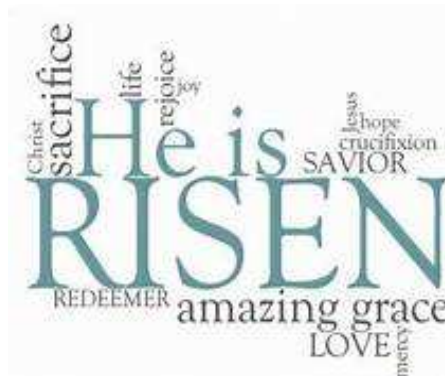


# ZION'S HEAVENLY

**Look for:**

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



- \*Exciting Events
- \*Monthly Calendar of Events
- \*Birthday Calendar
- \*Synod & Conference News
- And Much More!**

## *Happenings*



2025

## NEWSLETTER



Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*235 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

[www.zionstonechurch.org](http://www.zionstonechurch.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 is Holy Communion)***  
***10:15am – Sunday School***  
***For All Ages***

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**

**Pastor Russ's Office Hours:**

Call for an Appointment if you need to see the Pastor  
or you can call or text

**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: Due to some health issues  
Charlotte is currently working from home. Please call and leave a  
message and she will get back to you.



Charlotte's Office Email: [zscofc@ptd.net](mailto:zscofc@ptd.net)  
(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)

## **Church Secretary**

Amy Mogish **New** Office Hours:

Monday – 9:00am – 3:00pm, Tuesday Wednesday & Friday - Closed  
Thursday – 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Email and phone messages will be checked thru-out the week  
**Please call ahead if planning to visit, hours may vary.**

Amy's Office Email: [ZSCSecretary@ptd.net](mailto:ZSCSecretary@ptd.net)  
(Please use this email for information for Amy)  
(Office is closed on Tuesday's, Wednesdays, & Friday's)



### **Church Office Phone Number:**

**570-386-5111 – When calling use:**  
prompt #2 for Pastor  
prompt #3 for Amy  
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

## **Sexton(s):**

Fred (& Donna) Gimbi  
Home # 570-386-2888  
Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

## **Card Care coordinator:**

Nancy Meiser - 570-205-9267

## **Genealogy Requests:**

Todd Cheese  
Cell: 570-778-3641  
Todd's email:  
[CheeseT@icloud.com](mailto:CheeseT@icloud.com)

# *A Letter From Our Pastor...*

February 10, 2025

Dear Board Members of Zion's Stone Church,

It is with a bittersweet heart after prayer and meditation that I write this letter announcing my retirement as pastor of Zion's Stone. My final Sunday as your pastor will be Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025. I chose this date so I can lead worship through Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost and assist at our Memorial Day service, May 25.

There have been health and caregiving issues with my wife Denise that have weighed on me. You have been supportive by providing the time, space, and finances I needed to help ensure Denise's care was met. It has become apparent that her future needs will increase. Allowing me the time to care for her as well as providing respite time for me has led me to this decision.

It has been (and will continue to be) a true blessing to serve such an amazing congregation over the past 7-1/2 years. I will treasure each memory and pray for the health and well-being of each congregation member.

I pray that I can be of strength to the Board and the congregation in my remaining time here.

Sincerely,

The Rev Russell Campbell



## **WORSHIP APRIL 2025**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025 – Midweek Lent Service**

**7:00pm – Worship Service at Ben Salem Church, Lehighton**  
w/Rev. Russell Campbell  
John 10:11-18

**Sunday, April 6, 2025 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9:00am – Worship Service w/Holy Communion (Altar)**

**Sermon Title: "Top of The Deck"**

Isaiah 43:16-21      Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – Midweek Lent Service**

**7:00pm – Worship Service at  
Dinkey Memorial Church, Leighton**  
w/Rev. Cliff Herring preaching  
John 11:17-27

**Sunday, April 13, 2025 – Passion/Palm Sunday**

**9:00am – Worship Service**  
**w/Young People's Time and King's Kids**  
**Sermon Title: "Untie the Colt"**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40

**Thursday, April 17, 2025 – Maunday Thursday Worship Service**

**7:00pm – Maunday Thursday Worship Service**  
Sermon Title: "A New Commandment"  
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14    I Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Friday, April 18, 2025 – Good Friday Worship Service**

