

# 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 More!**

# HAPPENINGS



2022



# NEWSLETTER



Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*232 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](http://www.zionstchurch.org)

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor  
Cell # 610-737-2634  
[zionstch@ptd.net](mailto:zionstch@ptd.net)  
[revarc@ptd.net](mailto:revarc@ptd.net)

***Come Worship with Us!***

***9:00am – Sunday Worship Service***

*(1st Sunday of the month Altar Communion)*

***10:15am – Sunday School***

***(last SS June 12, will resume in fall)***

***5:00pm – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Night Worship Services***

*(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Night of the month we will have communion)*

***(No Meal 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:**

Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm

**Cell Phone # 610-737-2634**

**Pastor's Home Email:** [revarc@ptd.net](mailto:revarc@ptd.net)

**Pastor's Church Email:** [zionstch@ptd.net](mailto:zionstch@ptd.net)

**Church Administrator/Treasurer:**

**Charlotte Fritz Office Hours:**

Charlotte is currently working from home.  
You can still email or call office at prompt #4.

Charlotte's Office Email: [zscofc@ptd.net](mailto:zscofc@ptd.net)

(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)

**Church Secretary:**

**Brenda Osenbach Office Hours:**

Brenda will be in the office from 8:00am – 12:00am Mon – Thurs.

Brenda's Office Email: [zscbrenda@ptd.net](mailto:zscbrenda@ptd.net)

(Please use this email for all slide, newsletter  
and any other information, for Brenda.)

**Church Office Phone Number:**

**570-386-5111 – When calling use:**

**prompt #2 for 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](http://www.zionstonechurch.org)

**Music Director/Organist:**

Erin Zelinski – 570-205-3511  
(currently on maternity leave)

**Card Care coordinator:**

L.C. Dean: 570-449-0677

**Sexton(s):**

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

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

**On vacation June 21 thru June 27, 2022**





*Christian Sympathies go to...*

Michael and Melissa Hunsicker and Family and Friends on the death of Michael's Mother Susan Bowman, who entered into eternal life on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.



*Wedding Congratulations to...*

Holly Brennan and William Welker, who were married on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at Zion's Stone Church by Rev. Russell Campbell. Holly is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sassaman. William is the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. James Welker, Jr.

# **WORSHIP JUNE 2022**

**Sunday, June 5, 2022 – Pentecost  
w/ Holy Communion – Altar**

**9:00am - Worship Service**

**Sermon Title:** “Believe, Believe, Believe”

Acts 2:1-21    Romans 8:14-17    John 14:8-17, 25-27

**Sunday, June 12, 2022 - The Holy Trinity**

**9:00am - Worship Service w/Young People’s Time**

**Sermon Title:** “What’s God Like?”

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31    Romans 5:1-5    John 16:12-15

**Sunday, June 19, 2022 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Pentecost**



**10:00am – Outdoor Worship Service at WP Park  
w/Covered Dish Social Following Worship**

**Sermon Title:** “With Whom Are You Associated?”

1 Kings 9:1-4    Galatians 3:23-29    Luke 8:26-39

**Sunday, June 26, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost**

**9:00am – Worship Service**

**Sermon Title:** “A Question Seeking an Answer”

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14    Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62



# THURSDAY MORNINGS

## & THURSDAY EVENINGS

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell



Bible Studies have ended for the summer, and will resume again in the Fall. Thank you to everyone for supporting Pastors Bible Study Program.

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the  
Word of our God will stand forever.  
Isaiah 40:8*



## SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES...

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

Saturday, June 4, at 5:00 pm w/Holy Communion  
and Saturday, June 18, at 5:00pm

No light meals offered at this time.  
Holy Communion offered the first  
Saturday of each month.



## **Zion's Stone Church Board Meeting Minutes:**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

X Pastor Russel Campbell  
X Charlotte Fritz via phone  
X Scot Dietrich

X Nancy Meiser  
X Blair Miller  
X Dan Metzger

X Paul Miller  
Gary Clemson  
X Rick Zelinski

X Sam Schaefer  
X Amanda Sassaman

(X) = Board Members present

**Member(s) of the congregation** – Church Secretary Brenda Osenbach

**Pastor Russ Campbell** - Opened meeting with prayer

**Pastor's Report** – Presented

**Secretary Report** – Review of March 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Accepted by Paul Miller / 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Metzger

**Treasurer's Report** – Accepted by Sam Schaefer / 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Miller

### **Committee Reports**

**Worship & Music** – Nothing to report.

**Property** – Continue to wait for DEP Permit to begin work on well remediation. Water is continuously being monitored. Monitor in Narthex not working and needs replacing. Motion by Paul Miller for IT team to purchase and paid for out of fundraising. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scot Dietrich

**Finance** – Nothing to report.

**Sunday School** – Vacation Bible School 13-17 June (in-person). Cystic Fibrosis 26 April and 8 May.

**Youth Group** – 30 Hour famine is planned (no sleep over) on Saturday, 23 April. Next Youth Group meeting will be on Sunday, May 15th.

**Outreach/Evangelism** – Maggie Wehr Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Basket Raffle included. Food Pantry distribution will be on Saturday, 14 May. Meeting held this date for Dinner coordination.

**Fund Raising** – Church Social will be on Sunday, 24 July. Bingo will be held on Sunday, 2 October. Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner will be on Saturday, 19 November.

**Personnel** – Church Sexton will be on vacation 21-27 June.

**Safety/Security Committee** – AED batteries and pads still on backorder.

**Other Business** – Father's Day Picnic will be held on Sunday, 19 June at 10 am. This will be a covered dish dinner. Directory portraits are scheduled for 20-22 October. Trunk or Treat will be at the Park on Saturday 15 October. Additional details will follow for all events.

**Pastor Russ Campbell** - Closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Next Church Board Meeting on Wednesday, 11 May 2022 @ 7 pm**

Meeting adjourned. Motion to accept by Scot Dietrich / 2<sup>nd</sup> by Blair Miller  
Respectfully Submitted by Board Secretary, Amanda Sassaman

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, the **Third Sunday** of each month.

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 we may not be able to publish your information until next month. *Thank You!*

### **ALTAR FLOWER & NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS...**

If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers or the newsletter, please call the office at (570) 386-5111 prompt #3, before 12 pm on Wednesday. **Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see printed on the slides. We still have Sundays available for the months ahead. Altar flowers are available. Please call the office every time you want to sponsor them. The newsletter is printed one time per month. Use the envelope in your packet marked bulletin. If you would like special wording placed on a slide please include that also with your \$20.00 donation.



***Please do not put your altar flower request in the envelopes, because it may not be seen until it is too late.***

**YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE**

*The Florist wants our orders by Wednesday of each week.*



### **COST OF SPONSORSHIP:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS     \$25.00**

**ROSEBUD: \$10.00**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:\$20.00**

**ZION'S STONE CHURCH. THANK YOU!**

### **Lectors are needed for every Sunday.**

Please sign up in the Narthex. If you or someone you know would like to be a LECTOR ... New volunteers are always welcome.

### **CHURCH/AUDITORIUM FUNCTIONS ARE CURRENTLY NOT BEING SCHEDULED**

**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](mailto: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.)



Since we no longer print Sunday bulletins, the board has decided to ask for Newsletter Sponsors. We mail some of the newsletters out to shut-ins and those without a computer. In your offering packet there are envelopes marked bulletin. Just cross off and mark newsletter if you are going to sponsor. The cost per month will be \$20.00. We will put your sponsorship on a slide on Sunday morning (you can also remain anonymous). If you would like special wording please include that with your payment or send an email to Brenda at [zscbrenda@ptd.net](mailto:zscbrenda@ptd.net). Thank you!

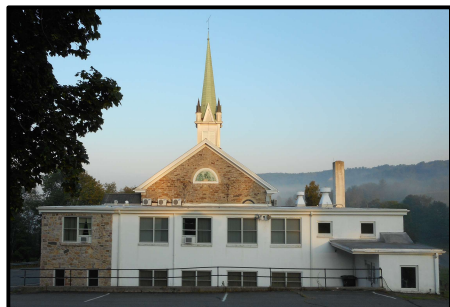


Photo taken by Gayle Mateyak

## SPECIAL THANK YOU...

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

### **Members of Zion's Stone Church,**

I want to thank the Church Outreach Program for the goodie bag at Easter. It was a pleasant and unexpected surprise. I also want to thank the people who took their time to deliver it to me. It was greatly appreciated. Again many thanks. Nancy Ketchledge



### **Dear Church Family,**

Thank you for the goodie bag that I received from the Outreach Committee. It was so nice of you to think of me. The goodies were very good and we used some for our Easter Dinner. God Bless You All, DelRoy Haas.

**Special thank you...**to everyone who came out and supported the Spaghetti Dinner Benefit for Maggie Wehr. Thank you to everyone who donated food, ice, coolers, baked goods, Chinese auction items. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time to make the dinner a success. Special thanks to the Outreach Committee for organizing this event. Everyone's support and help was greatly appreciated. Maggie will be presented with a check for \$5210.00 at the Father's Day picnic.

**Dear Zion's Church Family...**thank you so much for your thoughtfulness with giving a bag of goodies during the Easter Season. I surely appreciated your kindness, Mary Jane Kistler.

<b>April 2, 2022 - 41</b>	<b>May 1, 2022 - 88</b>
<b>April 3, 2022 - 133</b>	<b>May 7, 2022 - 11</b>
<b>April 10, 2022 - 161</b>	<b>May 8, 2022 - 107</b>
<b>April 14, 2022 - 66</b>	<b>May 15, 2022 - 112</b>
<b>April 15, 2022 - 64</b>	<b>May 21, 2022 - cancelled</b>
<b>April 17, 6:30am-2022 - 52</b>	<b>May 22, 2022 - 91</b>
<b>April 17, 9am-2022 - 168</b>	<b>May 29, 2022 -</b>
<b>April 24, 2022 - 108</b>	

	<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>		
<b>2022 April</b>			
Current Giving:			
Total Income Budgeted for 2022-----\$ 214,743.41			
Total Benevolence income for 2022 -----\$ 11,700.00			
Total Income plus Benevolence ----- \$ 226,443.41			
Monthly Income & Benevolence		Gain/(Loss)	Weekly Budgeted Income & Benevolence
\$ 20,743.15		\$1,872.87	(\$ 4,354.68 – per week) (\$ 18,870.28 – per month)

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



No June Newsletter Sponsor

Thank you!



All choirs will be postponed until further notice. Thank you to our Choir Director, Erin (Raymond) Zeliniski for sharing her musical talents with us during the Worship Services! And also thank you to our substitute musicians while Erin is out on maternity leave.



It's Your Day  
DAD

Join us on Sunday, June 19, 2022 for our Outdoor Worship Service held at the West Penn Park. Service begins at 10:00am followed by a covered dish social. The church will supply hot dogs/BBQ/rolls/garnishes, and drinks. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to be shared by everyone. We will also be honoring our 2022 Graduates. VBS children will not be singing at this service. If you like to sit in the sunshine, please bring a chair. Thank you!



