

# Zion News



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2023 - VOLUME 64 ISSUE 11

*...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:18b-20*

## Community Resource Fair Thanks

A big thank you to all who helped in making our first annual Community Resource Fair a success - from set-up help to clean-up workers and greeters to donors. The people who attended the event offered a great deal of thanks for helping them obtain the services they needed; one woman offered her tearful thanks, saying that she finally connected with the help she needed for her family to survive. There were 17 local agencies in attendance, and they each offered their thanks as well, saying that this was their opportunity to learn what other groups can offer, and that they will now be able to better direct people to where their needs can be met. We are planning to do this annually, and already have several participating agencies asking for the 2024 date!

With sincere thanks,



Catoctin Association Meeting  
and 4-H Service Projects

**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**

Worship online [via Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID: 876 0291 7867  
Password: Peace

Sunday Service: 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Adult class [via Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID:  
876 0291 7867  
Password: Peace

Address:  
201 N. Potomac St.  
Telephone:  
301-739-7244  
Email:  
[zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net)



# Pastor's Pen

Dear Zion Church,

I write you on October 17, 2023. The air is cool and sky overcast, pumpkins abound and we eagerly await the Mummer's Parade. Tomorrow, October 18, we will have a ONA (open and affirming) time to discuss what voting means. On Sunday, during a congregational meeting we will vote.

When you receive this, we will know how the vote went. Either way, it is very clear that Zion hopes to grow in the future and to grow we need to explore becoming the most welcoming place possible. If we think welcome starts at Zion's front door, we need to think again. To radically welcome, we need to get to know the wider community -- especially the people who are just beyond our doors who wouldn't dare come inside.

Radical welcome requires deep listening to The Other. The hallmark of radical welcome is mutuality, which means sharing and listening equally. And to become radically welcome, we'll have to deal with power: who has it, who doesn't, whose culture shapes the church's story and history, whose culture doesn't. Once we listen and know who has the power, we start the important work of identifying ways to embrace each other.

Please consider the following and join me if you want to get engaged in becoming a radically welcoming place. Peace, Pastor Scott

## Moving From Inviting to Inclusion to Radical Welcome

As you consider this grid, ask yourself the following questions:

- Which of these models best describes our church's current reality, in general?
- What observations bring you to that conclusion?
- Who is The Other for you? What oppressed/marginalized group do you feel most compelled to welcome?
- What might this group's experience be in your congregation? What barriers would they encounter?
- What signs would you see in your congregation if you became radically welcoming to The Other?

	<b>Inviting</b>	<b>Inclusion</b>	<b>Radical Welcome</b>
<b>The Message</b>	"Come, join our community and share our cultural values and heritage."	"Help us to be diverse."	"Bring your culture, your voice, your whole self—we want to engage in truly mutual relationship."
<b>The Goal</b>	<b>assimilation:</b> community invites new people to enter and adopt dominant identity	<b>incorporation:</b> community welcomes marginalized groups, but no true shift in congregation's cultural identity and practices	<b>incarnation:</b> community embodies and expresses the full range of voices and gifts present, including The Other
<b>The Effort</b>	Systems and programs in place to invite and incorporate newcomers into existing structures and identity; rejection or marginalization of those who do not assimilate	Stated commitment to inclusivity, but less attention to ongoing programs, systemic analysis or power; emphasis on individual efforts	Systems and programs in place to invite and welcome people, including those from the margins; to ensure their presence, gifts and perspective will be visible and valued; and to ensure that these new communities, gifts and values influence the congregation's identity, ministries and structures
<b>The Result</b>	Healthy numbers (perhaps with some members who claim marginal identity) but institution and its membership is overwhelmingly monocultural	Revolving door, with people coming from margins only to stay on fringe or leave; institutional structure remains monocultural, with some pockets of difference	Transformed and transforming community with open doors and open hearts; different groups share power and shape identity, mission, leadership, worship and ministries



## November

# 11

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		

## December

# 12

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						

## NOVEMBER WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

**Sunday Worship** – 11am in the sanctuary and virtually at <https://www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive>

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

**Wednesday Night Potluck Dinners** – Nov 1, 8, 15 and 29 at 6pm

**4-H Club** – Every Thursday (except Thanksgiving) at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room

**Choir Practice** – Every Thursday (except Thanksgiving) at 5:30pm

**Staff Team Meeting** – Tuesdays at 12:00am in the Burhans Room

**CE Team Meeting** – 11/6 at 5:30pm

**Properties Team Meeting** – 11/1 and 11/29 at 4pm

**Executive Team Meeting** – 11/2 and 11/30 at 2pm

**Consistory Meeting** – 11/6 at 7pm in the Burhans Room

**Easyise Exercise Class** – 11/11 at 9am

## November Birthdays

John Schenbly	11/2	Wells Ridenour	11/3
Jeannette Rinehart	11/8	Margaret Munroe	11/11
Jane Hershey	11/13	Bill Brewer	11/13
Curtis Nilson	11/13	Beth Gross	11/14
Brandie Burchard	11/15	Betty Patterson	11/16
Kim Cook	11/18	Byron Stay	11/20
Jax Burchard	11/21	Daisy Schlotterbeck	11/22
Matt McDonald	11/26	Chris Emmert	11/30

## November Anniversaries

Lisa and Gerald Saum                      11/7



Don't forget to turn your clocks back when before you go to

# Consistory Highlights

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As Zion falls back into a regular routine, there is much to celebrate and to participate in. Our financial income is showing some improvement as our attendance continues to grow. There is also an uptick in the number of people coming to the Tuesday Night Ministries.

Pastor Scott has been meeting with parishioners and local community members. He has even met with the mayor of Hagerstown. Pastor Scott is also working on a presentation for the fall Catoctin Conference meeting. He will complete his UCC accreditation over a 3-year period.

Confirmation classes began October 15 with Pastor Scott leading this group and Tina Shafer assisting. Each confirmand will have a mentor from the Congregation. The Confirmation class will cover the acolyte duties. The Children's Church "bags" will be further differentiated by ages.

The Properties Committee is very busy improving the exterior appearance of Zion as well as updating the interior of the church. Check out the new "wall" being built in the memorial Garden and the pruned trees in the cemetery. A new sidewalk will be installed as part of a multi-phase project to install an ADA compliant doorway to the main floor of the church. New low plantings in front of the church will help to eliminate the museum look of our building. Lighting options are being evaluated for the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers always are welcome to help with these projects. The status of the repair/replacement of the organ sound board is still in limbo awaiting a quote.

Pastor Scott proposed that we have communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. He will consecrate the elements every additional Sunday of the month and have the elements placed in Narthex. Those wishing to commune weekly can access the elements at the conclusion of the service. The votive prayer candles also will be moved to the Narthex. It is hoped that these plans will accommodate everyone's needs.

Two greeters are needed each Sunday morning, one for the middle door and one at the front door. Greeters will welcome visitors and encourage them to sign the guestbook. The red carnations will be reinstated as a way of knowing who is a visitor.

Stewardship Sunday is November 12. Consistory members will be contacting members to share an update of all that is happening at Zion. Car stickers or car magnets and long and short sleeved shirts sporting the Zion UCC design are being considered.

A plaque honoring Scherry Sellers and her work for the Micah's Backpack program will be placed by the door to the Micah's Backpack room. More information about the presentation date to follow.

While no one is finishing their term on Consistory at the end of 2023, there are two vacancies that can be filled. Interested people should contact a Consistory member. Names of anyone interested will be published 3 weeks prior to the December 10th Congregational Meeting at which time a vote will be taken on the nominees and the 2024 budget.

An informal meeting opportunity with Pastor Scott will be held on Wednesday, October 25 as part of a Potluck dinner and the decorating of the classroom doors for Halloween.

If you have noticed the microphones cutting out periodically during the worship service, the issue apparently is caused by a television/radio waves moving through our building. No kidding! We will be extending our antenna to eliminate this interference.

As you can see, it may be fall but we are not resting on our laurels! Check out the many activities upcoming in the weekly bulletin and email.

# Skipped Over A Parish Nurse Note

Did you notice that Halloween candy and decorations were on store shelves in August? Did you notice the store displays went directly from Halloween to Christmas? We seem to be forgetting something. Thanksgiving is often skipped over in an effort to quickly get to the Christmas season and shopping for gifts. Of all the holidays we celebrate, Thanksgiving should be more than just a day to overeat, see extended family members and watch football. Thanksgiving should be just that- giving thanks. How many of us stop to think about the real meaning of Thanksgiving while we feast on turkey and all the trimmings? Thanksgiving in the Bible means an offering, devotion, praise, or sacrifice. Thanksgiving is to glorify God, giving thanks for all things that are supplied for us.

How can we show that we know the true meaning of Thanksgiving? Zion has many ways for us to give and show others that we are grateful for what God has provided for us. We share food with children and families in need by supporting Micah's backpack, our soup kitchen and food pantry. We participate in community projects including the REACH Cold Weather Shelter, Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) activities, sponsoring a 4H club, collecting books for the community and being a welcoming church for all. We really have a lot to be thankful for, including our new settled pastor.



Did you know that both being thankful and giving to others have health benefits? Studies have shown that those who are thankful and give to others have lower blood pressure and less stress, which can lead to a longer life. Happiness and connectiveness are boosted in the process of being thankful and giving. The areas of pleasure and trust in your brain are actually activated when you show thanks or give to others. Actively thankful people are at a lower risk for depression as well. In giving, the person on the receiving end naturally gains something needed, but givers also benefit from the amazing changes that occur in themselves.

So, what are you waiting for? This Thanksgiving season, pause to reflect on the wonderful and bounteous gifts we have received from our Creator. Get busy and help with one of our projects. Not only will you help someone else, but you will also receive both health and emotional benefits for yourself! As a church, let's try to make Thanksgiving not just an often-undervalued holiday; let us make Thanksgiving our everyday celebration of God's bounty in each of our lives. You will feel better for it!!



Blessings and Health,  
Barb Hendershot, RN  
Parish Nurse

Sources:

- [christianity.com](http://christianity.com)
- [health.clevelandclinic.org](http://health.clevelandclinic.org)
- [everydayhealth.com](http://everydayhealth.com)

# What's Happening

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## **November 1 - Who is Your Cousin? Genealogy Seminar at 7pm**

Have you ever wondered about your ancestors and how they lived? Join Carol Miller-Schultz to learn tips and techniques to start a journey into your family's past. Carol will share the essential tools for tracing your family history and free resources to assist with your quest.

## **November 12 - Stewardship Sunday**

This year theme "Because of YOU, our church changes lives". Speaking of stewardship - if you are interested in serving, please contact Kim Ridenour by November 12th.

## **November 12 - Organ & Trumpet Recital**

Join us at 2pm for a bountiful audio harvest!

## **November 19 - Totenfest**

Join us for this service of remembrance of those who have died in the past year. This is a special time for our family to support each other and be reminded of our eternal hope found in the resurrected Christ.

## **November 19 - Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**

Please join us for this unique and uplifting interfaith service at 3pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. You are invited to stay for a reception following the service.

## **November 26 - Christmas Prep Begins!**

During Sunday School, we will have our first practice for our annual Christmas Pageant that is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will also put up the trees following our morning worship service.

## **December 1 - Zion Book Club**

We will meet at 7pm at the home of Daisy Schlotterbeck to discuss the *The 13th Gift*, a true story. After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children--especially with the holiday season approaching. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." This true story about the power of random acts of kindness will warm the heart, a beautiful reminder of the miracles of Christmas and the gift of family during the holiday season.

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		
	<b>September</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
Income	\$4,661	\$55,118.68
Transfers	\$25,000	\$225,000
Expenses	\$38,455.52	\$283,188.44
Net Income	-\$8,794.52	-\$3,069.76

Date	Lector	Ushers
Nov. 5	Jean Simmons	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot Matt McDonald William Wantz
Nov. 12	Missie LaBombard	William Brewer Calvin Livingston Jean Simmons Gerald Saum
Nov. 19	Rae Smith	Burnie Clutz Susan Clutz Becky Hohman John Schnebly
Nov. 26	Rich Owens	Frank Ebersole Carol Mooers Missie LaBombard Rich Owens



The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship.  
- *N.T. Wright*

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette  
**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

**Zion News** is published monthly by Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
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Deadline for articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to the month of publication.  
All articles are subject to editing for space.

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**ZION REFORMED UCC**



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