**7:00pm – Good Friday Worship Service**  
Sermon Title: "Have You Reached a Verdict?"  
John 18:1-19-42

**Sunday, April 20, 2025 – Easter Dawn Worship Service**

**6:30am – Worship Service w/Holy Communion**  
**(Will be held up at the top of the Cemetery – Bring your chairs)**  
**Sermon Title: "The Stones Will Shout"**  
Acts 10:34-43            I Corinthians 15:19-26  
John 20:1-18

**Sunday, April 20, 2025 – Festival of Easter Sunday**

**9:00am – Worship Service**  
**Sermon Title: "The Stones Will Shout"**  
Acts 10:34-43            I Corinthians 15:19-26  
John 20:1-18



## **Sunday, April 27, 2025 – Youth Famine Sunday**

**9:00am – Worship Service**

The worship Service will be run by the Youth Group



**New Carpet dedication/consecration will be held on Sunday,  
April 6, 2025 during the 9:00am Worship Service.**

Thank you to the families of:

Pauline Steigerwalt, Pauline Lorah, Rev. David Knoebel, Daryl Sharpe, Anita Zehner, Dorothy & Frances McHugh, Christopher Schaefer, Willy Bernheisel, & Fern Osenbach for donating your loved ones memorials.

Special thank you to Tim & Pat Lorah, in honor of Pat's Mom & Dad, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Shook, Bob & Janie Miller, and to the Fundraising Committee for your donations towards the new carpeting.

## **2025 Midweek Lent Schedule**

**Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00PM on the following dates:**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at Ben Salem Church,**

1965 Ben Salem Rd,

Lehigh, PA 18235

Preacher: Rev. Russell Campbell

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at Dinkey Memorial Church,**

1742 Dinkey Road,

Lehigh, PA 18235

Preacher: Rev. Cliff Herring

Don't forget about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Easter Dawn all services at their respective churches. Zion's Stone Church services are all listed with the Sunday Worship Schedule.



**Zion's Stone Church Board Meeting - Monday, February 10, 2025**

X Pastor Russell	X Erin Zeigler	X Sam Schaefer	X Gene Schaeffer
X Dan Metzger	X Darlene Gruver	X L C Dean	X Stacey Cheese
X Dean Meiser	X Brady Miller		

(X)=Board Member Present

**Congregation present:** Charlotte Fritz

---

**Call to Order:** Pastor Russ opened the meeting with a prayer.

President, Sam Schaefer reiterated his suggestions from the previous meeting as to proper protocol.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor's report reviewed, on file.

Pastor introduced Bonnie Bates, conference minister of Penn Northeast to the Board members. Pastor announced his retirement date officially will be June 8, 2025. He will inform the Congregation at the May 25, 2025 service.

A paper criteria for transition models was distributed per Bonnie. Dean Meiser volunteered to establish a local Church generated profile as instructed and forward to Bonnie Bates. At that point, she will search for perspective candidates covering both denominations of the Federation Church (Lutheran and UCC members). Interviews to follow. Service of Farewell for Pastor Russ to be scheduled.

Bonnie will be checking with the Bishop on potential candidates. March 2<sup>nd</sup> was given as a tentative date for Bonnie and Bishop de Forest to attend our Church service.

**Secretary's Report:** Last month's Board minutes were presented and reviewed. Motion to accept: Dan 2<sup>nd</sup> Erin.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented and reviewed.

Per Erin, the Lombard Securities cash value increased. Motion to accept: Brady 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan.

**Committee Reports:** (Board Representative in parentheses)

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**Finance**(Erin Zeigler, Charlotte Fritz, Dean Meiser)-The plumbing repair in restroom was completed . Cost was \$189.00.

**Personnel**(Stacey Cheese, Erin Zeigler, Brady Miller)-The committee meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> plans to create a Church handbook. Personnel contracts will be eliminated. Job description will indicate salary amounts going forward.

A yearly evaluation of employees. Salary increase for employees noted.

Charlotte will claim her extra working hours.

**Fundraising**(Charlotte Fritz, Erin Zeigler, Stacey Cheese)- March 1<sup>st</sup> is soup sale. Sign up sheet is in Narthex. Filling sale planned for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach**(Dan Metzger, Nancy Meiser) - February 9<sup>th</sup> is pizza fundraiser and in March meatballs to be sold.

**Property**(Dan Metzger, Scot Dietrich, Gary Clemson) - Water system serviced. Sprayed and set traps at Sexton's house. Committee meeting scheduled to discuss future lawn care.

**Youth Group**(Charlotte Fritz, Gene Schaeffer, Darryl Fritz)-New members joining the youth group are Ella Balliet, Miller Kovatch and Silas Shamlan. Lizzy Davenport and Bradyn Brothers have applied for the Eoin Towers Memorial Scholarship.  
February 16<sup>th</sup> is the Phantom game.  
April 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> is the 30 hour famine.  
April 27<sup>th</sup> is Youth Sunday.

**Worship and Music**(Dean Meiser, Brady Miller)- No report.

**CE/Sunday School**(Darlene Gruver, Dean Meiser)-The upstairs Sunday School classes are making Valentines for Zion's homebound members. The Easter egg hunt will be held on the Saturday before Easter(April 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Safety/Security**(Gene Schaeffer, Sam Schaefer, Blair Miller)-No report.

**Other committees/Misc**-nothing presented.

**Old Business:** None at this time.

**New Business:** End of Year Congregational meeting is scheduled tentatively for March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Research to be done on number of active members.

Next Church Board Meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Erin 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean.

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary, Darlene Gruver



### **NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS...**

Please help the office staff 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 the next month. *Thank You!*

### **NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS... \$20.00 per month**

If you are interested in sponsoring the newsletter, Email Charlotte, [zscofc@ptd.net](mailto:zscofc@ptd.net), your wording for the newsletter or place your envelope in your packet marked Newsletter Sponsor. The newsletter is printed one time per month except for the July/August newsletter which is a combined newsletter.

**ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS...** We are have a new Florist! Forget-Me-Not Florist in Orwigsburg. The new cost of Altar Flowers are \$55.00 & Rosebuds are \$13.00-\$28.00 (depends on if you order Altar Flowers with it) All Flower Orders must be received at least **1 week in advance**. If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers please call the office at (570) 386-5111 prompt #3, **before 12 pm on Monday. Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see it printed on the slides.

### **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.

**Acolytes...** Last year's class and current confirmation classes please sign up on the calendar in the Narthex. Two acolytes are needed for each Sunday. Please arrive by 8:50am to prepare.

### **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!

### **Auditorium Bookings:**



The Auditorium is open for events. Please contact the church office use prompt #3 (Amy) or #4 (Charlotte) if you would like to book the Auditorium for your birthday parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, anniversary parties, etc. You will need to sign a contact and return it with the event rental fee 2 weeks prior your event date.

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

# 2025 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

February 2 - 102  
 February 9 - No Service  
 due to snow storm  
 February 16 - No Service  
 due to snow/ice storm  
 February 23 - 92

March 2 - 127  
 March 5 - 51 (Ash Wednesday)  
 March 9 - 113  
 March 12 - ?? (Mid-Week Lent)  
 March 16 - 106  
 March 19 - ?? (Mid-Week Lent)  
 March 23 -  
 March 26 - (Mid-Week Lent)  
 March 30 -

	<h1>FINANCIAL REPORT</h1>		
<h2>2025 February</h2>			
<p>Current Giving:</p> <p>Total Income Budgeted for 2024-----\$ 234,908.37</p> <p>Total Benevolence income for 2024 -----\$ 11,500.00</p> <p>Total Income plus Benevolence ----- \$ 246,408.37</p> <p>(In order to meet our spending plan, we need to receive these amounts,)</p>			
Monthly Income & Benevolence	Gain/ (-Loss)	Weekly Budgeted Income & Benevolence (\$ 4,517.46 - per week) (\$19,575.70 - per month)	
\$16,896.93	\$ -2678.77		

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

Newsletter Sponsorship

The April Newsletter is sponsored by Margaret Martinez.



## SPECIAL THANK YOU...

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

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone that bought Church Filling and picked up filling on April 19<sup>th</sup> (12:30pm - 1:30pm). Thank you for your continued Support.

Dear Zion's Stone Church Family, Thank you for your prayers and get well wishes that I received while I had surgery on my shoulder and during recovery. April Lorah



## First Holy Communion Class...

All students receiveing Holy Communion, please attended the Holy Communion Class on March 30th following the worship service. Any questions, please see Pastor Russ or call the church office at 570-386-5111 and speak with Amy. 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion will be held on Psalm Sun., April 13<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00am worship service.



*Our Prayers are with you all  
during this difficult time...*

Chritian Sympathies go out to Renee Gerber, Justin, Michelle & Brianna Muffley & Jeffrey, Mason & Braydon Gerber and Family & Friends on the death of Renee's Mother, **Jean O. Kleckner**, who entered Into eternal life on January 10, 2025.

