

From the Pastor's Pen

February, 2016, can you believe it? What comes to mind when you think of February? I'm guessing that many of you said, "Valentine's Day." Do you know the history of the holiday? There are many legends. I like this one. In the third century, there was a priest named Valentine. This was a time when Christianity was outlawed in the Roman Empire. Yet Valentine remained faithful to our Lord. For this he was imprisoned and sentenced to be executed. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with Julia, the jailor's daughter who happened to be blind. On the eve of his execution, he wrote a beautiful love letter to her and signed it, "From Your Valentine." And 18 centuries later cards are exchanged and signed that same way. Valentine had been praying for Julia's vision to be restored, and the legend has it that when she received the note, her sight returned.

Love stories like that warm our hearts. But you know what, I have an even sweeter love story to tell you. It is about the Lord who is our supreme Valentine. He has written us all a beautiful love letter called the Bible. It tells how He sent His Son Jesus to live for us, to die for us, to be raised to life to live forever for us, so that we might also live forever with Him. By coming to us in Jesus, God is saying,

I LOVE YOU

BE MINE

In His Love,

Pastor Al

Lent

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is the period of 40 days leading up to Easter. This year, Lent begins on Wed., February 10, also known as Ash Wednesday. We will have a worship service that evening at 7pm. The service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion as well as the imposition of Ashes. On Sunday mornings, beginning midway through the Lenten season, Pastor Al will be preaching a series entitled "Risen" which is based on a soon to be released movie with that name. The movie tells the story of the resurrection from the perspective of a Roman centurion. It is scheduled to be released in theatres in February. Plan to go see it; invite a friend to go with you. It is a great way of sharing Christ with an unchurched friend.

February 2016 Ministries & Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 PM Ministries Council	2 12:30-2:30 PM Quilting	3 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:35 PM Praise Team	4 1:30 PM Released Time	5	6
7 7:45 AM Bells of Zion 9:00 AM New Song & Sunday School 10:05 AM Connect Cafe 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship	8	9 12:30-2:30 PM Quilting	10 Ash Wednesday 7:00PM Worship Service	11	12	13
14 Food Bank 7:30 AM Men of Zion 7:45 AM Bells of Zion 9:00 AM New Song & Sunday School 10:05 AM Connect Cafe 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship	15	16 12:30-2:30 PM Quilting 7:00 PM UMW	17 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting 6:45 PM Adult Choir	18 1:30 PM Released Time	19	20
21 7:45 AM Bells of Zion 9:00 AM New Song & Sunday School 10:05 AM Connect Cafe 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship	22	23 12:30-2:30 PM Quilting	24 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting 6:45 PM Adult Choir 7:35 PM Praise Team	25 1:30 PM Released Time	26	27
28 7:45 AM Bells of Zion 9:00 AM New Song & Sunday School 10:05 AM Connect Cafe 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship	29					

Sunday School & Worship Schedule

Connect Café

There is a time each Sunday morning when our church gathers for fellowship. Have you come to the Connect Café yet? Sunday mornings from 10:05 – 10:20am have a time of informal sharing around hot and cold drinks and a snack. This is a time for people who go to Sunday School, New Song and Traditional Worship to meet and greet each other.

February 7- Michele Farleman

February 14- Karen Carroll & Carol Belcher

February 21- Andrea Gemmill & Janay DiBerardino

February 28- Marianne Altland

Sunday School Nursery

February 7- Mary Lou Stein

February 14- Gerri Howell

February 21- Andrea Gemmill

February 28- Laurie Herbst

Sunday School Adult Lecture

February 7- Bruce Silar

February 14- Christine Miller

February 21- Mike Galentine

February 28- Lindy Holzer

Sound System & Projector Operators for New Song

February 7- Brian & Lindy Holzer

February 14- Joe & Kristi Barry

February 21- Brian & Lindy Holzer

February 28- Joe & Kristi Barry

Greeters & Ushers for February

Jim Gemmill, Head Usher & Greeter

Carl Belcher, Assistant Greeter

Mary Anne King, Front Door,

Jane Haines & Mary Jo Hazell

Traditional Nursery

February 7- Cynthia Silar

February 14- Sherri Massa

February 21- Karen Carroll

February 28- Tami Morningstar

Children's Worship Program

February 7- Little Lambs: Bruce Silar

February 14- KWH: Terri Mellinger & Kathy Miller

February 21- Little Lambs: Bruce Silar

February 28- KWH: Jessica Winchester & Carol Belcher

Acolytes

February 7- Abby DiBerardino

February 14- Keira Fryberger

February 21- Lydia Schnick

February 28- Maddie Dillon

Counting Teams

February 7- Rick & Laura Slaybaugh,
Jay & Brenda Holcomb

February 14- Rick & Laura Slaybaugh,
Jay & Brenda Holcomb

February 21- Don & Mindy Barshinger,
Bob Artman & Sue Grindal

February 28- Don & Mindy Barshinger,
Bob Artman & Sue Grindal

Sound System Operators for Trad. Worship

February 7- Lonnie Mellinger

February 14- Chris Farleman

February 21- Keith McFarland

February 28- Lonnie Mellinger

Projector Operators for Trad. Worship

February 7- Terri Mellinger

February 14- Jeff & Christine Miller

February 21- Michele Farleman

February 28- Lindy Holzer

The River's Edge Community Services

Dear Friends at Zion United Methodist Church,

The Project Toy Box was a wonderful success. At least ten Churches, including Zion United Methodist Church, plus the East York YMCA and the East Prospect Lions' Club participated. At least 38 families and 110 children were recipients.

The mission focus for the next couple of months will be to collect **underwear, socks, and especially sweat pants for the elementary age children in our schools. The smaller sizes are the most needed.**

Thank you to everyone in our RECS churches and organizations who so willingly support our mission projects. We can make a difference!

We are now collecting "**gently used**" or **new Children' books** They will be given to elementary school children at the end of the school year to encourage them to read books during the summer and then to share them with their friends. Please put the books in the collection box at the back of the Church **no later than April 7th**. The East Prospect Lions Club is sponsoring this project and Lewis Brown, a member of our Church and that Club, needs time to sort them according to reading level before they are distributed.

The River's Edge Community Services Committee.

Attention Ladies:

The annual Prayer & Self Denial meeting for the UMW will be held on **Tuesday, February 16, at 7pm** at the home of Bruce & Cynthia Silar. All ladies are welcome.

WANTED:

Does anyone have a stationary bike to sell or donate? Please contact Vivian Ilgenfritz 252-1365

Wedding Announcement:

Julia Ann Stein & Harvey Hess are getting married 2/13/2016 at 2pm. Pastor Al Horst will be presiding. Congratulations!

Youth (ZUMYG) Happenings

The youth met Jan 10th for the first meeting of the New Year. This was a brainstorming/planning meeting and they have created an ambitious schedule of events/fundraisers/activities and service opportunities for the coming months. Activities scheduled for February, in addition to our normal meetings, will be a fun time at the Laser Dome, fundraising again with the BonTon Coupon Days as well as finalizing plans for activities in March, April, May and June.

BonTon Community Days will be held Feb 26th and 27th. The Youth will have the coupon booklets available from Jan 17 thru Feb 21st. The booklets remain \$5.00 and continue to have a \$10 coupon for anything (\$10 or over) purchased during the BonTon Community Days event. Please see any youth to purchase your coupon book. We will be doing an in-store sale at the BonTon on Feb 6th from 10-12 noon as well as selling door to door in East Prospect Borough on Sunday afternoon Feb 21st from approx 1200--2:00 PM. The youth will be provided a light lunch after church before we go out to sell.

Please watch future newsletters for details about these upcoming ZUMYG (Zion United Methodist Youth Group) events: Hoss' fundraiser, Mystery Dinner, 30 Hr famine, Spring cleanup-Rent a Teen, Memorial Day Bake Sale and Community event and our "Out of the Box" Mission trip in June.

Thank you as always for your prayers and support on behalf of the Youth of Zion.

MINISTRIES COUNCIL

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2016

Family Ministries & Children's Ministries: Terri Mellinger -

Christmas Dinner/Auction on December 12: Raised just over \$1500.00 with the auction. We had right around 100 people attend. Everyone enjoyed the games after dinner. Thanks to all who helped.

Calendars will be for sale at Dinner/Auction: Still a few calendars left at \$10.00 each.

New Year's Eve Dinner and Game Night: About 40 attended, fun evening.

