

THE VISITOR

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Reverend Dr. Jennifer Bannerman

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November-2016

Dear Friends,

We are the United Church of Christ!

Our Purpose: *To love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.*

Our Mission: *United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.*

Our Vision: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

What do you think of these statements? These are the newly adopted Purpose, Mission, and Vision statements for the United Church of Christ as a denomination. They came up with these statements by involving leaders and laity at the national, conference, and local level, and sought out youth representatives to make sure that they had a part in creating them as well. They truly came from the people of the UCC and give us a mission that we can grow into.

On October 17th, the clergy of our Conference met with Rev. John Dorhauer the President and General Minister of the UCC. He shared these newly adopted statements with us. He also shared the vision he had of how these statements can give us a renewed sense of purpose for our ministry as a denomination and as people of faith. He travels around the country and around the world and sees the positive impact that the UCC is having on peoples' lives

It was good to hear the stories he shared of how individuals and churches within the UCC are making a difference in their communities, and in countries around the world. In the midst of the gloom and doom that many of us have when we look to the future of our churches, he brought us stories of hope. The Spirit is alive and well and moving through the world. God's church will continue – maybe not in the form we are used to, but God's message of love and hope will continue to break through into peoples' lives.

Personally, I like these statements. I think they succinctly say what we are called to do and be in the world as God's people. Almost 500 years ago a Reformation changed the way that people worshiped God---and church life happened. Today we are experiencing our own re-formation of what church means and what faith looks like. As God told the prophet Isaiah: "Behold I am making a new thing." We don't know what it will look like, but if we *love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves we will be able to welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.*

May we join with the Spirit and move into the future for our church with hope.

Pastor Jennifer



News from the Board of Christian Education

Happy Fall!

We have successfully started our new year of Sunday School and our students are excited and happy to engage in our weekly lessons. Our Rally Day was held on September 18th, 2016 and was well attended! The Board of Christian Education sponsored the Community Feed-A-Neighbor meal for September serving Ziti, bread and salad to 100 community members.

We are actively planning our Fall events with Pastor Bannerman and are excited to have our students involved in the upcoming Winter activities. Coming up on Sunday, November 13th, we will be holding our annual Rainbow Sunday celebration and will be involving our Sunday School students in the Children's Message during our Worship Service.

Plans are also underway for our Christmas celebrations. During our December 4th service, our students will be helping to decorate the Christmas tree with Chrismons and we will be celebrating Jesus' birthday on December 18th for our Christmas program and gift exchange.

It is never too late to have students join our Sunday School activities. If you know someone who would be interested in joining us to learn about God's ways, please encourage them to attend our Sunday School sessions.

May we continue to serve in God's ways,

Jen Lopata and Tonia Schaeffer
Co- Chairpersons, Board of Christian Education

From the Church Records

Wedding

Stacy Trinkle and John Valick were united in Holy Matrimony during a service officiated by Pastor Bannerman on October 1st. The Family of Faith of Zion United Church of Christ wishes this couple only the best as they travel life's journey together.

Baptism

Nolan Thomas Kotch, son of Larry and MaryBeth Kotch, was baptized by Pastor Bannerman on Sunday, October 30th. Nolan opened his eyes to God's beautiful world on May 12, 2016.

Death

Funeral Services were conducted on October 27th by Pastor Bannerman for Janet Snyder, who entered Eternal Life on October 23rd. May God bring peace and comfort to Janet's family, loved ones and many friends during their time of grieving and sadness.



"Notes" from the Director of Music

Dear Zion:

As of this writing, preparations are underway for our annual roast beef dinner which benefits our ecumenical Christmas cantata! Whether you donated a baked good, donated your time for preparation or serving, or bought or sold tickets for it, I SINCERELY thank you! We always pray for a good financial outcome but bringing together members of Zion with others from other churches is always wonderful at the cantata and this year we hope to do the same with our dinner! Helpers, young and old alike, coming together for a common cause does a heart good!

Also as of this writing, we have had our first practice for our ecumenical Christmas cantata "Breath of Heaven". Every once in a while you find one of those cantatas that is just a bit different and this cantata is certainly one of those! In place of standard narration, the story of the birth of Jesus is told through the eyes of Mary and Joseph! The songs are a mix of contemporary and traditional with beautiful harmonies. We have already received more inquiries from singers so it is my hope as in the past that each week will bring more and more people for the one common goal of sharing this beautiful story through words and music.

Once again, we are all so grateful to Thomas and Sharyn Garrett who purchased the cantata books and orchestration for this cantata in memory of Sharyn's parents Berdell and Althea Beers. What a wonderful way to remember loved ones and share this with so many people.

If you know of anyone who might enjoy singing with us, please tell them all they need to do is show up for an upcoming rehearsal. Participants need not attend all rehearsals and our remaining practices are as follows:

Wednesday, November 2nd at 8:30 PM

Thursday, November 10th at 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 13th at 3:00 PM (Practice with orchestra)

Tuesday, November 15th at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, November 23rd at 8:30 PM

Sunday, November 27th at 3:00 PM (Performance at 7:30 PM)

Musically Yours,

Brad

THE VISITOR-NOVEMBER-2016

Come Ye Thankful People Come



During our Harvest Home Service on October 11th, we collected \$127.31 from the Joyful Noise Offering. Those monies will be used to purchase food for our Feed-A-Neighbor Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who pitched a buck or two into the Joyful Noise buckets.

Food Pantry News

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 to everyone who faithfully supports this ministry whether it be through financial support or donations of food items.

Pantry Participation

Our Feed-A-Neighbor Food Pantry served 97 households in September. Those families were comprised of 156 adults, 88 children and 30 senior citizens. We served 105 folks at our monthly community meal.

Thank-You to the Tribe

Zion recently received a whopping 371 food items for our pantry from a drive that was spearheaded by the Leighton Indian Pride Band. The group, under the direction of Bryan Buffington, collected food from each of our sports teams, their coaches and the faculty. We send the band and everyone who participated in this project a 5 Wigwam Salute for their efforts!

Family Promise of Carbon County



We express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to Nancy Koch for her years of tireless dedication as Zion's host coordinator for Family Promise. Nancy was responsible for recruiting, training and scheduling the volunteers needed to serve meals, share time in fellowship and to sleep over with our guests during our host weeks. An awesome task that she handled with poise, true grit and professionalism.

We welcome Brad and Beth Cressley as our new Host Coordinators and are more than confident that they will do a great job!

Remembrance Weekend



Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow Ministry is sponsoring their Second Annual Remembrance Weekend on Saturday, December 10th. Two events, open to everyone, are a Snowflake 5K Race/1 Mile Walk through the streets of Leighton. We will also be holding a basket raffle in our Dining Room from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. If you wish to donate a prize for the basket raffle, please bring it to the Church Office or place it in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary. Our kitchen, serving light lunch and special treats, will be open as well.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow Ministry, two local chapters of Compassionate Friends and the Lehigh Valley Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

Country Fair on the Horizon

Country Fair will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. at Zion. Numerous vendors will be on hand with unique crafts for sale. The Kitchen Crew will have lots of homemade food for you to enjoy in the Dining Room. And while you are in the Dining Room, take home some wonderful baked goods that will be for sale. No Country Fair at Zion would be complete without the basket raffle. If you would like to donate a prize for the basket raffle, please bring it to the Church Office or make a cash donation for the basket raffle and we will do the shopping for you! Raffle tickets, featuring 10 great prizes are now available from Sharon Berger and in the Church Office. Tickets are just \$ 1.00 each. Please contact Tonia Schaeffer at 610-554-9854 for more information regarding this event. Proceeds from Country Fair will benefit the church's General Operating Budget.

