

Zion News

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October, 2024

www.zionpennhills.org

<https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills/>

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



I was out for a morning walk with my dog, Sis, in my neighborhood, when I experienced the most blessed of things: a cool breeze that could only be described as one thing: Fall. The rustling of leaves and chill in the air meant that the humidity had subsided and thus a new season was upon us. And as I felt that breeze, I could only think one thing: “We made it (to Fall)!”

You see, October is my Zen. It’s my go-to jam. Wood smoke, fallen leaves, apples and spices. Pumpkin patches and hayrides. A good friends’ Annual “Chili-palooza” at her house. And on and on the list of smells goes. Death and decay never smelled so good. “We made it!” After months of heat and humidity, we made it! That’s how I often feel when we get to October. A sense of relief, of peace starts to seep into my bones along with the crisp autumn air.

In some ways that probably sounds odd. Fall, after all, is when things start to get busy for families, schools, and churches. But it’s a busyness with a purpose, with an aim. It’s akin to reaching the top of a rollercoaster at Kennywood and peering down the slope below. (That is if you keep your eyes open on rollercoasters!) Sure, things are about to speed up—but this is the part we all came for.

And sure, it is the season that ushers in a sense of death, of letting go in favor of what is to come. As the popular saying goes, “the leaves are about to show us how lovely it is to let dead things go.” Not in a macabre sense. But in a death to new life sense. A reminder that even though the trees will become bare, that doesn’t mean that they have ceased to exist. They simply shed what is dead in order to continue to live. Yes, this is the good stuff right now.

Throughout October we are surrounded by images of dying, not only in the natural world of harvested fields and trees giving up their leaves but also upon every store shelf and front porch. Halloween comes, bearing with it legions of grinning skulls, spider webs, ghouls and goblins and nightmare-inducing characters of every conceivable variety.

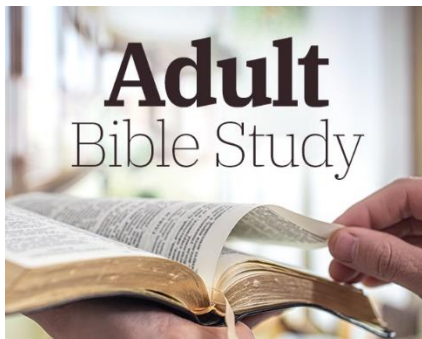
At Halloween you can be anything, anyone: a rock god, a movie star, a werewolf or a fairy. You can indulge in fantasy, in superstition, in a good and hearty scare. The usual boundaries are broken down. The usual rules don’t apply. And while this most American of celebrations has become almost completely secularized, nevertheless its Christian roots show through in the laughter that accompanies all these images of horror.

Because we all know that not only is death wrong but it is downright scary. No matter the amount of faith that you believe to possess, deep down we are all afraid of dying. Of the unknown: when will it happen? Will I feel anything? What about my family? Try as we might to ignore our fears, in comes death to surprise us, to remind us of its presence, and to make us afraid.

Yet, as baptized Christians, even death doesn’t have the final say over us. For in Christ, we have made it. To live beyond death, beyond the grave, in the Lord’s eternal love and embrace. To know that whether we live or whether we die we are the Lord’s.

So, hang up your decorations. Drink your pumpkin spice beverage without shame. And know that in the end, whatever is dead will rise again from the dust and ashes, as the Lord breathes his life and spirit into all of creation. For in Christ, we have all made it.

Peace,
Pastor Martha



Adult Bible Study: We will start meeting again on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm beginning on **October 2nd** in person in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. For this session, we will be studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer, using a study that was recently published by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale and LAMPa. Pastor will have printed copies of the study guide for those in person and will send out via email to those who wish to attend over Zoom. Pastor Dennis Orsen may also be joining us as a participant for some of our sessions in preparation of leading it at Emanuel Lutheran - Eastmont. If you have questions, please see 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, October 12th** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, October 11th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 12th 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 the Pets

In honor of
St. Francis of Assisi



Annual Pet Blessing: In honor of St Francis of Assisi, we will be holding our annual pet blessing on Saturday **October 5th at 5:00pm** on our back lawn. Any and all pets are welcome to be brought to be blessed.



Combating Anti-Semitism: Antisemitism 101 Training – Sunday October 20th 1pm: Noah Schoen, director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, will lead a workshop on confronting antisemitism. We will meet together with members of St John's Lutheran – North Versailles, The Good Shepherd – Monroeville, and Emanuel Lutheran – Eastmont for our training together. St John's Lutheran – North Versailles has graciously offered to host us for our time together. We will eat lunch and be led in the workshop by Noah

with potential wrap-up by 3pm that day. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Martha



Zion Annual Trunk-or-Treat: Join us on Saturday October 26th from 2pm-4pm at Zion for our annual trunk or treat! We will have plenty of candy, hot chocolate, games, and a craft as well for the kiddos to partake in. If you are interested in sponsoring a trunk, please sign-up in the Narthex. Also, if you would like to donate candy, we will begin accepting donations starting on Sunday October 6th and going through Friday October 25th.



Reformation Sunday, October 27th: Zion will celebrate Reformation Sunday with our children's choir during worship and our annual "Reformation Sundaes" being served by The Patchens' after worship. Don't forget to wear your Red and join us for a fun morning of worship and fellowship together!

REFORMATION
Sunday



Zion Outdoor Directional Signage Project is Complete!

The new outdoor signage has been installed around the grounds of Zion. Feel free to take a walk (or a drive) around the building to see all of the doors labeled and given a number. Special thanks to Reid Wolfe as well as members of Property Committee, Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force and council for all of their hard work on this very important project at Zion!



Come Join the Choir!: Choir rehearsals resumed the beginning of September. We practice at 7:30 pm in the Chapel. Come learn, pray, and sing together with us. All skill and experience levels are welcome, and we're flexible about rehearsals. It's a great time and a wonderful way to get involved in the musical life of our congregation. See Andrew or email him at andrew@zionpennhills.org with any questions!



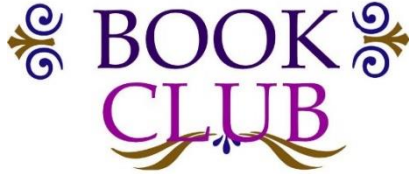
Reconciling in Christ Journey: After receiving a recommendation by the Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force, the Zion Executive Committee and Council approved a motion for Zion to embark on the journey towards becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The next step is the need for a working group to be formed to embark on this work over the course of the next year (with frequency of meetings to be determined by members of that working group). If you are interested in serving on this working group, please see a member of council to submit your name. If you would like to learn more about the RIC program, you can visit: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>

Graham Standish September Update: The working group met with Graham on Wednesday September 4th. The group Zoomed with Pastor Sourwine (of House of Prayer - Aliquippa) and began to discuss a new vision statement and areas of focus. We will meet again on Tuesday October 1st at 6:30pm in the Gerhard Lounge. Please continue to keep the members of this working group in your prayers: Andrew Sabol, Tom Felmley, Reid Wolfe, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Alex Fitzroy, and Pastor. If you have questions or wonderings about this group or what is discussed, please reach out to a member to learn more – folks are more than willing to chat!



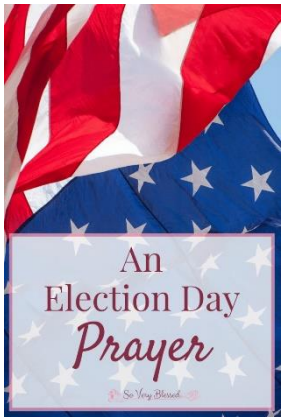
Zion Book Club

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:



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.



