

THE ZION WEEKLY

a weekly publication of Zion Mennonite Church



April 28, 2023

Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve

In Worship This Week

Zion would like to thank **Josh Landis** for bringing us the message on Sunday.

This Sunday, we will walk with Miriam through the wilderness as we reflect on a challenging story in the book of Numbers. As we approach this story from a fresh perspective, we are invited to look for hope and the promise of God's presence as we consider the Biblical text and our own travels through the wilderness.

NEXT SUNDAY— Jayson Casper will bring us the message. Jayson and his wife Julie are our missionaries in **Beirut, Lebanon (IDEAS)**. Jayson is a Middle East Correspondent for *Christianity Today*. In his work as a Christian journalist, Jayson seeks to faithfully report the interplay of religion, politics, and culture, while representing the perspectives of Middle East Christians, Muslims, liberals, and Islamists, in all their variety. To read some of his publications, go to jaysoncasper.com

International Development
& Educational Associates

IDEAS



UPCOMING WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:15 am Sunday School
12:00 pm Iglesia Menonita Ebenezer
4:00 pm Peace & Justice Vigil

Monday

11:30 am Table of Plenty

Tuesday

1:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Youth Group

Wednesday

9:00 am Centering Prayer
11:30 am Table of Plenty
7:00 pm Memorial Endowment Meeting
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday

9:00 am BBFP ~ Delivery
9:30 am Kindred Sister Bible Study
1:00 pm Grief Share

May Preaching Schedule

May 5 Jayson Casper
May 12 Sonya Stauffer Kurtz
May 19 Beth Rauschenberger
May 26 Sonya Stauffer Kurtz

LOST AND FOUND: did you happen to take home the wrong navy blue jacket last Sunday from near Fellowship Hall? Rebecca Gebelein is missing a jacket and a North Face navy blue jacket was left nearby. Thanks for checking!

215-723-3592

www.zionmennonite.org

contact@zionmennonite.org

Church Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

149 Cherry Lane, Souderton, Pa. 18964

The Next Chapter....

After much prayer and discernment I have come, with mixed emotions, to the decision of retiring from Zion on July 1. This has not been an easy decision for me, as I have felt loved, supported, and cared for by this congregation as I learned and grew in my position here. But more recently I have felt God gently nudging me to travel another path, and as I learned 22 years ago, as I was contemplating accepting the Congregational Care position, YOU CANNOT fight God's nudges!

After my retirement, I look forward to spending time with my grandchildren especially Levi who will need extra care. I want to continue to practice self-care to get back to normal daily activities.

Rudy and I will continue to worship here at Zion, but I will no longer be able to care for the needs of the congregation. Please don't think that I no longer care about you, I just am unable to give you the attention and care that I was able to in the past. I am confident that the leadership of Zion will be able to fill these needs just as compassionately as I have done.

Thank you to all who have supported me and my ministries.

Blessings to all, Pastor Beth

How can you help?

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!



What actions are most excellent?

To gladden the heart of a human being.
To feed the hungry.
To help the afflicted.
To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful.
To remove the wrongs of the injured.
That person is the most beloved of God who does most good to God's children.



Sunday Morning Child Care

| | Worship | Sunday School |
|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| May 5 | Edie Landis & Polly Moore | Barb & Laura Musselman |
| May 12 | Bob & Kay Kehs | Isaac & Laura Martin |
| May 19 | Judy Francis & Alice Green | Dylan & Kelsey Landis |
| May 26 | Betty Bergstresser & Suzanne Gunden | No Sunday School |

Hymn Sing Funny Cake:

THIS JUST IN--Photo Follow-up on the amazing Funny Cake bakers!

You may have had a sample of Linda Sue's Funny Cake on April 14. Last week you received the recipe. Now, the photo is here to enjoy! Courtney handles the dough just like a professional pastry chef!

Funny cake was one of the recipes Linda Sue learned to make while nannying Bruce and Sherry Russell's family.

It's now a favorite of Matt and Courtney!

Thank goodness for family traditions that get passed around, family to family!



Linda Sue's Funny Cake

Funny cake 350° 60 minutes
-makes 2

Top: 2c white sugar, 1/2c butter, 2 eggs
1c milk, 2c flour, 2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla

cream butter & sugar, add eggs & mix
add milk & dry ingredients alternately
then mix in vanilla

Bottom: 1c white sugar, 1/2c cocoa, 3/4c hot water
mix together

Pour batter in bottom of crust then pour
chocolate mixture on top. It will sink to bottom
while baking

Don't Trash Those Solar Eclipse Glasses!

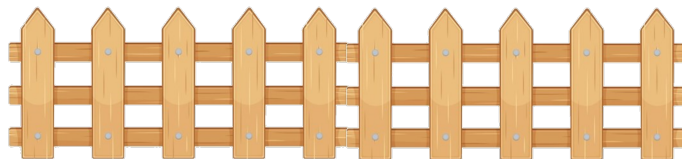
Creation Care Committee will be collecting unwanted solar eclipse glasses through the end of April. These glasses will be sent to Eclipse Glasses USA, who will be sending them to Latin American children to enjoy the October 2024 Eclipse. Thanks to Pat Kratz for sending us the information about this program!



Thank you

Thank You to **Mike Ford and the Youth Group** for all their work to remove the garden! Mike found several people interested in reusing the fence and boards for the raised beds. On April 9, our Youth Group dismantled the fence and boards and then loaded them onto the trailers for the people, who in turn, donated \$125 toward our solar project. We are so pleased that the garden materials will live on, instead of going to a landfill, and will also benefit the solar project!

- Creation Care Committee



Help Yourself!



In the foyer by the back door is a large seed display which are left over from the Bean Bag Food Program family event. If you are interested pick up some to plant in your garden.

Let's Celebrate.....

April Birthdays

29 - Graham Bencsik
30 - Nate Dibble
30 - Priscilla Newman

May Birthdays

3 - Katie Derstine
Mary Keller
4 - Judy McVaugh
5 - Jakob Landis
10 - Ella Mae Bencsik
12 - Jeremiah Martin
Eli Martin
Layla Martin
15 - Richard W. Godshall
Kurt Keller
20 - Eric Musselman
22 - Amy Bergstresser
28 - Mark Watkins

May Anniversaries

5 - Bill & Deborah Ruth
14 - Christian & Melanie Derstine
22 - Joshua & Jennifer Landis
26 - Dan & Tana Bencsik
29 - Chris & Sue High

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!



It's almost time for the annual golf outing! Join us at **Butter Valley Golf Course** on **Saturday, June 8**. Arrive by 7:30 am & shotgun start is 8:00. All ages are welcome & a light lunch will be provided. A sign up sheet is outside the Fellowship Hall. The cost remains at **\$58 per golfer** & payment can be made the day of the outing, checks made payable to Butter Valley Golf Course.

Hope to see you there!

Result of Solar Panels vote:

The proposal to install solar panels at Zion **passed**, with 82 votes in favor, 8 against. Thank you to all who took the time to listen, consider and participate in the congregational deliberations.



As we move forward with the project you are invited to contribute financially to help cover the costs. \$525 will sponsor one panel. Any amount is welcome. As explained in the meeting, \$83,960 will be needed to cover costs beyond the amount already pledged by individuals and Federal rebates. If you are giving to the Solar Project, please designate that the gift is for solar. An online Solar Project button will be added to our website shortly.

And the Winner is.....

Thank you to all who participated in our first ever Chili Challenge on Sunday! Five groups participated in the challenge – The Believers-Sojourners class, Footprints class, Seekers class, Church Board and the Youth Group. Five distinctive recipes were offered and everyone attending voted on their favorite followed by a fellowship meal. The Youth Group entry, Vegetarian Chili, made by **Elorah Sledge, Sandy Cwynar and Juliana Landis**, was chosen as favorite by **10 votes!** Much fun and good-natured competition was had by all! Here is the winning recipe!

Fellowship Committee



Incredibly Easy Vegetarian Chili

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped carrots
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 cup chopped sweet potato
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped fresh mushrooms
- 1 (28 ounce) can whole peeled tomatoes with liquid, chopped
- 1 (19 ounce) can kidney beans with liquid
- 1 (11 ounce) can whole kernel corn, undrained
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons dried basil
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt

Directions

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Sauté onions, carrots, and garlic in hot oil until tender. Add bell peppers, celery, and chili powder. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are tender, about 6 minutes.
2. Stir in mushrooms and sweet potatoes and cook until softened, about 4 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, kidney beans, and corn. Season with cumin, oregano, basil, and salt. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Kindred Sister Poetry



April is Poetry Month. Discover one line poetry! Write one line each day. At the end of the week, tag the lines together to make a beautiful poem such as this one penned by poetic individuals in Kindred Sisters. EnJOY!

DISCOVER INSPIRATION by Kindred Sisters Class

*My hope is in the Lord!
In His Presence Be.
Your warm and loving acceptance is life changing.
Thank you, Lord!*

Flowing freely,
Use me for your work,
Strengthen my weaknesses,
Help me to hear, see and understand fully!
Thank You, Lord!

Community Announcements

Ten Thousand Villages of Souderton, with fair trade rug company **Bunyaad**, hosts a special **Fair Trade Rug Event May 1-4**, featuring over 300 hand-knotted rugs, from intricate florals to hand-spun wool natural dye tribals, from 2'x3's to 10'x14's. Bunyaad works with over 850 families throughout Pakistan, paying a living wage, increasing employment opportunities for women, fueling artisan's creativity and preserving cultural heritage. The result: high-quality, exquisite rugs that will last for generations. Location and hours: 781 Route 113, Souderton; 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

Spring Hymn Sing sponsored by the Mennonite Heritage Center

If you enjoyed selecting hymns at the hymn sing, you'll have more opportunities coming up again in the coming months, both here in Zion worship and locally.

On **May 19**, Roger Kurtz will lead a Mennonite Heritage Center community hymn sing at Frick's Meetinghouse, 2951 Orvilla Rd, Hatfield, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Singing will be from the blue Hymnal Worship book. Bring your requests and come ready to sing!



The April 21 **End Gun Violence** event was a wonderful, impactful day. We had a great turnout of 130 people, 40 of them from Zion Mennonite, and a diverse mix of folks from over 10 other churches and the community. We sang, prayed, heard testimony (**THANK YOU** Jennifer and Juliana Landis), then Pat Freed and Mary Keller led the group on a peaceful 1 mile public sidewalk march through Souderton, with a beautiful group of children at the front of the march.

We held signs to proclaim our desire for an end to gun violence, and a number of marchers carried a t-shirt memorializing someone who lost their life recently to gun violence in Montgomery County. We ended the march by writing letters to our legislators advocating for several reasonable changes to current gun laws that will help curb gun violence. Thanks to all who participated. **Mark your calendars** for **April 6, 2025**, when we will work with other Souderton faith organizations to do another march.