Advent Candle Lightings

Advent begins on November 27th. If you and your family are interested in participating in the lighting of an Advent Candle during this joyous season, please contact Pastor Bannerman. We need a family for the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as well as for each of the two services on Christmas Eve.

THE VISITOR-NOVEMBER-2016

Roast Beef Dinner



Many thanks to everyone who supported the Chancel Choir's Roast Beef Dinner on October 22nd. The feast raised \$ 2,100.00 which will be used to offset the cost associated with our Ecumenical Christmas Cantata to be at Zion on Sunday, November 27th.

Don't Miss the Beauty of the Old Man

In the next month or so, Old Man Winter will be upon us. Don't miss out on the stark beauty the winter season offers due to crud crusted windows. Zion has Streak-Less micro-fiber cleaning cloths for sale in the Church Office for only \$ 5.00 per cloth. Purchase one or more of these miracle workers to make sure your windows are squeaky clean. A strong rumor floating about is that these little wonders can clean virtually everything else in your house. PLUS, they make great Christmas stocking stuffers.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley is holding a blood drive at Zion on Monday, November 28th from 1:00 P.M.-6:00 in our Dining Room. Stop by to donate the *Gift of Life*.

B-I-N-G-O

Zion began holding bingo games in our Dining Room on October 4th. The games will continue each Tuesday Night with Early Bird Specials held from 6:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M. followed by regular bingo games until about 9:00 P.M. Our wonderful kitchen is open during the games from 5:30 P.M. through intermission. Funds generated through food sales and the games will be used to support the many ministries that Zion offers the community and have the potential to allow us to erase our annual deficits and then some! Please contact Bob Schaeffer at 610-554-6011 for more information or if you would like to volunteer to help with this venture.

Ecumenical Christmas Cantata

Zion will host the ecumenical Christmas Cantata, *Breath of Heaven*, on Sunday, November 27th at 7:30 P.M. in our Sanctuary. This year's cantata has been donated in memory of Berdell and Althea Beers by their daughter, Sharyn Garrett and her husband Thomas. There is still time to sign up to sing. Please contact Brad Cressley, Director of Music at 610-377-9077 or by e-mail at ccmusic@ptd.net if you would like to add your voice to this holiday crowd pleaser.

Trees For Troops



Many military families will be spending the Christmas Season apart from each other. *Trees For Troops* has sent more than 50,000 trees to military bases across the United States. Many of these families would not have a Christmas Tree without your support.

This is the seventh year that Zion has sponsored this ministry and our response has placed scores of tannenbaums in the homes of our military families to make their holidays a bit brighter.

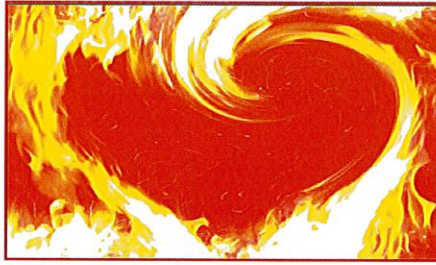
If you choose to buy a tree for \$ 25.00, a message card will be given to you to complete and will be attached to a tree for a military family to read. Donations in any amount are cheerfully accepted. The deadline to donate to this wonderful ministry is Monday, November 28th. Checks should be written to *Zion United Church of Christ*.

If you have any questions concerning the *Trees For Troops* program, please contact Renee Schoch by e-mail at awwschochs@gmail.com or by telephone at 610-377-6883.

Cookies + Cocoa For a Good Cause

We will be selling cookies, coffee and cocoa in the Narthex on Sunday, November 20th at the end of the Worship Express Service and prior to the 10:15 A.M. Worship Service. All donations received from the event will benefit *Trees For Troops*.

Stoke the Fire Campaign



We are currently engaged in a campaign to raise \$ 130,000.00 to replace our ancient boiler system and to improve the efficiency of the existing radiators throughout the church. Work began on this project on October 27th. You should have received an appeal letter and donation envelope early in October. If for some reason you have not received or have lost your envelope, please send or bring your contribution to the Church Office in an envelope marked "Stoke the Fire" Campaign.

Listed are the folks who have donated thus far to the Stoke the Fire Campaign.

<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>In Honor Of</u>
Edward Bair	Esther Bair	
Lucille Bibighaus	George Bibighaus	
Austin & Joanne Blew		
Terry Blocker	Ernest & Dorothy Blocker	
Craig Dishong & Family		
Dorothy Ebbert	Ronald Christman & David Ebbert	
JoAnn Eckman	My Parents	
Arlington & Patricia Everett		
Franklin Frable	Betty Frable	
Thomas Harleman		
LaRae Hlavaty		Shirley Stein
Steve/Geraldine Holland	Ted & Doreen Kromer	
Peggy Kleintop	Paul H. Kleintop Jr.	
Gail Klemka		
Kenneth Leffler		
Jeff & Sandi Roth		Zion's Staff
Linnea Smith		
Janet Snyder		
Shirley Stein	William D. Stein Jr.	
Steve & Jen Strauss	JoAnn Strauss	
Frank & Sue Strouse	Margaret Steigerwalt	
	Earl Thomas	
James Wentz	Shirley Wentz	
Debbie Yanders	Sharon Tanczos	



Christmas Sponsorships

If you would like to sponsor a Christmas Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend, please complete the form below and either submit it to the office or place it in the offering plate with your payment no later than Monday, December 5, 2016. Each poinsettia costs \$ 10.00.

In lieu of a poinsettia sponsorship, monetary contributions may be made as memorials to the Memorial Fund or as an honoraria to a fund of your choosing. Please use the form below to submit your monetary donation for either a memorial or honorarium.

Poinsettia Plant Sponsorship

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

SPONSORED BY:

_____ I WILL PICK UP MY PLANT(S)

_____ PLEASE DELIVER MY PLANT(S)
TO A SHUT IN MEMBER

Christmas Donation

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

DESIGNATED FUND

SPONSORED BY:



COUNTRY FAIR

Zion United Church of Christ

**Second & Iron Streets
Lehigh, Pa. 18235**

Saturday-November 19, 2016
9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Theme Basket Raffle

Zion Crafters Book Nook

Zion Café Raffle

Homemade Soups & Baked Goods

Various Vendors & Crafts

Little Shoppers Christmas Shop

Ice Cream Sundaes

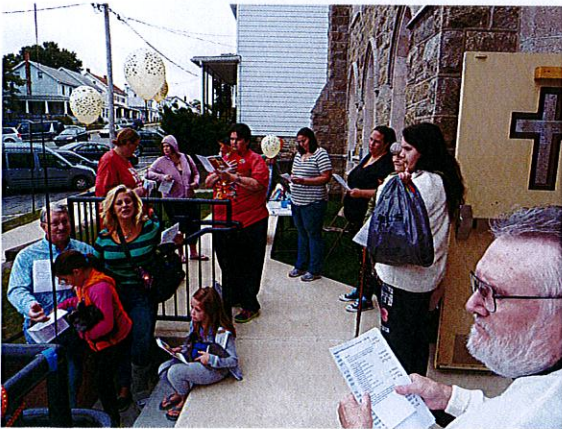


Zion Operating Revenue & Expense Summary Actual to Budget

January - August, Current Month=September, and YTD for 2016

	January - August	8 Mths Percent of Annual Budget	September Actual	Month Percent of Annual Budget	YTD Total	Annual Budget	YTD Percent of Budget
		66.67%		8.33%			75.00%
Total Operating Revenue	141,536.09	51.94%	16,076.36	5.90%	157,612.45	272,477.00	57.84%
Outreach Ministries	4,800.00	66.67%	0.00	0.00%	4,800.00	7,200.00	66.67%
Music Ministries	16,910.85	67.43%	2,045.92	8.16%	18,956.77	25,080.00	75.59%
Congregational Life Ministries	7,510.74	78.65%	637.34	6.67%	8,148.08	9,550.00	85.32%
Property & Maintenance	54,668.44	67.38%	1,865.04	2.30%	56,533.48	81,137.00	69.68%
Office Costs & Support	23,763.98	59.41%	3,180.29	7.95%	26,944.27	40,003.00	67.36%
Clergy Salary & Benefits	47,180.31	67.74%	5,073.04	7.28%	52,253.35	69,649.00	75.02%
Insurance & Benefits	22,821.40	66.64%	1,785.32	5.21%	24,606.72	34,248.00	71.85%
Payroll Expenses	3,892.36	69.38%	394.42	7.03%	4,286.78	5,610.00	76.41%
Total Operating Expenses	181,548.08	66.63%	14,981.37	5.50%	196,529.45	272,477.00	72.13%
Net (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	-40,011.99		1,094.99		-38,917.00	0.00	

Blessing of the Pets



What a special time was had at Zion on Saturday, October 8th. 39 special friends, including dogs, cats, gerbils, a turtle and hamster were shown just how much their owners love them and how they enrich their lives during our Blessing of the Pets. Lots of neat give-a-ways, balloons and perfect weather made for a wonderful day. St. Francis is smiling!

ZION CHURCH CALENDAR-NOVEMBER-2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		TOPS-N-4:00 BROWNIES-D&GFEC-6:00-7:30 GIRL SCOUTS-6:00-8:00 BINGO-DR-6:00 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00	MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 SR BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30 CANTATA REHEARSAL-DR-8:30	DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00 REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND MTG-DR-7:00		DINING ROOM IN USE
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE-8:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15	JR. BELL CHOR-DR-2:30 JR. CHOR-DR-3:30	TOPS-N-4:00 BROWNIES-D&GFEC-6:00-7:30 GIRL SCOUTS-6:00-8:00 BINGO-DR-6:00 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00	MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 SR BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30 PROPERTY COMMITTEE-BCR-7:00	DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00 CANTATA REHEARSAL-DR-7:30		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE-8:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 CANTATA REHEARSAL-SANCTUARY 2:00-ORCHESTRA 3:00-CHORUS-ORCHESTRA	JR. BELL CHOR-DR-2:30 JR. CHOR-DR-3:30	QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 BROWNIES-D&GFEC-6:00-7:30 GIRL SCOUTS-6:00-8:00 BINGO-DR-6:00 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00 DYLAN & GAVIN'S RAINBOW MTG-7:00 CANTATA REHEARSAL-SANCTUARY-7:30	MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 SR BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30	DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30 COMMUNITY MEAL-DR-5:30-7:00 FOOD PANTRY-6:00-7:00		COUNTRY FAIR ALL OVER! 9:00-2:00
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE-8:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 BOCE MEETING-AFTER 10:15 SERVICE BASE CAMP	JR. BELL CHOR-DR-2:30 JR. CHOR-DR-3:30	QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 BROWNIES-D&GFEC-6:00-7:30 GIRL SCOUTS-6:00-8:00 GIRL SCOUTS SERVICE UNIT-CR-8:00 BINGO-DR-6:00 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00	SR BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30 CANTATA REHEARSAL-DR-8:30	THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES		
27	28	29	30			
EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE-8:15 A.M. WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 CANTATA REHEARSAL-SANCTUARY 2:00-ORCHESTRA 3:00-CHORUS-ORCHESTRA CANTATA -SANCTUARY-7:30	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE DINING ROOM-1:00-6:00	QUILTING-N-9:00 TOPS-N-4:00 BROWNIES-D&GFEC-6:00-7:30 GIRL SCOUTS-6:00-8:00 BINGO-DR-6:00 CYO BOYS BB-GYM-6:00-8:00 CONSISTORY-BCR-7:00	MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30 SR BELL CHOR-DR-6:30 CHANCEL CHOR-DR-7:30			

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