ELECTION PRAYER: As we move forward to November's election let us remember that, regardless of our political perspectives, we are all children of God. Please consider making the following part of your prayer life.

- 1) The safety and health of all who are running for office, as well as their families.
- 2) The importance of voting and making sure that our polling places / workers are safe.
- 3) That the outcome of November's election will be clear / decisive.
- 4) That November's election results will be honored.
- 5) That after the election we, as Americans, will unite to work for the good of all.

Newsletter
Articles
Due



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 20th of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: julie@zionpennhills.org.



We will celebrate monthly birthdays on the following Sundays:

- Sunday, October 6th
- Sunday, November 3rd
- Sunday, December 1st

The remainder of the Sundays in a given month will be covered by council members. 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: Donna Federoff, Rachel Dolney, Paul

Gaberson, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel,

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf), Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Theresa Miller (Godmother of Kara Albrecht), Patti Wunderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Jerri Jacob (friend of Sallie Lazar), 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), Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson), 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), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), for the family and friends of James Snider.



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/1 Robert McClure, Jr. | 10/21 Brody Smith |
| 10/1 Patti Shifflett | 10/21 Allison Welsh |
| 10/4 Joshua Hoback | 10/23 Casey Haftl |
| 10/5 Jane Bigenho | 10/23 Ray Rall |
| 10/10 William Stolp | 10/27 Noah Houghtelin |
| 10/10 Nicholas Lamorte | 10/28 Sue Clydesdale |
| 10/15 Beckham Faas | 10/31 Barry Fraser |
| 10/19 Sandra Durick | |

Anniversaries

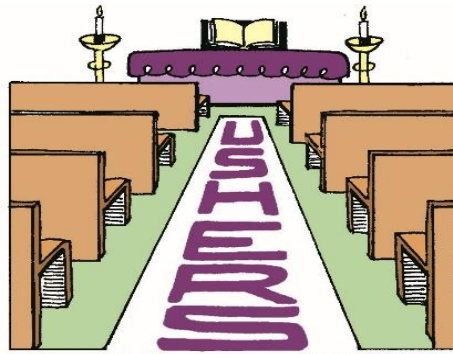
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Curt & Sue Baumann | 10/10/1981 |
| Reid & Brenda Wolfe | 10/11/2003 |
| Alyson & Craig Stover | 10/15/2011 |
| Matthew & Leslie Dippold | 10/29/2016 |



BREAD SCHEDULE:

- October 6** **Sue Baumann**
- October 13** **Mary Lou D’Ambrosio**
- October 20** **Lauren Hearn**
- October 27** **Sue Clydesdale**

We are in need of Ushers! If you are interested in helping to collect and present the offering, doing a head count for record keeping, dismiss rows for communion, please let Tony Lamorte know at: tlamorte@steelcityproducts.com. Thank you



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USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 06, 2024	Mike Patchen	Tony Lamorte
Sunday, October 13, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, October 20, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Ray Rall	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 03, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, November 10, 2024	Ray Rall	Mark Mauro
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 01, 2024	Ray Rall	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 08, 2024	Mike Patchen	Mark Mauro
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 22, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, December 29, 2024	Ray Rall	Tony Lamorte

Please encourage the kids to assist:
 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)
Diane Santoriello (Secretary)
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)
Sue Clydesdale (Financial Secretary)
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)
Tom Felmley (Communications Chair)
Vacant (Parish Life & Facilities Liaison)
Vacant (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
Gail Snyder
Mike Patchen
Pat Pope
Debbie Rall
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Christian Education Committee:

Deb Rall (Liaison)
Janet Mauro (Chair)
Christ Dippold
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Health Ministry:

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

Property Committee:

Tony Lamorte
Ray Rall
Tom Felmley
Pat Pope
Curt Baumann
Reid Wolfe

Music and Worship Committee:

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

Parish Life:

Tammy Belohlavek
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)

Mission Endowment:

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