

# Zion News

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August 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*

*“Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while...” Mark 6:31*

August is here and with that, the reminder that we are on the tail end of summertime. Yes, that’s right, in case you have been too busy to realize or didn’t notice it yet, it is the season of summer. The time for the sun to set later into the evening, allowing for ample time outside playing with friends or entertaining on your back deck. The time for trips to the swimming pool or jumps through your sprinkler at home. Perhaps a vacation off to Hilton Head or the Outer Banks or the Jersey Shore, basically anywhere with a beach to make up for the rigors and stresses of daily life here.

Just like the disciples in the above text in Mark who were always on the move, healing the sick, caring for the poor, and casting out demons, we have plenty to keep ourselves busy with even during the summer months just as the work involved with our jobs, outdoor gatherings for weddings and graduations and celebrations, or even our retirement can keep us going and on the move. Even our own ways of serving here at church, which rarely take a respite for the summer, keep us going, going, going, much like the Energizer bunny (“it keeps going and going and...”) as we rush through another week.

Yet, like the disciples who were invited to rest awhile, Christ invites all of you to “come away to a quiet place and rest awhile.” To get away to a place to come and hear his word, to receive the sacraments, and to have fellowship together, such as we do each week through various activities here at Zion. A place to come and be in solitude out in nature such as in the Laurel Highlands, where the air is filled with only the sounds of birds and other woodland creatures. A place to come and hear the rush of the water from the ocean or lake or stream, or the sounds of dining outdoors and weekly farmer’s markets and food festivals (even the sounds of Kennywood during the summer) which fill both your heart and your ears with joy.

Because the truth is that we live and move and breathe and work in a culture that glorifies the art of being busy. Of full calendars and schedules. Of who works the most and hardest. Who parents the best and most successful way. Of who is busy and who is not. And yet, much like the safety demonstration before a flight takes off from the airport, when it comes to tackling whatever life throws your way, it is best to be able to put your own safety mask on first and then turn to help others.

And so, brothers and sisters in Christ, it is my hope that you have been able to come away by yourselves or at least with your family and friends, to a lonely place and rest awhile. To take stock of where you are at mentally, physically, and spiritually. To take time to pray and dwell in God’s word. To listen to the still, small voice of God who is ever present and leading and guiding you along, even when you are too busy or preoccupied to listen or notice.

And may in such places you experience the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, which will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Peace,

Pastor Martha



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, August 10th** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, August 9th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 10th 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!



**Blessing of Backpacks:** We will hold our annual blessing of the backpacks, packs, and briefcases during worship on **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** during the Children's message time. Bring your item(s) to be blessed as you begin a new school year as a student, teacher, or caregiver of a young one!



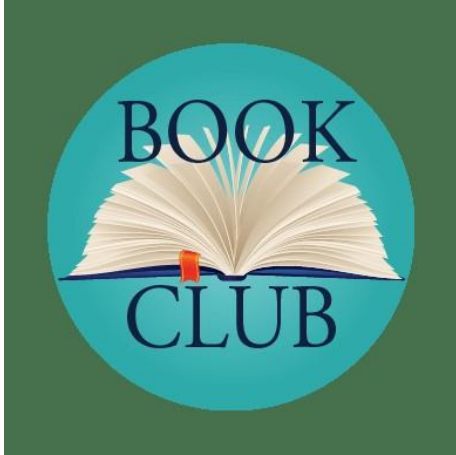
**Zion Outdoor Directional Signage Project:** Given the dramatic increase in foot and vehicle traffic on our property in the last year, it has become very important that we have clear and direct outdoor signage for visitors on our property.

As one of the suggestions for the use of the ERC funds by the congregation, the Accessibility Task Force, Property Committee, and Council have been working on obtaining options for directional signage to be placed outside on Zion's property. This will help with not only visitors, delivery workers, and outside group attendees on our property but also emergency responders. The groups have been working with Jeff at Autograph Signs and we are now approaching the final stages of what this new signage will look like! Once we receive the final mockup by Autograph, it will be displayed in the Gathering Space for all to see. Thank you again to members of each of these groups for all of their hard work on this very important project at Zion!

**Graham Standish July Update:** The committee met with Graham on Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss their experience worshipping at Bidwell Presbyterian Church. What people liked, what people didn't like, and takeaways from the experience were shared. The working group then compared that experience with visiting Amplify (in April) and Sanctuary (in May) for overall takeaways and what may/may not be able to be tried at Zion. The group will next meet with Graham on Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to keep the members of this working group in your prayers: Tom Felmley, Sue Clydesdale, Reid Wolfe, Andrew Sabol, Alex Fitzroy, Kathy Gaberson, and Pastor.



