vaccae*, increases your levels of serotonin and dopamine. These two chemicals in the brain are responsible for emotional well-being and decreased depression. Being outside also increases your Vitamin D, an important part of overall health. (Remember your sunscreen!) Gardening helps increase hand strength and is a great family activity. Even if you only plant a few vegetables, home grown produce is a great addition to your diet; you may even have enough to share!



It is important to introduce children to Lent and the concepts of giving up (or away) and preparing yourself for Easter. Family devotional time is great for bonding and family dynamics. It's also easier to stick to your Lenten promises if everyone is involved. Have your children help in whatever ways you are giving of yourself. Studies have shown that children also benefit from "hands in the soil." A fairly new concept is "dirt deficiency" or "hygiene hypothesis." Research shows that children have become less exposed to dirt, which has been indicated as causes for increases in allergies, asthma and mental health disorders in children.

During this Lenten season, think of ways to give up or away, whether they are small or large. Each act of giving will bring you closer to a healthier life and a better community, especially if it continues way past the 40 days of Lent!

Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN
Parish Nurse

Sources: health.talk.unhealthcare.org

permaculture.com.au

The Positive Effects of Church Attendance by Roda Abaya
December 11, 2008



ZION REFORMED UCC

YARD SALE

Date: Saturday May 7, 2022 **SAVE THE DATE !!!**
Time: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Where: Zion Parking Lot

All proceeds will benefit and our Outreach Programs!

So, let's get busy cleaning out your closets and basements!

Donations can be placed on the stage in the Chapel! More info coming soon...

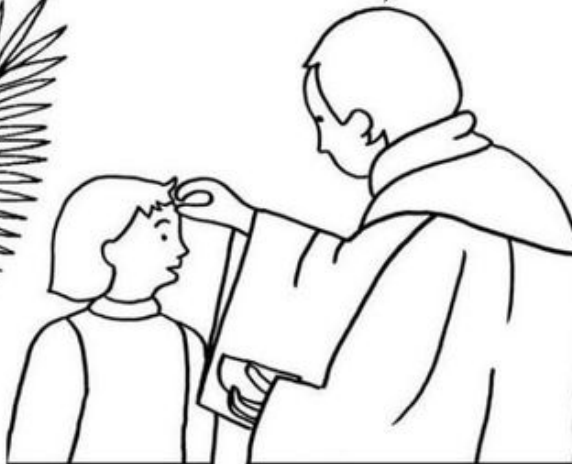
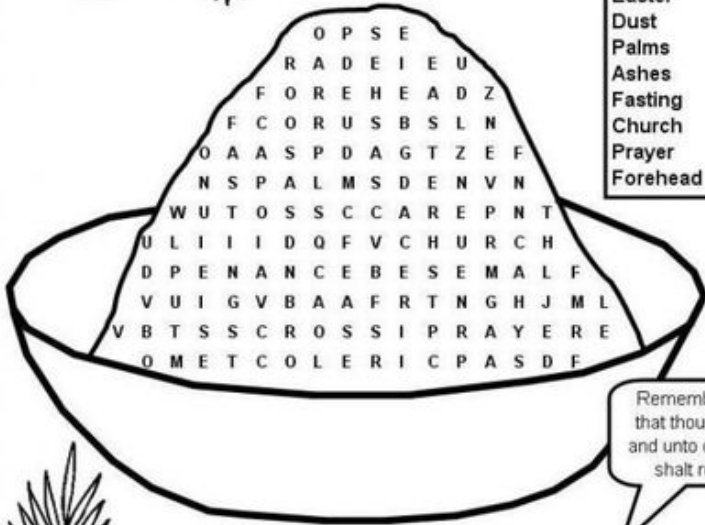
HAPPY CLEANING

Ash Wednesday



Find these hidden words
and circle them in the
puzzle below.

Cross
Lent
Rite
Penance
Easter
Dust
Palms
Ashes
Fasting
Church
Prayer
Forehead



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
Parish Nurse: Barb Hendershot

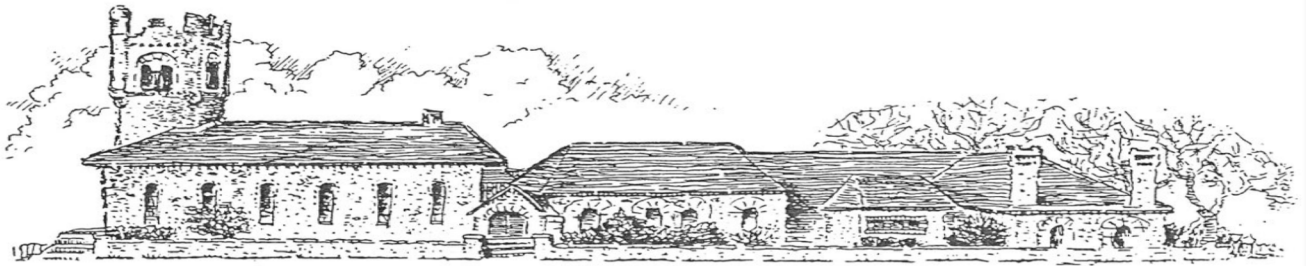
Consistory Elders: - Kim Ridenour-President, Michael Jones
-Vice-President, Carroll Sager-Secretary, Carol Mooers-Special
Funds Treasurer, Susie Clutz, and Tina Shafer

Consistory Deacons: Dee Krause, Calvin Livingston, Rich
Owens, Daisy Schlotterbeck, and Rae Smith

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professional healthcare provider.

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