

THE ZION WEEKLY

a weekly publication of Zion Mennonite Church



April 7, 2023

Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve

In Worship This Week

After Jesus' resurrection, the primary challenge he gave to his disciples was to spread the good news to others. We are his current disciples on earth, inheriting the same challenge, to share the gospel, to help others grow in the way of Jesus, to be an influence for Jesus on others.

The sermon on April 7 will use the metaphor of aroma, of smell - do we give off a pleasing aroma to others? What do people notice and remember about me that points them to Jesus?

Upcoming April Events:

April 14:

- Creation Care Sunday
- Hymn Sing
- Congregational Meeting

April 20:

- BBFP Breakfast/ Give Away

April 21:

- Chili Challenge
- End Gun Violence March

April 26:

- Nursery School Movie Night

UPCOMING WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday

- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time
- 10:15 am Sunday School
- 12:00 pm Iglesia Menonita Ebenezer

Monday

- 10:00 am BBFP ~ Prep
- 11:30 am Table of Plenty

Tuesday

- 9:00 am BBFP ~ Food Prep
- 1:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm BBFP ~ Charter School
- 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting
- 7:00 pm Church Board Meeting
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Committee Mtg
- 7:00 pm Youth Group

Wednesday

- 9:00 am Centering Prayer
- 11:30 am Table of Plenty
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday

- 9:00 am BBFP ~ Delivery
- 1:00 pm Grief Share
- 6:00 pm Mental Health First Aid

April Preaching Schedule

April 7	Mike Ford
April 14	Sonya Stauffer Kurtz
April 21	Sonya Stauffer Kurtz
April 28	Josh Landis

215-723-3592 149 Cherry Lane, Souderton, Pa. 18964 www.zionmennonite.org contact@zionmennonite.org
Church Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Raise Your Hand



Zion's theme this year is **DISCOVER!** What do you want to discover? The kids from Children's Church were kind enough to be hand models for us so we traced and cut out their hands on construction paper for you to write something you would like to discover. Since God is the creator of all things, there is a lot to choose from!

We will be displaying these hands on the bulletin board during the month of April. And do not worry, you can add a hand at any time. We want to cover the board – all we need is you!

Saying Goodbye to the Garden

On **April 9**, Creation Care and the Youth Group will be dismantling the vegetable garden (next to the barn). It was built in 2010 as a Boy Scout project. In 2013, when the Scouts could no longer handle the maintenance, the Creation Care Committee took over responsibility of the garden. Keystone Opportunity clients have been using it, but over the years it has seen declining use. With the garden now in disrepair and requiring work and expense to fix, the decision was made to retire it. Happily, Mike Ford will be repurposing the fencing and boards, to give it new life in some other way!



JOIN US

Plan on staying after Sunday School on April 7 when we will re-install the Memorial to the Lost t-shirt display and keep it up through the April 21 march. We will need help installing it so bring your hammers and outdoor clothes and join us after Sunday School.



Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love release it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.

Martin Luther Kind Jr.

How can you help?

The BBFP's next **Family Grocery Giveaway and Breakfast** is on **Saturday, April 20** and we are looking for someone to run the kitchen dishwasher from 9:00 to 11:30. This will eliminate the need for paper products. Other volunteers are also welcome to help with the grocery distribution outside.

Mark your calendar!

On Sunday, July 21, the Travis Wetzel Band will be playing at the **Concert Sundaes** in the Souderton Park and the Bean Bag Food Program will be serving refreshments. Join us for a fun evening of music, grilling hotdogs, and scooping ice cream!

Thank you!



Finance Committee Update

As the first quarter of 2024 comes to a close, some of you may be curious to know how closely our receipts are tracking to the amount we need to meet our budget by the end of the year. To bring you up to date, here is a summary of giving so far this year:

Month	Actual Receipts	Projected Receipts	Difference
January	\$41,902	\$43,625	(\$1,723)
February	\$38,936	\$37,493	\$1,443
March	\$44,536	\$61,511	(\$16,975)
YTD	\$125,374	\$142,629	(\$17,255)

Finance committee has been carefully reviewing data to arrive at the most effective way to share this activity with you, and here is what you can expect in the way of updates throughout the year. On the first Sunday after the end of the previous month, please check the bulletin for a comparison of that month's actual to projected receipts. That way, each month you will be able to see how we are doing!

Also, your first quarter giving statement will be distributed soon. Please take time to review it and contact Janice, our financial secretary, with any questions. Thank you for your support, Zion is grateful for every donation.

We Invite You to a Fellowship Committee Event

Chili Challenge

Sunday, April 21

After the Sunday School Hour (11:30 am)

Before the March Against Gun Violence (1:00 pm)

Each attendee will sample and vote for their favorite recipe

After the ballots have been tallied and a winner declared
plan on enjoying a Chili lunch and fellowship!

