

Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ Newsletter

November/December 2016

Minister's Message

In yesterday's assigned Gospel lesson, Luke makes a point by talking about 10 lepers being cured by Jesus. Leprosy is a gross, smelly disease in which the flesh rots. Lepers were forced to ring a bell and shout a warning so people could avoid them.

According to the story, Jesus cured all 10, but only one returned to give thanks. Preachers almost always use this story to beat up on the ungrateful nine. They talk about the sin of ingratitude and how only 1/10th of us are grateful or that we are grateful only 1/10th of the time. The real point of the story, however, might have been missed completely. Perhaps what Luke really wanted us to notice was the fact that the grateful one was a Samaritan, an outcast among outcasts.

Perhaps the point should be that we, of all people in the world, ought to be able to find gratitude and grace in our souls. We ought to have the capacity to resist the temptation to exchange bitterness for bitterness, barb for barb, hate for hate. We must be the ones to extend grace and find a way to build of our lives a house big enough for all, even those with whom we do not agree.

Please notice that the other nine lepers did the right thing. They had been cured and went off to show themselves to the priests and pay tribute to God. It is what the law prescribed, and no one could fault them.

It was the one who was twice marginalized by life who acted out of sheer love. He returned to thank the only one he had ever encountered who was willing to reach out to him, despite being on the other side of the religious and political wall. The leper acted out of love, just as Jesus had. I think the lesson in this is that love says:

It is almost always better to be radically kind than to be radically right!

Rev. Bob Peiffer

Musikgarten Open House

Musikgarten is a program "passionately committed to bringing the power of music to children and their families . . . while supporting whole-child development and providing the early foundations of future school success."

Zion's will be hosting an Open House on November 15th and St. Paul's on November 17th, both beginning at 7:00 P.M. Anyone interested in the program is asked to attend one of the sessions. It will be run by a certified licensed teacher who will be available at the Open House for questions. Please pass the word around in the community and to your family and friends. If you have any questions, please see Rev. Peiffer. If you would like to read more about Musikgarten you can visit their website at www.musikgarten.org.

**"I don't sing because I'm happy,
I'm happy because I sing."**

-William James



Volunteer Schedule

Greeters: Nov. 6 - Dawn & Grace Heinsey
 Nov.13 - Marie & Bob Fisher
 Nov.20 - Shirl & Mervin Newcomer
 Nov.27 - Michelle Fisher
 Dec. 4 - Carol Hildebrand & Jessie Pierce
 Dec. 11 - Janice & Russell Shirker
 Dec. 18 - Pam & Rich Weeber
 Dec. 25 - Janice & Russell Shirker

Lectors: Nov. 6 - Lori Gold
 Nov.13 - Joan Good
 Nov.20 - Michelle Fisher
 Nov.27 - Janice Shirker
 Dec. 4 -
 Dec. 11 - Russell Shirker
 Dec. 18 - Grace Heinsey
 Dec. 25 - Pam Weeber

Altar Care: November - Jessie Pierce
 December - Shirley Pierce

Deacons:

Team A

Marie Fisher
 Lori Gold
 Steve Gold

Team B

Dawn Heinsey
 Carol Hildebrand
 Mark Olcott
 Rich Weeber

Nov. 6 - Team A
 Nov. 13 - Team B
 Nov. 20 - Team A
 Nov. 27 - Team B
 Dec. 4 - Team A
 Dec. 11 - Team B
 Dec. 18 - Team A
 Dec. 25 - Team B

Calendar (cont'd.)

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services
 Zion's Reformed UCC 6:30 P.M.
 St. Paul's UCC 8:30 P.M.
 Dec. 27 - Lanc. Co. DBSA Meeting - Zion's Reformed
 UCC 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 3 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Nov. 5 - Beef Pot Pie Supper 11:00 A.M. - ?
 Nov. 6 - Daylight Savings Ends - **remember to change your clocks!!**
 Fresh Hope Meeting - St. Paul's UCC
 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
 Hot Dog Roast - Zion's Reformed UCC
 4:30 P.M.
 Nov. 8 - Lanc. Co. DBSA Meeting - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
 Nov. 13 - Polar Bear Plunge - Bob & Marie Fisher's home 2:00 P.M.
 Nov. 15 - Musikgarten Open House - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M.
 Nov. 20 - Fresh Hope Meeting - St. Paul's UCC 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
 Nov. 21 - PRC Meeting - St. Paul's 7:00 P.M.
 Nov. 22 - Lanc. Co. DBSA Meeting - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
 Nov. 30 - Advent Bible Study - St. Paul's UCC 7:00 P.M.
 Dec. 1 - Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Dec. 4 - Hanging of the Greens (church decorating) - following 8:45 A.M. service
 Fresh Hope Meeting - St. Paul's UCC 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
 Dec. 7 - Advent Bible Study - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M.
 Dec. 11 - Annual Congregational Meeting - following 8:45 A.M. service
 Dec. 13 - Lanc. Co. DBSA Meeting - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
 Dec. 14 - Advent Bible Study - St. Paul's UCC 7:00 P.M.
 Dec. 18 - Fresh Hope Meeting - St. Paul's UCC 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
 Dec. 19 - PRC Meeting - Zion's 7:00 P.M.
 Dec. 21 - Advent Bible Study - Zion's Reformed UCC 7:00 P.M.
 Blue Christmas Observance - Zion's Reformed UCC 8:00 P.M.



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

Worship Service: 8:45 A.M.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Robert B. Peiffer, PhD.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9 A.M. - Noon

Consistory: President	Dawn Heinsey
Vice President	Michelle Fisher
Secretary	Jesse Pierce
Treasurer	Steve Gold

Birthday Celebrations

November

11 - Carol Hildebrand

19 - Susan Olcott

30 - Michelle Fisher



Prayer Concerns



As you offer your prayers during the coming months, please remember these people. As names are added or dropped in the weekly bulletin, feel free to add or drop them from the list.

Chester Yeakel; Jose Mae Williams; Rev. John Binkley; Fred Hyde; Stacey Marcello; Gina Katrinak; Jean; Diane; Jen; Dawn and Loren Zimmerman; Eddie Sue Rose; Bob and Karen Peiffer; Sandy Scheirey; Cecile Carr; and Irene Erdley

January/February/March Newsletter Deadline

Please submit all articles, newsworthy information or member news by Sunday, **December 11**. 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.

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. We would especially like to have you join us on Sundays for worship. If you have any questions, regarding times or locations, please call us at (717) 925-6520.

Advent Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, November 30th, Rev. Peiffer will lead a four-week Advent study entitled *Wolves and Lambs*.

This Advent study will provide participants opportunities to reflect prayerfully on their preparations for Christmas. It will meet according to the following schedule:

Wed., Nov. 30, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. (St. Paul's UCC)

Wed., Dec. 7, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
(Zion's Reformed UCC)

Wed., Dec. 14, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. (St. Paul's UCC)

Wed., Dec. 21, 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
(Zion's Reformed UCC)



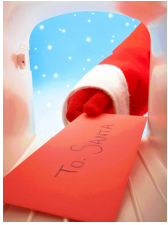
Giving Tree

Zion's will be creating a "Giving" Tree this season to collect donations for a family or families that we plan to adopt for Christmas. The donations that you give will help to make their Christmas a little brighter. Please look for details in the bulletin for when this endeavor will begin, when you need to have your gifts to the church and if they should be wrapped or unwrapped. Thank you in advance for making someone else's Christmas special.



No Postage Necessary

Continuing the tradition, we will be able to share Christmas greetings with fellow members of Zion's with no postage necessary, if you use our Christmas Card Exchange. The Exchange (the two file boxes) will be opened on Sunday, November 27 as part of our preparation for Christmas. As in the past, ten cents a card will "send" your greetings on their way.



As you prepare your Christmas cards, remember these members of Zion's who are not able to be with us on a regular basis. These particular church members could use our prayers and well wishes during this holiday season.

Loren and Dawn Zimmerman
984 West Main Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

Fannie Shirker
1350 Martin Avenue
Ephrata, PA 17522

Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 11 following the worship service, Zion's will hold its annual meeting. It is important for the members to hear and participate in the life of the Congregation. Church Council is entrusted with the business of the Congregation during the year. This meeting allows the whole Congregation to hear about the events of the past year and to participate in the planning and executing of the work of the Congregation for the coming year. Plan to be there to hear and be heard.



Blue Christmas Observance

Intended to minister to those in our community who experience little comfort and joy amid the celebratory season of Christmas, our Blue Christmas Service will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 21 following the Advent Bible Study at Zion's Reformed UCC. Wondering what to expect? Quiet readings and prayers in our sanctuary (lit with votive candles). Ample opportunities to say, "My life is not totally fabulous" (while at the same time remembering that God is present even amid our darkness).



Hanging of the Greens

Zion's will officially begin decorating for Christmas on Sunday, December 4 following the 8:45 A.M. service. Come join in the fellowship and fun! No special talent required!



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Mystery Christmas Dinner ?????

What a mystery it is? Please try to plan (?) to join us for a Christmas dinner . . . Someday, . . . Somewhere, . . . Sometime. Ask Jessie Pierce for clues.





Sharing Christmas Eve

Christmas is the core of the Christian life. It is at Christmas that the eternal Son of God takes on human form. It is at Christmas that the promises of old to God's people are fulfilled. It is at Christmas that the hopes for fallen creation become a reality. At Christmas, in a quiet place in the middle of nowhere, God shouts with the angels' voices, "The Savior is born!" On Saturday, December 24 at 6:30 P.M., Zion's will mark this creation-changing event with its celebration of Christmas. Come hear the story in lessons and sing its wonder in songs. Share in the new life of the Savior in Holy Communion and the light of the world in candles. Remain together for fellowship and refreshments following the service and bask in the glow of new life and hope.



Christmas Day in the Morning

There is a Christmas carol that includes the line "On Christmas day in the morning". Usually Christmas Day is celebrated in our homes. This year Christmas Day is on a Sunday. Zion's will hold its service beginning at 8:45 A.M. Please plan to be here and again celebrate together the birth of the Son of God on a Sunday morning.