## *2022 High School Graduates*

*Gabriel Carlos Haas Fritz*

*Son of Darryl and Charlotte Fritz  
Graduated from Tamaqua High School  
and will be continuing his education at LCCC,  
Majoring in Music/Sound Production*

*Benjamin Hehn*

*Son of Jim and Amy Hehn  
Graduated from Tamaqua High School  
and will be attending LCC to Study Biology*

*Allan Knowlan*

*Son of Rob and Kelly Knowlan  
has Graduated from High School  
Allan is taking a Gap Year to  
walk the Appalachian Trail before  
Pursuing a College Degree.*

### *Brianna Muffley*

*Daughter of Justin and Michelle Muffley  
Graduated from Palmerton Area High School  
and will be attending Penn State Schuylkill  
Majoring in Nursing*

### *Victoria Pratt*

*Daughter of Earl Jr. and Suzanne Pratt  
Graduated from Tamaqua High School  
Will be attending LCCC to get an Associates Degree  
in Biology. Then attending Bloomsburg University to get a  
Bachelors Degree in Biology. After Bloomsburg plans on  
earning a Masters in Genetic Counseling*

### *Chase Rehrig*

*Son of David and Rosalee Rehrig  
Graduated from Blue Mountain High School.  
Will be attending Penn State Schuylkill to  
Major in Computer Science.*

### *Trenton Schlecht*

*Son of Tyler and Audra Schlecht  
Graduated from Tamaqua High School  
and will be attending LCCC this fall  
on the Morgan Scholarship studying  
Business Management and obtaining  
His Realtor's License.*



### *Ryan Storch*

Son of Marianne Storch and Barry Storch  
Graduated from Red Land High School, Harrisburg  
Ryan plans on pursuing a Physical Therapy Degree.

### *Kaitlyn Yorgey*

Daughter of Michael and Charlotte Yorgey  
Graduated from Tamaqua High School  
and will be attending Elizabethtown College  
to study Computational Physics.

## 2022 College /University Graduates

### *Danika Beers*

Daughter of Keith and Michele Beers  
Graduated from Slippery Rock University-  
BS Psychology with a Neuroscience Concentration.  
Future Plans: Will be attending Chatham University in the  
fall to work towards a Master of Science in Counseling  
Psychology Degree. Following the completion of my Masters  
Degree I will become a Licensed Counselor, then plan to  
continue my education at a Doctoral level to ultimately  
become a Board Certified Psychotherapist.

### *Molly Clemson*

Daughter of Gary, Jr. and Stacey Clemson  
Graduated from Misericordia University  
with a Bachelor Degree in Health Sciences  
Continuing at Misericordia for a  
Masters Degree in Speech Language Pathology.

### *Brad Clemson*

*Son of Gary, Jr. and Stacey Clemson  
Graduated from Moravian University  
with a Bachelor Degree in Physics and  
Minors in Math and Computer Science.  
Continuing in the fall at Lehigh University for  
a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering.*

### *Conner Ruch*

*Son of Darin Ruch and Jennifer Riley  
Graduated from Kutztown University  
with a Bachelor of Science Degree in  
Computer Technology, on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
He is employed by Deloitte Consulting.*

### *Kyle Ruch*

*Son of Duane and Kim Ruch  
Graduated from Penn State with a  
BS in Accounting and a Masters in  
Business Administration  
Graduated on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

### *Megan Ruch*

*Daughter of Darin Ruch and Jennifer Riley  
Graduated from Penn State with a  
Bachelor of Science Degree in Hospitality  
on May 8, 2022  
Employed by the Four Seasons Hotel,  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming*

*Congratulations to everyone and continued success!  
Our Prayers go with you on your journey!*



### *Baptism Congratulations Go To:*

*Mark and Jennifer Stevens on the Baptism of their Daughter, Elizabeth Jennifer Stevens, who was born on October 12, 2021. Godparents are Jessica Pistone and Christopher Stevens. Proud Grandparents are Kirk and Pamela Arner.*

*Ryan and Jessica Pistone on the Baptism of their Daughter, Emersyn Rae Pistone, who was born on November 3, 2021. Godparents are Taylor Pistone and Jessica Panak. Proud Grandparents are Kirk and Pamela Arner.*

