

ZION'S HEAVENLY

Look for:

- *Worship Schedule
- *Acolyte Schedule
- *Music Schedule
- *Announcements
- *Youth Group News



- *Exciting Events
- *Monthly Calendar of Events

- *Birthday Calendar
 - *Synod News
- And Much, Much More!**

HAPPENINGS





Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*231 Years of worshipping the
Lord with each other....*

**ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF
WEST PENN TOWNSHIP**
A Federated ELCA & UCC Church

45 Cemetery Rd
New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-5111 (& Fax)

www.zionstchurch.org

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor
Cell # 610-737-2634
zionstch@ptd.net
revarc@ptd.net

Come Worship with Us!

9:00am – Sunday Worship Service

*(1st Sunday of the month alternates Altar Communion and Pew
Communion)*

10:15am – Sunday School

(No Sunday School until further notice)

5:00pm – 1st & 3rd Saturday Night Worship Services

(1st Saturday Night of the month we will have communion)

***(Saturday night Services have been cancelled until further
notice)***

As of April 2005,
Zion's Stone Church Lutheran Congregation and Zion's Stone Church United Church of Christ
Congregation enter into a shared ministry. Keeping both heritages in the Sunday Worship
Service each week.



CHURCH STAFF...

Pastor: **Rev. Russell Campbell**

Office Hours:

Pastor's Office is currently closed

Cell Phone # 610-737-2634

Pastor's Home Email: revarc@ptd.net

Pastor's Church Email: zionstch@ptd.net

Church Administrator/Treasurer:

Charlotte Fritz Office Hours:

Office is currently closed

Charlotte's Office Email: zscofc@ptd.net

(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)

Church secretary:

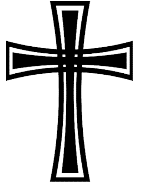
Brenda Osenbach Office Hours:

Office is currently closed

Brenda's Office Email: zscbrenda@ptd.net

(Please use this email for all bulletin information
and other information for Brenda.)

**Due to COVID-19
The Pastor Office
Hours
and Church
Office hours will
remain closed
until further
notice. However,
you may still
reach the Pastor
on his cell phone
and you can
leave a phone
message for the
office staff and
they will get back
to you. Or you
can send them
an email.**



Church Office phone number:

**570-386-5111 – When calling use
prompt #2 for the Pastor, prompt #3
for Brenda, & prompt #4 for
Charlotte**

Check us out on Facebook!

Thanks to Sarah Martinez
for being our Facebook Coordinator!

Zion's Stone Website

www.zionstonechurch.org

Sexton(s):

Fred (& Donna) Gimbi - Home # 570-386-2888

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

CDC Guidelines are still in place for Worship Services when we are worshipping together at the Church:

We will be adhering to the CDC guidelines for regarding sanitation and social distancing. Everyone, who does not have a medical condition, will have to wear a mask/face covering when entering the church, during the church service and leaving the building. If you forget yours, there will be a mask provided by an usher.

There will be no “lingering” in the Narthex. The Pastor will be at the Altar railing and he won’t be able to personally greet everyone.

You will be ushered into the Sanctuary by a Board Member. Every other pew is closed off. You will be dismissed by an usher pew by pew.

There will be no sharing of the peace, hand sanitizers are in all pews and we encourage you to use them when needed. Along with washing your hands with hot water and soap for 20 seconds after using the restrooms.

There will be no Lectors or Acolytes at this time. There will be no printed bulletins, newsletters, and no communion cards to be filled in.

On Communion Sundays you will receive communion on the way out of church after the service. (We will have someone on Staff keep a record of everyone that takes Communion.) Congregational singing will be done while wearing your mask/face covering.

The Auditorium will be used when the sanctuary fills. The worship service will be broadcast onto the screen in the Auditorium.

Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. We strongly encourage you to bring your bible from home to use.

A collection plate will be placed in the narthex for you to place your offerings in when entering the narthex.

(If you are not attending church services in the building, please consider continuing to mail in your offering envelopes.)

If you are not feeling well or have concerns about attending the service in person, you're encouraged to stay home and continue watch the service on YouTube.

The areas of the church used for worship will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next week's service.

You may call Pastor Russ on his cell phone or the church office and leave a message or email them.

All events besides church services are still cancelled until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE:

All Fundraising Activities/Events have been cancelled until further notice.

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, February 7, 2021 – 5th Sunday in Epiphany

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch Pastor Russ on Youtube or Facebook

Sermon Title: “Urgent vs Important”

Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration of our Lord

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch Pastor Russ on Youtube or Facebook Live

Sermon Title: “Glimpses of Glory”

2 Kings 2:1-12 Mark 9: 2-9

Wednesday February 17, 2021 – Ash Wednesday

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch Pastor Russ on Youtube or Facebook Live

7:00pm –Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Have Mercy, O God”

Psalms 51: 1-17 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Sunday, February 21, 2021 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch Pastor Russ on Youtube or Facebook Live

Sermon Title: “Enemies”

Psalms 25: 1-10 Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – Lenten Meditation

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch the service on Youtube or Facebook Live

Sunday, February 28, 2021 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship Service is Cancelled

Please watch Pastor Russ on Youtube or Facebook

Sermon Title: “I’ve Gotta Be Me”

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Mark 8:31-38

**** Scripture Lessons may change**

****No Lectors or Acolytes are needed in until further notice**

ZSC Board Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Board Members:

X Pastor Russel Campbell X Nancy Meiser X Paul Miller X Amanda Sassaman
X Charlotte Fritz X Blair Miller Gary Clemson X Jeremy Brothers
Scot Dietrich X Gene Raymond X Dan Metzger

(X) = Board Members present

Member of the congregation – None

Congregation Comments – None

Pastor Russ gave his report to the Board and advised us that he would be contacting Sarah Martinez about updating the Facebook page for Christmas Eve.

Secretary's Report – was given by Amanda. Paul Miller made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report and it was seconded by Dan Metzger.

Treasurer's Report – was given by Charlotte and Dan Metzger made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Gene Raymond.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to Report

Property Committee – will be contacting Willie again about the problems in the bathrooms.

Outreach, Fundraising and Security Committee – Nothing to Report.

Music & Worship Committee - Gayle will sing at Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm.

Old Business – Nothing to Report on.

New Business – we will have a 4pm & 7pm Christmas Eve Services. Doors will open 1 hour before. Ushers will be escorting in and out. Ushers for night services will be Gene, Dan, Gary, Amanda & Sam. Charlotte will take attendance and Nancy will greet everyone. Envelopes will be distributed after each service. Motion to end the meeting was made by Blair Miller and seconded by Paul Miller.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes taken by Board President, Nancy Meiser



NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS...

Please help the office be efficient by having all newsletter submittals emailed to the church office (or placed in the newsletter submittal boxes) by the newsletter deadline. If you would like your wedding announcement or if you have a loved one who has entered into eternal life, thank you messages, etc., please contact the Office by the newsletter deadline or it may not get put in. *Thank You!*

ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS...

If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers or bulletins, please call the office at (570) 386-5111 before 12 pm on Wednesday. **Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see printed in the bulletins. We still have Sundays available for the months ahead. Bulletins and altar flowers are available. Please call the office every time you want to sponsor them.



***Please do not put your request in the envelopes,
because it may not be seen until it is too late.
YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE.***



COST OF SPONSORSHIP:

ALTAR FLOWERS \$25.00

Rosebud: \$10.00

Make checks payable to

Bulletin: \$10.00

Zion's Stone Church. Thank You!

LECTOR & GREETERS:

are not needed until further notice

TO SCHEDULE THE CHURCH/AUDITORIUM:

Please call the church office at (570) 386-5111. If you or someone you know is planning a wedding at Zion's Stone Church, please contact Pastor Russ. You will have to adhere to CDC guidelines until further notice.

Do you have a new Address or Telephone &/or Cell Phone Number?

Please notify the office either through email (zscofc@ptd.net) or phone (570-386-5111) with your new information. This way we can keep in touch with you and provide you with important information regarding the church. Thank you!

(All the clip Art printed in this newsletter was taken from google clip art.)

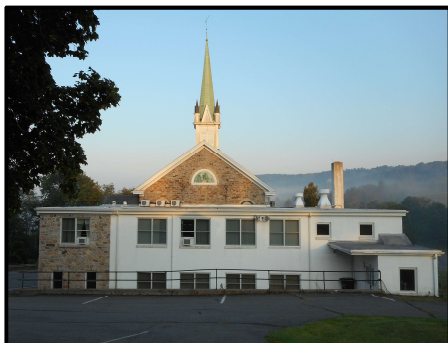


Photo taken by Gayle Mateyak

Special THANK YOU...