Sunday School and Worship Hour Children's Ministries: Andrea Gemmill & Janay DiBerardino: Children's Christmas program: Sunday, December 20 at 9:00AM.: There were 125 people in attendance for the children's program. The children and youth did a fabulous job; they were all so excited to participate. We need to keep praying for a direction to keep them excited about Jesus. Hats off to the volunteers that worked so hard to put this program together. Andrea is already thinking about this year's Christmas program about Chrismons and Carols.

Outreach: Lindy Holzer - Christmas Event with the Borough. Saturday, December 12 at the community building 8:00 - 11:30 AM. Not sure of the final number that attended, but was a wonderful event.

Memorial Day planning is underway. Anyone interested in helping or has suggestions, please contact Lindy Holzer. Looking at Memorial Day Community Social for Sunday, May 29th. Open invitation to everyone to provide any new ideas for outreach any time to Lindy Holzer.

Men of Zion/ Bruce Silar : Ready to begin their Christmas project for this year. : A total of \$2181.00 was given to this project. Thank you to all who contributed.

United Methodist Women & Congregational Care: Christine Miller -

Congregational care: Calendars have arrived to give to shut ins. Letters and gift cards were sent to students who are continuing studies beyond high school: Calendars and cards were delivered to the shut ins for Christmas.

UMW: January meeting will be held at the home of Rosa Woods on January 19th. Elaine Hengst will be in charge of the program.

Adult Education/Small Groups: Ferne Gochnauer - Kristi and Joe Barry will be starting the small group study titled "Not a Fan" in the near future.

Youth Fellowship: Karen Carroll: Christmas Caroling 12/13 6-8 PM

Web site: Matt DiBerardino:

Worship/Assimilation: Peggy Horst -

Pastor's Report: New members will be received on Sunday, Jan.31. Planning a Lenten sermon series entitled, "Risen" which will be based on the movie of that name which will be released in theatres in Feb. It tells the story of the crucifixion and resurrection from the perspective of a Roman centurion.

**MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL
ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016**

Welcome and Prayer: Pastor Al

Election of officers for 2016

Trustees: Mike Herbst (chair), George Livingston, Wayne Dosch, Rick Slaybaugh

PPR: Bruce Silar, MaryAnne King, Terri Mellinger (chair), Brenda Holcolmb

Finance: Carl Belcher (chair), Steve Leiphart, Marian Hunter, Mindy Barshinger

All chairpersons and the Secretary (TerriMellinger) were approved by Council.

We don't have a Council Chairperson at this point, an email from Pastor Al will be sent out in the near future concerning this subject.

Finance: Treasurer's Report : presented and approved. Balance of loan \$110,800. The approved budget for 2016 will be sent out tomorrow via email from Carl Belcher. The annual audit will be taken care of in the near future. Pastor Al shared that the quarterly interest payment on our loan is now about \$1400.00.

Use of debt reduction envelopes. There are envelopes at the beginning of each month designated to debt reduction. Motion by Bruce Silar: Any funds received in a debt reduction envelope will go directly toward the principal of our loan. Approved.

We are carrying approximately \$50,000.00 balance in our checking account. The suggestion was made to possibly making another payment toward the principal of our loan. It was proposed we commit to making a \$5000.00 payment toward the principal each quarter, as long as our financial condition permits, in addition to whatever comes in the Debt Reduction Envelopes. Motion by George Livingston. Approved. Pastor Al will be speaking to David Massa to be sure he is aware of this decision. Lindy will be adding a "debt reduction" category to the online giving web site.

Trustees: Mike Herbst - Downstairs work almost completely finished. A huge thank you to Mike and his father for all their hard work. Maybe we will enlist the Youth Fellowship to help in the painting that remains.

PPR:Terri Mellinger - There was some discussion concerning the salary adjustment to Pastor Al that was rescinded by our District Superintendant and our Conference. The end decision was just to let things as they are at this point.

