

# Hi-Lites

**December 2021**  
**Vol. LXII No. 12**

The monthly newsletter of  
Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
259 S. Main Street

Chambersburg, PA 17201  
[www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org](http://www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org)  
Email: [Zion1778@comcast.net](mailto:Zion1778@comcast.net)  
Office phone: 717-264-2854

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Church School 9:30 a.m.

Contact information:

Minister: Pastor Tom Dunkle  
Cell: 330-663-1496  
Secretary: Peggy Barnhart home 717-263-5952  
[barny4@comcast.net](mailto:barny4@comcast.net)  
Organist/Music Director: J.J. Johnson

*December*



Dear Friends,

A cartoon from a few years ago showed a woman saying to her husband, “Good grief, Henry. Here’s Christmas at our throats again!”

Amid the preparations for Christmas each year, there always seem to be a few voices like here, proclaiming a “Bah Humbug!” on the whole business. And if the truth be known, some of us may feel less than excited about Christmas ourselves. The trappings of modern Christmas celebrations are enough to make all of us take a jaundiced look at the season.

In the face of the humbug state of affairs, it is helpful to remember that God did not send Jesus to be “at our throats,” but to be “in our hearts.” The difference between those two concepts defines the gap between gloom and glory. There’s a reason we call the gospel good news. As John so aptly put it, “For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (3:17).

Jesus is God’s gift to our world—and to our hearts. When Jesus resides within, whether we enjoy or merely tolerate the flurry of season preparations, Christmas itself is a grand opportunity to say thank you to God for the gift of the Son.’

In the light of that, we are planning and inspiring Christmas Eve Service and an opportunity to thank God for the priceless gift of Jesus. Please invite a friend, a neighbor, or that person that has been on your mind to join us as we seek to celebrate Christmas in our hearts.

In God’s peace,  
Pastor Tom & Patty

## Paint Night

Please join me for paint night at 7pm on November 29th in fellowship hall. All levels of ability are welcome from “expert” to “I can’t draw stick figures”. We will be painting Santa on boards for your holiday display.. All supplies will be provided. The cost is \$10 and all proceeds go to food for our Blessing Box. There are only 15 slots available so please sign up in the office as soon as you can. . If you bring a “non member” person you and your guest will be free! I do have some aprons available, however, if you have an apron please feel free to bring it.  
Thank you Patty





**Upcoming Dates.** There are many special events and activities scheduled for the coming holidays. Please mark these events on your calendars.

November 28, Sunday

10:45 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent

10:45 Communion

2 p.m. Christmas decorating

December 4, Saturday

Bowling at Nellie Fox 2-4 pm. everyone welcome

December 5, Sunday

10:45 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent worship

December 7th, Tuesday

6 pm. Christmas Family Night

December 12, Sunday

10:45 am. Third Sunday of Advent

December 19th, Sunday

9:30 am. Children's Christmas Program

10:45 am. Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:45 am. Communion

4:00 pm. Christmas Caroling with refreshments and a gift exchange (bring a \$5 item to exchange)

December 24th Friday

7:00 pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25, Saturday

No Worship Service

December 26, Sunday

9:30 am. Sunday School

10:45 am. Sunday Worship



## **Quarterly Improvement Fund**

This Holiday season and the end of the year are great times for a generous donation to the Improvement Fund; and your financial help is needed for future projects.

Donate today using the special envelope included in your Hi Lites. Please include your name or envelope number if you wish your gift recorded on your financial statement.

## **Food Pantry Update**

Remember you can bring in food donations anytime. Collection boxes are located at the bottom of the ramp in the Sunday school room, and at the elevator entrance. There is always a need at this holiday season. Thank you

## **2022 Altar Flowers**

The Altar flowers for the year of 2022 will be special, hand-crafted silk flowers made by Millie Willman and we thank her for her talent! However, if you want fresh flowers added to the altar flowers contact Peggy Barnhart at the office.

*Focus on Christ  
this Season*

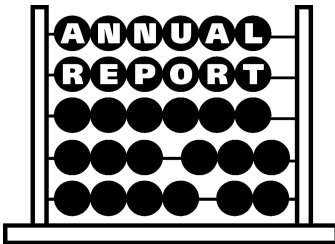




## Healing service

Our monthly service of anointing and healing will follow worship on Sunday, December 19. This is an opportunity to seek prayer for yourself, for a loved one or friend, or a community or world concern. Simply join us at the front of the sanctuary as the postlude concludes.

