



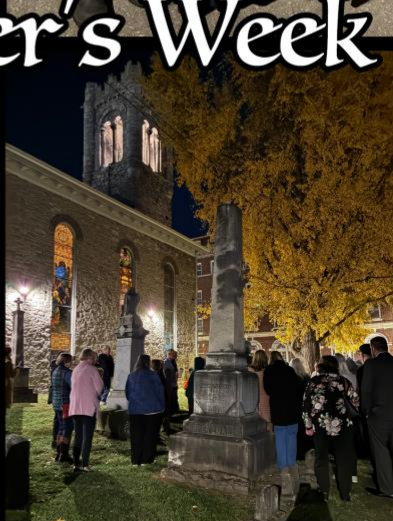
Zion News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2025 – VOLUME 66 ISSUE 12

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6*



Founder's Week



**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: 813 6036 7954
Password: GodswithUs

Sunday Service: 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am

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





ADVENT

November 30th

First Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Practice 9:45-10:25am

Worship 11:00am

Sermon: Anyway Praying

Scripture: Psalm 77 & James 5:13-20

Decorate Christmas trees after worship

December 7th

Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Practice 9:45-10:25am

Worship 11:00am

Sermon: Wild New Life

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3:1-12

December 14th

Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Practice 9:45-10:25am

Worship 11:00am

Sermon: My Soul Gives Glory to God

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10 & Luke 1:39-55

December 21st

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Practice 9:45-10:25am

Worship 11:00am - Christmas Pageant

December 24th

7pm, Christmas Eve Service



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			

January

01

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

DECEMBER WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

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

Sunday School - 9:45am - Adult and Children's classes

Children's Choir - every Sunday 10:15-10:30 in the Music Room

Middle/High School Sunday School - 12/7 & 12/21 9:45am in the Youth Room

Young Adult Class/Bible Study - 12/14 & 12/28 at 9:45am in the Youth Room

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

Staff Meeting - Tuesdays at 11:00am in the Burhans Room

Potluck and Study - Wednesdays at 6pm

4-H Club - 12/4 and 12/18 at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room

CE Team Meeting - 12/1 at 5:30pm

Consistory Meeting - 12/1 at 7pm

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 5:30pm

Easy-cise Class - 12/13 at 9:00am

December Birthdays

Matthew Cook	12/1	Gia Delosier	12/17
Richard Owens	12/2	Patricia Winnette	12/19
John Dwyer	12/5	David Ridenour	12/21
Koda Bell	12/12	Carol Miller-Schultz	12/22
Carol France	12/13	Mackenzie Ridenour	12/29
Scherry Sellers	12/15		

December Anniversaries

Bob & Peggy Lowman	12/7	Wells & Karen Ridenour	12/12
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Notes From November

Consistory did not meet in November due to the events of Jonathan Hager Week. We kicked off the week with Homecoming Sunday and were thrilled by the wonderful turnout—over 100 members and friends joined us, and it was a joy to catch up and see familiar faces. On Thursday evening, a special meal was prepared for the speakers and the Hager planning team ahead of the Celebration of Life service; in honor of our German heritage - bratwursts and sauerkraut were served. Jonathan Hager's Celebration of Life service was truly beautiful, featuring meaningful reflections from community speakers including Rev. Kevin Munroe. The combined choir of Zion & Christ Reformed sang a hymn (What God Ordains is Always Good) believed to have been used at Elizabeth Hager's funeral. Later in the week, we were fortunate to have Matt Penrod and his son, Forrest, lead an engaging ghost tour and historical walk through Zion's graveyard—an experience he hopes will be the first of many. It was a wonderful week of honoring Jonathan Hager's legacy and celebrating our shared roots, and we are grateful to have been at the heart of this meaningful community event. Special thanks to everyone who helped make this week possible!



We wanted to announce in this newsletter, something we announced during our Homecoming service on Nov 2nd. Claire Marie Moblard and Byron Stay have decided that they will retire from their music roles at Zion, effective after our Easter Celebration. Claire Marie has served as our Organist and Director of Music, and Byron as choir member, and eventually Choir Director, for an amazing 23 years. Very few churches have their own trumpeter much less one that is so incredible skilled. Over the years they have guided us through a lot of music and endeavors. Who remembers Claire playing her harp for Christmas Eve services and her vibraphone for gathering and special music numbers? Neither of those instruments fit very well into a briefcase, but somehow, they made it to Zion to enrich our services.

We are forever so grateful for Claire Marie and Byron's musical leadership and commitment to Zion, but most of all, we have been blessed to call them our friends for nearly a quarter of a century! We love you and will miss you, Claire Marie and Byron.

Winter Wellness – A Parish Nurse Note

Winter wellness is not very different from trying to stay well during the rest of the year. One of the best ways to keep healthy is to stay hydrated. In addition to enjoying hot cider and hot chocolate, be sure to drink at least 8 cups of water every day. Beware of your intake of caffeine and alcohol, especially during the holidays. Do not use these beverages when adding up your daily water intake.