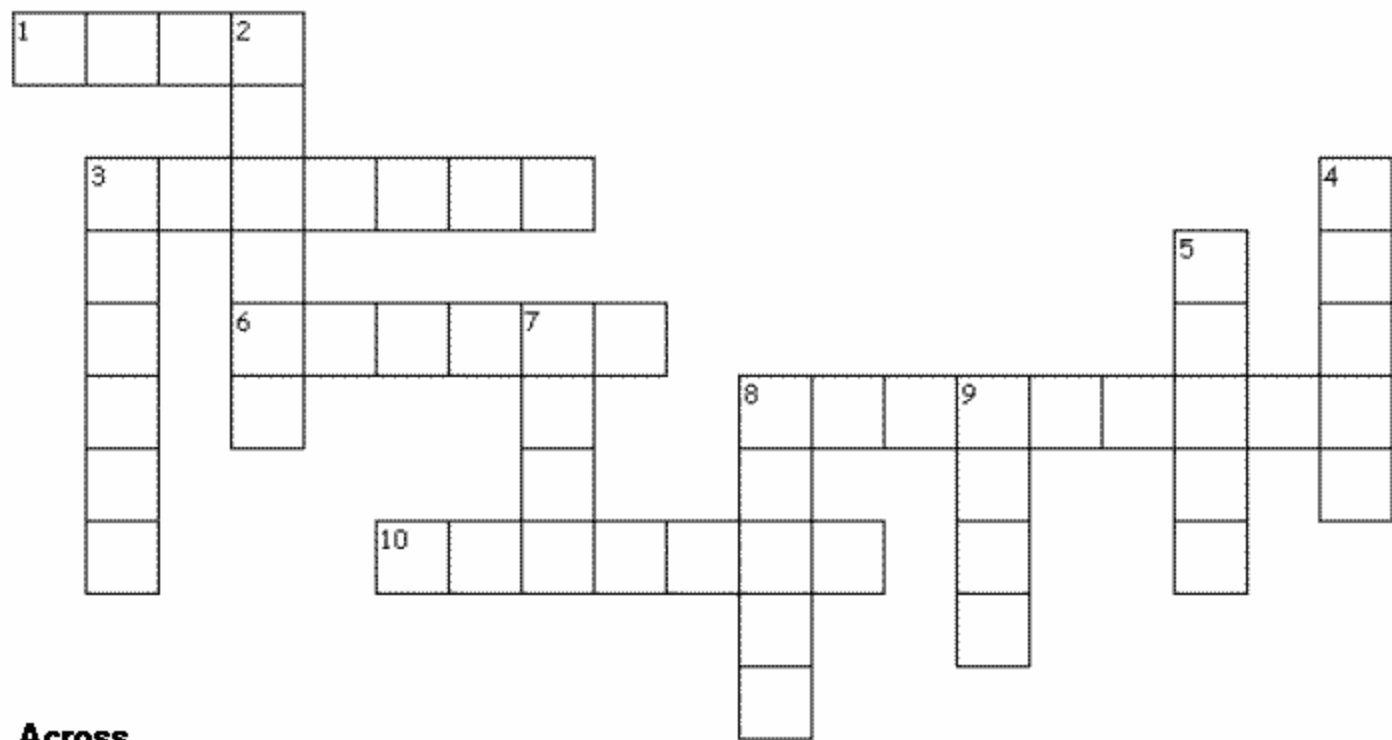
New Business: Clean and Green application is ready to be filled out, signed, and submitted.

Banking: New forms need to be filled out and signed since BB&T.

Next meeting: March 14

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Mellinger

Valentine's Day Crossword



Across

- _____ and kisses.
- They smell pretty.
- On Valentine's Day you should hug and _____ with your loved ones.
- Special treat loved by all.
- Wrap it up and tie it with a bow.

Down

- Another word for kiss.
- My best _____.
- Delicate, red flowers (with thorns).
- Valentine's Day shape.
- I _____ you.
- Sugary treat.
- Sign it and give it to a friend.

candy, card, chocolate, cuddle,
flowers, friend, heart, hugs, love,
present, roses, smooch



February Birthdays

February 4- Scott Winter
February 5- Carol Belcher
February 7- Jim Gemmill
February 8- Karlye Gipe
February 10- Devin Barshinger
February 12- Glenn Leiphart
February 15- Tony Abel, Andrea Gemmill & Nancy Leber
February 18- Lynn Haines
February 19- Conner Barshinger
February 21- Kendal Hengst & Gabi Putt
February 22- Ernie Massa
February 23- Luke DiBerardino & Isaiah Kling
February 24- Linda Brown, Emma Dosch, & Alice McCarthy
February 25- Doug Holzer
February 26- Jaime Kurtz
February 27- Ray Elfner, Mary Anne King & Josiah Slaybaugh
February 29- David Marks



February Anniversaries

February 14- Jeff & Kathy Miller
February 18- Wayne & Kendra Dosch



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT ZION



DINNER AND GAME NIGHT