



The PEAL of Zion

Newsletter of Zion UMC: Batavia
April 2024

Rev. Tshishinen Mpoyo
262-225-2316

Dear Beloved Of Zion United Methodist Church Family,

What a blessed conclusion to March with our Easter Service! Easter holds a special place in my heart, and hearing those hymns fills me with joy, reminding me that He lives. Because He lives, we are called Easter people, and every day is infused with the spirit of Easter. Particularly moving, is the third stanza of the hymn "Easter People, Raise Your Voices," which resonates deeply: "Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble, move the faster to our God who right the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly songs."

As we step into April, we are presented with a profound opportunity to revel in our identity as Easter people, filled with gratitude that the Lord has risen for us and within us. Let us rejoice in the enduring nature of God's steadfast love, for it is this love that strengthens and sustains us. It is through Him alone that we find meaning, liberation from sin, and believe in the promise of eternal life. Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

Throughout each season, both in nature and in our lives, we witness the evidence of God's steadfast love, which is especially poignant in the light of Easter's message of hope and renewal.

As we journey through the Easter Season, let us not forget the trans-formative power of Christ's love and resurrection, guiding us through our own paths of faith and renewal.

Reflecting on my first Fish Fry, my first Holy Week experience at Zion, and my inaugural Easter Sunday here, I remain awe-inspired by the dedication of the Zion community to glorify the Lord. I extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in the various ministries, especially during Holy Week. Your tireless dedication during this busiest time of the year did not go unnoticed.

Each of you contributed in countless ways, from maintaining our beautiful sanctuary to extending warm hospitality and enriching our worship with music. May God abundantly bless each one of you for your selfless service.

Throughout April, our gatherings will draw inspiration from scripture and sermons that bear witness to God's presence and purpose in our lives:

April 07, 2024: John 20:19-31. "Peace be with you."

April 14, 2024: Luke 24:36-48, "You Are My Witnesses."

April 21, 2024: Reflecting on John 10:11-18, "I am the Good Shepherd."

April 28, 2024: Pastor at General Conference

These messages will guide us in reflecting on the roles we play as witnesses to God's love, as followers of the Good Shepherd, and in our collective mission to make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this broken world. Let this April be a month where the seeds of faith planted in our hearts bloom with Easter joy. Each step we take in kindness, each prayer shared, and each act of service brings us closer to the heart of God and to one another. May this time of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing draw you closer to the abundant love and grace of our Lord.

I'd like to close with The hymn "He lives": "I serve a risen Savior, he is in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he is always near. He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today He walks with me, and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

With sincere appreciation and love,
Rev Tshishinen C. Mpoyo

Birthdays

Greeters
Apr 7 Roy & Stacy Edwards
Apr 14 Travis & Sue DeRuyter
Apr 21 Muriel Degnitz & Dana Dahm
Apr 28 Dick & Wendy Bemis

April 2 Alexis Wilson
4 Jeff McChain
Brad Hartmann
7 Janice Kraemer
11 Jay Lenderts
12 Jesse Pomeroy
Jack Wiedmeyer
14 Troy Schill
15 Jackie Hinz
Cliff Hellmer
16 Channing Kreamer
18 Mason Pomeroy
19 Dale Hartmann
Ralph Zimmer
21 Abbi Yoho
24 Tim Elsbury
25 April Eleves
30 Holden DeRuyter

Liturgists

Apr 7 Gwen Heimerman
Apr 14 Terri Yoho
Apr 21 Wendy Bemis
Apr 28 Candy McChain

Greeters & Liturgists

If you are unable to greet or read on your Sunday please try to switch with others or contact the office as early as possible.

Anniversaries

April 12 Neal & Barb LaFleur
21 Dick & Wendy Bemis
23 Greg & JoAnne Arndt
26 Ike & Pam Peter
28 Dale & Marianne Hartmann



Please let the office know if we missed your anniversary or birthday? Month, day, and year (which we never publish) helps when putting into our system.

GOT MILK?

Zion is still supplying all of the funds for the purchase of milk through the Food Pantry. The demand is UP! Thank you to all who help fill this need. Please mail milk fund donations to Zion.

The Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 310 Center St, Adell, WI
Call the Food Pantry at 920-447-2293 for appointment.



Opportunities to Get Involved!

Praise Choir Practice Sunday April 7th after worship and Sunday April 14th at 9am

Sing during April 14th service

All people interested are invited to come to either of those times.

We are always looking for people to be ushers on Sunday Morning call or text P Gail.

2024 Zion UMC Fish Fry Results Summary

We had a most ever successful Fish Fry on Friday evening, March 15th. There was a great response from our community on a quiet spring like evening. We added shrimp to the menu this year and that brought more interest. There were 444 dinners served. The proceeds from the event were more than \$4400.

Huge thanks go out to 35 volunteers, adults and youth, working together to make this event successful. Thanks go out to the congregation who made the yummy deserts and promoted dinner ticket sales.

We thank Brian Eder at "Creekside" for working with us to supply affordable fish, shrimp and other food along having cold storage. We thank the Beechwood Fire Dept for renting the fryers to us again. We thank Dick Wilson for renting us the portable cooler. We thank Stacy Edwards and Thrivent for the \$250 debit card to assist with expenses.

The proceeds will go towards our church budget expenses and community outreach. We proved that our mission goal, "to be a church for the community" is alive. God loves Zion UMC!

Secretary's Report
Zion UMC Trustees
March 21, 2024

Present: Pastor Mpoyo, Dick Bemis, Barb LaFleur, Sonja Zimmer, Stacy Edwards, Ray Hartmann, Teri Treichel.

Opening Prayer: Lead by Pastor Mpoyo

Old Business:

Cap fixed on light pole.

Outlets were serviced throughout the church.

New Business:

Gutters will be serviced by main entry/belltower and exterior near kitchen.

Lawn mowing- Ray H will follow-up and make contact with lawn service provider.

Desk and chair approved and will be ordered for Pastor from Amazon.

Outdoor light by entry needs replacement.

Improved lightbulbs will be installed in hallway near kitchen.

Suggestion made to develop an enclosure for the craft supplies that are on shelves in the hallway near Sunday school room.

Approval for \$254.38 to Falls Glass to replace the stripping on main entrance. Dick B is handling.

Hole covered in kitchen cupboard to deter unwanted pests. Trap also set.

Future consideration given for updating of camera equipment for improved social media presence. Pastor Mpoyo will provide a list of recommended technology upgrades for review.

Next meeting will be for outdoor and indoor cleanup. Bring rakes and gloves. Arrive at 6:00 pm.

Raking of stones on lawn and additional areas. Address the communion prep hallway/artificial flowers and donated extra kitchen supplies.

Next meeting: April 18th at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted: Stacy Edwards

Zion UMC DOC (Disciple and Outreach Committee) Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024

Present; Larry and Nadine Huiras, Linda Gerlach, Marilyn Thornell, Lynn Oppeneer, Dick Bemis Sr
January meeting minutes were reviewed. Zion UMC accomplished most of what was planned. The soup and sandwich lunch was well liked. The six soups served were delicious. There were comments that we should do this fellowship more often. \$209 of free will offering was collected. We promoted that the funds go towards Zion's Food Pantry Milk Fund.

-We overlooked getting any college bound gift boxes sent out. We discussed having a conversation with Rev Tshishinen about what are her thoughts of reaching out to our college bound members.

-Linda commented that the effort to get a new Church Directory was put on hold for now due to below average interest polled from the congregation and waiting for our Pastor to become comfortable at Zion UMC. There is an effort being made to put together contact information for congregation members in the office. The congregation was asked to provide family pictures that are being posted in the Narthex for Rev Tshishinen to relate to families.

-Lynn presents the "Bulletin Bites" from SCIO, (Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization). They are highlighting spring cleanup at the house, fundraisers, farmers market start up dates of April 6th and 20th at UCC church on 310 Bluff Ave, and open house at the Family Pathway way home on 2123 N 13th St. on May 22nd. This facility is a safe and secure place for non custodial parents to have family visits. We are going to advise Finance/Council to pay our budget annual SCIO commitment of \$700 from Fish Fry proceeds.

-Larry stated that our Fish Fry was a huge success! Our congregation really did an all out effort. 35 adults and youth worked that week and evening, along with many member providing deserts and ticket sales. The offering of shrimp on the menu was a hit. 444 dinners were served. After expenses, proceeds should be a little more than \$4400. With the increased volume of dinners there was waiting for dinners. There already was discussion that evening about renting another fryer and separating the drive thru servings. Larry has provided a complete summary of the whole event planning process in the kitchen dinner book.

Coffee hour sign up for treats after service continues to be receptive. Nadine will put out an extended signup sheet for next months.

-Monthly Noisy Can collection will continue for VBS costs, until a new highlight is presented.

The Loom mat project has been successful. A few individuals meet during Sunday morning school hour to cut and weave plastic bags. One mat has been completed. The completed mat is going to be offered to a friend of one of our congregation members or being sent along with other mats on the Midwest Distribution Center mission trip. The second mat is half completed. Anyone that is interested in helping out is welcomed.

-A reminder to our congregation is that the mission trip to volunteer at the Midwest Distribution Center is reserved for six individuals on Tuesday, September 17th through the 19th. Three individuals have committed to date. Larry will get communications in the Peal for June. We have to be registered by late July. Linda will research accommodations and the cost.

-Larry presented that Zion members could volunteer at the Sheboygan Food Bank "Café" that is held Monday through Saturday at St Luke's in Sheboygan. 40 to 60 homeless or low income individuals are served lunch. Larry has volunteered three dates over the past year with Circuit 12 Laity members. They need 5 or 6 volunteers daily to greet, prepare, serve and cleanup from 10AM until 2PM. It's a matter of going on line and committing to be there that date. Larry will confirm this outreach approval with Council and set a date for a mid week day in mid July.

-Larry was approached by members of one the local ecumenical churches about attending a meeting on May 2nd to discuss the operation of the local food pantry. There has been record of individuals being turned away from the food pantry. The group wants to meet on behalf of the BYLAWS set up when the food pantry was started. The interfaith meetings haven't taken place as of last years. After the meeting, a meeting will be set up with the individuals supervising the local Food Pantry to discuss needs. DOC discussed and can contest that we have not seen the output of Milk Fund and Christmas boxes as prior years. Larry will advise Council before anyone attends.

-We were in question on what is the featured In Gathering project for Annual Conference. Larry will confirm with Gwen and Rev Tshishinen. Maybe Zion could make an effort towards the project.

-Larry presented a Circuit 12 Laity Peru medical mission collection of toothbrushes, Chewable vitamins; New/gentle used bras, sunglasses and cash to purchase needs in Peru. Laity from Faith UMC is going in August. We could put out a collection box in June and July.

The next DOC meeting date will be in mid July.

Minutes submitted by Larry Huiras

March 19, 2024 Council Minutes

Present: Linda Gerlach, Rev. Tshishinen Mpoyo, Valarie Kilburn, Paul Wiedmeyer, Stacy Hron, Shirley Dekker, Wendy Bemis, Barb LaFleur, Larry Huiras

Linda opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Rev. Mpoyo to her first Council meeting at Zion.

Paul- Finance: Income for month end February was \$9,697.81. Expenses for Feb. were \$9,844.76. This resulted in a net loss of \$146.95 for the month. Year to date we have a net income of \$1,078.62.

Larry- Fish Fry on March 15 was very successful. 444 dinners served. Looking to add another fryer next year to cut down on wait time. Should net roughly \$4,400 after the bills are paid. Fish Fry at Zion started in 2015. Missed one year due to covid.

DOC- Meets next Tuesday evening. Working on Easter Sunrise breakfast and future ministry opportunities.

Circuit 12- Served lunches at the Sheboygan Food Bank. Would like a group from Zion to consider serving there sometime.

Barb- Trustees- Will meet this Thursday. Will be discussing getting a new desk and chair for Rev. Mpoyo. Lightbulb to be fixed outside, will be connecting with someone to fix the gutters, and working on getting the lawn ready for mowing.

Wendy- Worship- Planned Holy week with Rev. Mpoyo. Will look at the microphone situation and experiment solutions.

Shirley- VBS will be July 29-Aug 2. Looking into a date for a fun outing with the youth as a thank you for all their awesome help during Fish Fry.

Christina (via Paul)- Sunday School- Teacher rotation going well. Average around 9-12 students in Sunday school.

Stacy- SPRC- Rev. Mpoyo will be away April 28, May 19th, June 9th. April 28th is General Conference. Will meet monthly as needed to get Rev. Mpoyo settled at Zion. Her office hours are Tuesday thru Thursday 9-2pm. Friday work from home. Sunday Services. Monday is her day off. Things are going well. Lots of compliments on the new Pastor. Will add her email and phone number to the bulletins.

Linda- Review scholarship applications for graduating seniors. Scholarships are due April 15th. Scholarship awards will be discussed at the April 16th Council meeting.

Rev. Mpoyo- Thanks to the church for a warm welcome. Her family felt very welcomed also. She performed a funeral for a church member already at a funeral home. She really appreciates all the young families and children in church and all those that have attended services so far, in person and on Facebook Live.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valarie Kilburn

Notes From Parish Nurse
Nancy Eberhardt, RN

Dear Friends of Zion UMC,

May the resurrected Christ make his victory known in your life. This month, we celebrate the new life bought for us by Jesus' passion, and we also recognize World Health Day. Today there seems to be no lack of information related to health or any other topic. The challenge before us now seems to be how to judge the information and how to decide what to do with it.

"We can trust in the Lord to help us discern"...I will give you a wise and discerning heart" 1 Kings 3:12. It is estimated that 30% of adults rely on the internet for meeting their religious needs and this is expected to grow in the future.

Our Health and the Internet

There is a great amount of health information available on the internet, but some of it is incomplete, misleading or inaccurate. One can find information on health and wellness and specific diseases, find out more about health organizations and resources, talk with others with similar concerns and /or participate in on-line support groups and see and /or purchase health related products. A word of caution is needed: Publication on the world wide web is not proof that the information is reliable or valid. The following questions can serve as guidelines for judging the quality of health information on the internet.

Judging a Web Site for Health Content

- What is the **main purpose** of the web site? Is it to provide accurate information and resources or is it to sell a product?
- What are the **credentials** of the authors? Are they recognized experts?
- Are there **references** for their claims? If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- When was the last time the site was **updated**?
- Are there ways to **contact** the authors for more information?
- Do they offer any **on-line support groups** moderated by professionals?
- Do they **increase your ability to use health care resources** or replace your current health care provider? Do they keep your information confidential?

If you have any health related concerns, please contact me. I would be happy to share resources I have. May the Lord of all Life and Wisdom richly dwell in your home and family.

"Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours" 1 Samuel 25:6.

April 2024 Upcoming Events at Zion

- Apr 7 Praise Choir practice after service
- Apr 10 rescheduled SPRC meeting 6:30
- Apr 14 Praise Choir practice 9:00
- Apr 16 Ad Council meeting 6:30
- Apr 18 Trustee Meeting 6:00
cleanup followed by meeting
- Apr 28 Rev. Mpoyo at General Conference