



Zion United Methodist Church of Iona
1920 South Fifth Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042-9101

The Advance Edition

December 2017 Issue

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Special points of interest:

- Leadership Sunday
- Caroling
- Wanted: Readers for Christmas Eve
- Advent Services

"Born to Save"



At this time of year, most people are happy for all different kinds of reasons . . . family get-togethers . . . time off work . . . decorations that jingle our hearts . . . and of course the gifts!

Both the giving and the receiving of Christmas presents makes us happy. But, when we are the gift giver. . . we have the opportunity to experience a joy never before imagined!

For years now we've had the convenience of shopping on the internet from the comfort of our own homes. But something else has happened in the world of retail that has changed our lives. A kind of festive fellowship has developed with millions of friends we never knew we had out there in cyber land. What is it that has united so many with the Christmas spirit? We've simply discovered that we were "Born to Save." We take seriously the Christmas challenge of getting really great stuff for practically nothing!

It's the coupons, reward points, free shipping and retailers who allow "stacking" that make our Holidays merry and bright! "Insider information" also adds to the adrenalin-pumping anticipation of special sale dates . . . when the item you want will never be cheaper! It's true . . . we who were "Born to Save" are one in the bond of love . . . on web sites like "Hip 2 Save," "Retail Me Not," and "Fat Wallet" . . . just to name a few! And in many instances, people have experienced a Christmas miracle first-hand . . . actually getting something great delivered right to their door . . . for free!

Being "Born to Save" can require a lot of time and work, a technical knowledge of exactly what to do, and the excitement to share the good news with other people who want the same thing.

Hmmm . . . does this tale sound just a little bit like the true Christmas story of so long ago . . . when the One Born to Save offered the greatest gift ever known? The Gift is free to us if we desire. It's the best "value" we will ever get if irresistible! And yes . . . even free shipping! Jesus Christ knows where you

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Save The Date: December 31, 2017

Servant Leadership Sunday!

The very apparent love we share as a Christian family is expressed in many different ways . . . but one important way is to remember to say "Thanks" to the church members who have blessed our lives. They often work behind-the-scenes and very quietly to "make things happen" without our fully realizing how much time and effort they contribute. Therefore, on Sunday December 31, we will especially thank our Church Leaders who have served us so generously and are now leaving the service of their positions for some well-deserved rest, as well as to allow opportunities for other people to serve.

During this worship service, we will also call forth the newly elected officers for a special prayer of installation and ask God's blessing upon them, as they prepare to begin new challenges of service.

Additionally, since we are *all* really servants of God, all will be invited to participate in renewing our Christian Covenant with God and each other with regard to how we live our lives as children of the Almighty.

Please plan to attend this special worship service in order to re-dedicate your life to God's leading, as well as to uplift the Iona Servant Leaders who enrich your lives as individuals and as a community of Christ!



Are There Homeless Christians at Avon?

Many of you have been asking questions about the transition about to take place at the Avon United Methodist Church. So, to avoid rumor and speculation, Pastor Beth has been in contact with the District Superintendent who has passed along the following information.

It is true that the Avon United Methodist Church plans to "close" as of June 30, 2018. The members of the church have chosen to each seek a new church on their own rather than be "moved" or "assigned" to another church. Some have existing ties to other Methodist churches and others just want to "shop around." A new Spanish-speaking Methodist Church will move into the building to utilize the much-needed extra space.

Therefore, we have a unique opportunity to contact the people of Avon and invite them to join us in worship, or to go there in order to introduce ourselves. But, in order to "mind our manners," the District Superintendent has suggested that Pastor Beth speak with the Pastor of Avon so he is fully informed of our outreach to his congregation. He may even be able to provide some suggestions as to how and when we could get together.

We have another six months to get to know them, and to hopefully make some new Christian friends. If you have any further questions about the Avon Church, please see Pastor Beth and we will attempt to find answers for you. Thanks for your prayers and your concerns!



We are hoping to minister to our homebound following worship on Sunday, December 17. Please join us for a time of fellowship and fun as we sing carols for members and friends of Iona Church.

The plan is to carpool and leave the church around 12:30 p.m.

Please let Pastor Beth know if you will be joining us. Everyone is welcome!

LCCM Fundraiser at Hoss's - Sunday, December 3

Lebanon County Christian Ministries is teaming up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location in Annville on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, for lunch or dinner (between 11 am and 9 pm).

Hoss's will donate 20% of your check to LCCM. If we raise more than \$1,200 in "day-of-sales", Hoss's will donate 25% of your bill!

Vouchers are included as the last page of this newsletter. Present this voucher at the time you pay your bill. Please share the others with friends.

Handbell Ringers Massed Ringing Event: The Great Christmas Ring®

**Saturday, Dec. 16th,
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

under the auspices of The Stafford Regional Handbell Society and Central PA Handbell Festival, holiday favorites are presented to a public audience. Location: Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square and Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 S. Queen St., Lancaster, PA. Handbell Musicians bringing the joy of handbell ringing and music to the general public in a festive and fun atmosphere.

Free audience admission.

