



# In Touch

## Our Mission

*To transform people, creating disciples of Christ who are devoted to living in a biblically-functioning community.*

---

*13 You are putting away the Word of God to keep your own teaching. You are doing many other things like this." (Mark 7: 13)*

Hello sisters & brothers through Jesus,

The year is 2020 and as the saying goes - "hindsight is 20/20". What the saying essentially means is, "It's easy to know the right thing to do after something has happened, but it's hard to predict the future."

I am sure after we have a cure or a vaccine for COVID-19 we will allow ourselves to look at the year 2020 with perfect vision - "hindsight - 2020". It will be clear to us what we truly should have done and prayerfully this will help us what to do in the future.

As many places are dubbed "essential or non-essential" businesses are closed, - events cancelled, - churches unable to hold what we consider "traditional services" my concern is that many of us are also cancelling GOD. In times of distress, such as we are in right now, many have given up on worshipping GOD. With the closure of some churches, or the adjusted formats that are recommended to follow, worship has become so convenient we are beginning to fear others and we do not want to gather as Christ tells us to gather. The fear that is instilled in us by COVID-19, I feel, is allowing us to cancel GOD in some of our lives. I understand the convenience of on-line worship, but Jesus instructs us to "go and make disciples." If we are only sitting in our comfy clothes watching church, are we really being the church Jesus calls us to be?

*(continued on page 3)*

Amber Gobbel      Ava Hill  
 Rashaud Hassan    Zachary Kern  
 Haley Saccol      David Kissinger  
 Scott Lowry        Betty Hess  
 James Wagner     Iva Kuntz  
 Troy Keeley        Carole Markley  
 Luke Helsel



# September

BIRTHDAYS



Joe and Ellen Tackett	8
Matthew and Kayla Smith	19
Tom and Stacey Fondelier	20
Rev. David and Ginny Butler	20
Andrew and Jill Hoffman	23
Joshua and Taylee Keeley	23
Martin and Beth Graffius	24
James and Joanne Wagner	27



Our Worship Committee Meeting will be held the second Monday of the month, September 14 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for leading singing, play instruments, etc. Special thanks to Hannah, Lori, Becky, Megan and Kaitlyn for their solos, duets and trios. The singing adds so much to our worship services and is appreciated by all!



The church will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for the collection of food pantry donations. Staple items for the food pantry are canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, pancake mix and syrup. All items are accepted. If you cannot bring the items to the church please call 266-1512 and leave a message.

(continued from page 1)

Throughout this pandemic I understand the need to be cautious and to remain safe. But are we cancelling GOD in the name of safety? Ministries (people) throughout the church and throughout the world has suffered due to COVID-19. I pray we do not cancel the love of GOD in our lives. GOD is not an item that we put on a shelf and only pull down whenever we need Him. GOD asks us to worship in relationship with Him each and every day of our lives, and not just on Sunday mornings, or at Bible Study, but every day.

The GOD we serve is a loving GOD. He is a debt (sin) cancelling GOD. *But GOD let Christ make you alive when He forgave all our sins. GOD wiped out (cancelled) the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law of Moses. He took them away and nailed them to the cross (Colossians 2:13b-14 CEV).*

With so many cancellations in the name of COVID, do not allow yourself to cancel GOD's will in your life or in the church.

May your relationship with GOD be stronger today than it was yesterday.

Love, your brother through Christ Jesus,

Pastor "D"

### God of (all) the ages

It's tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament's many references to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people's needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.



*"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure."*





As we close another summer season and ready ourselves for fall, I reflect on things I remember my mother saying. Momilies were offered to guide and direct school age children. All mothers strive to protect and teach their young ones. Perhaps you have heard some of these before and perhaps you have uttered them yourself.

*You can be sure of two things in this world: there is a God, and your mother loves you.*

*I'm only doing this for your own good.*

*Be careful what you wish for; you might get it.*

*You must think rules are made to be broken.*

*If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.*

I imagine you might add to this list with a few Momilies of your own.

