

# Hi-Lites

**August 2025 LXVI No. 8**

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

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Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

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Romans 4:13-25 | The Best is yet to be

*Grow old alone with me the best is yet to be. Robert Browning*

Why is it that the biggest disasters always seem to coincide with events on which we pin so much of our hopes? The times we are convinced will be the best often turn out to be the very worst. How many big family get-togethers -- Christmas, Thanksgiving, Fourth of July -- start out fun, then turn into fiascoes? Cousin Jim still won't talk to Uncle Frank, and the stains from Aunt Margaret's pie will never come out of the carpet. My mother fell and hit her head on the way to a Christmas Party. Weddings are another time when bombs of both tiny and titanic proportion are regularly detonated. The number of things that go wrong on wedding days -- cakes dropped, rings lost, blazing heat, torrential rain, flowers delivered to another planet, someone passing out, -- is about equal to the number of people who wish they had just eloped. **Sometimes it seems that whenever we expect the best of times, we get the worst of times instead.**

Thankfully, the reverse is also true. How many people, having perched comfortably somewhere in the great American "middle class," find themselves looking back on their early scratching, scrapping, starving, struggling days and suddenly realize that those were the best of times? What makes life so full, so rich, so wonderful is that we can never completely filter out the bad from the good or the good from the bad. There is always a little bit of both on our plate, spicing up our diet in unexpected ways.

If this "mixed grill" doesn't sit well with some who like to divide things up into neat categories -- consider this: There are two types of people in the world -- optimists and pessimists. An optimist is a person who doesn't know any better. A pessimist is a person who doesn't know any better.

A steady menu of similar kinds of experiences should create in all of us the same response as God's promise did in Abraham. Already an old man when he first hears God's call, Abraham obediently begins his long, wandering search for a home based on God's promise. Now, when

God promises that he and Sarah shall have their own son, Abraham believes. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, Abraham's faith enables him to "hope against hope." And out of the worst conditions - - extreme old age and barrenness -- God brings the best to Abraham and Sarah, their son Isaac.

Jesus did his best work under the worst conditions. After entering Jerusalem, Jesus gathered his disciples for one last meal together. There he revealed to them, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me" (Matthew 26:21). Then, with full knowledge of the weaknesses and treachery lurking at their table, "Jesus took ... bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body'" (Matthew 26:26). On the night where all the very worst of their fears came true, Jesus gave his disciples -- and all of us -- the best of himself. This is the promise of the gospel.

The summer is slow and as far as the church year and the fall kick off the best is yet to be. All of us, even and especially at our very worst, are promised that God can do with us the best. It is that promise that enables us to live on in faith continually "hoping against hope." The Good News of the gospel is this: The best has come, the best is with us now, and the best is yet to come.

God Bless, Pastor Tom

**Pastor Tom will be on vacation August 5—August 25 and returning on August 26, 2024. If you have any pastoral needs please call the office— 717-264-2854; Peggy's home —717-263-5952; or cell - 717-816-5515**

### **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 24th, 4-6 p.m. for our Ice Cream Social in the parish house yard. There will be, 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

## **ZION FAMILY PAGE**

### **August Birthdays**

August 4

23 Candy Wagner

Prayers: for Esther Wagner's family on her passing on July 6, 2025; Amber Pogue, Lois Picking

### **August Anniversary**

Todd & Millie Willman

## SEPTEMBER Worship

Sun, Sept 7, 9:00 am

Final Summer Early Worship &  
Communion. Yes Communion



Sun, Sept 14 **FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS**

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:45 am - Worship

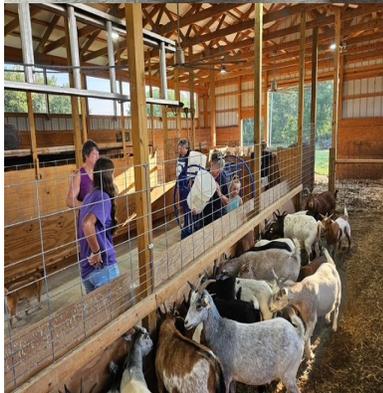
10:45am during worship there will be a speaker  
from Hoffman Homes

**Sunday, Sept 14** 3 pm. Sunday School Board Meeting  
4 pm Sunday School Family Picnic is at the  
Greene Township Park

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT THE GOAT FARM

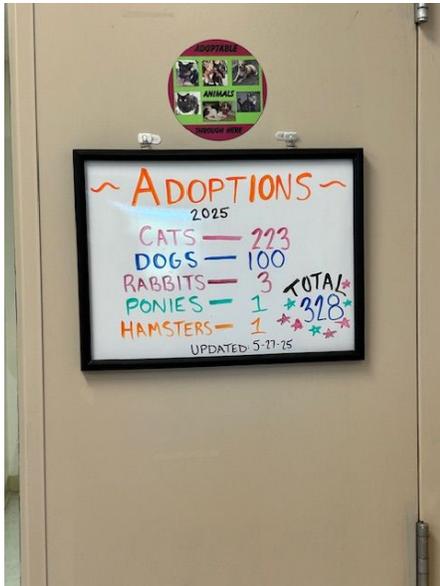


## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL











## VBS 2025

Another successful VBS is in the books. Equal number of kids and adults attended. ***The Carrot Seed*** by Ruth Krauss provided our theme this year of Faith and Determination.

**Monday** – Thank you to Amy and Brian Croftroft for allowing us to visit their ABC Farmette. Goats were plentiful and love animal crackers. Goats are very gentle taking the crackers from you as some of us tempted fate and put the cracker between our lips to have goat take it. How many times are Goats mentioned in the Bible?

**Tuesday**- Caledonia is always a beautiful spot to explore and learn about God's creation. Diana Johnson completed the wonderful bible story while everyone was in the creek. Rock painting was the craft for the night

**Wednesday**- We were at church for a presentation by Sherrie McCleary on the Monarch Butterfly. She had a powerpoint presentation on their life cycle. She also brought in her butterfly net cages so we could see actual stages of the butterfly.

**Thursday**- We visited the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter. Todd Willman set up the tour for us with Cameron. Puppies and Kittens, Dogs and Cats. We could have stayed for hours snuggling the animals. No one sneaked any out under their shirt. BU T 2 kittens pulled at the heart strings of one adult and have been adopted.

Huge thank you to Jane Johnson for setting up the Goat and Butterfly nights. She even provided us to try goat milk and goat cheese.  
Barb Metcalfe for always being able to come up with a craft to go along with our events.  
BTW – Answer to goats in the Bible – NIV version

169 times while in the KJ version 122.

The spiritual significance of carrots extends far beyond their physical properties. In ancient traditions, from **Native American** wisdom to Eastern philosophy, carrots have symbolized the journey of spiritual awakening. Their growth pattern—beginning as a tiny seed and developing into a nutrient-rich root—mirrors our spiritual evolution.

AS of the end of July we have raised about \$225 in our donation to go to CVAS. That equals 5 buckets of water over peoples head at the ice cream social. If you are willing to be someone that gets that bucket over their head please see Sherri.

### **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  
Pencils & pencil pouches (NO #2 pencils)  
Cap erasers  
Tissues  
Paper towels  
Construction paper

Please bring your donations to the Zion and place in the tote at the steps in the Fellowship room/Sunday School room. Thank you for helping. Any Questions give Jane Johnson a call at 717-860-5655.