(The church receives thank you letters from other organizations that we support through Benevolence giving throughout the year.)

Dear Zion's Church Family and Zion's Outreach Committee, Thank you for the holiday gift bag filled with snacks, treats, and cards. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. It was so nice to be remembered at this time of year. **God Bless You! Russell Hauck**

Dear Church and Outreach Committee – Thank you for the very generous goodie box. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. I think of you often and I thank Pastor Russ for putting the services on Youtube. **In Christian Love, Elmer Henry**

To Our Church Family, We want to thank everyone who took the time to send cards, messages and words of comfort and strength on the death of my mother. It was all greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family even in these difficult times. **God Bless, Darryl & Peggy Miller**

Friends at Zion's Stone Church of West Penn Township, Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during my illness. We will keep you updated as the progress continues. **Earl Pratt**

Dear Church and Sunday School members, On behalf of the West Penn Township Lions Club, we would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$562.50 toward our Lion "Feeding the Hungry" program. We currently are assisting three Twp. families, 4 persons. We recently received a nice thank you letter and donation from a family that recently opted out of our feeding program and now is back on their feet and doing ok! On the 18th of December the Lions delivered \$50.00 food cards and a Christmas arrangements to 29 Township residents who can use some holiday food assistance! **Sincerely, Matthew Uroskie** (excerpt from original letter)

Dear Supporters of Valor, Thank you for your recent donation of \$500.00! Your donation is greatly appreciated. **Sincerely, Amy Bamford** (excerpt from original letter)



2021 Offering Envelopes

All unpicked up 2021 offering envelopes have been mailed.

PLEASE DO NOT USE 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN 2021

(Throw away any unused 2020 offering envelopes)!

Most Numbers change from year to year. Thank You!!

2020 Offering Statements

All 2020 offering statements have been mailed out. If you think there is an error or a correction should be made, please contact Charlotte Fritz (leave a message) by Feb. 21, 2021 and she will get back to you. Thank You.

2020 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

December 6 - 91

December 13 - 106



December 20 - 80

December 24 - 78
(4:00pm)

December 24 – 88
7:00pm)

December 27 - 74

January – No
worship Services
were held in
person in the
month of January

	FINANCIAL		
2020 December			
Current Giving:			
Total Income Budgeted for 2020-----\$209,939.17			
Total Benevolence income for 2020 -----\$ 11,700.00			
Total Income plus Benevolence ----- \$221,639.17			
Monthly Income & Benevolence	Gain/(Loss)	Monthly Budgeted Income & Benevolence (\$4,262.29 – per week) (\$18,469.93 – per month)	
\$26,442.99	\$ 7,973.06		

Thank you for your continued support of Zion's Stone Church!

Please continue to pray for our neighbors, sister churches, all those who have/had Covid and their families, all those that have lost loved ones during this pandemic, all the health care workers and their families, our leaders in government, and pray, pray for our Nation.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid."
—John 14:27*

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Due to Covid-19 all choirs will be postponed
till further notice.



Thank you to Choir Director,
Erin (Raymond) Zeliniski
share her musical
talents with us during the
Worship services!



Youth GROUP NEWS...

Due to the COVID-19, Youth Group meetings will be postponed until further notice.

If anyone needs to talk with us, the advisors are all available. We will continue to pray for you all and we miss you so much!



2021 Confirmation

Meetings will be done through Zoom during Sundays in February.

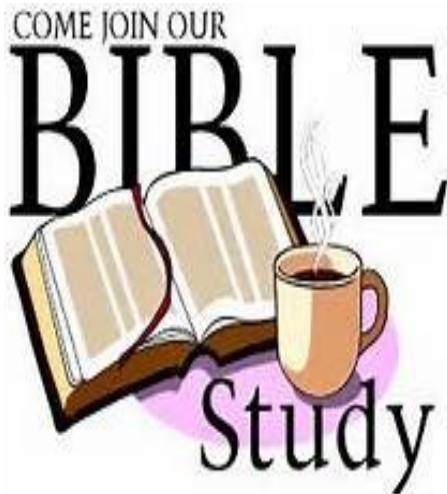
SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICES...

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

are cancelled until further notice.



THURSDAY MORNINGS



& THURSDAY NIGHTS

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell
are cancelled until further notice.

