



Zion News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2023 – VOLUME 64 ISSUE 3

*I called on your name, Lord, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea: "Do not close your ears to my cry for relief." You came near when I called you, and you said, "Do not fear."
Lamentations 3:55-57*

**L
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Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation.

~ Catherine Doherty

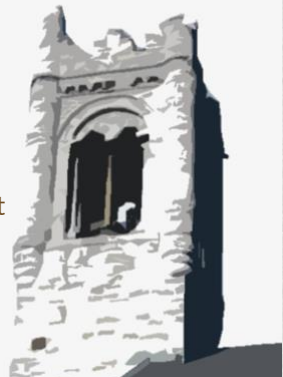
Wednesday Dinner & Meditation

Throughout Lent, we are meeting together each Wednesday for a potluck dinner and a meditation service. Dinner is at 6 and the service starts at 6:30. The theme of our time together is "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places". We invite you to join us for this time of connection and introspection as we walk through the season of Lent together.

**ZION'S MISSION:
TO SHARE THE
GOSPEL OF CHRIST
IN SUCH A WAY THAT
WE FIND GOD,
GROW OUR FAITH,
DISCOVER OUR
PURPOSE AND MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**

Sunday Service: 11 am
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship online:
www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Address:
201 N. Potomac St.
Telephone:
301-739-7244
Email:
zionrucc@myactv.net





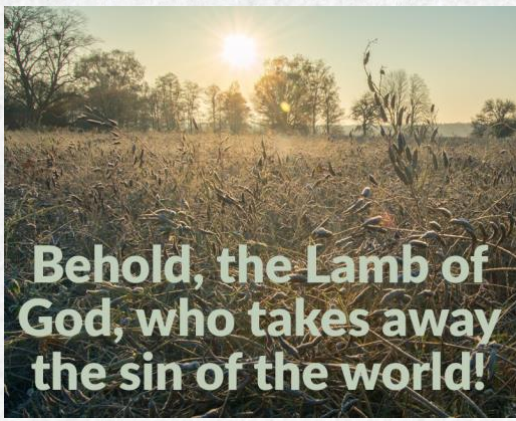
Beloved,

What does it mean to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church? We are almost a year into this process and some people in our congregation still ask me this question. Maybe the best way to answer is with a story. A pastor I know serves a church with a "Be the Church" banner hanging on the outside wall. This banner has a rainbow background and is often displayed at ONA churches. One day, a man walked into the church office and asked to speak to the pastor. "I have been walking my dog by your church for years and I've noticed your banner. Last week my husband of 40 years died and I'm feeling so alone yet seeing your banner told me that this must be a safe place for me to be."

A Safe Place to Be – That is what it means to be an Open and Affirming Church. Over the past year, as we have talked about what it means to be ONA, this is the core truth. When we publicly declare that we are Open and Affirming... when we open up our arms and say that yes, you really are welcome here, no questions asked... then we have become a safe place to be: a Sanctuary.

Blessings,
Pastor Katie





March

03

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

04

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship — 11am in person and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Sunday School – 9:45am - Adult and Children's classes with hybrid options also available.

Tuesday's Supper and One Stop Shop — Every Tuesday from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Lunch Bunch — Weekly at 11:30am in the Burhans Room and Zoom.

Wednesday Supper and Service (during Lent) - Potluck dinner at 6:00 and meditation service "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places" at 6:30 in the Chapel.

4-H Club — Every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room.

Executive Team Meeting—3/2 and 3/29 at 2:00pm in the Burhans Room and Zoom.

Consistory—3/6 at 7:00pm in the Burhans Room and Zoom.

Service Workers—3/1 at 1:30pm in the Burhans Room.

Search & Call Team Meetings — 3/13 at 5:30pm in the Burhans Room and Zoom.

Properties Team Meeting — 3/29 at 4:00 in the Burhans Room.

ONA Team Meetings — 3/14 and 3/28 at 12:30pm in the Burhans Room.

CE Team Meeting – 3/27 at 4:00 in the Burhns Room.

March Birthdays

Page Wise	3/3	Christine Coleman	3/14
Billie Keller	3/5	Brooks Heyser	3/16
Ellen Barr	3/5	Halie Green	3/18
Linda Frakes	3/7	Kent Shaffer	3/20
Tina Shafer	3/7	Calvin Livingston	3/23
Christian Grosh	3/8	AJ Atwell	3/25
Elizabeth Dattilio	3/9	Sue Graff	3/31
Julia Patterson	3/11		

March Anniversaries

Barabara and John Schnebly	3/22
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Notes from the Consistory

The January Team Reports indicate some good news. Our plate offerings are up from this time last year. Please keep up the good work! Personnel explained that volunteers have been trained to run the Sunday streaming for us. Consideration of a part-time person to address this weekly will be considered. The Outreach Team announced one block party for the summer, a Back-to-School event. They also plan to join another community event in June. The ONA Team will coordinate the June activity. The security cameras continue to give us some difficulty. Hopefully Teleplus can resolve these issues.

The Congregational Meeting Luncheon will be held on March 12th in the chapel. To begin the meeting there will be a Potluck luncheon immediately following the Sunday Service. ZION will supply chicken and drinks. The Consistory and Congregation are invited to bring covered dishes. There will be a sign-up sheet for these contributions. The annual reports will be ready for February 20/21 distribution.

ZION will apply for the following grants:

- The Bowman Grant which will help to continue the cemetery headstone restoration work in 2023.
- The Funkhouser Grant which will support the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry.
- Trinity/UCC Grant which will help with the A/C in the Fellowship Hall.
- United Way's monthly Emergency Grant which will help to fund the Food Pantry. (United Way also is offering a 2nd grant to fund up to \$20,000. The costs of our Food Pantry have risen dramatically. The Maryland Food Bank food is no longer free as it was last year. Last year we received over \$15,000 of free food from the Maryland Food Bank. It was noted that there are a lot of community food pantries and not many soup kitchens. Micah's Backpack also can no longer receive free food from the Maryland Food Bank. However, Micah's Backpack supply of food in-house is substantial.)

The National Historic Sites Grant is one ZION has consider before. While the opportunity is amazing, the realities of this grant are not reasonable for us to consider at this time. It was agreed that at this time, this is not a reasonable grant to consider.

A Community Resource Fair at ZION is being planned for early fall. The purpose of this fair is to provide a one stop (sound familiar??) place to enroll and access community resources such as REACH, WIC, SSI, Hagerstown Housing Authority, Children in Need, Micah's Backpack, etc. Volunteers will be needed for set up/clean up and to guide visitors to the various locations in the building.

The Coldest Night of the Year Walk to raise funds for REACH is being held on February 25 at HCC. So far a team of 6 ZION Reformed Walkers are participating. Please feel free to pledge funds to any one of these cold weather fanatics: Barb Hendershot, Curtis Nilson, Amber Nilson, Brynn Nilson, Kim Ridenour, and Carroll Sager.

There was discussion about what needs to happen for ZION to achieve ONA status officially. It is hoped that the February 19 luncheon will clarify this. A congregational survey may also be used to assist with this process.

A business called Audio-Suite will be contacted to see if there are some new and additional ideas that ZION can use to attract young families.

And spring is just around the corner! Our regular Lenten Wednesday Evening Potluck and Lent Services are held at 6 pm. Enjoy this beautiful season.

Treasurer's Report	January
Income	\$4,139.12
Transfers	\$50,000.00
Expenses	\$44,855.25
Net Income	\$9,283.87

It's Spring Cleaning Time - *from the Parish Nurse*



It's a good idea to take stock of medications, cleaners, pesticides and paints in your home at least once a year. Check out all the medications in your house- both prescription ones and those you buy over the counter. Be sure that they have not expired and that they are in their original containers. If they appear to be compromised in any way (damaged by water, hole in the box or bottle, melted capsules, unreadable directions), put them on the discard pile.

Also, be sure they are safely stored where small children are unable to reach them.

If you do have medications that are expired, damaged or no longer of use to you, dispose of them properly. The Hagerstown and surrounding police and sheriff departments generally accept medications for disposal with no questions asked. Some pharmacies will also accept medications for disposal. Log onto health.maryland.gov or hagerstownmd.org for locations, hours of operation and listings for what is and is not accepted. The Federal Drug Administration website (fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines) is also a good resource. If you cannot go to one of these sites, you can safely dispose of expired or unwanted medications at home; **don't** flush your medications unless you check the medication package insert or the FDA website for directions. Medications can be safely disposed with your trash by removing them from the original packaging and placing them in a plastic, sealable baggie along with dirt, cat litter or used coffee grounds. The medication is now ready for the trash bin. Medication patches still contain some medication even after you have used them; Fentanyl patches come with instructions to flush them after use because of their strength and abuse potential. Inhaler and aerosol medications pose the risk of exploding if put in regular trash (especially if it is incinerated). You can contact your local trash and recycling facility to see what method of disposal is recommended.

Old cleaning products should also be disposed of properly. The best way to get rid of cleaning products is to use them up. If it is something you cannot use, see if you can give it to someone else. If that is not possible, read the label and follow the disposal directions. If you cannot find any disposal instructions, go to Earth911.com to check on hazardous waste collections close to you. If you are advised to pour cleaners down the drain, be sure to rinse the drain well afterwards and don't mix chemicals or cleaners.

Pesticides are another item in your home that should be reviewed at least once a year. Try to mix or purchase only the amount that you will need for your project. ALWAYS mix or apply according to the label instructions. Never reuse empty pesticide containers and do not pour leftover pesticides down the drain. There are federal, state and local laws regarding the disposal of pesticides. Check out epa.gov/safepestcontrol/safe-disposal-pesticides for more information. Paint and wood stains that you no longer need can be best disposed of by drying them; once dry, these products are no longer hazardous. Stains should also have an expiration date on the container. If you need to dry out the product, you can leave it outside to dry up or encourage the process by putting cat litter, sawdust, cement or shredded paper in the container. reviewed at least once a year.

Once the product is dry, it can be disposed of in the trash. If you have larger quantities of paints or stains the are still viable, see if you can donate it to a friend or re-hab organization like Habitat for Humanity. Rags soaked with stain or paint can be combustible. Hang them outside to dry and then store them in an airtight container. Follow these simple house cleaning instructions for a safe spring!

Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN - Parish Nurse

Sources:
woodworkingclarity.com
epa.gov
cleanclassycreate.com
fda.gov/drugs



What's Happening

March 8 – International Women's Day

Take time to celebrate women's achievements and to raise awareness about women's equality.

March 11 – Youth Bowling

Spares, strikes and fun hanging out! Join our youth for bowling at 2:00pm at Seven Ten (19330 Leitersburg Pike). Reservations are required, so please let us know that you will be joining.

March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour...or you will be early for church!

March 24 - March Book Club

The Zion Book Club will be meeting at 7pm at the home of Daisy Schlotterbeck. Sue Graff will be leading the discussion of the new selection, "I Still Dream About You" by Fannie Flag. This book, by the author of The All-Girls Filling Station and other favorite reads, is back with the story of Maggie Fortenberry, a still beautiful former Miss Alabama. To others, Maggie's life seems practically perfect—she's lovely, charming, and a successful agent at Red Mountain Realty. Still, Maggie can't help but wonder how she wound up living a life so different from the one she dreamed of as a child. But just when things seem completely hopeless, and the secrets of Maggie's past drive her to a radical plan to solve it all, Maggie discovers, quite by accident, that everybody, it seems, has at least one little secret. Join us for a fun evening of chatting and discussion. Bring a drink and a snack, and settle in for some fellowship with us.

Help Wanted!

Zion is seeking a person to set up and operate LiveStream for Sunday mornings and special services. The time commitment would be up to 3 hours each Sunday. Previous knowledge of streaming is not required; training will be provided as needed. If interested, please submit your resume including any technology training and skills you may have and references to the Church Office, Attention: The Personnel Committee. A successful applicant will be required to submit to a background check and to agree to the policies of Zion's Personnel Manual and the UCC Safe Conduct Guidelines.

Date	Lector	Ushers
March 5	Rich Owens	William Brewer Calvin Livingston Jean Simmons Gerald Saum
March 12	Wells Ridenour	Burnie Clutz Susan Clutz Becky Hohman John Schnebly
March 19	Amber Nilson	Frank Ebersole Carol Mooers Becky Owens Rich Owens
March 26	Barb Hendershot	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot Matt McDonald William Wantz

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A B D 1 E	F G H 2 I	K L M 3 N	O R S 4 T	U V W 5 Y
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W
 5 1 3 5 4 4
 4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1
 1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3
 2 4 4 2 4 1
 “ 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 1 3 1
 3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4
 2 1 3 2 4 1”

Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

A Sabbath Prayer

*We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world in a way
that people must find their own path to peace within
themselves and with their neighbors.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end
starvation;*

*For You have already given us the resources with
which to feed the entire world, if we would only use
them wisely.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out
prejudice;*

*For You have already given us eyes with which to see
the good in all people, if we would only use them
rightly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power to clear
away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our
power justly.*

*We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us great minds with which
to search out cures and healing, if we would only use
them constructively.*

*Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for
strength, determination and will power,*

To do instead of just pray,

To become instead of merely to wish.

— Jack Riemer

Interim Minister: Rev. Katie Penick
(240) 418-8028, pastorkt143@gmail.com

Admin Assistant: Rae Smith

Multimedia Specialist: Brandon Hackett

Music Director/Organist: Claire-Marie Moblard

Choir Director: Byron L. Stay

Treasurer: Lisa Saum

Special Funds Treasurer: Carol Mooers

Parish Nurse: Barb Hendershot

Consistory Elders: Kim Ridenour, Carroll Sager, Tina Shafer, Susie Clutz and Carol Mooers

Consistory Deacons: Rich Owens and Calvin Livingston, Megan Shroyer, Matt McDonald, and Jean Simmons

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All articles are subject to editing for space.

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Hagerstown, MD 21740
201 North Potomac Street

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