

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WEEK OF December 3, 2017

Please silence all cell phones and games when entering the sanctuary. Thank you!

This weekly announcement sheet is included on Mt. Zion's website.

TODAY

- ~Worship Services and Communion at 8 AM and 10:30 AM
- ~First Sunday of Advent
- ~Preschool-6th Grade Sunday School, 9 AM in their respective classrooms
- ~Preschool-6th Grade Vocal and Bell Choir, 9-9:10 AM in the 4th-6th grade classroom
- ~Worship Choir Rehearsal, 9:15-10:15 AM in the choir room
- ~WOW Kids during the 10:30 AM service
- ~Adult Bell Choir Practice, 11:30AM- 12:00 PM in the choir room
- ~Single's Lunch, 12:00-2:00 PM at Carol Hartman's home
- ~Youth Group, 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- ~Praise Band Rehearsal, 7:45-8:45 PM in the Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

- ~Ridgerunners Christmas Luncheon at Round the Clock East, Wed., December 6th at 12:00 PM
- ~Panther Pack Ministry, Wed., December 6th at 2:30 PM at North Hills Elementary
- ~Advent Bible Study, Wed., December 6th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- ~Pleasant Acres Outreach, Fri., December 8th, 10 AM at Pleasant Acres
- ~Worship Choir Rehearsal, Sat., December 9th, 9-10:30 AM in the Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY

- ~Worship Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM
- ~Second Sunday of Advent
- ~Preschool-9th Grade Sunday School, 9 AM in their respective classrooms
- ~Preschool-6th Grade Vocal and Bell Choir, 9-9:10 AM in the 4th-6th grade classroom
- ~Women's Retreat Information Meeting, 9 AM in the fellowship hall
- ~Jubilation Rehearsal, 9:10-9:50 AM in the choir room
- ~WOW Kids during the 10:30 AM service
- ~Adult Bell Choir Practice, 11:30AM- 12:00 PM in the choir room
- ~Compassion York Food Run following the late service
- ~J-Walkers Christmas Party (with Youth Group), 5-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- ~Youth Group (with J-Walkers), 5-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- ~Praise Band Rehearsal, 7:45-8:45 PM in the Sanctuary

Our Monthly Mission for December will be the UCC Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund helps retired clergy and spouses by providing supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides checks to hundreds of annuitants, and it also provides emergency assistance throughout the year. Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Fund.

Northeastern Food Pantry~ For the month of December the Northeastern Food Pantry is continuing to accept donations of stuffing, green beans, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. Barbara Krier will pick up the items after the service on December 17th. Thank you for supporting the food pantry mission!

Giving Tree for Pleasant Acres~ In the back narthex, we have a tree with various gift tags that list items needed for the Resident Gift Giving Program at Pleasant Acres. Please take a gift tag and return the item **unwrapped** to the church no later than NEXT Sunday, December 10th. Please make sure all Christmas items are new. All clothing donated must be durable for institutional laundry and they cannot be items that need to be hand washed or dry-cleaned. Thank you for providing Christmas cheer to the residents of Pleasant Acres.

Angel Tree ~ Mt. Zion is once again sponsoring families in the Central York School District for this Christmas season. If you would be willing to purchase an item (or two) for a family who is struggling, please take a tag off the angel tree and return the gift wrapped with the tag on the outside by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be having **ONE Worship service** on Sunday, December 17th at 10:30 AM which will be our Christmas Cantata. We also will be having **ONE Worship service** to celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent on Sunday, December 24th. That service will be held at **9 AM**. At the 9 AM worship service, please feel free to wear your **favorite Christmas sweater** and to bring **some Christmas cookies** to share. We will set up a table for the cookies and will provide hot cocoa! The Christmas Eve services will remain the same as previous years, at 3 PM, 7 PM, and 10 PM.

OFFERING ON SUN. DEC. 17TH-Throughout Advent, we will be focusing our attention on the hope of the coming of Christ and what this gift means in our life. As we detach ourselves from the more consumer aspects of the Christmas season, we will further engage with giving more to our sisters and brothers in the world who are suffering. On Sunday, December 17th, as a congregation, our church offering will go towards Souls for Soles, an organization that distributes pairs of shoes to individuals in need in order to give them the ability to attend school and work. Any designated money (towards the monthly mission or otherwise) will be applied appropriately, but all general fund offering will go towards this meaningful mission. We ask you to consider giving generously to this cause. Please note that we are only accepting monetary contributions to Soles for Souls, and are not accepting donations of shoes. Thank you!

Security Task Force Forming- Church Council is asking for volunteers to serve on a newly forming Security Task Force. The mission of this team will be to assess the security of the building and make recommendations regarding any additional safety measures that need to be in place, particularly in light of recent events in our country. We are seeking volunteers through December 17th, and will convene the group in the new year. *In the meantime*, at the recommendation of Church Council, the church doors will now be locked ten minutes after the 8 AM service begins. Doors will re-open during the Sunday school hour through the first ten minutes of the 10:30 AM service. We thank you for your understanding as we seek to balance these changes alongside the extravagant hospitality that is so characteristic of our congregation. If you would like to serve on the Security Task Force at Mt. Zion, please sign up in the side narthex, or speak to Bob Katherman and/or Guy Wenck, the council liaisons for this ministry.

Sponsorship Opportunities for 2018~ There are opportunities to provide resources for the Summer Program for our children, our children's library, Messy Church, worship supplies, music, our A/V subscriptions, all church events, youth, camperships, and J-Walkers. Leaves with sponsorship amounts are available on the tree and the bench at the back of the sanctuary. Please take a leaf, place your name on the back and put it in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment. Please do not put the monetary amount in the plate at this time. In January of 2018, you will receive a letter confirming your sponsorship commitment. The letter will include an envelope in which you can place the amount of money you committed to contributing towards the sponsorship. You may place this envelope with your monetary contribution in the offering plate beginning in 2018. Thank you!

Panther Packing ~ This week, packers will meet on Wednesday, December 6th at 2:30 PM at North Hills. If you would be interested in helping to pack bags (day or evening times available)- please contact the church office for more information on the steps to becoming involved with this important ministry! Also, we are continuing to collect plastic bags (preferably Weis or Target bags) flattened and bundled in groups of 10 in the back and side narthex.

Compassion York Food Run~ Our next Compassion York Food Run will take place NEXT Sunday, December 10th. There are sign-up sheets in the side narthex to volunteer to cook, to serve, or to donate food. We thank you in advance for your participation and help in serving the hungry of York!

Midweek Advent Study & Light Meal~ On Wednesday evenings throughout Advent (Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th), we will host a study series in the fellowship hall entitled "Interrupted By Hope". Each Week will involve watching short videos, followed by group discussion. We will meet from 6-7:30, enjoying a light supper before digging into the discussion. On the 20th, we will only meet until 7 so that those who wish to can participate in the Blue Christmas service. Please sign-up in the side narthex, and please see Pastor Jeff with any questions that you may have.

Christmas Cards for our homebound members can be found on a table in the back narthex. Please take a moment to sign them, as they are greatly appreciated by those who receive them!

Advent Story Tellers~ We are looking for volunteers to read stories to our PreK/K and 1st-3rd grade Sunday school classes during the season of Advent, starting December 3rd. Please sign up in the side narthex, and contact Pastor Jeff with any questions you may have!

Advent Devotionals can be found in the side and back narthex. There are both devotionals for adults and devotionals for children. Please feel free to take one!

Adult Bell Choir~ Practices for Adult Bell Choir will begin THIS Sunday, December 3rd after the late service.

This is the last week for the Christmas Poinsettia Sale! Poinsettias can be purchased for a donation of \$4.25 each. Complete the order form (included in this week's bulletins) and turn them in, with your payment in the box located in the rear narthex. Make checks payable to Mt. Zion United Church of Christ. Orders are due TODAY Sun., December 3rd. Thank you!

Blue Christmas~ The Christmas season is often filled with joy and laughter, but it can also bring with it feelings of sadness and loneliness. This year, Mt. Zion will once again offer a special worship experience that will provide a space of comfort and care for anyone for whom the holidays are challenging. The service will be held on Wednesday, December 20th at 7 PM. We invite you to attend and we encourage you to share the information with a friend, neighbor, or coworker.

Ridgerunners~ If you were not present at the November meeting to sign up and would like to attend the Christmas Luncheon THIS Wednesday, December 6th at Round the Clock East, please inform Nancy Sleeper @ 717-515-4790, 717-266-4668, or sleeperj@comcast.net by December 3rd so we have an accurate count.

Homewood Homes at Plum Creek~ TODAY is the final day for collecting the Christmas cards for Homewood Home at Plum Creek. Thank you to all who joined the auxiliary and to all who have contributed cards for the residents.

Date	Attendance	Current Receipts	Ave. Weekly E-tithing	Total Received for Current	Weekly Budget for Current Exp
November 5 th , 2017	147 members +15 guests	\$4,890.00	\$2,401.00	\$7,291.00	\$5,435.00
November 12 th , 2017	159 members + 16 guests	\$2,491.00	\$2,401.00	\$4,892.00	\$5,435.00
November 19 th , 2017	143 members +12 guests	\$2,302.00	\$2,401.00	\$4,703.00	\$5,435.00
November 26 th , 2017	137 members +10 Guests	\$2,450.00	\$2,401.00	\$4,851.00	\$5,435.00

Special needs prayer chain - please call the church office at 755-6117.

Hospitalized: Ellie Arnold

Recuperating: Barb Waltemyer, Lonny Gordon, Tammy Gordon, Rob Cunningham

Undergoing Treatment: Pat Cooper

THIS WEEK:

8 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Tim Snyder, Danika & Drew Dallam, Dave Strine

8 AM Sound Tech: John Kollasch

8 AM Video Tech: Jack Herlocker

8 AM Worship Tech: Mary Jane Snyder

10:30 AM Welcome Team: George DeMers, Steph Beyer, and Jim Beyer; coordinated by Dave Strine

10:30 AM Sound Tech: John Schriver

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Tori Everhart

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

10:30 AM WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

NEXT WEEK:

8 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by the December Worship Team

8 AM Sound Tech: Ivy Leach

8 AM Video Tech: Jack Herlocker

8 AM Worship Tech: Jim Shiffer

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by the December Worship Team

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Tom Mulligan

10:30 AM Video Tech: George DeMers

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Alan Neff

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

10:30 AM WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney