

Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ Newsletter

January/February/March, 2016

Minister's Message

What's the meaning of life? In 1991, the editors of *Life Magazine* published the answers that 300 "wise women and men" gave to this very question in *The Meaning of Life: Reflections in Words and Pictures on Why We Are Here*.

Their responses, as you might expect, are far-ranging and diverse. Author John Updike suggested that "ancient religion and modern science agree: we are here to give praise. Or, to slightly tip the expression, to pay attention." Noted scientist Stephen Jay Gould, disavowing divine inspiration, argued instead that "we cannot read the meaning of life passively in the facts of nature. We must construct these answers ourselves – from our own wisdom and ethical sense."

Perhaps my favorite answer came from noted author Annie Dillard:

We are here to witness the creation and abet it. We are here to notice each thing so each thing gets noticed. Together we notice not only each mountain shadow and each stone on the beach but, especially, we notice the beautiful faces and complex natures of each other. We are here to bring to consciousness the beauty and power that are around us and to praise the people who are here with us. We witness our generation and our times. We watch the weather. Otherwise, creation would be playing to an empty house.

According to the second law of thermodynamics, things fall apart. Structures disintegrate. Buckminster Fuller hinted at a reason we are here: By creating things, by thinking up new combinations, we counteract this flow of entropy. We make new structures, new wholeness, so the universe comes out even. A shepherd on a hilltop who looks at a mess of stars and thinks, 'There's a hunter, a plow,

a fish,' is making mental connections that have as much real force in the universe as the very fires in those stars themselves.

Sort of puts a spin on how you want to spend your weekend, doesn't it?

Rev. Bob Peiffer



Mental Health Ministry

For two months this autumn, Jeff Hamilton and Bob Peiffer spent Sunday afternoons discussing with interested persons possibilities for launching a mental health ministry. In December, Jeff and Bob met with local representatives of two national mental health advocacy organizations (i.e., the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance and the National Association on Mental Illness); they met as well with State Senator Ryan Aument who is passionate about advancing mental health and wellness throughout our area.

Please join Jeff and Bob for one of two January meetings during which they will report on what they have learned from their various conversations. Their report will suggest potential opportunities for our congregations to sponsor or host community gatherings of persons developing wellness recovery action plans. The meetings will be held from 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. according to the following schedule: Sunday, January 10 (Zion's) and Sunday, January 24 (St. Paul's).

Volunteer Schedule

Greeters: Jan. 3 - Janice & Russell Shirker
 Jan. 10 - Donna & Bob Rineer
 Jan. 17 - Susan & Mark Olcott
 Jan. 24 - Dawn & Grace Heinsey
 Jan. 31 - Pam & Rich Weeber
 Feb. 7 - Shirl & Mervin Newcomer
 Feb. 14 - Loren Zimmerman
 Feb. 21 - Shirley Pierce & Jessie Pierce
 Feb. 28 - Marie & Bob Fisher
 Mar. 6 - Pauline Binkley & Joan Good
 Mar. 13 - Michelle Fisher
 Mar. 20 - Lori & Steve Gold
 Mar. 27 - Carol Hildebrand & Jessie Pierce

Lectors: Jan. 3 - Steve Gold
 Jan. 10 - Rich Weeber
 Jan. 17 - Mark Olcott
 Jan. 24 - Michelle Fisher
 Jan. 31 - Dawn Heinsey
 Feb. 7 - Lori Gold
 Feb. 14 - Joan Good
 Feb. 21 - Theresa Dohner
 Feb. 28 - Russell Shirker
 Mar. 6 - Steve Gold
 Mar. 13 - Janice Shirker
 Mar. 20 - Grace Heinsey
 Mar. 27 - Pam Weeber

Altar Care: January - Pauline Binkley
 February - Dawn Heinsey
 March - Pam Weeber



April/May/June Newsletter Deadline

Please submit all articles, newsworthy information or member news by Sunday, **March 13th**. Please give all articles or information to Pam Weeber or send an e-mail to rpweeber@comcast.net. Please include Zion's name in the subject line of any e-mails.

