

# Hi-Lites

**August 2023 LXIV No. 8**

The monthly newsletter of  
Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

[www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org](http://www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org).

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Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Contact information:

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**Psalm 132:1 “Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.**

## **In God’s Time**

### **Why is the Pastor so slow at making a decision with...?**

Often, I’m asked why something isn’t moving forward as fast as was expected. To answer this isn’t easy. Are there times I’m just lazy and slow? Absolutely! Most of the time there are other reasons and too often I can’t share them. But for this article I’ll give a few ways this happens.

First every decision needs to be made after prayer. Yes, I really do pray! I pray in the morning, evening, and many times during the day. I often wait and discern for an answer. Sometimes discerning what that answer is just isn’t easy. What I’ve learned is truly it is God’s timing and not mine.

I also look how whatever the issue is will affect the church ministry, how it will affect our members, and most importantly how it will affect our mission. What I’ve learned is you can only please some of the people some of the time, and you just can’t please everyone. I truly do look at the big Picture.

Sadly, I look at where our budget is, and what ministries are competing for our funds. The perfect example is the Bell Choir and Hiring a Youth Minister. Both were brought up at consistory and both good ideas. I put the brakes on the Youth Minister Position for a while as we raise funds for the bells. For every three people that came to me in support of the bells there were three against it. For every three people in support of the Youth Minister that came to me, there were three against it. I have prayed long and hard on both ministries. Both are good, both are necessary to our well-being. Again, God’s timing! What I’ve learned is to stay faithful, prayerful, and to have a thick skin.

Lastly, I often don’t answer or respond because I can’t. Either there is no money, or a confidentiality issue, or another issue

I'm not privileged to share. What I've learned is God will work it out, it will be ok, and God is good-all the time. Where there is a need God will provide a way.

Above all know that your Pastor prays, your Pastor does the best to remain faithful to God's will, and your Pastor loves and cares for you. So again, I pray..." dear Lord, help us to remain a loving caring church, help us to prayerfully discern your will, and help us most importantly to remain faithful.

Amen, Pastor Tom

### **AUGUST WORSHIP**

**Sunday, August 6— Yes Communion** and Scott Mingus, Sr will talk about his latest book—*Target Tracks*, about the Cumberland Valley Railroad.

**Sunday, Aug. 27** ICE CREAM SOCIAL on the Church lawn, 4-6 pm. bring lawn chairs. A great time to invite neighbors and friends!

### **SEPTEMBER Worship**

**Sun, Sept 3, 9:00 am** **Final Summer Worship & Communion.** Labor Day Weekend, Yes Communion

**Sun, Sept 10** **FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS**  
9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:45 am - Worship

**Sunday, Sept 17** 3 pm. Sunday School Board Meeting  
4 pm Sunday School Family Picnic is at the Greene Township Park



### **Quarterly Improvement Fund time**

It's time for the third quarter Improvement Fund special offering. These gifts support the maintenance and improvement of our building and grounds. Please use the special envelope included with your Hi Lites. Include your name or envelope number if you wish your gift recorded on your financial statement.



### **Chocolate, vanilla or raspberry?**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 27th, 4-6 p.m. for our Ice Cream Social in the parish house yard. There will be music, fellowship, and ice cream with lots of toppings. We can use your help on the day of the event.

Here is how you can help:

-- be a sponsor. Make a donation to the Women's Guild.

-- help on the day of the event.

We will need help beginning about 2:30 p.m. to set up.

We need help serving the ice cream.

We need help cleaning up

-- come and invite a friend or neighbor

### **The Finest Wine**

When Jesus changed the water to wedding wine that day,  
The first of many miracles performed along His way,  
Not only did he fill the need, but made it better still,  
And made for them the finest wine, that any cup could fill,  
Christ always meets our every need, and gives us even more,  
The blessings we receive from Him, exceed what's gone before,  
If you want blessings from above, here's all you have to do,  
Let Jesus live within your heart, He's done it all for you.

Walter Greenwood, Jr.



Zion's Tour guides: Esther Wagner, Candy Wagner, Megan Duke, Patty Dunkle.



Summer Singers, the Hege Family 2023















## **Vacation Bible School**

We had another successful VBS week. The theme was Nature. We learned about gems and fossils. There are several areas in the Bible that discuss gems. Exodus 28:17-20 states the main purpose of the High Priest's breastplate was to be a memorial with the precious stones engraved with the name of the twelve tribes of Israel. Thank you to Jane Johnson, Pat Hileman and Sally Magelski for their knowledge and willingness to share with the kids. The kids were able to hold dinosaur poop. (Ask Pat how she has that). The kids were also able to mine for precious stones.

Caledonia is a beautiful park to go hiking and just enjoy nature. We hiked the Ramble Trail. Along the trail we stopped to discuss Bible verses on nature. Job 12:7-10, Psalms 96:11-12, and Psalms 95:4-5. We couldn't resist walking in the creek. Hiding some of the painted rocks for others to find.

Kayaking is a favorite of the kids and adults. We went to Long Pine (Chambersburg reservoir) and enjoyed a beautiful and peaceful time on the water. On the church's facebook page is a wonderful video put together by Michael Diller of our time on the water.

Our last night was spent at Barb Metcalfe's house swimming and just enjoying each other's company.

VBS has become a time for all ages to enjoy. There were several times the ratio of kids to adults was 1:1 and some times more adults than kids. Thank you once again to those that helped out and joined us. Candy Wagner for providing snacks, Laura Frey, Megan Thomas (provided a night of games), Pastor Tom, and Kevin Barnhart. I need to also thank those that let us borrow their kayaks so we have enough for everyone to be on the lake together. Our offering for the week is going to Tayamentasachta Environmental Center in Greencastle. If you would like to contribute to the offering please let Sherri know.

Thanks for everyone's support.

## **Hoffman Homes**

**By Jane Johnson, Zion representative**

It's soon back to school time for the children at Hoffman Homes and they are in the need of school supplies. Please use the information below when purchasing these items. One or many items are most welcomed and a **BIG THANK YOU**.

### **LIST OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Non-spiral bound composition books

Crayons

Two pocket folders

Washable markers

Colored pencils

Tissues

Clear packing tape

Paper towels

Sticky tacky/fun-tak/mounting putty

Clear packing tape

Please bring items to the church by August 13, 2023.

**Cash for Causes** is an ongoing fund raiser for the Women's Guild, see Jane Johnson for details. Cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 may be purchased. The Zion Women's Guild receives 5% from the sale and no expiration date and the cards may be used at Giants or Martins Foods.

Don't forget to support the Blessing Box with food for our local neighbors in need.

**Pastor Tom will be on vacation August 7—August 20 and returning on August 21, 2023. If you have any pastoral needs please call the office— 717-264-2854; Peggy's home – 717-263-5952; or cell - 717-816-5515**

## ZION FAMILY PAGE

### August Birthdays

August 4

5 Wilma Carbaugh  
16 Don McClure  
23 Candy Wagner  
30 Rachel (Sleighter) Little

### August Anniversary

Todd & Millie Willman

**September HiLites deadline** is August 20

Denise & Bruce Foreman have a new address:

745 Norland Ave.  
Magnolias Apt. #21  
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

Sue McMorris is at home and Bill is at Chambers Point Menno  
Gene Johnson is at Laurel Lakes and is going home August 2  
Prayers to Dan Smith after his surgery.

Trivia: Lizards communicate by doing push-ups.  
The bullfrog is the only animal that never sleeps.