Groups Competing:

Believers – Sojourners Class
Church Board
Footprints Class
Seekers Class
Youth Group



ARE YOU A STREAMER?? Maybe you're an on-again-off again Streamer??

We welcome those who faithfully join our Livestream for worship.

We are one congregation, even though you are not physically here! Everyone viewing online is very important to the life of this church. We can see a significant number of "Streamers" are out there every week!

We wish to hear from you! Please take a moment to say "hello" to all of us! You may wonder how you can do that. Start by calling or emailing the church so we can communicate with you and share your message with the "in the pew" congregation. **We want to know you are there, and what your favorite part of the service is. Maybe you have a special message for us.** It will be wonderful to make this connection. You can contact us by calling 215-723-3592 or email us at contact@zionmennonite.org.



We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Sunday Morning Child Care

	Worship	Sunday School
April 7	Judy Francis & Alice Green	Ron & Joyce Price
April 14	Rob & Erin Saunders	Andy & Erin Constanzer
April 21	Steve & Donna Rosenberger	Art & Donna Landis
April 28	Bekki & Nate Dibble	Bonnie Moyer & Amy Cummings-Leight



Adult Fiction

Water from My Heart by Charles Martin - Charlie Finn had to grow up fast, living alone by age sixteen. He earned a life-changing scholarship to Harvard, now working in the cutthroat business world. But when his choices produce devastating consequences, he sets out to right wrongs, traveling to Central America where he will meet those who have paid for his actions, including a woman and her young daughter.

Bible Study

1 Corinthians: Believers Church Bible Commentary by Dan Nighswander

Chosen series, season 3 DVD + guide

Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School

June 24—28

6:30—8:00 p.m.

SEEKERS in SNEAKERS
Discover Jesus!

More Information
will be available
soon!

The college spring semester is slowly coming to a close and it will be soon time for finals. Sign up at the welcome desk to send our college students a care package to give them encouragement. See Tana Benschik for details.



Let's Celebrate.....

April Birthdays

11 - Pat Kratz	22 - Gwen Hedrick
14 - Bryn Constanzer	23 - Liam Musselman
Trisha Watkins	25 - Tim Groff
17 - Levi Saunders	26 - Barb Musselman
Barb Schanz	29 - Graham Bencsik
21 - Jonathan Landis	30 - Nate Dibble
Katie Musselman	30 - Priscilla Newman

April Anniversaries

7 - Ray & Linda Landis
 10 - Bill & Donna Baum
 Dave & Bonnie Moyer
 15 - Barry & Jackie Murphy
 16 - Jim & Suzanne Gunden
 17 - Dennis & Nancy Detwiler
 21 - Randy & Nancy Hartzel
 24 - Kurt & Andrea Keller

Thank you

To my Zion Church Family,
 It was so nice to receive the lovely Easter Bag.
 The Berry & Vanilla shower gel has a wonderful
 aroma and I will also enjoy using the fingertip
 towel. Thank you for the very thoughtful gifts.

Gratefully,
 Ann Godshall

Pastor Beth would like to thank all of those who
 made meals, sent cards, and prayed for her
 during her surgery and recovery. She felt
 uplifted by her church family.

"The world has many takers.
 Be different. Be a giver."

Rich Godshall, on the MCC Meat Canner

Project of the Month

Camp Men-o-Lan

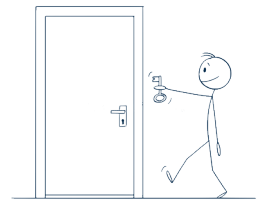
Camp Men-o-Lan has a special place in many of our lives. This is your opportunity to help make wishes come true if you haven't already. Your gifts, large and small, will be greatly appreciated by all who enjoy church camp. A wish list is available for those interested in knowing more about camp and their needs. If you have any questions about items on the list or need additional information, please contact the camp office at 215-679-5144. Thank you!



HELP NEEDED:

Sunday Unlock & Lockup Person!

A person is needed Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. to unlock, turn on lights and adjust thermostats. Then return at 12:30 p.m. to lock up, turn off lights and adjust thermostats. If you are interested, contact **Mike Landis** 267-640-2986 to get on the monthly rotation.



Outreach Opportunities!

The Outreach Committee is considering a few community events this year and we are looking for some outgoing people who may be interested in participating. Examples include being a vendor at **Souderton 3rd Fridays** and sponsoring a **Concert Sundae** one Sunday evening in the park.

If you are interested, please contact **Tana Bencsik** or anyone on the Outreach Committee.

Come out and support Jakob Landis as he participates in this musical.

Souderton Area High School

Presents

Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

A musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg
School Edition specially adapted and licensed by Music Theater International and Cameron
Machtosh (Overseas) Ltd

Performed
entirely by
students



April 11-13

@ 7pm

April 14

@ 2pm

General admission \$10

Seniors 62 and older: FREE with SASD issued Gold Card (no online Gold Card tickets. See below for box office hours.)