Deacons:

Team A

Marie Fisher
 Lori Gold
 Steve Gold

Team B

Dawn Heinsey
 Carol Hildebrand
 Mark Olcott
 Rich Weeber

Jan. 3 - Team A
 Jan. 10 - Team B
 Jan. 17 - Team A
 Jan. 24 - Team B
 Jan. 31 - Team A
 Feb. 7 - Team B
 Feb. 14 - Team A
 Feb. 21 - Team B
 Feb. 28 - Team A
 Mar. 6 - Team B
 Mar. 13 - Team A
 Mar. 20 - Team B
 Mar. 27 - Team A

Prayer Concerns



Below is a list of members, family and friends who would appreciate your prayers. Please remember these people in your prayers over the next few months:

Chester Yeakel; Pauline Zerbe; Josie Mae Williams; Rev. John Binkley; Fred Hyde; Stacey Marcello; Gina Katrinak; Bill and Jean; Diane; Jen; Dawn and Loren Zimmerman; Eddie Sue Rose; Bob and Karen Peiffer; Ed Williams; Rich Weeber



Zion's Reformed UCC Pastor's Cell: (717) 925-6520
 1356 Apple Street (available 24 hrs./7 days a week)
 Ephrata, PA 17522 E-mail: rpeiffer55@gmail.com
 (717) 733-4571
 Website: www.zionsreformeducc.org

Sunday Worship Service 8:45 A.M.

Senior Pastor Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, Ph.D.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tues. & Thurs. 9 A.M. - Noon (Zion's UCC, Ephrata)

Mon. & Wed. 9 A.M. - Noon (St. Paul's UCC, Bowmansville)

Rev. Peiffer as Guest Chaplain

On December 9, 2015, Rev. Peiffer acted as the Guest Chaplain for the Senate of Pennsylvania. As Chaplain, he was responsible for offering a brief, interfaith opening prayer for the Senate session. The opening prayer has been a Senate Order of Business observed for many years and is an important tradition.

Congratulations, Rev. Peiffer for receiving this honor.

The Big Game Night before the Big Game

A game night is scheduled for Friday, February 5 from 6:30 P.M.– 8:30 P.M. Games will include Monopoly, Uno, Dominoes, Trivial Pursuit and others. Here's the important part: everyone who attends should invite someone to come along. We will not be playing Solitaire!!!

Hope to see you and your guests there!



Welcome to Zion's

If you have visited us recently or you have received our newsletter, please know that you are welcome to join any of the activities that you see. If you have any questions, regarding times or locations, please call us at (717) 925-6520.

Mark Your Calendar

- Jan. 7 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Jan. 10 - "Un"decorating the church - following the service
 Mental Health Ministry Mtg. 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Jan. 24 - Mental Health Ministry Mtg. 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. St. Paul's UCC
 Jan. 31 - **5th** Sunday Sharing - Members In Need Fund 8:45 A.M.
 Feb. 4 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Feb. 5 - Game Night 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
 Feb. 10 - Combined Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's UCC
 Feb. 17 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Feb. 24 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's UCC
 Mar. 2 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 3 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Mar. 9 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's UCC
 Mar. 13 - Daylight Savings Time Begins - **remember to change your clocks!! Spring forward!**
 Mar. 16 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 20 - Palm/Passion Sunday 8:45 A.M.
 Mar. 23 - Combined Lenten Study 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's UCC
 Mar. 24 - Combined Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 P.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 25 - Good Friday Service sponsored by Ephrata Ministerium - Time and location TBA
 Mar. 26 - Community Egg Hunt 11:00 A.M. Zion's Reformed UCC
 Mar. 27 - Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 A.M.
 Easter Celebratory Service 8:45 A.M.
 Apr. 9 - Spring Pot Pie Supper 11:00 A.M. - ?



Ash Wednesday

Planning is underway for Lent 2016. This penitential season will begin Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 P.M. with an Ash Wednesday Service at St. Paul's. We will join together for this liturgy that will feature the corporate confession of sin and the imposition of ashes.



Give It Up!: A Lenten Study for Adults

This Lenten study encourages reflection on all those things that hold our attention, occupy our minds, and monopolize our time. Some examples? Social media, cell phones, a focus on externals. During this six-week study, participants will make a journey of self-discovery, learning that the power of release brings great gain. (The biggest gain is a stronger relationship with Christ.)

Locations for the conversations will alternate according to the following schedule: February 17 (Zion's), February 24 (St. Paul's), March 2 (Zion's), March 9 (St. Paul's), March 16 (Zion's), March 23 (St. Paul's).

Community Egg Hunt

On Saturday, March 26, Lincoln will gather around Zion's Church for the traditional Easter Egg hunt. We have had great success with this community event. We will again be working with Salem Lutheran Church and the Lincoln Fire Company to sponsor this fun family activity for the children in our neighborhood. The hunt begins at 11:00 A.M. Volunteers will be needed to prepare beforehand and on the day of the event. Please look for ways to volunteer in the near future.



Holy Week Activities

The Lenten Season comes to a close as we move into Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday - March 24

A Maundy Thursday Service will be held Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 P.M. at Zion's Reformed UCC. We will join St. Paul's for this liturgy, remembering together Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper with (optional) footwashing.

Good Friday - March 25

On Friday, March 25, a community Good Friday service sponsored by the Ephrata Ministerium will be held. Please look for information regarding the time and location in the future.

Easter Sunday - March 27

Zion's will join with Salem Church for a sunrise service beginning at 6:45 A.M. We will gather at Zion's and then process to the Lincoln cemetery for a short sermon and service.

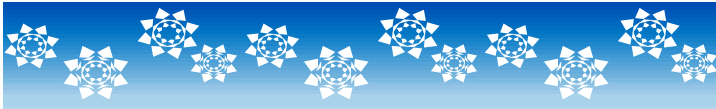
At 8:45 A.M., we begin our celebratory service of the Resurrection, at Zion's Church, as our whole being experiences new life. We sing our joy; we hear the words; we smell the flowers; we taste the Communion; we see the promise of God fulfilled. Jesus lives and so shall we!

Come join us to share the joy of the Resurrection!

Many Thank You's



Thank you to everyone who helped to make this Christmas special. **Thank you** to everyone who helped decorate the church. **Thank you** to Donna Rineer for providing our beautiful "live" Christmas tree. **Thank you** to Becky and Emily for organizing and playing all the music throughout the season. **Thank you** to Dawn Heinsey and Janice Shirker for coordinating the beautiful flowers in the chancel and the fellowship time following the Christmas Eve service. **Thank you** for Rev. Peiffer's leadership during this special time of year. **Thank you** to anyone who has helped us in big and/or little ways that we may have missed above, but whose efforts we really appreciate.



2016 Council Members

The new and returning church council members are:

TRUSTEES

Robert Fisher

ELDERS

Michelle Fisher
Russell Shirker

DEACONS

Team A:
Marie Fisher
Lori Gold
Steve Gold

Team B:
Dawn Heinsey
Carol Hildebrand
Mark Olcott
Rich Weeber



Birthday Celebrations

January
21 - Karen Peiffer

February
7 - Thomas Pierce
10 - Audrey Frankfort

March
4 - Melissa Krug
7 - Terry Pierce
28 - Loren Zimmerman
30 - Jon Wolf



Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrating anniversaries in February and March are:

Jerry & Sandra Butzer - Feb. 8
Russ & Janice Shirker - March 12



Fresh Altar Flowers

If you would like to purchase fresh flowers for the altar vases, the sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Please remember that you must sign up **at least one month in advance** to ensure that arrangements may be made to place the flowers in the church on your special day. Please mark "FR" for fresh flowers on the sponsor sheet.