



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

July 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

The Importance of Welcome

Hospitality was central to the culture of God's people in scripture. Living in an arid landscape in the Middle East meant the welcome of a stranger could prove to be the difference between life and death. Travelers depended on those they met along the road to provide food to eat and water to drink. There were no convenience stores or grocery outlets!

While we will not likely need to trek through the desert to deliver good news, we are sometimes called to step into challenging situations to do God's work. Jesus uses instruction and storytelling to prepare us for these difficult encounters. This month, we will hear several of Jesus' stories called parables. They will help us to understand how God is coming into the world and how we will play a part in this mysterious and wonderful undertaking.

Welcoming Our New Director, Jaime

This summer, we have a very special opportunity to provide God's welcome as Jaime VanNostrand joins our staff as the new director of Zion's Youth and Family Ministry. I am so excited to have Jaime join our Zion family, and I encourage you to reach out to her with gracious hospitality. Introduce yourself to her and pray for her as she begins to get oriented to our ministry and community. We know that God is at work through her and through us as we endeavor to fulfill our mission to share God's grace with families and young people in our congregation and neighborhood.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on June 15th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- Gerry Dehkes, chair of the Director of Youth & Family Ministry search committee, presented Jaime VanNostrand as the committee's recommended candidate for the position. Following a time of questions & answers, the council discussed the motion to offer the position to Jaime, and voted to approve. Jaime will begin her work at Zion on July 1st.
- Pastor Kat will be on vacation from July 10th—23rd. Judy Formalarie will provide pulpit supply on the 16th and 23rd, and Rev. Ingrid Wengert from Zion Long Valley will provide pastoral care in the event of any emergencies.
- Volunteers at the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack were able to pack 85,000 meals.
- The Social Ministry committee will host a blood drive on July 11th.
- The summer semester of Pastor Kat's "A Year of Growing in Faith" began on June 20th.
- There were 60 people in attendance at the Pet Blessing, and 23 dogs were blessed.
- The Worship & Music committee will be purchasing copies of the "All Creation Sings" hymnal for use in worship.
- Zion's architect will be delivering renderings this month of the two options for the second means of egress at the church. Helen Livingston will then seek bids for the work.
- Repair work for the damage from the December 2022 flood at the CEB has been completed.
- Thank you to:
 - * Gerry Dehkes, Lou DiCriscio, Jodi Ennis, Cindy Rupperecht, and Brooke Schumann for serving on the search committee for the Director of Youth & Family Ministry.
 - * Colleen Bryson for her work on updating the cameras at the church.
 - * Anita Zarate for her leadership of the Pet Blessing.
 - * Sandy Matsen for coordinating the all-school event on the last day of Sunday School. Thanks, also, to volunteers Maddie Beauregard, Gerry Dehkes, Wendy Minerowicz, and Kayden O'Connor-Shin.

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 20th. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to join an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.



Zion's New Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Please join us in welcoming Jaime VanNostrand, our new Director of Youth & Family Ministry!

Jaime lives and grew up in Easton, PA, and is a graduate of East Stroudsburg University and Eden Theological Seminary. She has done intentional community work in Los Angeles and went to seminary in St. Louis before deciding to come back to the Lehigh Valley.

Jaime is musically gifted and enjoys singing, writing music, and playing the piano, guitar and ukulele. She is a fan of Taylor Swift, the Avett Brothers, Harry Potter, Star Trek, theme parks, and Broadway musicals. She enjoys animals, hiking, and kayaking, and is an avid supporter of the New York Giants.

Jaime is excited to be joining us at Zion this month, and we are thrilled to have her on board!

Youth & Family Ministry at Zion

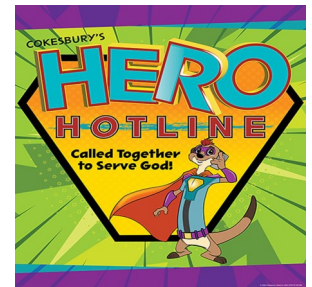


Escape Room!

On May 28th, three of our youth and four adults traveled to Ultimate Xscape Rooms in Somerville and were unable to escape in time! They got ice cream afterwards to reward themselves for a valiant effort. Fun was had by all!

Vacation Bible School

This year's "Hero Hotline" Vacation Bible School was a big success! We had 22 children enrolled and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to Melanie Hodges and all our volunteers — we couldn't do it without you!



Zion's Pet Blessing — Another Exciting Evangelism Event!

Sponsored by the Evangelism committee, the June 11th Pet Blessing was a great community outreach event. Twenty-three dogs were blessed by Pastor Kat and special certificates were given to the owners. Attendees visited with representatives of The Woodlands Wildlife Refuge: Melissa Anahory, staff member, with Tank (the Box Turtle) and Cornelius (the Corn Snake). Duane Butherus, a bona fide dog show judge, volunteered to conduct the Dog Show. Oskar Shin, handling Pivot, the family greyhound, was the show's big winner. Together they won the Pee Wee Class (handlers under ten years old), Large Dog and the biggest prize – Best in Show!

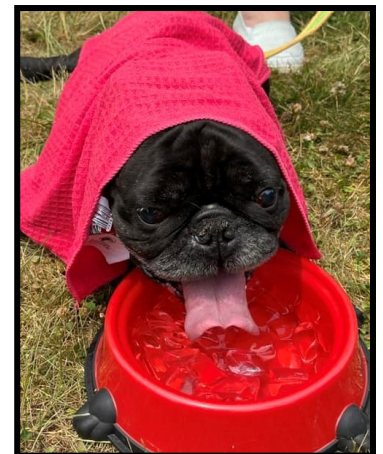


Many hands made light work, and the following people are to be thanked for making the event possible: Nova Ahrens, Maddie Beauregard, Lou and Jade DiCriscio, Jenny Gelson, Janet Hornich, Debra Kaufman, Tom Kriegsmann, Rebecca Melick, Brian & Donna Reilly, and Michele Stevens. **And our biggest thanks go to Anita Zarate for chairing the event!** The Evangelism committee continues to plan events that will connect Zion with the community, and we welcome new members to the committee. Please contact Debra Kaufman if you would like more information.

Dog Show prizes and Door Prizes were donated by the following businesses. We hope you'll consider frequenting any you're not already familiar with.

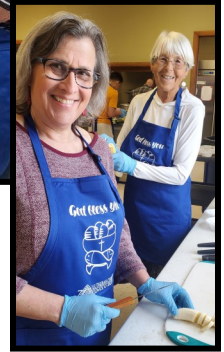
Bishops Supermarket, 431 US Hwy 22E, Whitehouse Sta
The Fresh Market, 75 Washington Valley Rd, Bedminster
Giovanni's Pizza & Pasta, 431 US Hwy 22E, Whitehouse Sta
Healthy Balance, 1265 US Hwy 22E, Lebanon
Melick's Town Farm, 170 Oldwick Rd, Oldwick

Origin Thai, 25 Mountainview Blvd, Basking Ridge
Pro Canine Center, 929 Rte. 12W, Frenchtown (dog training)
ShopRite, 3166 US Hwy 22W, Branchburg
The Tewksbury Inn, 55 CR-517, Oldwick
Trattoria Bolu, 25 Mountainview Blvd, Basking Ridge



Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

Faith Kitchen volunteers continue to serve God's people. Catching up on some of the photos from May and June. Zion served 400+ meals over the past two months. We've been creating a summer menu of BBQ chicken, potato salad, and sautéed zucchini. Please consider volunteering this summer - first Thursdays and third Saturdays - 9AM at Faith Kitchen in Dover. THANK YOU to all the dedicated volunteers! Praise God for this ministry.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

The Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Washington is in need of the following items. Manager Gretchen Surhoff thanks everyone for their donations!

Canned goods

Beets
Baked Beans
Beef Soup
Pea Soup
Oranges
Pineapple
Spinach

Other Items

Coffee
Tea



Eye Glasses Drive

This month, the Social Ministry committee is supporting the "New Jersey Lions Recycle for Sight" program. Please drop off your used glasses — prescription, reading or sunglasses. There is a donation basket in the church narthex.



Blood Drive — July 11th

Our next blood drive will be held on Tuesday, July 11th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please sign up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.

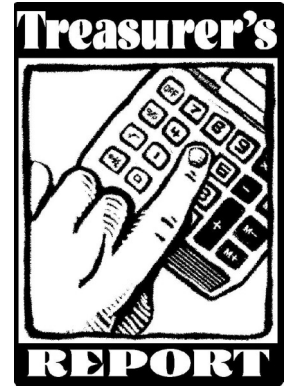
Play Ball!

On June 24th, Zion members enjoyed another fun outing to see the Somerset Patriots play baseball. The Patriots won and the fireworks were great!



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2023

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$26,969.67	-\$27,037.86	-\$68.19
February	\$35,166.23	-\$30,400.70	\$4,765.53
March	\$36,556.41	-\$31,024.54	\$5,531.87
April	\$32,573.13	-\$29,884.46	\$2,688.67
May	\$25,292.29	-\$23,658.45	\$1,633.84
November			\$0.00
Year To Date Total	\$156,557.73	-\$142,006.01	\$14,551.72



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$71,960.65	6/3/2023
Money Market Plus	\$278,216.91	5/31/2023
Cash On Hand	\$350,177.56	
Directed Funds	\$213,448.00	5/31/2023
Operating Funds	\$136,729.56	5/31/2023
Cash On Hand	\$350,177.56	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$500,137.31	4/30/2023
THRIVENT	\$353,094.93	5/31/2023
TOTAL	\$853,232.24	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH	
Available Funds for 2022	\$25,282.00
Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	-\$5,000.00
Prison Prayer Books	-\$396.77
2022 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$18,385.23



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

A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee

