

Hebrew Reading Isaiah 42:1-9

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” This is what God the LORD says— the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

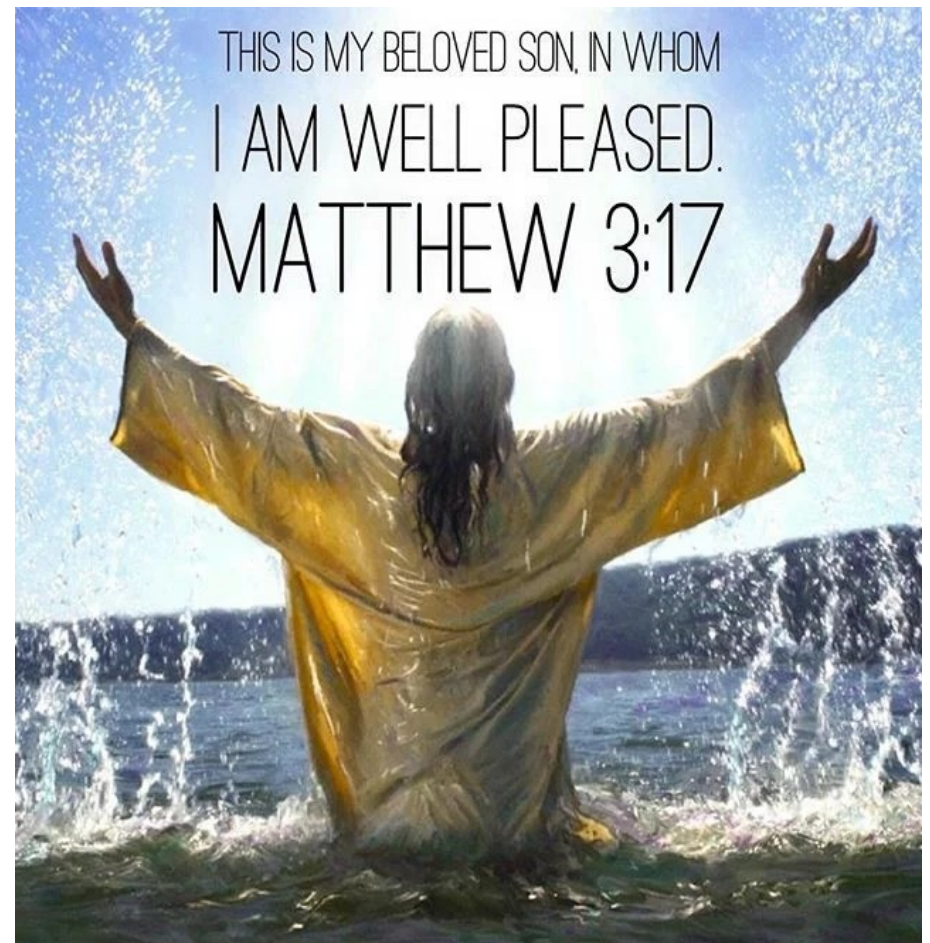
United Church of Christ

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*Good Morning!
Welcome to
Zion's Reformed Church!*

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison to the pulpit. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are in honor of all the First Responders, Nurses and Doctors who are helping everyone during the Covid-19 pandemic, by Josie Harbaugh.

Ushering today are Dan Douthett, Gary Hittle, Vikki Young, and Cynthia Snyder.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after Special Music for an activity.

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge for refreshments after the service.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Consistory meeting: Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00
Prayer Chain meeting: Sunday, January 22
Combined worship service: Sunday, January 29 at 10:30
Potluck: Sunday, January 29 after worship.

Holy Communion: Sunday, February 5
Alzheimer's Support Group: Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 2:00.
Good Shepherd Board meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7:00
Consistory meeting: Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00
SHEEP Fund offering received: Sunday, February 12
Fasnacht Dinner: Sunday, February 19 (after worship)
Ash Wednesday Service: February 22 at 7:00
Prayer Chain meeting: Sunday, February 26

Minister Schedule

Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison: January 8, 15, 22 and February 19 and 26. Confirmation students and mentors meet at 9:00 am when Rev. Morrison is here.

Rev. Glenn Sadler: February 5 and 12

Rev. Glenn Sadler, Rev. Nicole Pickens, Rev. Ericjon Thomas: January 29

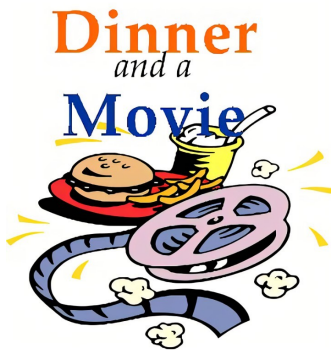
FASNACHT CELEBRATION RETURNS!

Because of Covid restrictions, we have not been able to have our traditional pork and sauerkraut Fasnacht dinner, which is known as THE LAST CELEBRATION BEFORE THE SERIOUSNESS OF LENT BEGINS.

The dinner will be held on Sunday, February 19 after church in Fisher Hall.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the dinner, please notify Julie.

.....AND SPEAKING OF LENT!



On Wednesdays during Lent we will have

DINNER AND A MOVIE

Season Three of The Chosen will be shown in the Chapel after we enjoy a meal together in the Anderson Lounge.

**The dates are March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.
Stay tuned for more information!**

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

January 8, 2023 10:30 a.m.

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Vikki Young , Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

PRELUDE "Come Into His Presence" arr. by Jeff Bennett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

People: Jesus emerges from the water.

Leader: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

People: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

*OPENING HYMN NO. 159 "As with Gladness Those of Old"

*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Leader: Faithful God, we look back on the year behind us and appreciate your presence with us through it.

People: We look ahead at the year before us with hope, and anticipate your continuing love and the fulfillment of your promises.

Leader: In this new year, grant that we may become more faithful, more committed to your kingdom work, more familiar with your spirit, more willing to give of ourselves to others.

People: We pray for increase of love, of health, of grateful hearts and of your presence and power among us. May we hear your voice more clearly, and heed it.

Leader: May we be aware of the limits of our understanding, and work to expand them. May the words of Christ dwell in us richly.

People: May we be vigilant for those around us who are in need and tend to them. May we experience anew the rebirth and resurrection life of Jesus. May we complete the tasks you set before us, love well those souls you give to our care, and make good use of the time we are given on the earth.

All: We are grateful for your love, your kindness, and your care. Amen.

*A SONG OF RESPONSE "It Is the Cry of My Heart" (bulletin page 7)

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

WORD FOR THE FAMILY "Talking with God"

SPECIAL MUSIC "Mary Had a Baby" Trad. Spiritual
Emily Rinella, Sophie Powell, Sydnie Powell



INCOME TAX PREPARATION

AARP volunteers will be preparing income taxes for EFILE again this year at 3 Mercer County sites. Greenville, Hickory and West Middlesex VFW's. The service will be available February 6 through April 12, by appointment only. Please dial 211 beginning January 16 to make an appointment. If you have questions, please contact Frank Yokubeak at 724-588-4688.

A MESSAGE FROM REV. DAVID ACKERMAN, PENN WEST CONFERENCE MINISTER.

Support for our Partners in the Philippines

We give thanks to God for the partnership that Penn West Conference has with the Northwest Luzon Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. We ask that you continue to support them through our SHEEP Fund (**Sustaining Hope for Educational Expenses in the Philippines**). Thank you for all the efforts you are doing to share God's love across the globe!

Zion's will receive a special offering on February 12 to support the SHEEP Fund.



SHEEP FUND.....A GIFT FROM THE HEART



COMBINED WORSHIP

On Sunday, January 29, we will worship with three local UCC congregations, St. Mark's, Zion's, and St. Paul's. The service will be held here at our regular worship time of 10:30. Leading worship will be Rev. Glenn Sadler, Rev. Nicole Pickens, and Rev. Ericjon Thomas.

We will also invite any singers from the three churches to join us for a combined choir anthem.

After worship we will host a potluck in Fisher Hall. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. The Ministry of Welcoming and Fellowship will provide ham.



The Good Shepherd Center request for January is

PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP AND CEREAL

Barrels are located in the front and back entrances of the church for your donations.

If anyone would like to volunteer to take the items to The Food Pantry each month, please let Julie know.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURES Hebrew Reading Isaiah 42:1-9
Gospel Reading Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON "Thankful for a Comma"

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify. He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image, and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Anthem "Here I Am, Lord" Daniel Schutte

*Doxology No. 780

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give you our lives, symbolized in our gifts. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Lead us always into the depths of your love, into the flowing stream of your Spirit, into the clear waters of discernment, and into the world to serve, in the name and Spirit of Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 172 "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Larson/Croft

Refrain

It is the cry of my heart to fol - low you.

It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.

It is the cry of my heart to fol - low

Fine

all of the days of my life. ___

1. Teach me your ho - ly ways, ___ O Lord, ___
2. O - pen my eyes so I ___ can see the

so I can walk in your truth. ___
won - der - ful things that you do. ___

Teach me your ho - ly ways, ___ O Lord, and make me
O - pen my heart up more ___ and more, and make me

D.C.

whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. ___
whol - ly de - vot - ed to you. ___