

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WEEK OF December 17, 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

- ~ONE Worship Service at 10:30 AM
- ~Third Sunday of Advent and Christmas Cantata
- ~Church Offering goes to Soles4Souls
- ~Preschool-9th Grade Sunday School, 9 AM in their respective classrooms
- ~Women's Retreat Information Meeting, 9 AM in the fellowship hall
- ~WOW Kids during the 10:30 AM service
- ~Youth Group Christmas Party, 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

- ~Panther Pack Ministry, Wed., December 20th at 2:30 PM at North Hills Elementary
- ~Advent Bible Study, Wed., December 20th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- ~Blue Christmas Service, Wed., December 20th at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY

- ~ONE Worship Service at 9 AM for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- ~Christmas Eve Services
 - ~3 PM - Communion & Candlelight
 - ~7 PM - Family Service with Candlelight
 - ~10 PM - Communion & Candlelight
- ~NO Sunday School

We 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.

Please note, the week following Christmas will have adjusted operating hours for the church office. Please call before coming into church to make sure that someone is here to greet you.
We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

OFFERING TODAY, 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. TODAY, Sunday, December 17th, as a congregation, our church offering will go towards Soles 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 Soles, and are not accepting donations of shoes. Thank you!

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 TODAY, December 17th. Thank you for supporting the food pantry mission!

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 THIS 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.

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 TODAY, 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 reopen 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.

Year End Contributions- In order for Jesse to prepare the 2017 giving statements, he needs to receive all contributions for 2017 by Sunday, December 31st. 2018 giving envelopes are available for pick up in the side narthex. You may take them with you but please do not use them until January 1, 2018. We sincerely thank you for all of the support you extend to our church.

E-Tithing~ To all current E-Tithers and anyone who is interested in e-tithing: If you plan to change your E-Tithing for 2018, please see that I have your change form before TODAY, Dec. 17, 2017. Unless you have changed banks, or your bank has made a change to the routing number or your account number, I will not need a voided check. For any new E-Tithers I will need a voided check attached to your request form. If anyone has questions, you may see me in

church, call me at 717-873-6576, or email me at pencilpusher6@gmail.com. Thank you, Jesse Smith II, Financial Secretary

No Sunday School December 24th ~ On December 24th we will have one worship service at 9 AM, followed by our regularly scheduled Christmas Eve services at 3 PM, 7 PM, and 10 PM. *Because of this schedule we WILL NOT have Sunday school on December 24th.* We will resume with regularly scheduled Sunday school classes on December 31st when we return to our normal worship schedule. Sunday school that day will combine all grades (PreK-6th) for a movie in the 4th-6th grade Sunday school room with Bonnie Murphy and Kristen Mekulsia.

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 table 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 20th 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 25 in the back and side narthex. Also, please note that we WILL NOT be packing on December 27th due to the Christmas holiday.

Midweek Advent Study & Light Meal~ On Wednesday evenings throughout Advent (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 see Pastor Jeff with any questions that you may have.

Mt. Cemetery Association Treasurer Position ~ Mt. Zion Cemetery Association is seeking a volunteer to fill it's Treasurer position. The individual should have experience with general book keeping. The position requires 2-3 hours per week. Any interested parties should contact Sherry Dunbar at dunbar.sherry007@gmail.com

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!

In the event of inclement weather, please check WGAL's (www.WGAL.com) or Mt. Zion's website (www.mtzionucc.org) for changes. WGAL may list church cancellations due to a major snowstorm on television, but it will be at their discretion. You may also call the church. Please listen to the message to learn if we have altered our schedule for the day.

Date	Attendance	Current Receipts	Ave. Weekly E-tithing	Total Received for Current	Weekly Budget for Current Exp
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
December 3 rd , 2017	178 members +11 guests	\$3,571.00	\$1,954.80	\$5,516.80	\$5,435.00
December 10 th , 2017	160 members +16 guests	\$2,859.00	\$1,954.80	\$4,804.80	\$5,435.00

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

Hospitalized:

Recuperating: Lonny Gordon, Tammy Gordon, Ellie Arnold, Anna Mulligan

Undergoing Treatment: Pat Cooper

THIS WEEK:

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Byron & Dawn Almoney; Barry & Nancy Schwartz

10:30 AM Sound Tech: John Kollasch

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino and John Schriver

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Clyde Snyder

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

10:30 AM WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

NEXT WEEK: 9 AM CHRISTMAS EVE

MORNING

9 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by staff members

9 AM Worship Tech: Coordinated by staff members

9 AM Sound Tech: Ryan Neal

9 AM Video Tech: John Schriver

9 AM Camera Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

CHRISTMAS EVE 3 PM

Welcome Team and Communion Servers: Tim Snyder, Barb Stebbins, Robin & Emily Schriver

Worship Tech: Clyde Snyder

Sound Tech: Ron Miles

Video Tech: John Schriver

Camera Tech: John Kollasch

CHRISTMAS EVE 7 PM

Welcome Team: The Strine Family

Worship Tech: Dave Strine

Sound Tech: Jack Herlocker

Video Tech: Denny Daugherty

Camera Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

CHRISTMAS EVE 10 PM

Welcome Team and Communion Servers: Becky & Jerry Hester; Dan Kinard, Mary Jane Snyder

Worship Tech: Mary Jane Snyder

Sound Tech: Ron Miles

Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty