



Zion News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2024 – VOLUME 65 ISSUE 3

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

The Path to Easter at Zion

Palm Sunday, March 24th

Service at 11am. Handing out palms and putting up the Cross.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

Service at 7pm at Christ's Reformed

Good Friday, March 29

- Zion Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation 9-noon
- HARC Cross Walk at City Park 1:00pm

Saturday, March 30th at 4pm

Decorating the Easter Flower Cross

Afterwards we will go to dinner at Western Sizzlin

Easter Sunday, March 31st

- Sunrise Service at Christ's Reformed Time (6:30)
- No Sunday School classes
- Service around the Cross Service at 10:30am
- Easter Sunday Service 11am

**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





This year as Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday intersected wasn't the first time to see romancing partners carrying red heart-shaped boxes of chocolates and roses into restaurants with charcoal crosses on their foreheads. The legend of St. Valentine is of a priest near Rome known for fearlessly sharing the Love of Jesus Christ and its blessings for all people. The emperor Claudius persecuted Christians and to encourage men's participation in the military invalidated all marriages. Valentine performed illegal Christian marriages and was captured and imprisoned. The legend tells that he continued to share God's love and to pray for God's blessings, even on the lives of the prison guards.

While rooted in a missional beginning, Valentine's Day, like many religious holidays, got blinged. Instead of celebrating a humble resistance to imperial power, Valentine's Day is flush with preening hormones, unrealistic relational goals, and commercialism. Valentine's Day is like a sugary pop song, while Ash Wednesday is a slow, somber and sometimes sorrowful ballad.

What would it look like if the retail industry captured Ash Wednesday as a commercialized holiday like Valentine's Day? Imagine the malls. Beside Valentine's glittering red hearts would be black plus-signed smudges. Beside the pink cupids are somber swaths of dull sackcloth. Chocolate-filled cartons share shelves with insignificant jars holding dry dust and acrid ash. Starbucks would market both their Valentine's Day, Chocolate-Covered Strawberry Crème Frappuccino and Humus Lattes. *It couldn't happen.* Commerciality abhors realistic self-perception. Ash Wednesday moves us from the adoration of glamour, fame, wealth, billboards, scoreboards, and skyscrapers to consider the bottommost earth, the below us root systems of life, it's worms, cicada and dung beetles. We are called to the basic elements of life, the shared soils that nourish our bodies, minds and spirits. We contemplate our humanity, our humility, and our mortality.

Of all the religious holidays that help us center ourselves in the truths of our faith, Ash Wednesday contradicts our culture's commercial deformities more than any other. Ads promise wrinkle-free youth, the ash reminds us that our aging is natural and should be cherished. Our stores promise costumed prominence, the ash reminds us that our hearts' intentions are more important than how people see us. TikTok videos, Facebook reels, and YouTube fame promise we can distinguish ourselves from others, promote our specialness, and the ash reminds us we share in the same soil.

We are called to re-center ourselves in God's hope-filled reality. We are invited to decompose our daily lives that we might be reconstructed anew as resurrect-ible children of God. Move your gaze down to brown, microbial, life-absorbing roots to the appreciations of daily living: heartbeats, breathing, clear water, earthy breads, toes, skin and friendship. Fast from planning achievement and this Lent live a prayerful present. Fast from pursuing eternity and appreciate today.

Ash Wednesday is not a festival of self-nullification. It is not anti-life. It is not anti-joy. Quite the opposite, Ash Wednesday desires we enjoy our connection to the earth, enjoy the scents of olive oils, herbs, teas, and salts. Ash Wednesday is the annual call to appreciate a fragile, finite, and utterly incredible humanity. Ash Wednesday is the annual call to calm humility before a providential God. Ash Wednesday opens us to the retreat of Lent, the stretching yoga of Lent, the deep massage of Lent, the small loving oasis of Lent. Relax friends for we are made of the same dust and some day we will return together to the comforting embrace of God's beloved earth.



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

MARCH WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship – 11am in the sanctuary and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

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

Wednesday in Lent – Devotion at 6pm and potluck at 6:30pm

4-H Club – Thursdays at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room

Choir Practice – Thursdays at 5:30pm

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

CE Team Meeting – 3/4 at 5:30pm

Executive Team Meeting – 3/28 at 2pm

Consistory Meeting – 3/4 at 7pm in the Burhans Room

Easycise Exercise Class – 3/9 at 9am

March Birthdays

Jim Rhodes	3/2	Julia Patterson	3/11
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

March Anniversaries

Barbara and John Schnebly	3/22
---------------------------	------

Consistory Highlights

Our monthly meeting began with Kim's observation that "there is a lot of energy within our church these days." Then our financial secretary's report noted that our giving was up from the previous January. What great news to begin our meeting and the New Year!

There are several important meetings occurring during the next few weeks. Our Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck when the 2023 committee reports will be discussed is on Sunday, February 25. On Sunday, March 17, Pastor Scott will be officially installed as Zion's minister. Easter is on Sunday, March 31. Then on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6 we will engage in a visioning and strategic planning weekend. **All members of Zion are encouraged to attend and to participate in these exciting events.** Additional information about each of these events can be found below and more will be forthcoming.

The Personnel Committee will review our entire personnel policy and make recommendations to the Consistory. The first version of our Pictorial Directory has been shared and members are asked to submit edits and/or updated pictures so a final version can be created. The Christian Education committee announced that Sunday School and Confirmand graduations will be held on May 19. Vacation Bible School will be held on June 24-26 with Christ's Reformed joining us. The Children's Choir will sing on Palm Sunday. The ONA committee is conducting a planning meeting on February 15 to discuss with members of the LGBTQ+ community how we might support them. The URL block on the bulletin is up and running so members can contribute online to Zion.

There are several community grant opportunities (i.e. United Way, Funkhouser) which will be investigated to see if any of these grants match up with our various projects. Applying for the National Trust grant process will be deferred until we complete our Visioning and Strategic Planning process. Then we can focus on our clearly defined and prioritized projects when we apply for this grant. Pastor Scott discussed offering leadership training and clearly outlining the roles of the Elders and of the Deacons.

Volunteers are needed for several upcoming church activities:

- The Cinderella Shop every Saturday in March from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm – Shopper helpers and door security folks are desperately needed. Sign up in the chapel area or contact Carroll Sager.
- Pastor Scott's Installation Service on March 17 at 2 pm – Carol Mooers is coordinating the reception following the service. Please contact her if you can help and/or bake. Drivers may be needed to transport some of our senior congregation members. Please contact any Consistory member or Pastor Scott if you are able to help with this and/or would like a ride. The entire installation service will be broadcast via Live Control.
- Putting up the Cross on Sunday, March 24 immediately after worship – Many strong arms are needed in this effort.
- Decorating the Cross on Saturday, March 30 – Volunteers will create and erect our traditional, beautiful flower cross which will stand in our front yard. Dinner for all volunteers will be at Western Sizzlin immediately afterward.

Yes, the energy at Zion is building and being shared! And spring is just around the corner!

RSV - A Parish Nurse Note

RSV, respiratory syncytial virus, is nothing new. The virus was first discovered in 1956 but was not initially thought to affect children. Science has since determined that this virus is very common, and nearly all children have been infected by it by the time they are 2 years old. The symptoms of RSV are the same as the common cold and are mild in nature: nasal congestion, runny nose, cough, decreased appetite and low-grade fever. RSV is a self-limiting virus (it will resolve on its own without any treatment). However, problems can occur when infants, (especially those that are born prematurely) anyone that is immunocompromised and those with cardiopulmonary (heart and lung) disease contract RSV. Native Americans and Alaskan children are also at greater risk for serious complications from this virus. Repeat infections with RSV can occur throughout your life at any age.

RSV can be spread like the common cold. Being exposed to an infected person when they cough or sneeze, kissing an infected baby, or touching a contaminated surface are ways that RSV is spread. People are usually contagious a few days before symptoms appear, and for 3 to 8 days while they have



This virus can live on soft surfaces (tissues and skin) for short periods and for several hours on hard surfaces such as tables and doorknobs. RSV season begins in the fall and peaks in the winter, although this timeframe varies from year to year. What can you do to protect yourself and those you love from RSV? If you are ill- stay home! Cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your shirt sleeve; do not use your bare hands. Frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds is a must. Don't touch your face with unwashed hands. Clean

touched surfaces such as cell phones, doorknobs, and bathroom fixtures. Limit close contact (hugs, kissing, shaking hands) if you suspect someone is ill. Treatment for RSV revolves around relieving the symptoms. Antiviral medication is NOT recommended on a regular basis. Over the counter fever relievers (acetaminophen or ibuprofen) are recommended; do NOT give aspirin to children to reduce fever. Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. Check with your healthcare provider before using any over the counter cold medications. Many of these preparations have ingredients that children and those with chronic health issues should avoid. Healthy individuals do not usually require hospitalization because of RSV. However, small infants under 12 months of age may develop lung infections, and the elderly or immunocompromised may contract pneumonia.

