

THE VISITOR

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Second and Iron Streets-Lehighton, Pennsylvania 18235

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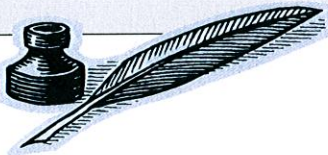
Reverend Dr. Jennifer Bannerman

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MAY-2016



Dear Friends,

This month we will continue to look at the four core principles of change that researcher Margaret Wheatley has discovered in her book *Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time*. This month we will look at the second principle: "Life always reacts to directives: it never obeys them. . . . It never matters how clear or visionary or important the message is. It can only elicit reactions, not straightforward compliance.... and life accepts only partners, not bosses."

We've all experienced this for ourselves, haven't we? And that experience hasn't always been positive has it? You're the new member to the group and every time you make a suggestion or want to do something in a different way you get the response: but we've always done it this way. Or, you're the one that has a set routine of how you get things done. You complain that no one else volunteers and you're always stuck doing the work. Yet, every time someone volunteers, they want to do it their own way, which upsets your routine, and you shoo them away. This pretty well explains why it can be hard to get folks to volunteer to help at church.

Wheaton says: "We have to honor the fact that people always need to include themselves in how the procedure gets done." If we want folks to get involved with a program or ministry at church, then it doesn't matter how long we've been doing it a certain way, we have to allow folks to tweak it and make it their own. We have to be open to changing things up a bit, if we want others to get involved. If we think that we have a final product and offer it to others to follow exactly, we can be assured that they will tweak it or dismiss it, no matter how good or successful it is in its current form. Perhaps this is why canned programs never work in a congregation. If we truly did live in a universe that was a gigantic machine, it would be easy to move a program or idea from one group to another and achieve the same results. But since we live in a dynamic, ever changing universe, each new group will take whatever idea or program it is given and modify it into something new.

When we understand this principle, and follow it, we will be a lot more successful in involving new people in the ministry of Zion. If we can let go of having to control everything and plan out every program to the smallest detail, then we can embrace the gift and challenge of being a part of the Body of Christ where everyone will make the ministry their own. It may be more chaotic to do ministry this way, but it definitely makes our ministry much more alive and vibrant.

Let us celebrate and embrace being the diverse and amazing Body of Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer



“Notes” from the Director of Music

Dear Friends:

I'd like to open this edition of my letter for the Visitor on a personal note. To everyone who shared cards, flowers, food, memorial donations or just a kind word during the recent loss of both Paul and my Dad I give my most sincere thank you. It's always difficult to lose a loved one and to experience two losses within twenty days was difficult. However, the prayers and sentiments from so many of this church family helped to ease the sadness so we could reflect on the joys that both of these men brought to our families' lives. They were both great husbands, fathers, father-in-laws and grandfathers and their presence will be missed but the memories of them will be with us forever. Thank you once again.

May is certainly an exciting time in the life of the music department at Zion for many reasons. One of which is MUSIC SUNDAY which this year, will occur on Sunday, May 22nd. The Bell Choir, Junior Bell Choir, Choraliers and Senior Bell Choir have been working hard on anthems. Additionally, we will be presenting special music from other members of our church family and Zion's band, The Sanctuary Sounds is also preparing an upbeat “jazzy” number that you certainly will not want to miss.

Upon Paul and Linn's retirement from the music department, Music Sunday has been dedicated in their honor. This year we will present Music Sunday in honor of Linn and in memory of Paul whose legacy at Zion will live on for generations to come. Please plan on joining us on the 22nd and invite your friends for what I hope will be a very uplifting service of praise to God through music.

On April 24th the choir will be singing an anthem by contemporary Christian artist Nichole Nordeman. In honor of our recent nice weather, I share these lyrics:

*And everything that's new has bravely surfaced,
Teaching us to breathe,
And what was frozen through is newly purposed,
Turning all things green.*

If you are anything like me and dislike winter weather, I think this verse creates such a beautiful image that every gift God gives to us is for a reason. The snow, sleet and ice that I complain about all winter long becomes the life-giving water that has created the beautiful day I'm experiencing while looking out my window right now!

Happy Spring!

Musically yours,

Brad

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

Did you know that you have two ways of supporting Zion without spending any of your own money? First there are your **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. As a non-profit organization, Thrivent gives away resources each year to support other non-profits. As a Thrivent member you may get a set amount of Thrivent Choice Dollars that you can designate each year. Zion UCC and Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow are both registered recipients for this program and you can use your Choice Dollars to support one or both of them. Next time you receive notice from Thrivent about designating your Choice Dollars please consider supporting these two organizations.

The second program is the **Thrivent Action Teams**. This program allows Thrivent benefit members to request \$250 in seed money to support fundraisers, service projects and educational events. Each Thrivent benefit member can make 2 requests for these funds each year. With your help, we can make requests for these funds for any of our events that qualify (which is just about all of them). Some events can qualify for 2 or more of this \$250 in seed money. These funds can be used to buy food, publicity and/or materials needed for the event.

If you are a Thrivent benefit member and would like to use your Action Team funds to support the ministry of Zion, i.e.: fundraising dinners, food pantry, community meals, children's summer lunch program, children's summer program, country fair, rummage sale, our hosting of Family Promise, ZOW, the Cantata, VBS, or any other of our events, please let us know. You can designate an event, or we'll contact you to use them as needed. You can also designate your funds for Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow events. We would like to put together a list of Zion members who have Action Team funds available. As the Thrivent member you would have to fill in the very simple request form. If you need help with this Pastor Jennifer, Susan Lovejoy (local Thrivent rep), or your own Thrivent rep are available to help you. For more information about either of these programs, or becoming a Thrivent member yourself, you can log on to the Thrivent web site: www.thrivent.com, or talk with Pastor Jennifer, Sue or your Thrivent rep.

Thrivent wants to work with its members to make positive changes within their community. Let's work with them to make a difference here, in Lehighton.

THE VISITOR-MAY-2016

Mission Moments

Food Pantry Request

Zion's Food Pantry is in need of any type of breakfast cereals, canned fruit and canned soups. Please place your donations in the receptacle in the Narthex. Thank you.

Strengthen the Church Offering

The Mission Outreach Committee is pleased to sponsor the United Church of Christ's *Strengthen the Church* appeal on Sunday, May 15th. Each day visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through this appeal, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that *God is Still Speaking*. Please refer to the *Strengthen the Church* flyer included in this newsletter and use the enclosed envelope for your donation.

Family Promise of Carbon County



Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the Family Promise Ministry during the week of April 24th, Zion's host week. Whether you prepared and/or served a meal, spent time in fellowship with our guests or spent the night sleeping over with them, know that your willingness to share your time and treasure with this ministry has touched the lives of these homeless families and their children.

Our next host week is the week of July 17th. Please contact Nancy Koch at 610-377-5877 to sign up to volunteer to make a difference in the lives of others.

Rummage-Soup-Book & Bake Sale



Our Spring Rummage, Soup, Book and Bake Sale, which began on April 30th continues on Monday, May 2nd and Tuesday, May 3rd from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Come find bargains galore and at the same time help support the the church's General Operating Budget!

Heavenly Cookbooks

We have less than thirty of Zion's Heavenly Creations Cookbooks for sale. The cost of one of these gems is just \$ 15.00. Please stop in the office and gobble up one of the last remaining cookbooks for yourself, a family member, neighbor or friend. Proceeds from the sale benefit the church's General Operating Budget.

May Fish Feast

You do not have to wait until Good Friday, 2017 to enjoy another lip smacking fish feast at Zion! The Mid-Week Lunch Bunch is gearing up to serve another taste tempting meal on Friday, May 20th from 4:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. Tickets are just \$ 10.00 for adults and \$ 5.00 for children age 12 and under. The feast includes a large piece of Icelandic Haddock, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, rolls, beverage and of course, dessert. Tickets for the dinner are available from Sharon Berger or in the Church Office. Please contact Sharon at 610-704-4452 if you are able to help with the dinner or wish to make a monetary contribution to offset the cost of the meal. Proceeds from the event will benefit our General Operating Budget.

Mothers' Day Breakfast & Raffle

The Mid-Week Lunch Bunch will be serving up a delicious breakfast on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 8th in our Dining Room from 8:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon. Cost of the breakfast is just \$ 6.00. In conjunction with Mothers' Day, we are also selling raffle tickets for 10 great prizes. Tickets are \$ 1.00 each or 6 for \$ 5.00 and can be purchased from Sharon Berger or in the Church Office.



Like Zion on FaceBook

Be sure to read the enclosed article on Thrivent Choice Dollars & Thrivent Action Teams!

THE VISITOR-MAY-2016

Bach & Handel Chorale Coming to Zion

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 14th so you are reminded to treat yourself to the sounds of the Bach & Handel Chorale. This prestigious group, based in Jim Thorpe, Pa., will be presenting a concert in our Sanctuary on that date beginning at 3:00 P.M. There will be no charge for this event however, a free-will offering will be taken to benefit Zion Church.

Sight & Sound Bus Trip-Samson

We are pleased to announce that Zion is sponsoring a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster County to see an awe-inspiring production of *Samson*. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6th. Cost for the event, which includes bus transportation, lunch at Shady Maple and the show is \$ 91.00 for adults (age 13 and older) and \$ 55.00 for children, (age 12 and under). Full payment is due by May 20th. Payment can be made in the Church Office or given to John Lopata. Please make your check payable to Zion U.C.C.

Student Summer Lunch



Zion will once again host the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's free summer lunch program. This ministry allows us to provide free, nutritious lunches to students who attend Lehigh Area Schools. The program will begin in late May and continue until the students return to school in September. Lunches are served Monday through Friday from 11:00-12:30 in our Dining Room. Please contact Bob Schaeffer at 610-554-6011 if you are interested in volunteering for this wonderful program.

Lehigh High School Baccalaureate

Zion will host Baccalaureate Services for graduating Seniors from Lehigh High School on Tuesday, May 24th beginning at 6:30 P.M. You are invited to participate in this meaningful event in the lives of these young men and women. Special readings and music will be offered at the event.

Confirmation Sunday

Seven young adults will be confirmed at Zion on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th during the 10:15 A.M. Worship Service. Hope to see you in church on that day to celebrate this momentous occasion.

A \$ 5.00 Miracle!

Now that spring is in full bloom, you will want to make sure your windows and everything else in your house are sparkling clean. Zion can help you with this endeavor. For just \$ 5.00, you can purchase a Streak-Less Micro Fiber cleaning cloth which will make your cleaning efforts effortless! These little miracles are available in the Church Office. Proceeds from the sale of the cloths benefit the church's General Operating Budget.

Sound System Operator Needed

Our current outstanding sound system operator, Brock Heckman, will begin college in the Fall of this year. The church will need someone to take over the sound system operation from Brock as early as the end of August. Responsibilities include operating the system on Sunday mornings as well as the recording of the 10:15 A.M. Service. Duplicate copies of each recording need to be produced for distribution to our shut-in members. If interested in this volunteer position, please contact the Church Office at 610-377-1191.

Vacation Bible School-2016



Zion's VBS will be held from Sunday, June 12th through Thursday, June 16th. This year's VBS coordinators are Ashley Fritz and Accaylia Schaeffer. If you are able to assist in any way with this year's program, please call the Church Office at 610-377-1191.

Coffee-Cocoa-Cookie Sale for VBS

The coffee-cocoa & cookie sale held in the Narthex on Sunday, April 24th raised \$ 210.25 for our Vacation Bible School program!

Be sure to read the enclosed article on Thrivent Choice Dollars & Thrivent Action Teams!

THE VISITOR-MAY 2016

From the Church Records

Baptism

Josephine Nichole Kunkle, daughter of Matthew & Jade Kunkle was baptized by Pastor Bannerman on Sunday, April 10th. Josephine was born on October 10, 2015.

New Members

Zion received six (6) new members into our Family of Faith during the month of April. Welcome to Reverend Dr. Jennifer Bannerman, Reverend Gordon Hills, Betty Love, Kelly Stojinski, Jared McEvoy and Katie Frey.



Memorial Gifts

The following gifts have been placed in the Memorial Fund at Zion Church. Donations to the Memorial Fund are used at the discretion of the Consistory unless designated by the Donor.

In Memory Of

Donor

Designated Ministry

George Bibighaus

Lucille Bibighaus

Non-Designated

Paul R. Smith

Kitty Bartholomew

Music Fund & ZOW

Gregory & Jayne Bayer

ZOW

Daughters of Zion

ZOW

Rev. William & Shirley Ellsworth

ZOW

Dan & Marcia Evans

Music Fund

Phyllis Feller

ZOW

1st Presbyterian Church-Lehighton

Music Fund

Daniel Fisher

Music Fund

Mable Fritz

Music Fund

David & Audrey Fritz

ZOW

Geisinger Health System Data Staff

Music Fund

Romaine Hahn

Non-Designated

Ruth Hartman

Music Fund

Drue & Jan Haydt

Music Fund & ZOW

Glen & Elaine Haydt

Music Fund & ZOW

Eric & Jill Haydt

Music Fund & ZOW

Ernest & Diana Heckman

ZOW

David & Judy Heffelfinger

ZOW

Janice Heffner

ZOW

Alice Heintzelman

Scholarship Fund

Cindy Lou Heiser

Music Fund & ZOW

Gary & Melodie Heydt

Music Fund

Joseph & Suzanne Hracho

Music Fund

Joseph & Ruth Jamicky

Music Fund

Elmer & Nancy Keiser

Music Fund & ZOW

Dan & Cheryl Kunkle

Capital Improvement Fund

THE VISITOR-MAY 2016

Memorial Gifts

In Memory Of

Paul R. Smith

Donor

Charles Laviolette
Cindy Mack
Larry & Crystal Markley
Ken & Debbie Miller
David & Mary Reed
Gordon & Joan Ripkey
Clark & Carol Ritter
Jonathan & Lisa Schweitzer
Lawrence & Jacqueline Sheaffer
Trevor & Ruthann Shellhammer
Rev. Daniel & Mary Shook
Don & Betty Simmons
Dene & Joann Smith
Joseph Sofhauser
Dolores Solt
George & Mary Ann Taylor
Charles & Judith Wade
Larry & Karen Wittig
Matthew & Peggy Yeastedt
Michael & Ann Yeastedt
Robert & Susan Yeastedt

Designated Ministry

ZOW
Music Fund & ZOW
Non-Designated
Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow
Music Fund
Music Fund & ZOW
ZOW
Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow
Music Fund & ZOW
ZOW
ZOW
Music Fund
Music Fund & ZOW
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Music Fund
Music Fund
ZOW
ZOW
Music Fund & ZOW
ZOW
ZOW

Clair Snyder

Shirley Wentz

Melva Whiteman

Robert Yeastedt

Nadine Snyder

James Wentz & Family

Robert Whiteman

David & Audrey Fritz

Dale & Coleen Harleman

Charles Laviolette

Cindy Mack

Beverly Moser

Ruthann Schlecht

Gene & Catherine Schleicher

George & Charlotte Yeastedt

Matthew & Peggy Yeastedt

Zion Chancel Choir

Capital Improvement Fund

Non-Designated

Non-Designated

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

ZOW

Every effort is made to insure that all donations have been listed in this Visitor and that all information is correct. Should you discover that your donation is not listed or that any information is not correct, please contact the Church Office at 610-377-1191.

Zion United Church of Christ
2nd & Iron Streets-Lehigh-ton-Pa.



FISH FEAST

May 20, 2016

4:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Buttered Haddock Mac & Cheese
Stewed Tomatoes & Green Beans
Buttered Rolls
Dessert & Beverage

\$10.00-Adults

\$5.00-Children Age 12 & Under

Tickets available from Sharon Berger & the Church Office

Take-Outs Available!!



About Strengthen the Church

When you invest in the vision supported by Strengthen the Church, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and help develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults.

About Stillspeaking

Stillspeaking is the shorter form of "God is still speaking," a campaign by the United Church of Christ to remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to extend an extravagant welcome to all—because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

God is Still Speaking,

Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference and to Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.

United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale

The transformation that has unfolded at the United Church of Christ in Fort Lauderdale has been nothing short of astounding. Over the last two years, the Florida church has become a true ecumenical center, offering its space to other congregations for worship and shared ministry.

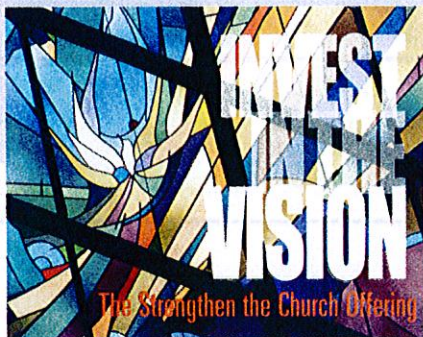
"It's one of our major callings to unite not just the Christian church, but all believers to live in peace and harmony," says the Rev. Patrick Rogers, pastor.

Worship attendance at the church now averages more than 200--compared to 85 a year ago, and the church budget has also grown by about 60 percent. The budget is "a marker, but not our focus," says Rev. Rogers. "Our mission is our focus, and if people believe in the church, they will invest and they will come."

The church's transformation began two years ago when a man from Colombia came to the area with \$50 in his pocket and a call to found a spiritual home for the Latino/Latina community. Today, *Comunidad Vida y Gracia* (Community of Love and Grace) rents space from UCC in Fort Lauderdale and has 50 to 60 in worship each Sunday.

But that's not all: a local Unity Church (a Christian church that teaches a positive approach to life) has begun holding worship in the space; the Florida Youth Pride Coalition hosts a game night at the church; the church is working with Broward County Hospitals and a community interfaith group to create closer connections among hospitals and the faith community. On top of that, the church has hosted interfaith services with 10 different faith communities attending to share in praise.

"Like us, so many of these older churches have so much space available for use but they are sitting empty except for Sunday mornings," says Rev. Rogers. "This is a way to help bring the community together as well as create ministry and rental income for the church. It all works together for the greater good!"



That's the vision of the Strengthen the Church offering...growing churches of extravagant welcome seeking to transform lives.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Produced for use in congregations of the
United Church of Christ.
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ZION CHURCH CALENDAR-MAY-2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M. WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 A.M.	2 RUMMAGE-GYM-9:00-2:00 JR. BELL CHOR-DR-2:30 JR. CHOR-DR-3:30-4:30	3 RUMMAGE-GYM-9:00-2:00 QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG D&G FEC-6:00	4 MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 SR. BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30	5 DINING ROOM IN USE-8:00-3:00 <i>Bad Girls of the Bible</i> Study Session Procina Residence-7:00-8:30	6 WEDDING REHEARSAL SANCTUARY-6:00	7 WEDDING SANCTUARY-3:00
8 MOTHERS' DAY BREAKFAST DINING ROOM-8:00-12:00 WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M. WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 A.M.	9 JR. BELL CHOR-DR-2:30 JR. CHOR-DR-3:30	10 QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG D&G FEC-6:00 WORSHIP COMMITTEE-BCR-6:00	11 MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 SR. BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30 PROPERTY COMMITTEE-BCR-7:00	12	13	14 BACH & HANDEL CHORALE CONCERT-SANCTUARY-3:00
15 WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M. WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	16	17 QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG D&G FEC-6:00 FINANCE COMMITTEE-BCR-7:00 DYLAN & GAVIN RAINBOW MTG-7:00	18 MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 SR. BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30	19	20 FISH FEAST DINING ROOM-4:00-7:00	21 DINING ROOM IN USE 2:00-6:00
22 WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 MUSIC SUNDAY	23	24 QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG D&G FEC-6:00	25 MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30	26 COMMUNITY MEAL-DR-5:30-7:00 FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION-6:00-7:00	27	28
29 WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15	30 OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES MEMORIAL DAY	31 QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG D&G FEC-6:00 CONSISTORY MEETING-BCR-7:00				

LEGEND

BCR=BROOKS-COPE CLASSROOM
CR=CONFERENCE ROOM
DR=DINING ROOM/FELLOWSHIP HALL
D & GK FEC-DYLAN & GAVIN KRUM FAITH EXPLORATION CENTER
N=NURSERY
SA=SMITH AUDITORIUM