

# Zion News

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May 2024

[www.zionpennhills.org](http://www.zionpennhills.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills/>

## ***The church in the heart of Penn Hills that is the heart of Penn Hills***



*"I will not leave your orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live." John 14:18-19*

While on social media, I scrolled through and stopped at a video reel where the person was asked, "what is the aesthetic of your home?" Then camera then panned around the room to a scene filled with children's toys, play mats, pillow forts and such. The woman responded that her home aesthetic was "toddler chic."

As I looked around at my own living room at the time, with Edward playing with his cars down the hallway, I nodded in solidarity with the woman. My living room could certainly be defined as "toddler chic," with toys and playmats and books and puzzles and a music table, and walkers all claiming their space around the area.

Now, the old me, "the single and never married me," would have panicked at the sight. After all, a house that is cluttered is, to me, a chaotic one. But, the new me? The married with a 1-year-old boy, me? I see the scene and know that all will be organized again after this little one goes to bed. Which is of course exactly what happens each night after Edward goes to bed. A kind of re-setting ritual of reorganizing the living areas in preparation for a new day ahead tomorrow. (I've also learned that my attempts to clean up toys while said little one is awake, only amount to him undoing all of my hard work in real time.)

Because, as much as we all may enjoy our ways of doing things or how things should be whether that is around our homes or workspaces, we also know that there is an even greater gift in having another around, even if that other has a different idea as to how things should go. It doesn't matter if that presence is a pet, a spouse, a child, or friend, or whomever your "other" may be in your life. There is a kind of rhythm that is reached between all parties, as each person lives to serve and bring joy to the other, and in so doing experiences a life that is abundantly full.

We were not made to be islands unto ourselves, but rather made to live life in community with one another. It's one of the joys and perks that come from being a part of a church community like Zion. A gathering of people who meet at least once a week (sometimes multiple times during the week) either in-person or over Zoom for worship, or Sunday School and confirmation, bible study, or meetings.

And while we know that our own human-formed communities aren't perfect and can be susceptible to back-biting, hurt feelings, cliques, and the like, God promises that he will be with us, always. Both when we are part of our communities as well as when we are apart from our communities, such as we have been off and on this past year.

For in Christ's incarnation, God so desired to dwell with and even in his creation that you and I can never be alone. And in Christ's death and resurrection, we have been given the proof that nothing in all of creation can ever separate us from him (not even death or the gates of Hell) or from his love, grace, and mercy.

May you during this Easter season (yes, it's still Easter until Pentecost on May 19<sup>th</sup>) feel, know, and believe that Christ is with you, always. Through good times and in bad. And that because Christ lives, you also will live. For Christ IS risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Peace,  
Pastor Martha

# Spring Work Day



**Work Day:** Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> we will have a spring work day at Zion from 9am-12noon. Come and join us make Zion look more beautiful outside and inside.



**Jefferson Road Cleanup – May 19<sup>th</sup>:** For all those willing and able, we will be cleaning up Zion's assigned section of Jefferson Road after worship on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Vests and garbage bags will be provided by PennDOT. Please wear attire that you don't mind getting dirty and a willing spirit to do our part in giving back to the Penn Hills Community! A signup sheet is available in the Narthex for all those interested in helping!



Registration for Lutherlyn summer camp is now open. The 7-week schedule and the programs offered each week is posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. Kathy Gaberson will be one of the camp nurses for Week 4, and she would love to see some Zion kids there that week! Lutherlyn never turns a child away because of the family's inability to pay the registration fee, so if you need help paying for camp, consider applying for a Lutherlyn campership; Pastor McCreight has the application forms. Zion also has budgeted an amount for congregation-sponsored camperships; see Pastor McCreight for information.



Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry last month! We ended up serving over 100 household clients through drive-through and it was thanks to all of your efforts setting up, serving, and cleaning up that it all happened!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, May 11th** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, May 10th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 11th from 8:30am-12:00pm, that would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for all of your time, efforts, prayers and support towards making a difference in our local community and beyond!



