



# The PEAL of Zion

Newsletter of Zion United Methodist Church: Batavia  
January 2024

Pastor Gail Mitchell  
920-889-0186

Happy New Year Zion,

Who would have ever guessed the changes that would have happened this past year at Zion. I certainly didn't imagine I would be back in the pulpit bridging the gap between pastors.

You might think this in-between time is worrisome. I'm not of that mindset. Why? Because I know that God has a plan and God is always working His plan. The problem comes when we think we have a better plan than God and we try to control things. Hurry things along.

Moses told the Hebrews *"Stay on the path that the LORD your God has commanded you to follow. Then you will live long and prosperous lives in the land you are about to enter and occupy."* Deut 5:33

God has set a path before us. We are to stay on it. In other words, be faithful no matter comes. Place your trust in God.

As we begin this New Year, we may not be able to see the path or God's plan clearly. There's some uncertainty in being a follower of Jesus. That's why it's important to keep our focus on Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the congregation in Philippi, *"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* (Philippians 1: 6 NLT)

All of us are works in progress. We should be pursuing God in order to grow in our faith.

Instead of making New Year's resolutions this year I'm adopting 2 mottos. The first and most important for me is

**To Know Christ  
&  
Make Him Known**

Based on Philippians 3:10-11

I cannot make Jesus known to others unless I know Him to start with. So that means daily devotions and Bible study with friends. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is *"Begin as you intend to go on."*

What's important to you to help you grow in love and knowledge of God, Jesus, Holy Spirit?

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Gail

## Venturing To Worship

As we start a New Year perhaps you'd like to start a new way to prepare for worship. I like to follow the lectionary. It's a series of scriptures that follow a pattern and include an Old Testament, Psalm, Letter from New Testament and a reading from a Gospel. Some of you may remember a day when all four were read during worship on a Sunday morning. I'll only be using one. Please consider making these part of your weekly devotions.

The Lectionary readings for January include the following:

### January 7, 2024 Epiphany

Isa 60:1-6    Ps 72:1-7, 10-14    Eph 3:1-12    Matt 2:1-12

### January 14, 2024 Baptism of the Lord

Gen 1:1-5    Ps 29    Acts 19:1-7    Mark 1:4-11

### January 21, 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10    Ps 62:5-12    1 Cor 7:29-31    Mark 1:14-20

### January 28, 2024 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Deut 18:15-20    Ps 111    1 Cor 8:1-13    Mark 1:21-28

## Happy New Year!

Time goes so fast, and here we are again looking at a new year. 2024 is here! It brings a fresh start. New opportunities. New challenges. A time for New Year's resolutions. A time to reflect and make changes. A time of memories. A time of dreams. A time of hope.

I find that the new year brings a veritable flood of emotions as we reflect on the difficult moments and the joys of the past year. So much happens in the span of a year, yet it seems to fly by. Some things change and some things stay the same. As we enter the new year and reflect on the old, I pray that Zion Church continues to be your sanctuary, your safe place in this ever- changing world.

We know our God is with us every step of the way. He will never forsake us. Let us come together in worship in the New Year!

Jeremiah 29:11-12

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Terri Yoho, Lay Leader

## Birthdays

January 1 ~ Camila Tadeo  
3 ~ Marilyn Thornell  
4 ~ Marianne Bindrich  
5 ~ Emma Arndt  
Amie Wilson  
12 ~ Elijah McChain  
Brenda Eisentraut  
15 ~ Clayton Pomeroy  
19 ~ Dion Degnitz  
21 ~ Briggs Willegal  
22 ~ Scott Krahm  
28 ~ Robert Kilburn Sr  
29 ~ Jim McChain

## Greeters

Jan 7 Ralph & Sonja Zimmer  
Jan 14 Bill & Terri Yoho  
Jan 21 Teri Treichel & Kate Tykac  
Jan 28 Cliff & Joanie Helmer

## Liturgists

Jan 7 Terri Yoho  
Jan 14 Wendy Bemis  
Jan 21 Larry Huiras  
Jan 28 Joanie Helmer  
Feb 4 Val Kilburn  
Feb 11 Candy McChain  
Feb 18 Gwen Heimerman

## Anniversaries

January 6 ~ Dan & Jackie Kraemer  
7 ~ Don & Bev Schroeder  
30 ~ Tom & Shirley Dekker

## 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.



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.



## Seasonings and Condiments

The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. All kinds of nonperishable food items are needed. Each month we like to highlight one item. This month we are highlighting all kinds of seasonings and condiments. Some examples include garlic or onion powder, salts, pepper, taco seasonings, gravy mixes, ketchup, mustard, pickles, and miracle whip. Items can be placed in the shopping cart. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

## 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.



## Note of Thanks

I'd like to thank everyone for the Birthday good wishes and Christmas cards and remembrance.

I'm thankful for all who have helped with everything related to Zion during the month of December. It's amazing what we can accomplish together. Best of all if gives glory to God.

Pastor Gail

## Praise Team Re-Boot

Start-up will be Jan 7<sup>th</sup> after worship

2<sup>nd</sup> practice Jan 14 @ 9am

We will sing in worship Jan 14<sup>th</sup>

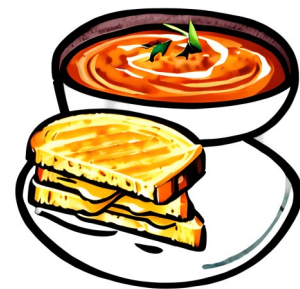
All voices and instruments are encouraged to join us.

Jonah Taylor will be our accompanist.

It's time to praise the Lord.

Can hardly wait to sing with you again.

Questions call Pastor Gail @ 920-889-0186



## Soup and Sandwiches

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after service on January 21st for a Soup Luncheon. Soup and sandwiches will be provided.

## **Secretary's Report Zion UMC Trustees December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**Present:** Bill Yoho, Stacy Edwards, Bob Hartmann, Dion Degnitz,  
Sonja Zimmer

Opening Prayer lead Bill Yoho  
Secretary's Report: Approved

### **Old Business:**

Sanctuary chandelier repairs completed by Bill D.  
Classroom outlets- Relative Electric will service when their schedule allows.  
Fire Department Inspection Report- Bob H. will follow-up with the department.  
Broken window- completed and window installed (\$212). Possible reimbursement from lawn care company.

### **New Business:**

Winter alarm and contact list – minimal upgrade options are available to purchase and work cohesively with the current system. Bill will research programming the current system.  
Light pole topper – metal piece from top of pole needs to be returned to original location. Bob H will inquire with the fire department regarding the use of a ladder.  
Egg crate ceiling tile – Bill Y completed installation throughout kitchen area.  
Crickets – traps have been purchased and placed in necessary locations.

Next meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Respectfully submitted: Stacy Edwards

### **Zion's Loom Mat project.**

Anyone that is interested in joining a group looming plastic store bags on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour is welcome. We will be looming 700 plastic bags to build a sleeping mat for the homeless that will be distributed through the Midwest Distribution Center. This will be an ongoing project during 2024.



Thank You for all the donations towards our "Jesse Tree" children's gift program. \$1200 was collected and 24 Walmart \$50 gift cards enclosed in a Christmas card from Zion UMC. They were distributed on December 15th to 24 children at the Random Lake Elementary school. We provided a smile on many young hearts with our generosity.

## Notes From Parish Nurse

### Nancy Eberhardt, RN

Dear Friends of Zion UMC,

May you and your loved ones experience a joyfilled and healthy New Year and Epiphany season! As we begin this New Year, I would like to visit with you about the **Season of Epiphany and living a Spirit filled and wholistically healthy life.** The word Epiphany means “to make known” and during this season we celebrate the full measure of God’s glory in the birth of Jesus.

#### Epiphany: Living in and Reflecting the Light

One of the Old Testament Lessons for the Epiphany season is taken from Isaiah 42:1-7. These words describe living a spirit filled life. God has called and enabled each one of us to be His healing lights in our dark world as we “....open the eyes that are blind, to free the captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness”. First, **we need to make sure we are in a right relationship with God.** Eyes can be blinded both physically and spiritually and this causes darkness to overshadow the light. Second, our great **God can use us to help others know the light of His love** as we care for them. We are called to free the captives and release those who sit in darkness. People can be imprisoned by sin, death and the devil. Third, **we can speak God’s word of healing grace to others and invite them into a relationship with ourselves and our faith community.** The darkness of our lives can only be overcome when we see the Baby of Bethlehem in the face of every precious person He has created. (Matthew 25:35-40).

District Superintendent Park Hunter led our church charge conference on December 19th. A good group of members joined together to attend this annual meeting. He also joined up in worship the previous Sunday. Extra copies of the conference booklet can be found in the bookcase outside the lounge. (pink cover)



# January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Ad Council mtg 6:30pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Worship mtg after service	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Trustee mtg 6:30pm	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Soup and sandwich lunch after service	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Noisy can Sunday	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			