Tickets go on sale April 2, 2024 at showtix4u.com

In-person Box office dates are
April 2, 4, 9, 10, 3-7pm and one hour before curtain

The Box Office and all performances are located at
Souderton Area High School
625 Lower Rd, Souderton, PA 18964

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).



Everence®

Plan to join us **Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.** at **Souderton Mennonite Church** for a **Medicare and Social Security seminar** to gain clarity and confidence in retirement. You'll find a comfortable and informative session with the goal to help you take the next clear and confidence steps in retirement. RSVP today or learn more at: everence.com/souderton or call 215-703-0111.

CONSIDER WORKING AT A CHRISTIAN CAMP THIS SUMMER!

Many Zion folks have fond memories of their time at summer camp, most of you at **Men-O-Lan**. Men-O-Lan and other summer camps are actively recruiting summer staff and would love to hear from anyone interested - just go to their websites for information. While positions like counselor require one to be 18 or older, most every camp has summer jobs open to youth ages 14 and older.

Bethany Birches Camp offers summer staff opportunities in VT in a Mennonite community serving children who do not have the support of a church community. As a Bethany Birches staff member they will be guided to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually! A summer at camp helps the young people in your life spend intentional time with God, develop skills for their future, learn more about themselves and their abilities, and is a great resume builder. Additionally, because of our remote location, with housing and food being included, it is easy to go home with more than \$3000 in their savings account. Encouraging teens and young adults in your life to spend a summer at Bethany Birches will give them the chance to experience God's presence in real and honest ways. Email camp@bethanybirches.org for more information.

MCC Material Resource Center is in need of lightweight cotton or cotton blend fabrics for comforter patches, preferably 1 yard or more lengths. This material is used to make colorful, warm comforters to share with people around the world. The material can be delivered to us at 737 Hagey Center Drive, Unit C, Souderton, PA 18964, Monday – Thursday 9 - 3 & Friday 9 - 1.

Thank you for considering us for your donation.

A story about Edwin from Papua, Indonesia.

He was an IVEP candidate, worshipping at Zion in 2009.

Edwin was a Creation follower. He prayed for God's Creation daily. He knew every bird, animal, fish, tree, insect, leaf, and grain of sand in Papua, Indonesia. He did not know seasons like spring, summer, fall and winter. On the East side of the Island of Java, it was either hot and rainy or hot and dry. Weather there was actually insipid, challenging and tolerated. It was, however, incredibly beautiful.

One day in late September (in Souderton), Edwin noticed the leaves were turning over on the trees. Why do the leaves turn over like this, he wondered. Trees in Papua did not do this. As weeks passed, Edwin noticed bushes losing their bright color and flowers dying, grass turning pale. Our Sun was lower in the sky. Edwin became alarmed. He could no longer hold back his concern. With tears in his dark brown eyes, he asked us, "Why is everything dying outside? The trees are dead. There is no life in them. Birds have gone. Everything is dead or dying." He truly worried his prayers were going unheard.

We explained the four seasons that arrive in North America-- like clockwork. Each season has its own great wonderment. With respect, Edwin did not believe it. He never heard of such things. He continued to fret for the Creation. "These trees will not live again, they are dead," he said as grief took over.

Winter arrived and Edwin, now stunned. He had never breathed air that made his skin and body cold. Snow was a phenomenon beyond his imagination. Shivering was a new experience. He disliked being indoors so much, but he could not tolerate the wintry blasts of frigid air. What's more, all those layers of clothing made him wince. "Spring's coming!" we kept saying. Edwin, unconvinced, looked down.

Late March ushered in some unseasonably warm air for about a week, and soon the daffodils and grape hyacinths were striking a pose just above the soil. Edwin did not miss any of this. But still, he firmly reported the trees were not responding. After work, he spent time sitting with the trees, encouraging them. Patiently waiting a few more weeks, Edwin's prayers were fruitful. Things began to show life! One evening he happily came to the dinner table to proclaim the trees were budding! He could not deny, birds were returning! Now, he was no longer sad. Edwin sat on our stone wall, watching our towering oak tree as it swayed in the warm spring breeze, this time with a smile and a

thank you to God for bringing new life—a promise we take for granted!

We marveled at *Edwin's new life* as he learned to trust in God through whatever he did not understand and refused to believe.

Bonnie M



Zion Special Meeting – April 14, 2024

Hear how solar power can contribute estimated cost savings and revenue totaling \$750,000 over the next 25 years.

- ❖ **Good stewardship of resources**
 - ❖ **Community interest and engagement**
 - ❖ **Clean energy powering Zion**
 - ❖ **Younger generations see Zion's care for their future and the environment**
 - ❖ **Possibilities for the Zion church attendees to be involved**
 - ❖ **Continues Zion's legacy of community leadership**
 - ❖ **Revenue and Cost Savings to provide a major funding source for continued church capital project needs**
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There will be a presentation, dialogue and vote on Zion's Solar Project after the church service and refreshments.