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

Through your family  
and friends,  
may the consoling arms  
of God enfold you,  
God's love flow over you,  
and the compassionate  
heart of God  
fill yours with peace.

Christian Sympathies go out to Eva Mae Miller, Dean & Cindy Miller & Family, Doug & Jeannine Miller and Family, Darryl & Peggy Miller & Family, DelAnn & Wayne Miller, & Dwane & Jessica Miller & Family and Family & Friends on the death of Eva Mae's Husband, **Donald W. Miller**, who entered into eternal life on March 15, 2025.



*Anyone interested in joining any of the choirs,  
please see Erin Zelinski, Choir director & Organist.*



*No experience necessary!*

*Sing to him, sing praise to  
him; tell of all his wonderful  
acts. Psalms 105:2*

*Come join the Fun! Learn something new!  
Share your talents! Make new friends!*

*Choir Rehearsal:*



Handbell Practices  
at 6:15pm  
Thursday Nights.

Choir  
Practices  
at 6:45pm  
Thursday  
Nights.



**Zion's Stone Church Thursday Morning & Thursday Night  
Bible Studies and Saturday Worship Services**

are cancelled until further notice.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

The Social will be back at the park soon, but not this year. So the Fundraising Committee decided to plan something a little different on Sunday, July 27, 2025 instead of the social....Keep watching for more information/flyer for July 27<sup>th</sup> in the next upcoming Newsletters. We will still need your generous donations for the basket extravaganza!



# Sunday School News...

**.APRIL 19**

Easter Egg Hunt – 2:00 pm

(Kids up to Grade 5)

Sunday school will provide all the eggs

Come at 1:00 pm to help hide eggs



**MAY 4** CF Special Offering – to support one of our favorite teams  
Courageous Cousins (Benjamin Hehn and his cousin Aidan)

Help us raise money to fight CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Offering baskets will be in the church and Sunday school



**JUNE 23-27**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“MAGNIFIED” by Lifeway

6:30-8:30 pm every night

Age 3 to Grade 5



Register on-line at [myvbs.org/zionstonechurch](http://myvbs.org/zionstonechurch) or  
**pick up a form** at church or Sunday school. VBS  
information/registration forms will also be available on the  
church's web page. This is a community VBS!  
Don't forget to invite your friends!





## **Meeting was held on March 9, 2025.**

**Members Present:** Bradyn Brothers, Lillian Huegel, Maddie Miller, Tyler Buchman, Emily Buchman, Destiny Steinmertz, Lizzy Davenport, & Sarah Davenport

**Advisors Present:** Charlotte Fritz, Darryl Fritz, Marianne Storch, Kyle Snyder, Dave Snyder, Adele Snyder, & Karen Wood

Show N Tell: Maddie Miller

Secretary's Report given by Destiny

Treasurer's Report given by Charlotte

### **Old Business**

- 30 Hour Famine – Date is April 25-26 with Youth Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Can invite friends to the 30 Hour Famine. Please let Charlotte know by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Souper Bowl Sunday, was held on Feb. 23 instead of Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> due to 2 snow storms (2<sup>nd</sup> one on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>). Special thank you to all who still donated 2 weeks later on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We collected over \$150.00 and 69 cans. All donations will be donated to the New Ringgold Food Pantry.
- Phantom Hockey Game Vs. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Penguins on Feb. 16, 2025  
1) Everyone had a great time!

### **New Business**

- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – All proceeds will go to the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in Philadelphia. Help might be needed. Can use this for service hours at School.
  - The Youth Group will donate a \$100.00
- Went over Tuscarora Flying Club dates and Tamaqua Drama Club Dates. If interested see Kyle Snyder for the Flying Club and Bradyn Brothers for the Drama Club
- Upcoming Outing Suggestions: Lehigh Valley Zoo, Bear Rock Mini Golf, Christian Music Concert, Dorney Park, Iron Pigs baseball game, Bowling, Roller Skating, Knoebels, Lazer tag, etc.

### **Next Youth Group Meetings:**

April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm & May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Snack & Drink: Karen & Lillian

Show N Tell – Joy at the 30 Hour Famine  
“Encourage not Discourage.”

Respectfully Submitted By: Charlotte Fritz, Youth Group Advisor



# Fundraising News...

*The Fundraising Committee  
Is Hosting a*

## ***Homemade Church Filling Sale for Easter***

*Cost is  
\$12.00 per quart*

*Orders are due by  
**Sunday, April 13, 2025.***

*Pick up  
**Saturday, April 19, 2025**  
from 12:30pm-1:30pm*

*This is a “Pre-sale Only” Event.*

### ***2 Ways to Order!***

*You can order online  
[for any questions on ordering  
online, contact Jessica Miller at  
570-952-5610] Or  
Sign-up on the Sign-up sheet  
in the Narthex*



Scan this QR  
code to order  
online:



# **BE AN ORGAN DONER....SAVE A LIFE!**

We currently have a congregational member who is waiting on a double organ transplant at UPMC Pittsburgh, so the Fundraising Committee is hosting an All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner on May 17, 2025 for the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute At UPMC Presbyterian (Pittsburg) Hospital.

We will also be hosting a Blood drive on August, 24, 2025. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

## **The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute**

The leading resource dedicated to helping people from around the world with end-stage organ failure, the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute was established in 1985 as the Pittsburgh Transplantation Institute. It was renamed in 1996 in honor of Thomas E. Starzl, MD, PhD, whose foresight, perseverance, and commitment made him the modern-day father of organ transplantation.

The mission of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute is to foster a multidisciplinary approach to the continual improvement of the clinical, scientific, and social aspects of transplantation to improve the lives of patients with end-stage organ failure. The Starzl Transplantation Institute places a strong emphasis on the advancement of basic science and clinically applied research, and the teaching and training of multinational specialists.

The Starzl Transplantation Institute's transplant team has a tradition of caring for some of the most medically compromised patients. Nevertheless, the institute has maintained patient and graft survival rates that meet national benchmarks.



# Zion's **S**tone **C**hurch of **W**est **P**enn **T**wp.

45 Cemetery Rd, New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-5111 Prompt #4 (Leave a message)

## All – You – Can – Eat Spaghetti Dinner

May 17, 2025

4:00pm - 7:00pm

**Cost per ticket:**

**Adults (13 & up): \$12.00**

**Kids (12 - 3): \$6.00**

**Under 3: Free**



Meal includes: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce or Spaghetti with just Sauce,  
Bread, Salad, Dessert, and Drinks

**Ticket Sale starts April 13<sup>th</sup> and to insure we have enough to serve everyone,  
please order tickets in advance. Deadline to preorder tickets is May 10<sup>th</sup>.  
We will still sell tickets at the door, but it could be limited or sold out.**

We will also have a 3 item raffle.

Come take a chance on one of our raffles.

All Proceeds will go to the Thomas E. Starzl

Transplantation Institute at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital  
in Pittsburg to benefit their transplant department & help families that need  
financial help with a transplant.



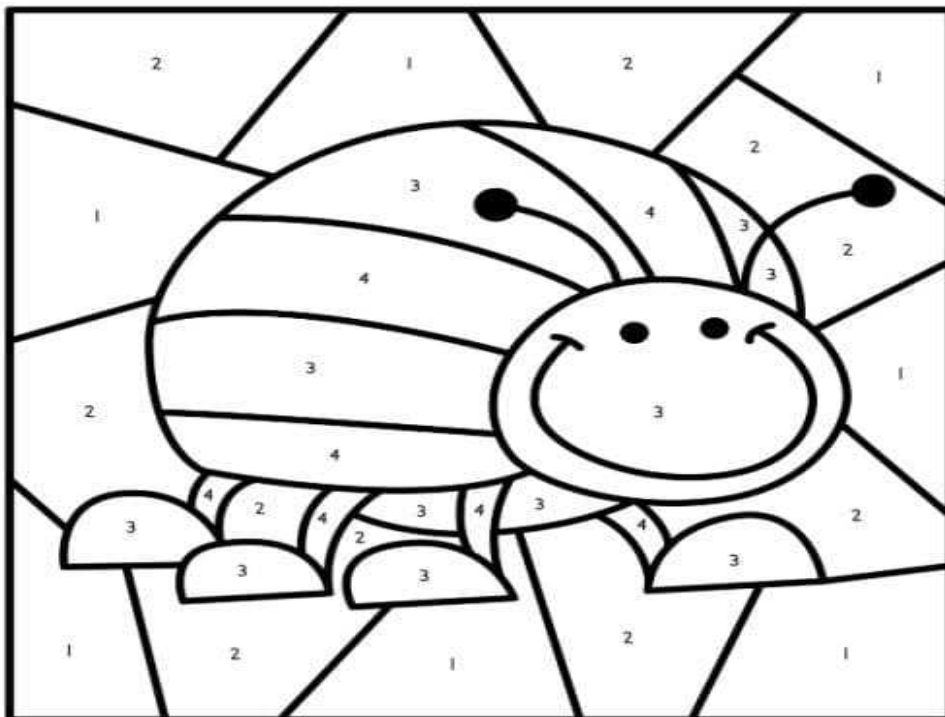
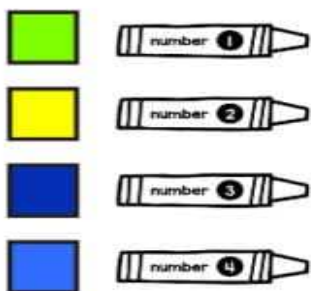
**Can call the church office at the above number or  
you can call or text Charlotte Fritz at  
570-952-4689 to reserve your tickets by May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

# Zion's Stone Coloring Sheet

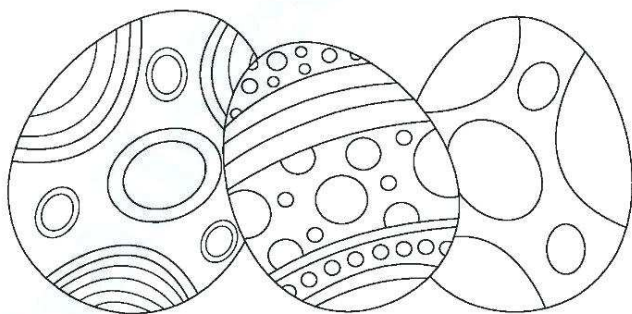
## Bugs

Color by number

Directions: Color the picture according to the code.



HAPPY  
EASTER



He is Risen



## **Important April dates to remember:**

**April 1, 2025** - April Fool's Day!

**April 2, 2025**

**7:00pm** - Midweek Lenten Service at Ben Salem Church,  
w/Rev. Russell Campbell preaching

**April 6, 2025**

**12:30pm – 2:00pm** – (Last of 6 Sunday Series) Lenten Bible Study at  
**Zion Lutheran Church** (in the choir loft)  
109 N Greenwood St, Tamaqua, PA 18525.

**April 9, 2025**

**7:00pm** – Midweek Lenten Worship Service at Dinkey Memorial  
Church, Mahoning w/Rev. Cliff Herring preaching

**April 13, 2025**

**9:00am** – Passion/Palm Sunday  
**Following the Church Service** - 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion class

**April 17, 2025**

**7:00pm** - Maundy Thursday Worship Service at Zion's

**April 18, 2025**

**7:00pm** – Good Friday Worship Service at Zion's

**April 19, 2025**

Fundraising Prep Work for Church Filling  
**12:30pm – 1:30pm** - Pick up Church Filling in Auditorium  
1:00pm – Come out and help the SS hide Easter eggs  
**2:00pm** – Easter Egg Hunt  
Place Easter Flowers in the Sanctuary

**April 20, 2025**

**6:30am** – Easter Dawn Service in the Cemetery (on Top)

**April 25 – 26, 2025**

**7:00pm (Friday) – 8:00pm (Saturday)** -Youth Group  
30 Hour Famine



## **PNEC Vision Statement:**

### **"United in Faith...Committed to Love...Created to Serve"**

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

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

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

#### **A Letter from Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister**

"There is no such thing as a 'safe space' – we exist in the real world. We carry scars and have caused wounds. This space seeks to turn down the volume of the world outside and amplify voices that have to fight to be heard elsewhere, this space will not be perfect. It will not always be what we wish it to be, but it will be our space together, and we will work on it side by side." Untitled Poem by Beth Strano

Dear Friends,

This week I spent time with the Council of Conference Ministers; the General Minister and President of the UCC, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson; Heather Kimmel, our chief counsel; the leadership of CHHSM (Center for Health and Human Services); the Insurance Board; and Elizabeth Dilley, our leader of the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization team. It was an honor to be with these colleagues. And during this week, we are beginning Lent. Jamar Doyle from CHHSM shared the poem I quoted above. I wonder if in our days together during Lent if can we look at where we can provide safety, where we can heal wounds, where we can listen to those whose voices are not heard, and where we can work side by side – together.

Lent is a time for reflection and reconciliation, a time for our prayer and fasting and moving into truthful, nurturing relationships with each other. How do we move toward becoming the voice of reason, peace, and justice? How do we let go of our own pain and see the pain of others? How do we move into the ideal relationships that Jesus calls us into – relationships of love of God and love of our neighbors, all our neighbors?

We have a gospel mandate to follow Jesus, to make disciples of all nations, to share the good news. We also have a gospel mandate to care for ourselves, to spend time in reflection and prayer. I remember as a child, the focus of Lent was to give up something I enjoyed. In my adulthood, I try to add a spiritual practice to my schedule – to take time for meditation or prayer, to listen for the voice of God in the stillness of my heart. This requires even more discipline than giving up chocolate did when I was young.

My life, like yours, is full of responsibilities, tasks, chores, work, and other worldly items that can take over my minutes, hours, and days. Yet, I will be working on reflection and prayer, spiritual disciplines, and prayer this Lent. What will you be doing to feed your soul, to spread God's grace, to share love this Lent? Share with me, with your colleagues, with your family and friends how you will nurture your heart. I will be listening and working side by side with you. ~Blessings, Bonnie





## 6261:

### Something New, Yet Something Old

*Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission*



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.

The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this “fasting” call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang “Lord, We As One United,” a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit [godslove.org/6261mc](https://godslove.org/6261mc) or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at [kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org). Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod’s lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

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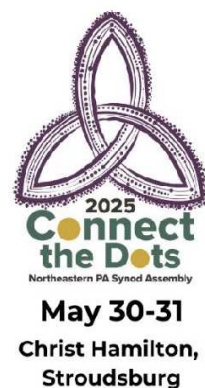


[godslove.org/assembly2025](https://godslove.org/assembly2025)

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## ZION'S STONE CHURCH-APRIL 2025 BIRTHDAY CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Maddy Miller		Spencer Meiser	Russell Blaker Emma Knittle Dean Meiser Briana Rubright	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	DeAnn Osenbach Todd Tyson, Sr.	Jeanine Hill- Jacob Melissa Hunsicker		Aubrey Oswald		Barbara Lushia Linda Meckes Dawn Rabenold Raymond Zelinski
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Dorothy Fritz		Brentley Kurtz Benson Trexler Hudson Trexler	Stacey Cheese	Judy Rosa Aaron Ruch		Jackie Clemson Marlin Zehner
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Brenda Ruch		Connor Ruch	Ella Balliet Shirley Lorah Daniel Miller	Kennedy Webb		Neal Houser Leah Crowley
27	28	29	30			
Susan Bonner Brandon Miller		Nancy Ketchledge	Adam Zeigler			

# ZION'S STONE CHURCH - APRIL 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				Choir Rehearsals: 6:15pm - Handbell 6:45pm - Sr Choir	6:00pm - Wed. Rehearsal for Eric Ballister & Erin Zeigler	2:00pm - Wedding of Eric Ballister & Erin Zeigler
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00am - Worship Service w/Holy Communion (Altar) 10:15am - Sunday School			7:00pm - Mid-Week Lenten Worship Ser. at Dinkey Memorial Church, Lehighton	Choir Rehearsals: 6:15pm - Handbell 6:45pm - Sr Choir		
<b>Palm Sunday 13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Maundy Thurs. 17</b>	<b>Good Fri. 18</b>	<b>19</b>
9:00am - Worship Service w/Young People's Time w/King's Kids Singing 10:15am - Sunday School 7:00pm - Youth Group Meeting Deadline - to order Church Filling by 10:30am	6:30pm - Board Meeting			No Choir Rehearsals 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship Service w/Holy Communion	7:00pm - Good Friday Worship Service	8:00am - Filling Prep 11:30-12:30pm - Pick up filling in Auditorium 1:00pm - Hide E. Eggs 2:00pm - Easter Egg Hunt 
<b>Easter Sunday 20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
6:30am - Easter Dawn Service 7:30am - Easter Breakfast 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11:00am - Newsletter Deadline				Choir Rehearsals: 6:15pm - Handbell 6:45pm - Sr Choir	7:00pm (Fri.) - 8:00pm (Sat.) Youth Group participating in World Visions 30 Hour Famine	
<b>Youth Famine Sunday 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			
9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School						