The winter holidays can be a stressful time. Try to focus on your favorite traditions, meeting up with friends and family, and finding joy in the season. Don't forget to relax during this busy time! Getting enough sleep is vital while you prepare for this season of giving and rejoicing. Try to maintain your regular sleep schedule, despite parties and other festivities. Again, limit both your caffeine and alcohol intake, as they can interfere with adequate sleep. Also, avoid large meals before going to bed.



Be aware of the weather that is predicted. Dress warmly, wear a hat and keep your ears covered. Instead of wearing a huge coat, dress in layers that can easily be shed if needed. If your clothes get wet while outside, change them as soon as possible to avoid getting chilled. Know the signs of frostbite: numbness and tingling of exposed skin, color change of skin to red, white, blue, gray, purple or brown, cold waxy-looking skin, joint stiffness that causes clumsiness, pain and skin that is blistered once rewarmed. The most common areas of skin affected are fingers, toes, ears, cheeks, chin and tips of the nose. You may not notice this because the area is numb.

You don't get a break from exercising in the winter! Exercise is a big part of staying healthy, both mentally and physically. If you are exercising outside, dress in layers. Be careful to not wear so many layers that you become overheated. Indoor exercising is great during the winter; include a friend, and the benefit is even greater.

One of the best ways to stay well in winter (and all year long) is to WASH YOUR HANDS. Disease causing germs are everywhere and on every surface you come in contact with. Washing your hands often and for at least 20 seconds helps to combat diseases like influenza and the common cold.

A healthy diet, including lots of fruits and vegetables, is another great way to keep illness at bay.

Being healthy during the winter takes a little work, but you will enjoy your time with family and friends so much more if you stay well! Be well, and don't eat too many cookies!



Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN Parish Nurse

Sources: [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)

What's Happening

December 5 - Christmas Light Up Party

Join us at the Shroyer's house, 13292 Whispering Spring Drive, Greencastle, PA. Come enjoy the Christmas Light Display on "Candy Cane Lane" and warm up by the fire and make s'mores. Dress warm, this is an outdoor event!

Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund Offering has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing assistance to lower-income retirees. Give onsite, online at www.zionreformed.church/give, or by mail throughout December.

December 7 - Congregational Meeting

After worship please make plans to join us to vote on the annual budget and to re-elect Consistory Members:

- Carol Mooer to serve 1st term as Deacon
- Kim Ridenour to serve 1st term as Elder
- Megan Shroyer to serve 1st term as Elder
- Matt McDonald to serve 2nd term as Deacon
- Jean Simmons to serve 2nd term as Deacon

December 14 - Christmas Cookie Exchange

Join us after worship for a wonderful time of exchanging Christmas goodies! Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies for the exchange prepare to go home with an assortment of cookies. The extra cookies will be shared with Zion's guests for the Historic Houses of Worship Tour.

December 26 - Historic Houses of Worship Tour

A wonderful opportunity to see the interiors of historic downtown Hagerstown houses of worship. Learn about the architecture and ecumenical heritage from docents and guides. The tour runs from 3-6:30pm. Zion is a tour stop and we will be serving cookies and punch. We are looking for donations of cookies to share and volunteers to lead tours.

Volunteering at Reach Cold Weather Shelter

Zion is signed up to cover the REACH Cold Weather Shelter on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30. Volunteers will be needed to cook and serve dinner, clean up the kitchen, register, check, and search guests, monitor the laundry area, and provide overnight coverage. Please see Carroll Sager if you are interested in helping.

The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton. In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart...The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. *Advent is the name of that moment.*

~ Frederick Buechner

Date	Lector	Ushers	
December 7	Tina Shafer	Frank Ebersole Rich Owens	Carol Mooers Rick Waters
December 14	Jean Simmons	Christine Coleman Tina Shafer	Judy Thompson Barb Ware
December 21	Rae Smith	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot	Matt McDonald William Wantz
December 28	Barb Ware	William Brewer Calvin Livingston	Gerald Saum Jean Simmons

Children's Church Helpers: 12/14 - Christine Coleman, 12/28 - Megan Shroyer

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	October	2025
Contributions	\$5,115.89	\$60,980.50
Transfers	-	\$320,000.00
Other Income	\$4,488.83	\$36,848.10
Expenses	\$33,847.96	\$418,402.75
Net Income	-\$24,243.24	-\$574.15

<p>Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette Admin Assistant and Docent: 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: Becky Hohman, Megan Shroyer, Tina Shafer, Susie Clutz and Carol Mooers</p> <p>Consistory Deacons: Rich Owens, Calvin Livingston, Alyn Wilson, Matt McDonald, Rick Waters 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 13th 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>
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Hagerstown, MD 21740
201 North Potomac Street

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

GIVE ONLINE