*If you are interested in a zoom
(computer meeting site) bible study,
please let Pastor Russ know.
If there is enough interest, Pastor
Russ will gladly start Zoom Bible
Studies.*

*Bring your own
bible that you can
write in!*



Christian Sympathies go to...

Barbara Renninger and Family & Friends
on the death of her Father,
Bernard E. "Bernie" Kammerdiener,
who entered into eternal life on
Saturday, January 16, 2021.

*"Even though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me."
— Psalm 23:4*





FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday.

Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



Benefit for Earl Pratt

Where: West Penn Fire Company

When: Saturday March 20th
from 4 pm to 7 pm



We are throwing a spaghetti dinner, Chinese auction, and a 50/50 for my brother Earl Pratt. He was diagnosed with a rare form of Lymphoma cancer. Unfortunately the insurance which is costly has a high deductible. We are asking for donations whether it be food supplies for the dinner, baskets to raffle off, or just your support. Any help would be appreciated

Please contact Ron or Chrissy at
570-728-6692 with any questions or
donations

ZION'S COLORING CORNER



*Bee
Mine !*



PNEC NEWS....

Penn Northeast Conference UCC, 431 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071

www.pnec.org 610-826-3113; 610-826-5464 FAX

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates bonnieb@pnec.org

Rev. Gilberto Garcia Rodriguez hispanicucc@rcn.com

Rev. Christian Creyer christianc@pnec.org

Barbara Jennings barbaraj@pnec.org

Patty Rehrig patty@pnec.org

My friends, Yesterday was Inauguration Day, a celebration of the peaceful transition of power which marks this nation as a democracy and a republic. I hope you had a chance to watch at least some of the event. If not, you likely missed the poem shared by the National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. I excerpt a portion of the poem, "The Hill We Climb" here in this letter:

"...Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew,
That even as we hurt, we hoped,
That even as we tired, we tried,
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious –
Not because we will never again know defeat
But because we will never again sow division."^[1]

These words touch me. They speak to us of perseverance and the building of relationships in unity, one with another. The past year has been a difficult one; more than 400,000 dead from COVID-19, a lack of personal connection in pastoral care and worship, challenges to our finances and our employment. Yet, we are all still connected, all still a part of the one body, the Body of Christ.

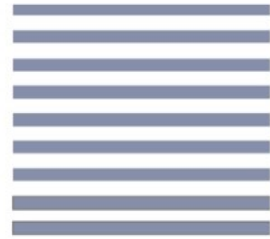
This week Christians all over the world have been celebrating the World Council of Churches celebration of the Week of Christian Unity. I have participated through prayer services and meditations, conversations on ecumenism and public and private prayer. I have been reminded again and again that there is one God we worship, one Redeemer we follow, and one Spirit who strengthens us. Yes, we have grieved. Yes, we have been hurt. Yes, we are tired. Yet, as John 15:1-17 (the passage used this week for the time of Christian Unity) reminds us, we abide in Christ and Christ abides in us. Christ is the vine, and we are the branches. We are all connected as faithful followers of Jesus.

So, recognize the grief but also see the growth. Experience the hurt but also know the hope. Be tired but keep trying. We are together, connected and in relationship with one another. May we remember that in the moments, days, weeks, and months ahead.

Blessings, Bonnie

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



ISSUE NO 2 | FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 29

From Our Bishop: Vital Signs for Now

As I write this in January, I have no way of knowing what our situation – national, state, or local – will be like. But I have no doubt in two truths. First, God will be with us and for us. Second, the big challenges will still be upon us. As people who believe in and follow Jesus, we always have these promises: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.* This means, wherever we are, and wherever we're headed, that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39).

In the midst of all we face, across this Synod – our congregations, leaders, members and ministries – are playing *vital roles* in God's work to bring life out of death, love out of hate, hope out of despair, and joy out of sorrow. The Holy Spirit is revealing *vital signs* in our midst because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. So, I ask you: as part of the Body of Christ, *what are our vital signs right now?* How are we doing these three things:

Healing the hurting? Loving the land? Engaging the stranger?

As a Synod going forward, I'm calling these three, our *Vital Signs for Now*. Ways we are called by our God to address this moment through which we are now living:

- **Heal the Hurting** can include helping all of us, suffering through this pandemic. Those who are facing economic struggle. Those who are also ill from other afflictions, including addiction, anxiety and depression. Those having a hard time finding health care and security. And those in pain and fear from our large divides over politics.
- **Love the Land** can include the realities of climate change. The need to make our communities more livable for everyone. And deciding what is best to do with our buildings and properties, to bring more life to our neighbors as well as ourselves.
- **Engage the Stranger** can include anyone who feels estranged, inside and outside our churches. It includes all the ways that have made us estranged from each other and our core Christian values: the lack of welcome for all people, especially foreigners and our LGBTQIA+ siblings; racial injustice and white supremacy; the disregard of facts and the lack of listening to the "other side".

In these first days and weeks of 2021, as a Synod, let us work on these three things. And let us share with each other, what is working and how the Spirit is moving and leading. Let's tell each other and ask your pastors and councils to share with our deans and Synod staff. We will then share with the whole Synod. Let's go and grow more alive and vital, together, as church, by the grace of our great God.

Bishop Christopher deForest

Vital Signs!

When Pastor Michele Kaufman decided she wanted to have Palm Sunday and Easter services in-person last spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop, she and members of the congregation decided to hold drive-in services on the church grounds. Jim Doxsey, a member of the congregation, purchased a low-frequency FM radio transmitter so members could listen to the service inside their vehicles. The concept worked well, and the outdoor services continued throughout the spring and summer.

In the spring, the congregation completed work on a prayer garden at the rear of the church where Pr. Kaufman conducted the services. Recently, the church moved its 9 a.m. service indoors, but kept the 11 a.m. gathering outside. As late fall arrived, the congregation came up with an idea to allow the pastor to continue to conduct the outdoor service, even in inclement weather.

They built her a Pastor Pod.

"The 9 a.m. service was moved indoors, maintaining social distancing and requiring masks," Pr. Kaufman said. "But we wanted to keep one of our services outdoors because several members of the congregation were dealing with cancer and other health problems. We wanted to make sure they could attend services but be safe."

The approximately 6x8 foot "Pastor Pod" is located adjacent to the church parish hall. It was constructed using two-by-four supports, has a platform, and a roof – the entire structure enclosed in plexiglass.



The congregation and surrounding community embraced the concept of the Pastor Pod with great enthusiasm. "We have people from as far as 25+ miles traveling to worship with us. We have several families from neighboring congregations and different Christian traditions attending on a regular basis because of the safety factor. The creativity and **innovation and resilience** this congregation has displayed in these trying times has been an inspiration. It has been our modern-day Reformation! We are church in every sense of the phrase!" reported Pr. Kaufman.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountaintop


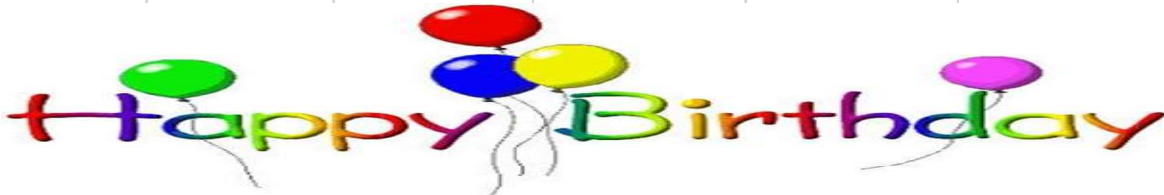
Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy and economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut was not indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I learned to appreciate the rhythm of daily life, shrimp and grits, theology, and Friday night cookouts. Since ordination, I've served St. James, Hobbie and St. John, Mohnton. I continue to be gobsmacked for the gift to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

Pastor Rachael Dietz



I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, roast coffee regularly, and travel through life curiously.

ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF WEST PENN TWP - 2021 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Jerry Mogish		Keith Beers			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Denise Campbell Rhea Steigerwalt Dennis Wood	Charlotte Fritz	Alan Tyson Kyle Zehner	Claudia Oswald Marianne Storch Kaitlyn Yorgey	Audrey Christ	Emmeline Knowlan	Peggy Miller
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Norman Hamm Heather Oswald	Eric Conover	Adele Snyder Eoin Towers	Ryan Hill	Tammy Weaver
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Jaydin Ruch	Emily Buchman Kade Ruch	Barbara Renninger		Kay Hamm	Josh Huegel Jean Serfess	William Clause Brianna Muffley Zach Steigerwalt
28						
						

Please Note: Due to Covid-19 virus – All church activities, Events, & Bible Studies have been cancelled so there will be no Calendar of Events until we are back to normal. Thank you for your understanding and patience! We are in this together!