I'll send little reminders throughout the year to please get products for the food pantry and spread some cheer. But it seems I'm out of poems that make the message more fun. So for now, these little rhymes are done!  
Thank you!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



**SUNDAY, MAY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**10:45 a.m.**  
**(immediately following worship)**

*Join us for Goodies in the Gathering Space after Worship as we celebrate the end of the school year together! We will also be formally thanking all Sunday School and Confirmation teachers during worship that day.*

**Graham Standish Zion Consult in April:** The working group met Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in person and over Zoom to discuss the book “The Grace Outpouring.” A reminder that you are also welcome to read these books (which are now in Zions’ library) and watch these movies on your own for your own edification and discernment.

Please continue to keep these monthly consult sessions and members of the working group in your prayers. The members of the working group are: Tom Felmley, Andrew Sabol, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Reid Wolfe, Lauren Fitzroy, and Pastor Martha. If you have further questions about the group, please see one of them. Thank you!



**Annual Congregation Meeting:** Our annual Congregation meeting will be on **Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** immediately after worship. All names of nominees to serve on council should be given to the Nominating Committee – Marc Schuler, Chris Dippold and Rhonda Pope. Afterwards, we will have ice cream sandwiches and cones!



The SWPA ELCA Synod Assembly this year is in-person on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> at California University. If you are interested in being one of two needed voting representatives for this assembly, please see either Pastor Martha or a member of council. Thank you!



### **Thomas Childcare and Learning Academy Summer 2024**

**Programming:** Valisa and her staff are getting ready for this annual summer programming here at Zion. The summer program for ages 5-12 years old will run from Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:am-

5:30pm. When driving on Zion property, please be extra mindful during these hours in the event that children may be crossing the parking lot for an activity or to go in-between buildings. Thank you!

Thomas Childcare will also be holding their annual Preschool Graduation here at Zion on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> down in the Parish Hall.



**Zion Outdoor Worship for Summer 2024:** Plans are underway for outdoor worship at Zion. Outdoor worship will be held on the following Sundays (weather permitting, of course): **Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>**. The tentative liturgical plan for this summer is the following: Bluegrass worship on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jazz worship on July 28<sup>th</sup>. (Plans are still ongoing for August 25<sup>th</sup>). A reminder that for outdoor worship,

we meet on the Zion back lawn at 9:30am for worship. Please bring a lawn chair, bottle of water, umbrella and/or sunscreen, and an outdoor spirit as we enjoy worship outside in God’s beautiful creation. We will have communion on each of those Sundays as well.



**Parish Life Committee Updates – May 2024**

Hard to believe, but Summer (while it feels it’s already here) is just around the corner! With that, Parish Life will see some changes to our weekly hospitality hour during the summer months. With summer comes vacation season, and well, less folks on Sunday’s. This gives the Parish Life team an opportunity to regroup and take a much-needed break!

Our last full Sunday Hospitality Hour will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 (Pentecost Sunday). We’ll share a joint Hospitality Hour with our friends from Christian Education as they celebrate the year end of Sunday School & Confirmation classes. We will continue to celebrate birthdays the first Sunday of each month, however.

- Those dates will be:  
 Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

We will resume normal Hospitality Hour on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

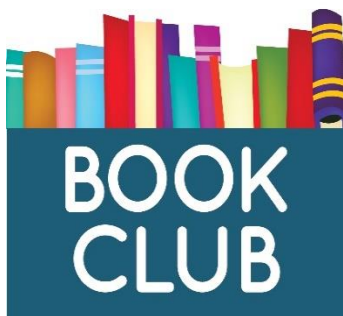
As always, we’re grateful for those who participate by bringing both sweet & savory goodies to share. If you would like to bring something, simply just add your name to the calendar in the Gathering Space. Any and all snacks & treats are welcome, and it helps the Parish Life folks know what we need from one week to the next!

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully –  
 Parish Life Committee

**Zion Book Club**

Zion Book Club continues to meet approximately 10 years after its inception, reading and discussing a wide range of books. This year’s selections include:



- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| May 20:       | Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelly Van Pelt      |
| June 17:      | Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver              |
| July 15:      | Lucy by the Sea by Elizabeth Strout                 |
| August 19:    | Oath and Honor by Liz Cheney                        |
| September 16: | The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende            |
| October 21:   | All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle                 |
| November 18:  | The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride |
| December 16:  | Book selection potluck                              |

We meet the third Monday of the month at 1 PM. The remainder of the year we have a hybrid meeting via Zoom or in-person in the Gerhard Lounge. We invite you to join us, either on a regular or occasional basis. If you, and maybe even a friend, are interested, please speak with Rhonda Pope.