A preventative antibody is available for at risk infants and young children to help prevent RSV. One RSV vaccine is available for pregnant women that helps protect their unborn child, and 2 vaccines can be used by those aged 60 and over. Talk with your healthcare provider to see if you should consider this vaccine. Be safe during the rest of the winter and be aware of the RSV possibilities.

Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN
Parish Nurse



Sources:
cdc.gov

What's Happening

March 10

- Daylight savings time begins! Move your clock forward one hour.
- ONA Fellowship Time after worship with refreshments.
- Youth Event at Sky Zone at 2pm

March – Zion Book Club

The Book Club group will be reading *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult. The March date is to be determined- please contact Sue Graff for details.

March 17 – Pastor Scott's Installation

With the Central Atlantic Conference and the Catoctin Association we will celebrate the Rev. Dr. Scott Winnette's installation as Zion's settled pastor with a service at 2pm. A reception will follow. If you need a ride, please let the church office know.

March 29 – Good Friday Unity Walk

Join us at 1pm for HARC's annual ecumenical Good Friday Unity Walk in memory of Christ's passion and death. Walk begins in the gazebo adjacent to the Museum parking lot and ends at the "grotto." There will be 7 stops with scripture readings and meditations, and call-and-response songs between the stops. A stationary (no-walk) option will also be available at the gazebo.

April 5 & 6 - Visioning & Strategic Planning - members and friends are invited!

The Visioning Process is an intense, multi-day meeting involving congregational stakeholders in dialogue to jointly discern the future mission priorities of the church. It challenges the congregation to assess what they are doing to live into God's economy by using their assets for mission. The visioning process helps a congregation understand its needs, while discerning and determining how to meet those needs. The ultimate goal of the process is for the congregation, by consensus, to develop a list of mission priorities.



One of our Easter traditions at Zion is the Easter Cross. It is raised at the beginning of Passion Week, representing the Cross of the Crucifixion. On Easter morning, as a symbol of the Resurrection, it will bloom with Spring flowers.

Those who wish to be a part of this tradition are invited to sponsor flowers for the cross. Flowers may be contributed in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone dear. The names of those honored will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact and provide your donation to the church office by Sunday,

Date	Lector	Ushers	
March 3	Jean Simmons	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot	William Wantz Matt McDonald
March 10	Missie LaBombard	William Brewer Jean Simmons	Calvin Livingston Gerald Saum
March 17	Carol Mooers	Burnie Clutz Susan Clutz	Becky Hohman John Schnebly
March 24	Rich Owens	Frank Ebersole Carol Mooers	Mark Bagby Rich Owens
March 31	Rae Smith	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot	William Wantz Matt McDonald

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	January	Year-to-Date
Income	\$5,987	\$5,987
Transfers	\$45,000	\$45,000
Expenses	\$50,993.02	\$50,993.02
Net Income	-\$6.02	-\$6.02

<p> 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 </p> <p> Consistory Elders: Kim Ridenour, Carroll Sager, Tina Shafer, Susie Clutz and Carol Mooers </p> <p> Consistory Deacons: Rich Owens and Calvin Livingston, Megan Shroyer, Matt McDonald, Becky Hohman and Jean Simmons </p>	<p> Zion News is published monthly by Zion Reformed United Church of Christ 201 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. </p> <p> Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am – 12:00 pm Telephone: 301-739-7244 Email: zionrucc@myactv.net Website: www.zionreformed.church </p> <p> Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication. All articles are subject to editing for space. </p> <p> The medical information in this newsletter is provided without any representations or warranties, express or implied. You must not rely on the information in this newsletter as an alternative to medical advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. </p>
---	--

ZION REFORMED UCC
201 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

GIVE ONLINE