When we read the Bible we find guiding and directing sayings God used to protect and teach us, his children. Have you heard and used any of these?

*Wisdom is more precious than rubies.*

*Keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

*Lazy hands make a man poor...*

*Dishonest money dwindles away.*

*Stay away from a foolish man.*

*A good name is more desirable than great riches.*

We look forward to meeting again with the children of our church. More information concerning our Sunday School will be provided soon.

*Jane Lloyd and Stacy Novak*

## Sunshine Caregiver News

Hope everyone is doing fine. Can you believe this spring and summer? Fall and winter doesn't seem to be any better with the virus and flu.

We have to shut-ins with birthdays this month - Betty and Eva. Eva's birthday is on September 8 and Betty's is on September 26. Their addresses are below:

Eva Reighard  
Arbutus Manor  
Room 410  
207 Ottawa Street  
Johnstown, PA 15904

Betty Hess  
291 Baumgardner Road  
Salix, PA 15952

Let's shower them with lots of cards. Brighten their special days.

We have a new shut-in list in the newsletter. We aren't able to visit our shut-ins and it doesn't seem to look any better any time soon. We are asking our church family to please call or send cards to them. Some are having a hard time understanding why their families can't visit them.

We have decided we will not be doing the military boxes this year. With our church being closed, we have no place to collect items or pack the boxes. Also, there have been times when we couldn't send boxes to certain places due to the virus. We will try again next year.

God Bless  
Sunshine Caregivers

### Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2020*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2020*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2020*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2020*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2020*



*“Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.”*  
—Stanislaw Jerzy Lec



## Shut-In List - 2020

<p>Phyllis Barr Cambria Care Center Room 328 Ebensburg, PA 15931 Birthday: March 20</p>	<p>Esther Custer Windber Woods 227 Hoffman Avenue Room 142B Windber, PA 15963 Birthday: May 7</p>
<p>Beryl Dunmyer 1911 Washington Street Apartment 114 Windber, PA 15963 (814) 509-6441 Birthday: July 17</p>	<p>Rose Fregley (Doug Fregley's mom) 838 Sunnehanna Drive Johnstown, PA 15905 Birthday: December 6</p>
<p>Betty Hess 291 Baumgardner Road Salix, PA 15952 (814) 266-4937 Birthday: September 26</p>	<p>Marietta Lowry Arbutus Manor Room 312 207 Ottawa Street Johnstown, PA 15904 Birthday: September 8</p>
<p>Eva Reighard Arbutus Manor Room 410 207 Ottawa Street Johnstown, PA 15904 Birthday: September 8</p>	<p>Donna Seese Windber Woods 227 Hoffman Avenue Room 149B Windber, PA 15963 Birthday: October 10</p>
<p>Iva Taylor Laurelwood Care Center 100 Woodmont Street Room 17 Johnstown, PA 15905 Birthday: June 13</p>	

# Operation Christmas Child

## Shoebox Ministry

The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Will you partner with us to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world—many of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus? We are supplying shoeboxes to anyone who is willing to fill and send a shoebox to a girl/boy through Samaritan's Purse ministry. The shoe boxes will be available at Zion-Elton UMC on Sunday mornings during worship hours or on Mondays & Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The final day to collect the shoeboxes will be November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please help make this the largest shoebox ministry in the history of Zion-Elton UMC.

### **Alpha & Omega**

God created this world,  
everything that it holds.  
And God still is creating  
as each day unfolds.  
What we once called the future,  
we now call the past.  
While the present is fleeting,  
God stays — first and last!  
—Peggy Ferrell

# E

lton Zion United Methodist Church

PO Box 96

Elton, PA 15934

Phone: 814-266-1512



Our relationship with Jesus doesn't begin in heaven—it begins right here on earth and is continued into heaven”