



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

February 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

On the Mountaintop

Climbing to the peak of any mountain – or even a big hill! – offers us a different expansive perspective of the landscape below. Town and countryside are laid out before us in a single view that we cannot obtain when we're at ground level. On the mountaintop, we're able to see the big picture in a new way.

Mountaintops are important throughout scripture. On Mount Sinai, Moses receives God's instruction to God's people, the Israelites, on how they should live. On Mount Carmel, God's power is revealed when the prophet Elijah defeats the priests of Baal in a spiritual battle.

This month, Jesus takes two trips up the mountainside. On one peak, he teaches his disciples how to live according to God's ways in his well-known Sermon on the Mount. On another peak, he is transfigured before his disciples and revealed to be God's Son.

The Big Picture

As we conclude this season of illumination, the Season after Epiphany, I wonder how God might grant us a new perspective. How might our viewpoint on the church of today change as we consider the history of the Zion congregation over the past 308 years? How do our challenges and trials measure up against the challenges and trials of our forebears in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars?

How might our viewpoint change yet again when we consider the long history of the church over the past 2,000 years? The transitions that we've weathered over the past several years may seem a little less overwhelming as we consider how much the church has changed since the time of the apostles.

I pray that God's wisdom and power would help us to see our present reality in a new way this month as we continue our work together to share God's grace!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

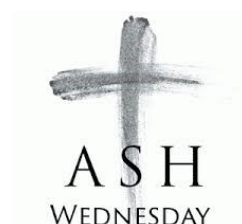
Ash Wednesday Service

February 22nd at 7 p.m.



Ash Wednesday at Cross Roads

(see page 4)



Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on January 19th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- President Leah Wintemute welcomed three new members to the council, and everyone introduced themselves.
- Zion will host the Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22nd at 7 p.m.
- The Social Ministry committee is looking forward to hosting the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack at Zion once again on May 19-20. Registration to begin in early April.
- The Parish Life committee is sponsoring a Parents Night Out on March 3rd.
- This year's outing to see the Somerset Patriots play baseball will be on June 24th.
- There will not be a 12 p.m. service at the church on Ash Wednesday. Please see page 4 for information about a mid-day opportunity at Cross Roads.
- Pastor Kat is planning a year-long adult confirmation program beginning in February. Please see page 5 for details.
- The Evangelism committee reported that the January 14th faith-sharing workshop was well attended.
- Helen Livingston reported to the council on the status of the fire code violations at the church, including the requirement for a second means of egress. The historic preservation architect has completed a rendering, which Helen shared with the council.
- Pastor Kat reported that she will be reaching out to potential members of the Youth & Family Ministry search committee in February.
- Volunteers are needed to spend time going through the materials in Zion's archives closet to determine which should be digitized and which can be discarded.
- The Council retreat will be held on February 11th at the Christian Education Building.
- Thank you to:
 - * Frank Stanski, Steve Surhoff, and Eric Evers for setting up the generator providing heat at the church on Christmas Eve.
 - * Harold Wrede for retro-fitting the new oil candles to fit the Advent wreath.
 - * Linda Held and Joanne Rupp for navigating last-minute changes to Christmas Eve worship.
 - * Helen Livingston for her leadership during the Christmas Eve power outage and subsequent property damage at the Christian Education Building.
 - * Sandy Matsen and Rod Briscoe for their direction of the Sunday School Christmas Program.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack — May 19-20

SAVE THE DATE!

The Feed My Starving Children MobilePack will be back at Zion on May 19 and 20th. Many volunteers will be needed for this food packing event that provides vital nutrition to children in regions around the world. Shift reservations will become available early April. Please mark your calendar and help spread the word to your friends, family or organizations who might be able to help.

Youth & Family Ministry at Zion



Sunday School News

On January 15th, we celebrated being washed clean in our baptism with fun activities, crafts, and a collection of laundry detergent to help our neighbors in need. A big thank you to Linda Held who coordinated this special day and to all our adult volunteers. Check the photos below of soap making, shell decorating, and general fun!



Our next all-school event will be on February 12th where we will learn about preparing for Lent. We will burn palms for ashes, and create an alleluia banner to be buried on Transfiguration Day during worship as we enter the penitential season of Lent.



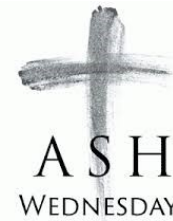
Youth Mentoring Program

Zion's Youth Mentoring program, launched in 2022, will be happening again this year for our newest confirmands. Each student will be matched with an adult member of the congregation for the purpose of building a relationship, which will be facilitated by special programs and suggested activities. Our hope is that this relationship will be an ongoing connection for our young people as they continue through high school, building community for our youth and adults at Zion. Pictures below are from the 2022 "big reveal" of the youth-adult matches.



CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



Elementary Retreat for Grades 3-5

February 10th-12th

Youth Retreats at Cross Roads combine fun activities, Bible study, worship, delicious food, and time spent outside to create an awesome weekend for our young people.

The deadline to register for the Elementary Retreat is February 3rd. For more information, visit www.crossroadsretreat.com/youth-retreats

Ash Wednesday at Cross Roads

February 22nd — 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We usually refer to the forty days of Lent as a journey, but this year we are going to embark on a Lenten adventure. Inspired by Kaitlin Curtice's poem "The Lantern and the Wildflower", we will reflect upon Kaitlin's understanding of God as Adventure. All are invited to this time of spiritual renewal, led by Pastor Dale Selover.

GET PAID TO HAVE FUN AT CAMP

We are currently accepting applications for our Summer 2023 Staff.



Cross Roads Summer Staff is a professional, vibrant and close-knit community that is hired from mid-June to late-August. During the summer, our Summer Staff has access to a wide range of activities, from rock climbing, arts & crafts, team sports, swimming, nature exploration, and much more!

Visit our website to apply today to help make a difference in the lives of children and youth while being a part of a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy.

www.crossroadsretreat.com



A Year of Growing in Faith

An Adult Confirmation Program

Pastor Kat is excited to introduce, "A Year of Growing in Faith," a new virtual education program for adults. This is an opportunity for adults to deepen their faith and consider how God is calling them in this time of life.

There will be three chapters to this program: Telling the Story, Walking in Faith, and Answering God's Call. In the first chapter, we will focus on scripture using the resource "Manna and Mercy" by Daniel Erlander, and we will meet virtually twice a month on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. from February through May. Our first meetings will be on Tuesday, February 21st and 28th. All classes are held via Zoom.

If you would like to participate but can only meet with us for one season, please feel welcome to join for whichever seasons fit your schedule! Those who would like to confirm their faith before the congregation will do so at the year's end.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Kat at pastor@zionoldwick.com. **To register for the February-May session, please see the link emailed from the Parish Office.**

2023 Women of Zion Events

On March 10th, the Women of Zion will have another class from Shalini of Bollywood Dancing and Balance Class fame. This time we'll work on Meditation and Breathing, another class that's healthy yet fun! More information forthcoming.

In order to deliver activities this year that appeal to the most people, Anita Zarate would like to know which of the following possibilities interest you!

- Bowling (with or without pizza)
- Pottery painting (with or without pizza)
- A Taste of Toastmasters

Please email Anita at anita.zarate@mac.com or call/text her at 908-938-4532. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

Women
of
ZION



Lunch Bunch — February 9th

Join Pastor Kat and friends from Zion for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, February 9th, at 12 p.m. This month's gathering will take place at Galasso's Cucina in Lebanon. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!

Parents Night Out! March 3rd, 6PM - 10PM

Calling all Mentors, Mentees, and Parents of Young Children: On Friday, March 3rd, the Parish Life committee will host a Parents Night Out for parents of young ones to drop off their children and go enjoy a night out (or a nap!). There will be games, pizza, and a movie, and there is no charge for this event. Chaperones will include Shellie and Eric Evers, Debra Kaufman, Cindy Rupprecht, Sandy Matsen, and Pastor Kat. Zion's middle and high school volunteers will also be on hand to join in the fun and assist with the younger children.

PARENTS NIGHT
OUT

Parents who would like their children to participate and adults who would like to volunteer should contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993. Zion's child safety policy requires all adult volunteers to have completed a background check prior to the event. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to volunteer and have not previously undergone a background check at Zion.

It's not too late to join the 2023 Prayer Partners Program!



Sponsored by the Parish Life/WOZ Committee

How Zion Supports the Prayer Partners Program

- ✓ Seasonal devotions
- ✓ Meditation words/bible verses to encourage discussion
- ✓ Optional Prayer Partner activities to strengthen our prayer practices

***Do you wish you spent more time in prayer?
Have you been feeling alone in your faith journey?
If YES, then join Zion's Prayer Partners Program!***

How Do I Join?

- Raise your hand! This program is for ALL members of Zion – men, women, children, and friends.
- Send an email to the church office, or contact Shellie Evers at shellie.eversafe@gmail.com, or Anita Zarate at anita.zarate@mac.com.
- A prayer partner will be assigned (or you can pick your own!).
- Pray with your partner and be encouraged.

The Power of Prayer ...

*Strengthens our relationship with God
Expresses our dependency on God
Acknowledges the care and power of God*

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you

Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

FAITH KITCHEN - First Thursdays and Third Saturdays - Join us in Dover at 9AM!

2023 Faith Kitchen Ministry started on January 5th with FULL dining room in 15 minutes — 48 patrons. Total meals dining room and "to go" was 95 - yes, volunteers rocked it for 3.5 hours! Thank you, soup master, John McAleer, green bean man John Minerowicz, biscuit lady Barb Surhoff, chopper (potatoes, carrots, celery, green beans, and fruit) extraordinaire and friendly server at "the window" Wendy Minerowicz, and chopper, dishwasher and biscuit-taster Steve Surhoff. They are quite the crew! Zion is truly sharing God's grace in Dover.



Saturday Service — January 21st. Another full dining room at Faith Kitchen with 56 plates served and another 50 meals to go. Thank you to Helen Livingston for leading the service with soup master John McAleer. John and soup assistant Ron Rupp made a delicious taco soup which received several compliments from the patrons. Cindy Rupprecht and Melanie Bychkowski diced 25 pounds of potatoes while Cathy Winter perfectly cut 12 lbs. of green beans for roasted seasoned veggies with fresh cilantro. Fresh baked corn bread and some cookies completed the meal for some very thankful patrons.



Coffee Drive for Faith Kitchen

Zion's annual coffee drive for Faith Kitchen continues through the end of February. Please drop off your coffee cans at the church or CEB no later than February 28th. Thank you for your support of Faith Kitchen!



News from the Shepherding Committee

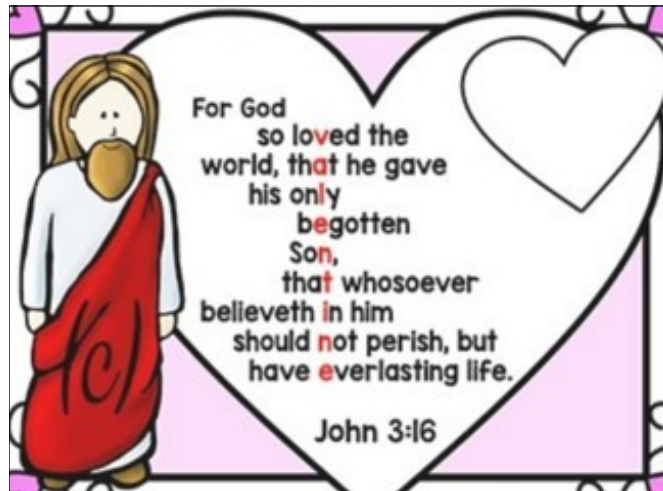
Coming Soon — Calls to the Congregation

During the months of February and March, members of the Shepherding Committee will be calling all Zion households to check in, let you know what's coming up this spring, and to chat about your concerns or any suggestions you have for ways Zion can better shepherd our flock. We look forward to speaking with you!

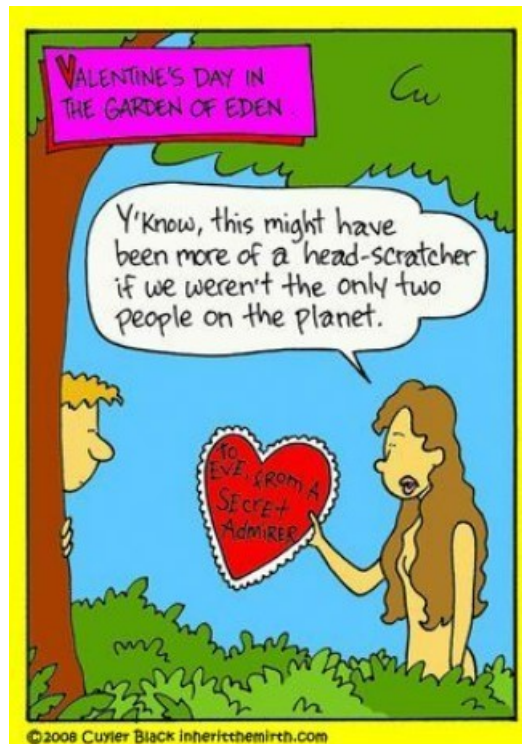


Be Someone's Valentine

Consider sending a Valentine's Day card to our of our homebound members. Please contact the Parish Office for the updated list of names and addresses.



A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - 2022

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$31,968.90	-\$29,412.46	\$2,556.44
February	\$33,165.17	-\$31,893.59	\$1,271.58
March	\$29,721.39	-\$38,082.06	-\$8,360.67
April	\$28,907.80	-\$31,765.47	-\$2,857.67
May	\$30,337.81	-\$37,690.59	-\$7,352.78
June	\$36,476.35	-\$25,121.17	\$11,355.18
July	\$30,385.26	-\$24,339.35	\$6,045.91
August	\$20,041.19	-\$28,712.24	-\$8,671.05
September	\$21,300.48	-\$22,943.33	-\$1,642.85
October	\$27,938.20	-\$29,796.40	-\$1,858.20
November	\$25,721.34	-\$31,498.06	-\$5,776.72
December	\$42,450.00	-\$30,645.51	\$11,804.49
Year To Date Total	\$358,413.89	-\$361,900.23	-\$3,486.34

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$162,078.54	1/3/2023
Money Market Plus	178,168.42	12/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$340,246.96	
Directed Funds	\$202,273.24	12/31/2022
Operating Funds	\$137,973.72	12/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$340,246.96	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$514,704.21	11/30/2022
THRIVENT	\$341,789.32	12/31/2022
TOTAL	\$856,493.53	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

Available Funds for 2022	\$25,148.00
Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine	-\$5,000.00
NJ Synod Faithful Journey	-\$500.00
Good News Home for Women - 5K	-\$1,388.00
Feed My Starving Children (transfer to directed account)	-\$9,000.00
Shoprite Gift Cards for North Hunterdon Ecumenical Council	-\$1,000.00
NJ Synod Fund For Mission	-\$6,760.00
2022 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$0.00



Give to Zion from your phone! Scan the QR code to be directed to Tithely's electronic giving site.