**January HiLites deadline** is December 20.



## Annual meeting election results

At the annual Congregational meeting, Peggy Barnhart was elected to a five year term as Elder. Laura Frey, Pat Hileman, and Fred Gosart were elected to three year terms as Deacons, replacing outgoing Deacons Mara Smith, Sherri Arrowood, and Don McClure and Jean Gonder as Elder. They will begin their service with the January 12, 2022 7 p.m. meeting. All four will be installed during worship in December.



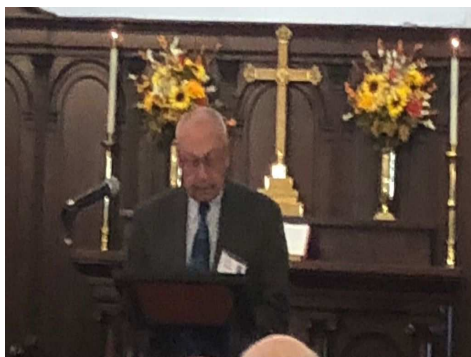


To begin the New Year, we will celebrate Epiphany communion on Sunday, January 2, 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

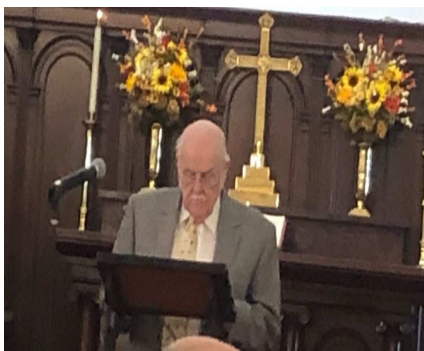


### **Join in a holiday tradition**

A centuries old custom is to join your voice with others to sing the great carols of the season. You can share in this holiday practice with us on Sunday, December 19. We will stroll through the Downtown Chambersburg Square; please dress warm. After singing we return to the church for barbeque sandwiches, cookies, and hot chocolate. When we return to the church, there will be a few special games and a gift exchange. Those wishing to participate in the gift exchange should bring a new pair of Christmas socks filled with goodies valued at \$5. All ages are welcome. Be at the church at 4 p.m. We finish about 7 p.m.



Bob Wagner



Don McClure



Diana Johnson



Jack Arrison

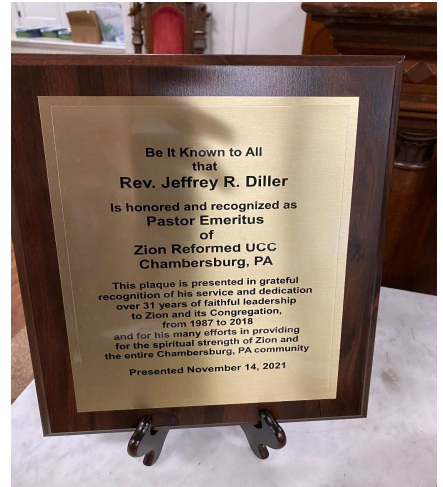


Pastor Tom



America's White Table





## **Don't delay order your Poinsettia today!**

Now is the time to place your order for Christmas Poinsettias for display in the church. You may place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special. To order please complete the order form found elsewhere in the newsletter and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate by November 21. Poinsettias will be ordered as a group from Plasterer's florist. There will only be one size available, a single, multi-bloom at a cost of \$11 each.

You may also order your own poinsettia directly from any supplier and bring it to the church or have it delivered on Saturday, December 18. You still need to return an order form to the church office so we can include you in the bulletin listing. A list of all poinsettias and donors will be published with the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service please leave the plastic dish.



## **Elementary Project**

After sharing how Zion hangs items on our fence with an elementary teacher she indicated how necessary the items are for their students. As a result we will be supporting Ben Chambers Elementary School by providing items for their health room.. Please consider providing the following: size 5-11 girls leggings, boys sweatpants, underwear for both and socks. If you would prefer to donate money these items will be purchased. A box will be in the Sunday School room and a box for money in the back of the sanctuary. Classrooms could also use headphones and tissues. The teachers often pay for these themselves.

### **Many Thanks,**

Thanks to the ZION friends who contributed to Holiday Gift Program for the girls in ZION Residence at Hoffman Homes. Our gifts of cash and gift cards will help give the girls a joyous Christmas day. If you forgot, see Jane Johnson.

### **Shopping done the easy way....**

Do you need help with shopping for Christmas, birthday, thank you gift, or gift for a family or friends?? Let Jane Johnson help you. She has the "Giant Foods" Cash for Causes gift cards for sale. Cards are available in amounts of \$25.00, \$50.00, or \$100.00 and may be used for groceries, gas and at the pharmacy. They can be used at any Giant's or Martins' Food stores and do not expire.

Of course treat yourself to the ease of shopping with these cards, Pastor Tom likes to have the \$25.00 cards on hand to give to those in need that come to the office for help.

Your purchase of the Cash for Causes Giant's Gift cards help Support the Women Guild with a 5% profit. See Jane Johnson for your cards. Yes she will deliver.



### **Scouting for Food**

Zion Reformed UCC opened their doors to Scouting for Food Saturday, November 13, 2021. The Scouts picked up donated food, sorted and boxed it for 11 local churches and food pantries. 6449 food items were donated. Thanks to all who participated!

## Help with emergency requests

The office receives numerous inquiries during the year for help from residents who need gas or food. Usually the pastor listens to their needs and refers them to resources in the community that can help. Yet occasionally there is an emergency need that arises on weekend or holidays when agencies are closed. Having on hand a few \$25 Giant Cash for Causes cards provides some temporary assistance for these folks until they can connect with other resources in the county.

If you would like to help in this way, please purchase the cards from Jane Johnson and then give them to Pastor Tom or Peggy Barnhart. Keep in mind these cards also provide a 5% donation to the Women's Guild. So your gift helps both local residents in need and our own Guild.

**Consistory** will meet Wednesday, December 8, 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Room. .

January Consistory meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2022 7 p.m. . This first meeting of the year (including newly elected members) will be held in the church fellowship room.

## Don't forget to pick up your Stewardship envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available near the elevator. If we missed your name, please let Peggy Barnhart or call the church office and leave a message.





Trista, Zion's custodian, at work

### **Youth Of Zion (YOZ)**

Come join us on December 19 for the annual caroling and gift exchange. We will be doing a different style of gift exchange this year. It will be a Christmas Sock Exchange. Rules — Each person who wants to participate will bring a new pair of Christmas socks filled with goodies. \$5 limit for the goodies to go into the socks.

Christmas Program on December 19th during Sunday School 9:30 am.

Let's hope for some snow so we can go sledding some time this year

Watch the bulletin for a date to go to the Willman's house for a Pinball fun evening.



## **Family Page**

**Sympathies from the church for Lois Picking on the passing of her son David Picking .**

## **December Birthdays**

December 3 - Gene Johnson  
8 - Fritz Pogue  
10 - Madison Duke  
19— Sherri Arrowood  
28— Doris Coleman

## **Member of Zion,**

A sincere thank you for the honor of bestowing upon me the title of Pastor Emeritus. It is overwhelming to be recognized in this way. I will certainly treasure our decades of serving Christ together. A special thank you to those who participated in the service: JJ Johnson and the choir, Sherri Arrowood, Laura Frey, Candy Wagner, Todd Willman, the Women's Guild, Jane Johnson, and Mara Smith. And a very special thank you to Pastor Tom for his help. What a relief to know that Zion is in very capable hands. What joy to be able to catch up with so many of you at the reception. May God continue to bless Zion in the coming Holiday season and for years to come.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Jeffrey Diller  
Pastor Emeritus

## Nativity Creche

Annual tradition of setting up the Creche for the Advent season.

Did you ever wonder how long the Creche has been apart of Zion's tradition? Did you ever wonder who provided the creche pieces?

These questions were thought about when the figurines were having some botox and make up reapplied to them. The figurines were starting to chip paint in several areas and small cracks were starting to show on several. Local artist, Gail Cox, was very willing to fix, paint and repair all 22 figurines. She did this as a free will offering to the church. Her mother, Polly Heck, grew up as a member of Zion. We are very excited to display the touched up figurines this Advent season.

By the way, the answers to the questions. We were only able to find in the historical archives this information. Figurines were given by Mr and Mrs C. Slaugenhaup during the tenure of Rev Joseph Miller which was reported in the December 1985 Hi-Lites. In 1984, Dennis Metcalfe created the display case to replace the older one. This was indicated in the 1984 Hi-Lites.

Please take the time to see a folder that shows the figurines prior to being repainted and then the new updated ones.

Once again a HUGE Thank you to Gail Cox for working on Zion's beloved Creche pieces.

Sherri Arrowood



## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Yes, I wish to place a poinsettia in the church

\_\_\_\_\_ I will place my own order and see that the flower is delivered on Saturday, December 18th  
(Please be sure your name is on the flower.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please order for me by November 29th.  
(Payment of \$11 per flower must accompany this order. Make checks payable to Zion.)

\_\_\_\_\_ red

\_\_\_\_\_ white

Please print clearly:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the church office or place in the offering plate by November 21th