

# Zion News

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[www.zionpennhills.org](http://www.zionpennhills.org)

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

*“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6*

‘Tis the season for change. A time for the ending of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. For some of you, the school year is behind you and that means graduation from high school or college. For others, that means the ending of a job and the start of a new one, perhaps even in a new location. For others it may be adding a new member to your family or being enjoined in marriage to another. And still for others, it may mean the beginning of retirement. Or you foresee a busy summer ahead of travel, camping, and plenty of time at the pool.

Looking back at my own childhood, I recall the great excitement and anxiety that came with such transitions. As happy and thrilled that I was about going away to college, there was also the sense of sadness as my group of friends was being split up after high school and we all went our own separate directions around the country.

Yet, we always know that things are never quite the same as they were “way back when” during the time of our youth, when we had the time, energy, and close proximity to just walk to a friends’ house if we wanted to see them. Or when we had the freedom to just lazily choose how we wished to spend our day.

Now, don’t get me wrong – going away to college, starting a new chapter in your career, or in your family or relationships are all well and good endeavors and ventures. After all, how can a person grow and change without pushing oneself to take risks, to push yourself outside of your comfort zone? To be open to any and all change? And so, of course, we are.

Yet, it’s helpful and perhaps even comforting to be reminded that whatever your venture may be, however big or small, to remember that you are never venturing out alone. You, of course, have a network of family and friends who are there to support and encourage you, perhaps lift a heavy moving box or two, to listen to your worries and even your excitement and dreams, and to be your anchor during a time when you feel like very little is in your actual control.

And not only that, but you are loved and claimed by a good and gracious God, who knew you before you were even born, who knit you together in your mothers’ womb, who knows and understands the anxieties, the worries, and even the joy in your heart and still says, “I will go with you...I will not fail you or forsake you.” Or as the youth would boil it down to these days, “I got this.”

Because God does, “got this.” Whatever “this” may be for you, it is no match for what Christ has already done for you, for me, for all of creation. So whether it’s a graduation, a promotion, or scary health diagnosis, know that you are never ever alone to face it all. Instead, “be strong and bold; have no fear or dread,” in whatever life may throw your way.

And, may the peace of God which transcends all human understanding, guard your hearts and minds (whether they be in transition or not) in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting.

Peace,  
Pastor Martha



Registration for Lutherlyn summer camp is 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, June 8th** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, June 7th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 8th 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!

**Graham Standish May Update:** Members of the working group met with Graham on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> at Zion. Our phase of working with Graham has now moved into the "Active" phase of our work together, whereby Graham has members of the working group visit different churches which are deemed as "diverse, growing, and young."

Members of the working group were tasked with visiting a worship service at Amplify Church (Downtown Pittsburgh) and then shared their thoughts and perspectives at our May gathering, i.e. what we liked, didn't like, did we notice God's presence, etc. Members of the working group will next be visiting a worship service at Bidwell Presbyterian Church – Northside before our meeting in June.



**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 celebrate all the June birthdays with cake in the Gathering Space. Copies of the Annual reports will be available in the Narthex.



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. Zion's lay voting representatives will be Kathy Gaberson and Jeannette Christensen. Please keep our lay voting members and the entire assembly in your prayers that weekend as they conduct the business of the wider church. Thank you!



**Allegheny Intermediate Unit Partnership:** In mid-April, Zion was approached to serve as a Penn Hills site for Allegheny Intermediate Unit for both their summer programming and before/after school programming. After approval by Zion council to pursue a long-term lease agreement with AIU at their May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and AIU's board of directors approving said agreement at their May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, plans are moving forward with this new partnership which per the lease agreement will run through at least May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

What does this mean for Zion? The AIU programs will be using our old kindergarten room and the former property committee storage room next door for the children and youth in their programs. In coordination with the Thomas Childcare and Learning Academy (who are very excited for us about this new partnership), the Parish Hall will be shared between the two groups to serve as their gym space this summer.

What about the Zion Food Pantry Storage? Thanks to the work of Marc Schuler, Sue Baumann, Sallie Lazar, Rhonda Pope, and other Zion Pantry leaders, the pantry's storage has been relocated back to the community room and neighboring storage closets for their work each month. (For those who remember the pantry pre-pandemic, this is very similar to how food was stored prior to the indoor shopping experience that we used to offer here.) We give thanks for our many leaders and volunteers for being flexible as they readjust to this setup again.

What about our Anonymous Outside Groups? These groups will continue to meet in the Community Room at their designated days and times.

We continue to give thanks to God for the "word of mouth" that is spreading around the community and surrounding areas as Zion seeks to be not only a safe and welcoming place for all people, but also as a means of serving the children and youth of Allegheny County.



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

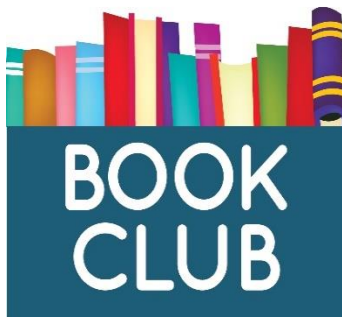
**Programming:** Valisa and her staff are getting ready for this annual summer programming here at Zion. The summer program for ages 5-12 years old will run from **Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>** from

7:00am-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!



**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.



### 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:

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.



**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).



We will celebrate birthdays on the following Sundays:

- Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

## Worship

We will resume 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



**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!





## 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*.

## OREMUS

### **Rehab Facility:**

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)

Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)

Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

**Prayers Requested for:** John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Tom Brett (father-in-law of Steven D'Ambrosio), Natalie Kuehn & family, Joe Nepsa & family, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michael Ladonne (friend of Audri Erfort), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Marsha Balaban, Betsy Heston, Marylene Gingras-Roi (friends of Barbara Stolp), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), for the family and friends of Joe Connors, for the family and friends of Lois Reed (sister of Sandra Short), and for the family and friends of Marian Dailey.



**HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY**

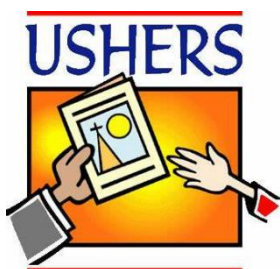
4	Chrissa Clark	16	Matthew Fabrizi
6	Craig Stover	17	Pat Pope
9	Laura Patchen	21	Mary Lou D'Ambrosio
11	Ashley Faas	25	Doris Meyers
12	Ed Rickus	29	Debbie Marks
12	Lori Smith	30	Brenda Wolfe
14	Jeannette Christensen	30	Mike Patchen

**Anniversaries**

- 6/13/2009 Lauren & John Fitzroy
- 6/19/1964 Pastor Bill and Patricia Hauser (60 years)
- 6/21/1969 Alice & Robert Bartley
- 6/24/1960 Evelyn & Fred Ross
- 6/28/1997 Pat & Ed Pope



- Bread Schedule:**
- June 2: Sue Clydesdale
  - June 9: Lauren Hearn
  - June 16: Sue Baumann
  - June 23: Sallie Lazar
  - June 30: Lori Smith



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.		