"Born to Save"

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live and is knocking on your door with another life-changing opportunity. The fellowship He offers is thrilling. We have millions of friends we don't even know yet, and what unites us in the Christmas Spirit is the Gift Himself . . . His love for us and our love for Him. So . . . I guess that being on the "receiving end" of gifting at Christmas time might be better than giving, if what we receive is Jesus – who was "Born to Save" his people from their sins.

Merry Christmas one and all!

Pastor Beth



Adult Bible Study in December



You are invited to join us in the lounge at 9 a.m. for the next five Sundays as we look at **Christmas through the eyes of Joseph.**

Little is known about Joseph, but we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves, just as Joseph encountered them. He provides us with an example of obeying God even when we don't understand.

We'll watch a video and then discuss these topics: A Carpenter Named Joseph, Whose Child is This?, Raising a Child Not Your Own, The Journey to Bethlehem, and The Rest of the Story.

Why not come?

WANTED!

Readers for Christmas Eve

We need 5 people to read the Christmas Story in a speech choir on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m.

If you are interested please call or email Dave Shenk: 717-274-1206 or dstb4@comcast.net.

Servants of Worship Schedules for December

Thank you to all those volunteering their service for Sunday Worship. Below are the schedules for **December 2017**. If you are unable to serve on the date or time you are scheduled, please make arrangements for a substitute (*call someone from the volunteers list*). Let us know of the swap or if you have trouble finding a substitute. Chuck and Christina Watson (717-270-6667 or watsoncc@comcast.net)

Greeters	
Dec. 3	Jeff & Sue Steckbeck
Dec. 10	Cliff & Betsy Swisher
Dec. 17	Tim & Rachel Turley
Dec. 24	Doris Shyda & Tom Ambler Evening: Jim & Dianne Miller
Dec. 31	Chuck & Christina Watson

Sound Technicians	
Dec. 3	Christina Watson
Dec. 10	Kathleen Steckbeck
Dec. 17	Jake Barrett
Dec. 24	Ray Arnold Ev: Kathleen Steckbeck
Dec. 31	Christina Watson

Nursery (contact Sue Light with changes)	
Dec. 3	Amy Donnachie & Margery Deck
Dec. 10	Christina Watson & Bev Henry
Dec. 17	Janet Swift & Linda Hower
Dec. 24	Deb Smith & Janice Kingsley Evening: Sue Light & Amy Donnachie
Dec. 31	Suzie Bachman and Margery Deck

Announcers	
Dec. 3	Janet Nelson
Dec. 10	Robert Beamon
Dec. 17	Wendy Barrett
Dec. 24	Bev Henry
Dec. 31	Jeff Steckbeck

Refreshments	
Dec. 3	Chuck & Christina Watson
Dec. 10	Russ & Shirley Dundore
Dec. 17	Ted Holcombe
Dec. 31	Linda Hower

Zion Iona UMC Financial Info as of October 2017

	Monthly	YTD	Budget YTD
Income	\$ 14,418.00	\$ 156,294.00	\$ 150,294.00
Expenses	\$ 15,264.00	\$ 173,981.00	\$ 173,981.00
Net	\$ -846.00	\$ -17,687.00	\$ -423,687.00

Average Attendance for the Months: 57



Come! Lord Jesus!

Advent 2017

PEACE . . . Advent Week 1

Sunday, December 3, 10 a.m.—

“Let Us Find Our Rest in Thee” Isaiah 9:2-7

Communion

JOY . . . Advent Week 2

Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m.—

“Joy of Every Longing Heart” Luke 2:8-20

HOPE . . . Advent Week 3

Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m.—

“Hope of All the Earth Thou Art” Isaiah 40:21-31

LIFE . . . Advent Week 4 (Christmas Eve Morning)

Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m.—

“Born Thy People to Deliver” Matthew 1:18-25

LOVE . . . Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 6 p.m.—

“The Gift that Keeps on Giving!” John 3:16-21

December 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 First Sunday of Advent 8:45 Children's Sunday School 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Communion Worship 4:00 Bell Choir	4 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Women's Bible Study	5 10:00 Face to Face Team Meeting (Library)	6 7:00 Men's Bible Study	7	1 6:30 Practice for Breakfast 8	2 8:30 Breakfast In Bethlehem 9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 Children's Sunday School 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Communion Worship 4:00 Bell Choir	11 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Women's Bible Study	12 9:00 Young at Heart Breakfast @ Quentin Haus	13 7:00 Men's Bible Study	14	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 Children's Sunday School 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 4:00 Bell Choir <i>Christmas Caroling following Worship</i>	18 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Women's Bible Study	19	20 7:00 Men's Bible Study	21 Winter Solstice / First Day of Winter	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 Children's Sunday School 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30
31 First Sunday after Christmas 8:45 Children's Sunday School 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship—Leadership Sunday						

Dear Friend of Lebanon County Christian Ministries:

We are very excited to (again) team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthwhile cause! Please consider dining at the Hoss's in Annville (Rte. 422) anytime during the hours of 11 am until 9 pm on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017** to aid us in raising funds which will directly benefit LCCM's mission.

*Present this voucher at the time you pay your bill and 20% of your total check will be paid directly to Lebanon County Christian Ministries! If we raise more than \$1200 in "day-of sales", Hoss's will donate 25% of your bill!

Group #82701

Please cut out and present this coupon when ordering.
Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property. Thank you for your cooperation.



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