**ZION LIBRARY NEWS:**

Several new books have been added to the library recently.

**LILY’S PROMISE** by Lily Ebert: a life-affirming memoir of the resistance and resilience of a Holocaust survivor

**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON** by Dr. Clarisse Hairston Ottley: a guide to find solace and move forward to survive the death of a spouse

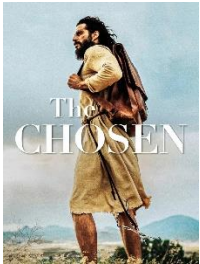
**ADVENT** by Tish Harrison Warren: explore Advent with its traditions, prayers, Scriptures, and rituals pertaining to Christ

**THE GOD OF THE GARDEN** by Andrew Peterson: memoir of a singer-songwriter and author including an attempt to awaken readers to the glory of God through His Creation

**GRACE** by Philip Yancey: a visual edition of his book *What’s So Amazing About Grace*.



**Newsletter Deadline:** Do you have an idea for an article, update on a project, or a photo from a Zion event or a shout-out or thank you? We would love to have it! All articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: [julie@zionpennhills.org](mailto:julie@zionpennhills.org).



**Zion Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1pm:** The bible study group continues to meet on Wednesdays in person and over Zoom as they watch together episodes from *The Chosen*, Season 3 and then discuss afterwards. Any and all are welcome to join! We will wrap up our viewing later on this month.



**Update for Those Who Use Listening Devices:** For those who use hearing aids and/or other listening devices during Sunday worship, we have procured updated hearing equipment which has been installed with our sound system and are available for your use! If you are in need of such assistance, please reach out to Tom Felmley who will help get you set up!



**Pentecost Sunday Worship on May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Plans are underway for worship on Pentecost Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to have the Acts reading that day to be read by those who are able to read in another language. If you have such abilities, please reach out to Andrew Sabol to get plugged into the service. We will also have red geraniums around the sanctuary and everyone is invited to wear the color **RED**.

**HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY**



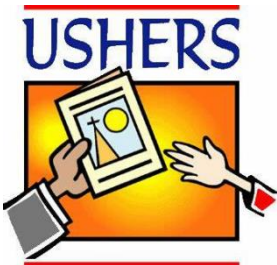
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|------|-------------------|------|----------------|
| 5/6  | Theodore Stolp    | 5/15 | Aaron Snyder   |
| 5/6  | Charlotte Fraser  | 5/16 | Ed Barnett     |
| 5/6  | Mark Mauro        | 5/17 | Alice Bartley  |
| 5/9  | Jonah Rickus      | 5/22 | Katie Kozak    |
| 5/9  | Joe Balaban       | 5/23 | Kaylee Nieser  |
| 5/10 | Cindy Pierce      | 5/24 | Charles Long   |
| 5/10 | Carol Stephany    | 5/26 | Reid Wolfe     |
| 5/10 | Kurt Kalkstein    | 5/28 | Alyson Stover  |
| 5/11 | Maryan Yoder      | 5/29 | Stan Yoder     |
| 5/13 | Connor Clydesdale | 5/30 | Lauren Fitzroy |

**Anniversaries**

- 5/02/1987 Kathleen & Paul Gaberson  
 5/15/1999 Carol & John Carter (25 years)  
 5/18/1974 Mary Lou & Al D’Ambrosio (50 years)  
 5/26/1989 Tricia & Brian Ford  
 5/28/1977 Jeffrey & Sandra Durick



- Bread Schedule:** May 5 Brenda Wolfe  
 May 12 Chrissa Clark  
 May 19 Jeannette Christensen  
 May 26 Pat Hauser



Sunday, May 05, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, June 02, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, June 09, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, June 16, 2024	Mike Patchen	Tony Lamorte
Sunday, June 23, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Ray Rall
Sunday, June 30, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
<b>Please encourage the kids to assist:</b>		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins		
Or assist with the Offering.		