*Chad and Christine Derhammer on the Baptism of their Daughter, Clara Marie Derhammer, who was born on September 2, 2021. Godparents are Caitlin and Christopher Riedl. Chad and Christine are former parishioners of Pastor Russ. They reside in Macungie, PA.*



## Sunday School News...

**WE ARE READY TO BLAST OFF - JUNE 13-17 - 6:30-8:30 PM**  
Everything is ready for our Voyagers to discover where God's power can take them as we ***Go Beyond with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope!!***

Please pray for our VBS staff and kids. A big thank you to all our volunteers...and to all of you who support us with monetary donations, prayers, and by bringing kids to VBS!!! We are going to have a BLAST because of all of you!

Thank you to everyone who donated money to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at our special offering on May 8... you helped us raise \$832.00 to fight CF!!

Sunday school will end for the summer on **JUNE 12...** our last day of classes. BUT... we'll be back in September...See you then!!

*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us - Ephesians 3:20*



Due to limited supplies, all available student VBS voyagers are full for "To Mars and Beyond" 2022! We look forward to blasting off with all current registered students June 13-17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! Audra



May 15, 2022  
Youth Group Meeting Notes

Members Present:

Bradyn Brothers, Kyrsten Derr, Gabe Fritz, Madelyn Miller, Tyler Buchman, Madison Schock, Brianna Muffley

Advisors Present:

Charlotte Fritz, Darryl Fritz, Karen Wood, Dave Snyder, Adele Snyder, Kyle Snyder

Bradyn brought in a show and tell.  
Bradyn did the secretaries report.

Old Business

- The youth group will be starting a scholarship in honor of our previous member and friend, Eoin Towers, who passed away in December of 2021. The Eoin K. Towers Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship that will be offered for Seniors.
- April 23rd - The Youth Group's 30 Hour Famine was held with 9 participants. Thank you to everyone who participated for a fun weekend.
- On Sunday, May 8th, there was a collection of donations for the CF organization. Over \$800 was donated.
- There will be no spring shut-in visitations.

New Business

- Memorial Day Band will practice Wednesday, May 18th at 7pm.
- The Memorial Day Service is on May 29th. The service will be at St. Peter's Church. There will be no Sunday School.
- On June 19th, the Father's Day picnic and service will be held at 10 am at the park.
- The Church social will be held on July 24th. Youth Group members that are helping to work the event should report around 9 am.
- Seniors will bring in next month's show and tell.
- No elections were held at this meeting.
- Next Youth Group Meeting will be June 12th at 7 p.m. it will be at the West Penn ball fields.

**"Encourage not Discourage."**

Respectfully Submitted By: Bradyn Brothers, Youth Group Newsletter Coordinator



# FUNDRAISING UPCOMING EVENTS...

## OLD FASHIONED CHURCH SOCIAL

Sunday, July 24, 2022

11:00am-7:00pm at Zion's Stone Church

(10:00am - Church Worship will be down at the park with St. Peter's Church— More details to follow)

There will be entertainment, delicious food, games, duck races, basket raffle, etc. We will need lots of help on Saturday, July 23, 2022 with help in setting up the social. All help is greatly appreciated!

**BASKET RAFFLE:** We are in need of basket raffle donations, each basket should be valued at least \$25.00. If you are able to donate, please bring your basket donations to the church on **Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>** between the hours of **8:00am-10:00am**. You may drop them off **by appointment** during the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> as well. Monday thru Thursday. Any basket questions, see Charlotte Fritz.

**KITCHEN/FOOD:** There will be a sign up in the Narthex for kitchen volunteers in the near future. Keep a look out for it. Any kitchen questions, see Stacey Cheese.

**NEW:** We will be having an unbaked Filling sale!

**ENTERTAINMENT:** We are in the process of obtaining entertainment for the Social. Any entertainment questions, see Dwane Miller.

# FALL BINGO

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Doors open at 12:00 & Bingo starts at 1:00pm

(Please note: this is a week earlier then we would normally have it in the past.)

We will have Coach, Thirty one, Vera Bradley  
& Cash prizes with a mystery gift card.

We will need sponsors for each prize. Tickets will go on sale in September. There will be food to purchase as well. Any questions, see Charlotte Fritz  
More details will follow.

## PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

November 19, 2022

Tickets will go on sale in November.  
Any questions, see Dwane Miller.

\*\*\*More details will follow for all upcoming events.

Next Fundraising meeting will be after the church service on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the West Penn Park.



*Join Us  
for a  
Memorial Butterfly Release!*

*When: Thursday June 23, 2022*

*Time: 5:30 P.M.*

*Where: E. Franklin Griffiths Funeral Home & Cremation Svcs.  
655 East Broad Street  
Tamaqua, PA 18252*

*Sign Up: Call 570-668-2550 by June 10, 2021  
Weekdays 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.*

*Butterflies represent hope, new life, peace, and a connection to nature. This event is open to the public; you need not be affiliated with the funeral home to sign up to release a butterfly in memory of loved ones or to attend.*



**HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?**



"Lord, teach us to pray..."

The prayers of this congregation are an essential part of worship. As a result, the Sunday prayer list is a living, breathing part of our prayer life. Our prayers continue on during the week through the efforts of a very devoted prayer team. In addition to the list on Sunday, the team is praying for many others behind the sidelines. In order to keep our Sunday prayer list current and concise, the prayer team and board have agreed to purge the pulpit list beginning Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and again in September. We also have a long term prayer list that the prayer team prays for daily at home. This list is for people who are going to take a much longer time to recover or will need extended prayer for many months. We also have a private list. You can move names to these lists also. If you are adding someone we need your name and phone number also. Pastor will call you in 4 weeks to get an update on the person you added. He will make a decision at that time to leave on or move to long term list. Please email Brenda at [zscbrenda@ptd.net](mailto:zscbrenda@ptd.net) or 570-386-5111 prompt #3. You can also give Pastor, Janie or Gayle this information and they will pass on to the office.

Please remember! The bylaws of Zion's Stone Church require that to be an active member you must take communion at least one time during the calendar year and give an offering at least once. Beginning January 2, 2022 you will also be required to take communion in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, in the Social Hall on the first Saturday of each month (when offered), or on special Holy Days when communion is offered. Pastor Russ will also be offering drive thru communion on Palm Sunday, and throughout the warmer months when announced. We will post on Sunday announcements and in the newsletter. This does not apply to shut-ins. (Pastor already visits them). If you live out of the area all you have to do is send or email a copy of your communion card from your place of worship. If your church does not have communion cards, have the church secretary send a church letter stating that you communed at that church. You can then email to: [zscbrenda@ptd.net](mailto:zscbrenda@ptd.net) or send in regular mail to Zion's. At least once per year, take communion and give an offering to Zion's Stone Church. Pastor Russ is also available to make an apt. to come to your house and give communion. You must schedule with him for an appointment.

# ZION'S COLORING CORNER







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

[www.pnec.org](http://www.pnec.org) 610-826-3113; 610-826-5464 FAX

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates [bonnieb@pnec.org](mailto:bonnieb@pnec.org)

Rev. Christian Creyer [christianc@pnec.org](mailto:christianc@pnec.org)

Barbara Jennings [barbaraj@pnec.org](mailto:barbaraj@pnec.org) Patty Rehrig [patty@pnec.org](mailto:patty@pnec.org)

SEND ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED TO [patty@pnec.org](mailto:patty@pnec.org)

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## Bonnie's Letter

Dear Friends,

Whew! The Spring Conference Meeting for 2022 is a wrap! I wanted to share some reflections with you from the meeting and concerns as well.

We utilized the Golden Rule as our theme and Valarie Kaur, our keynote speaker, author of **See No Stranger**, and creator of the Revolutionary Love Project, challenged us to love our neighbor as THEY wish to be loved, rather than as we want to be loved. She mentioned that may be subversive, but I think it is truly what Jesus was calling us to do when he commanded us to **Love Our Neighbor**. Her presentation was very well received and will be available on the PNEC website sometimes in the future.

The Interfaith Worship Service went well, even without our Muslim presenter, Imam Daniel Hernandez, whose father's emergency surgery prevented him from being with us. Likewise, our educational presentations from the morning went well and I think we learned a lot. Remember that if you want credit for Cultural Competency Education you need to complete, sign, and submit your meeting evaluation.

The business meeting went well. New nominees to the Conference Board, Conference Committees and General Synod Delegates were elected. Thank you to the tellers, especially Martin Nuscher for running results back and forth throughout the room. We thanked our departing members of committees and the board and installed those newly elected. Reports were affirmed and accepted and recognitions for OCWM, Five for Five, Pastoral Anniversaries, and New Pastors were offered.

We closed with a brief communion service and the meeting concluded right on time.

Now for my concern – or maybe concerns. One-hundred twenty-five (125) individuals registered and attended the meeting either in person or virtually. Firstly, with 129 churches, each entitled to a delegate, and two hundred pastors, each entitled to a vote, the turnout was abysmal. I understand we met in May rather than April. I understand there were costs for room and meals, less for commuters and more for those staying. And yet, where did the apathy and neglect of our wider church covenantal responsibility come from? Secondly, it did not go unnoticed how many authorized ministers left before the closing worship service, a service that lasted a mere 25 minutes, included communion and was a culmination of our meeting. Was 25 minutes to attend worship a significant difference in our time commitments?

Those concerns are shared as questions, because I, and I am sure the Conference Meeting Planning Committee, would like to have answers. Please share them with us.

I want to take one more opportunity to thank our Tech Team – Anthony Newett (our technical advisor par excellence and musician), Doug Lander (creator of slides), Joanne Marchetto (who set up the polls, webinar, and zoom meeting), Becky Sausser (who monitored virtual participants for questions and responses), and Robert Gutekunst (tech support, worship planner and musician). The Conference Meeting Planning Team, chaired by Joanne Marchetto for the past two years, did excellent work and I commend them and Joanne.

Perhaps more of you will be with us at the Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 5 from 9 – 4 pm at Forks United Church of Christ in Stockertown. I hope so. - Blessings, Bonnie

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

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## *Gaining Strength: Stronger Together*

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you...” [Isaiah 43:2] This is the promise God made to the people of Israel, in a time when the whole nation was suffering the consequences of their turning away from their primary mission: to love God and love neighbor – especially, neighbors with the least advantages, status and resources. For our time, our church, and our synod, one of our most troubling issues is the sin of racism. Isaiah goes on to say: “Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!” [Is. 43:8] This speaks to the first step to take into those troubled waters: opening our eyes and ears to see and listen – with minds and hearts willing to go beneath the smooth surface and stir up the stories and truths that, though troubling, will clear the way for God “to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” [Is. 43:19]

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

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On May 22, 2021, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod hosted a virtual conference called “Trouble the Water,” an inaugural day of racial justice worship and workshops. The goal of this event was to help our congregations to be more welcoming to Black, indigenous, and people of color; and to focus on racial justice and reconciliation within our churches, communities, and synod.

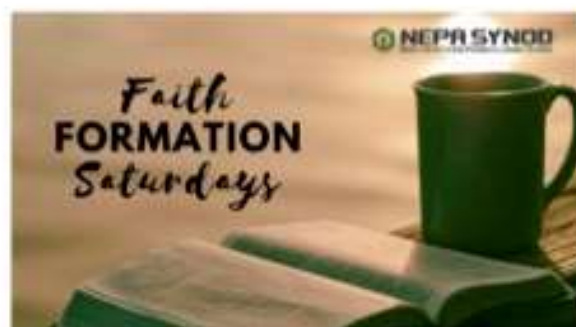


Participants were welcomed with a brief introduction to what we hoped to accomplish, and a request for participants to join us in that troubled water – to be willing to experience the discomfort caused by the ripples, and to plan to ride the waves of change and progress that we hoped to create. The organizers started with a land acknowledgment, acknowledged our shared national history of racism and discrimination, and explained that such historical acknowledgment was not about blaming us as individuals today, but about understanding how we came to be where we are in order to understand how to move forward together.

Next, we all worshiped together with song, prayer, and a sermon by Rev. Dr. James Thomas on “The Sins of Racism.” Following worship, The Reverend CeCee Mills delivered an incredibly powerful keynote address, and after that two sets of concurrent workshops were offered. The first set of workshop options included Understanding Microaggressions, Trauma-Informed Neighborhood Engagement, Understanding Implicit Bias, and a presentation on the community organizing group POWER Northeast. The second set of workshops included Seeing and Disrupting Racism; Understanding White Privilege; and Church Together (led by ELCA Director of Racial Justice Jennifer De Leon).

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The “Trouble the Water” event provided important space for honest, difficult conversation: wrestling with systemic racism and naming our complicity in a broken, inequitable system. Your gifts cultivate a Synod culture that listens to the stories of all people and actively works towards reflecting the Kingdom of God. Our ELCA has a mission of encountering 1 million new, young, and diverse people with the Good News in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support. It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission. + Rev. Rachael Dietz



**Join us on the 2nd  
Saturday of every month!**  
(more information on our website)



June  
2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dylan Crowley	2 Amy Mogish	3 Mason Gerber	4 Tyler Hackman Billy Tuckett
5	6 Bentlee Reed	7 Fern Hauck Jessica Pistone	8 Renee Gerber Lawson Miller Amanda Steigerwalt	9 Benjamin Hehn	10 Geraldine Balliet Darlene Clark Michelle Davenport	11 Shayna Dietrich Eileen Meiser Kevin Tyson
12	13	14 Brenda Osenbach Cara Stern	15	16	17 Justin Clinton	18 Kenneth Jones Sandra Zehner
19 Jessica Miller	20 Tim Lorah Laurie Miller	21 Kelly Lehman	22 Kristine Abernathy Wyatt Hamm Lillian Gernert Larry Stival Jean Tyson	23 Stephanie Bell Michael Coombe	24 Wayne Miller Alan Steigerwalt	25 Danika Beers Landon Kamant Nathan Shellhamer
26 Melissa Smith Jean Swartz	27 Margaret Martinez	28 Rosalee Rehrig Kristine Troxell	29 Lisa Zehner	30 Dorothy Knowlan Darin Ruch		

# Come and Worship

## June Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 5:00pm Worship Service w/HC
5 Day of Pentecost 9:00 Worship w/HC 10:15am SS	6	7	8 7:00 pm Board Meeting 	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship w/Young Ppl. <b>SS 10:15am</b> <b>Yth Grp 7pm</b> <b>at Ball Field</b>	13 <b>6:30-8:30</b> <b>VBS</b>  <b>Office</b> <b>Closed</b>	14 <b>6:30-8:30</b> <b>VBS</b>  	15 <b>6:30-8:30</b> <b>VBS</b>	16 <b>6:30-8:30</b> <b>VBS</b>	17 <b>6:30-8:30</b> <b>VBS</b>	18 5:00pm Worship Service
19 <b>10:00am</b> Worship at Park <b>*Father's</b> <b>Day Service</b> <b>*Fundraiser</b> <b>Mtg. 11:15am</b>	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service	27	28	29	30		

Our sexton, Fred Gimbi will be on vacation:  
June 21 thru June 27, 2022 Karen Wood will fill in.