**Zion Outdoor Worship for Summer 2024:** Our last summer outdoor worship will be **Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** (weather permitting, of course). 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:

- 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).



A friendly reminder that as you are traveling throughout the summer that ministry at Zion continues on, even during the “slower” months of June, July and August! Thank you in advance for continuing your financial gifts and tithes to Zion, even if you are away from worship. A reminder that you can always “snail-mail” your tithe or set-up electronic deposit. Questions? Feel free to reach out to the Zion office or a member of budget and finance. Thank you!



## Worship

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

We will celebrate birthdays on the following Sundays:

Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

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



### 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:** Paul Gaberson, Stan Yoder, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Dorothy Renn (mother of Cindy Pierce), Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Patti Wunderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Paula Tecak (friend of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette Felmley), Blanca (friend of the Felmley family), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, , 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), 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), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha)



# Anniversaries and Birthdays

## HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 8/1 Robert Page   | 8/13 Megan Houghtelin |
| 8/6 Evelyn Lamm   | 8/16 Carol Dugan      |
| 8/6 Jean Pletcher | 8/21 Ian Dolney       |
| 8/9 Nancy Fabel   | 8/27 Todd Morris      |
| 8/10 Pam Bostwick | 8/30 Gavynn Thompson  |
|                   | 8/30 Andrew Sabol     |

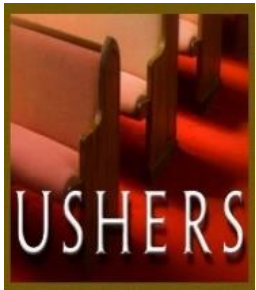
### Anniversaries

- 8/2/75 Carl & Casey Haftl  
 8/24/56 Stan & Maryan Yoder  
 8/29/15 William & Kelly Stolp  
 8/30/08 Tristan & Kara Albrecht  
 8/30/14 Katie & Bryan Kozak



### **Bread Schedule:**

- August 4:** Sue Clydesdale  
**August 11:** Lauren Hearn  
**August 18:** Sue Baumann  
**August 25:** *Outdoor Worship*



<b>Usher Schedule</b>		
Sunday, August 04, 2024	Mike Patchen	Mark Mauro
Sunday, August 11, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, August 18, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Ray Rall
Sunday, August 25, 2024	<i>Outdoor Worship</i>	<i>Outdoor Worship</i>
<b>Please encourage the kids to assist:</b>		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins or assist with the Offering.		



## WHO'S WHO OF ZION LEADERSHIP

### Church Council 2024-2025:

Pastor Martha McCreight (President)  
Brenda Wolfe (Vice President)  
(Music & Worship Liaison)  
Vacant (Secretary)  
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)  
Sue Clydesdale (Financial Secretary)  
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)  
Tom Felmley (Communications Chair)  
Joe Balaban (Parish Life & Facilities Liaison)  
Marc Schuler (Property Chair)  
Mark Mauro (Budget & Finance Chair)  
(Food Pantry Liaison)  
Jeannette Christensen (Health Ministry Liaison)  
Pat Pope  
Kathy Gaberson

### Budget and Finance Committee

Mark Mauro (Chair)  
Sue Clydesdale  
Charlotte Murray  
Mike Patchen  
Pat Pope  
Debbie Rall  
Gail Snyder  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Christian Education Committee:

Deb Rall (Liaison)  
Janet Mauro (Chair)  
Mary Lou D'Ambroio  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Health Ministry:

Rhonda Pope  
Jeannette Christensen (Liaison)  
Rachel Dolney  
Sandra Short  
Shirley McClure  
Laura Patchen  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Property Committee:

Marc Schuler (Chair)  
Ray Rall  
Tom Felmley  
Pat Pope  
Curt Baumann  
Reid Wolfe  
Tony Lamorte

### Music and Worship Committee:

Andrew Sabol (Chair)  
Pastor Martha (Liaison)  
Brenda Wolfe (Liaison)  
Gail Snyder  
Cindy Pierce  
Pat Hauser

### Parish Life:

Tammy Belohlavek  
Joe Balaban (Liaison and Co-chair)  
Charlotte Murray (Co-chair)  
Rachel Dolney  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Stewardship:

Pastor Martha (Chair)  
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)  
Jeannette Christensen  
Charlotte Murray  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Mutual Ministry Committee:

Brenda Wolfe (Council VP)  
Pastor Martha  
Mark Mauro  
Gail Snyder  
Cindy Pierce

### Mission Endowment:

Pastor Martha (Chair)  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)  
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)  
Linda Neumann  
Mark Mauro