Zion News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2026 – VOLUME 67 ISSUE 11

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens.
This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (The Message)

Or you'll be at church before everyone else on November 1st!

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

Take, Thank, Break, Give

Father Richard Rohr

The greatest gift one can give is thanksgiving. In giving gifts,
we give what we can spare, but in giving thanks we give ourselves.
—Brother David Steindl-Rast, Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer

Father Richard shares how the sacred ritual of the Eucharist participates in the flow of gratitude and generosity:

At his Last Supper, Jesus gave us an action, a mime, a sacred, communal ritual that would summarize his core and lasting message for the world—one to keep repeating until his return. It's significant that the meal and the metaphor are based in physicality; the incarnation continued in the elements of the universe. Good stuff, and yet it has always been a scandal to overly spiritual people, starting at the very beginning: "This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?" (see John 6:60).

The Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving," has four main aspects. In our conscious participation, we become more like the one we follow:

First, we take our whole lives in our hands, as Jesus did. In very physical and scandalously incarnational language, table bread is daringly called "my body" and wine is called "my blood." We are saying a radical "yes" to both the physical universe itself and the bloody suffering of our own lives and all the world.

Second, we thank God (*eucharisteo* in Greek), who is the Origin of all that life and who allows and uses even death. We are making a choice for gratitude, abundance, and appreciation for Another, which has the power to radically de-center us. Our lives and deaths are pure gift, and must be given away in trust, just as they were given to us as gift.

Third, we break it. We allow our lives to be broken and given away. We don't need to protect them. The sharing of the small self will be the discovery of the True Self in God. "Unless the single grain of wheat dies, it remains just a grain of wheat" (John 12:24); the crushed grain becomes the broken bread, the whole and newly connected "Body of Christ."

Finally, we chew on this mystery! This truth is known by participation and practice, not by more thinking or discussing. "Take this," "eat and drink this"—not alone, but together, "until I return." There we have the heart of the message, a "new covenant" of indwelling love that is not grounded in worthiness in any form, but merely in a willingness to participate and trust. Our drinking and eating are our agreement to "do what I can to make up in my own body all that still has to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body the church" (see Colossians 1:24). Eucharist is a risky and demanding act of radical gratitude for, solidarity with, and responsibility to the work of God—much more than a reward for good behavior or any "prize for the perfect," as Pope Francis says.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *A Spring within Us: A Book of Daily Meditations* (Albuquerque, NM: CAC Publishing, 2016), 295–296.

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 www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive
Tuesday's Supper and One Stop Shop – Every Tuesday from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
4-H Club – 11/5 at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room
CE Team Meeting – 11/2 at 6:00pm
Consistory Meeting – 11/2 at 7:00pm
Wednesday Night Potlucks and Bible Study at 6:30pm
Easy-cise Class – 11/21 at 9:00am
Zion's Gathering Place – 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20 at 9:00am
Children's Choir - during Sunday School
Choir Practice - Thursday's at 5:30pm

November Birthdays

Claire Montgomery	11/1	Brandie Burchard	11/15
John Schnebly	11/2	Kim Cook	11/18
Jeannette Rinehart	11/8	Byron Stay	11/20
Margaret Munroe	11/11	Jax Burchard	11/21
Bill Brewer	11/13	Daisy Schlotterbeck	11/22
Curtis Nilson	11/13	Anthony Loccisanos	11/23
Beth Gross	11/14	Matt McDonald	11/26

November Anniversaries

Gerald & Lisa Saum	11/7	Randy & Barbara Hendershot	11/22
Mike & Sue Graff	11/18		

Zion Capital Campaign Corner

Still on the Rock...Still Growing

Welcome to the Capital Campaign Corner!
We will use this place in the newsletter to give you an up close view of the work that is being done with your capital campaign funds.

This month we are sharing pictures of the transformation that has occurred inside our parsonage thanks to the campaign funds. This space has not been used regularly in decades so it truly needed some TLC. As you can tell from the before and after pictures, now it is quite inviting. We have already held several events in this space including some ancestry and historical society meetings. We still have some final touches to complete on this project including an ADA accessible ramp and canopy giving access to the parsonage via the sunroom. We are definitely experiencing a transformational time in Zion's history.

Consistory Update

The Capital Campaign continues to move forward, with $72,802 collected to date. The next step will be to prioritize the projects to be completed with these funds. The Outreach Committee shared that United Way provided two volunteers during "Day of Caring" to help organize clothing in the food pantry. Zion also participated in Herbstfest at City Park, selling bratwursts and sauerkraut. Thanks Becky Hohman for all your hard work for this event! The Properties Committee obtained quotes for parking lot improvements, including resealing and striping and the project was completed in late October. Increased interest in property rentals has prompted the development of an updated rental agreement, which will be reviewed at the next meeting.The annual budget review will take place in November. Stay tuned for the date of our Annual Meeting!

November Honors – A Parish Nurse Note

November is Native American Heritage Month. Many of our modern-day medicines, treatments and procedures were part of everyday Native American life. According to the Medical University of South Carolina's College of Pharmacy, 75% of all plant-based medicines and over 120 modern medications have their roots in Native American medicine. It is amazing that Native Americans were able to figure out how to use plants as medicine, as many are poisonous in large doses. Pain relief was treated by making tea from the American black willow tree; a substance known as salicin was extracted, which the body converts to salicylic acid- the active ingredient in aspirin. Capsaicin was also used for relief from arthritis, stomach aches, rashes and animal bites. A type of sunscreen was made by Native Americans using sunflower oil, western wallflower (a member of the mustard family), aloe and plant saps. Dogwood was used to treat hemorrhoids, and a combination of dogbane and stoneseed (plants in the Borage family) was used as an early form of preventing pregnancies. Goldthread (a plant belonging to the buttercup family) was used as an eye wash and mouthwash as well as to treat mouth sores, teething pain, colds and flu.

Native Americans also created medical tools and procedures that are often attributed to others. They historically used as many parts as possible of animals that they killed, trying to waste nothing. Native Americans developed syringes made from hollow bones (especially bird bones) to inject their medications and to irrigate wounds. Animal bladders were dried and oiled to be flexible, so they could be used as irrigation bags. Sutures for closing wounds were made from sinews (tendons), human hair or plant fibers. Native Americans even made a type of baby bottle using cleaned, dried and oiled animal intestine with an attached hollow quill from a bird feather. This vessel was filled with pounded nuts, meats and water that helped feed their little ones.

Our "modern" medicine has actually been around for a long time. Changes have occurred over the years, but we owe a lot to our Native Americans and their ingenuity. Celebrate their heritage – they have taught us much!

Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN Parish Nurse

Sources:
archive-share.america.gov
forbes.com
surgery.arizonz.edu

What's Happening

Ghost Tours – November 6
Friday Nov 6th at Zion's cemetery. 1st tour - 5:30pm, 2nd tour - 7pm.
Jonathan Hager Zion Ghost Tours supported by Washington County Parks & Recreation.

Thanksgiving Meal – November 26
You are invited to the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving at Zion. Last year was a big success. It will be very relaxed and open-ended, we will eat, watch football, fellowship, etc. It will be semi-catered from the Honey Baked Ham store. You are welcome to bring your favorite dishes, but it is not expected. $20 per person and you can drop your money off at the church office. Please consider having your traditional extended family gathering at Zion - the more the merrier! Sign up in the chapel.

Upcoming Zion's Gathering Place
Zion's Gathering Place continues to grow, and we have a great lineup of programs planned this month! Join us from 9:00am–2:00pm on 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20.

Getting Ready for Christmas at Zion!
November 22nd - We will be putting up the trees after worship.
November 29th - We will be decorating the trees and church after worship. We will provide a light lunch during both events.
Christmas Pageant Practice - December 6th and 13th We will be practicing during Sunday School from 9:45-10:45am The Christmas Pageant will be on December 20th during worship.

Zion Volunteering at Reach Cold Weather Shelter
REACH of Washington County's Cold Weather Shelter opened its cold weather season in October offering a safe and warm place for people to sleep while also providing dinner and a light breakfast.

As in previous year's, Zion will be covering the Shelter for two nights, Monday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 29. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner and then clean up the kitchen area on each of these two nights, to screen individuals' belongings as they enter the shelter, to oversee the laundry, and to be a backup for the paid security guard overnight. Except for the overnight person, volunteers can expect to be on site from roughly 4 pm until 8:30 or 9 pm.

The volunteer sign-up sheet is on the table in the Chapel. If anyone has a special talent such as singing or playing an instrument and is interested in sharing this talent during a Shelter evening, please contact Carroll Sager. If you have questions, please see Carroll Sager.

Date	Lector	Ushers	
November 1	Rick Waters	Domenick Gerlando Barb Hendershot	Matt McDonald William Wantz
November 8	Burnie Clutz	William Brewer Calvin Livingston	Gerald Saum James Coates
November 15	Barb Hendershot	Burnie Clutz Susan Clutz	Becky Hohman John Schnebly
November 22	Calvin Livingston	Frank Ebersole Carol Mooers	Rich Owens Rick Waters
November 29	Alicia Montgomery	Christine Coleman Blaine Dockery	Judy Thompson Barb Ware

Children's Church Helpers: 11/8 - Susie Clutz, 11/22 - Alicia Montgomery

TREASURER'S REPORT		
	September	2026
Contributions	$6,323.00	$52,857.52
Transfers	$25,000.00	$435,000.00
Other Income	$1,646.22	$45,810.17
Expenses	$30,526.20	$537,794.22
Net Income	$2,443.02	-$4,126.53

Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette
Pastor's Asssitant/Docent: Rae Smith
Admin Assistant: Jennifer Kelley
Multimedia Specialist: Brandon Hackett
Music Director: Kobe Brown
Accompanist: Dom Bechtel
Treasurer: Lisa Saum
Special Funds Treasurer: Carol Mooers
Parish Nurse: Barb Hendershot

Consistory Elders: Susie Clutz, Megan Shroyer, Alyn Wilson, Rick Waters, Tina Shafer, Kim Ridenour

Consistory Deacons: Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, Calvin Livingston, Matt McDonald, Jean Simmons, Becky Hohman

Zion News is published monthly by Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
201 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 1-3pm
Telephone: 301-739-7244
Email: zionrucc@myactv.net
Website: www.zionreformed.church

Deadline for articles is the 13th of each month prior to the month of publication. All articles are subject to editing for space.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ZION REFORMED UCC
201 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

GIVE ONLINE