

God Moves in Mysterious Ways

By Rev. Eli O. Klingensmith

William Cowper, 26 November 1731—25 April 1800 was an English poet and hymnodist, and struggled with depression. During one period of his life, heavy, persistent clouds choked out all sunlight and hope. He tried to end it all one bleak morning swallowing poison. The attempt at suicide failed. He then hired a coach, was driven to the Thames River, intending to hurl himself over the bridge...but was "strangely restrained". The next morning he fell on a sharp knife – and broke the blade! Failing in this method, he tried to hang himself but was found and taken down unconscious...still alive. Sometime later he picked up a Bible and began to read the book of Romans. It was there Cowper finally met God, submitting to the One who had pursued him through so many desolate days and windy nights. In the center of his storms, Cowper found peace.

Cowper sat down one day and recorded his summary of the Lord's dealings with familiar words:

"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm. Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill; he treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will."

Cowper wrote these words in 1773 as a poem entitled "Light Shining Out of Darkness". The poem is the likely source for the phrase, "God moves in a mysterious way".

I'm wondering if Cowper had in mind the last part of Nahum 1:3 ...*"The way of the Lord is in the whirlwind and in the storm..."* (MLB).

Life has its storms, doesn't it? The COVID-19 death rate in this country is more than 26,000. Tropical cyclone "Harold" hit the South Pacific as a category 5. Tornadoes battered the south with death and destruction. Life has its storms.

My friend, what about the storms of interruptions, irritations and ill treatment? If Nahum's words apply to the heavenly sphere, do they also apply to the earthly? Surely if God's way is in the murky, threatening sky, it is also in the difficult, heart-straining contingencies of daily living. The Director of the heavenly and earthly theaters is One...and the same. The cast may be different, the plot may be altered, the props may be rearranged, but just offstage stands the Head, the Chief...overseeing every act, every scene, every line.

David put it this way: *"But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases."* (Psalm 115:3) The Apostle Paul would add, *"For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13)

My friend, as I write this article, it is mid-April. It seems COVID-19 is leveling off, but who knows? What I believe is most important is where we see God in all of this. Do you sense God's presence? What are you learning about God and about yourself?

When you get hold of the knowledge of God and begin to see that God is in charge, you won't panic in the storms of life. You will not give up hope and you will not live in fear because you know God is in charge and is moving in mysterious ways.

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CHURCH BUILDING & OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Michael Lucas ext. 312
 michaeljeffreylucas@ygmail.com

Tuesday & Friday - Jeffrey Blankenship

Wednesday/Thursday - Mike Karam



No Consistory Meeting was held on April 13.

The Official Zion UCC Consistory minutes will reflect that the motion to hire Katie McCleaster to the position of Office Manager was passed unanimously. The record will show that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the vote was conducted by email so as not to place our Consistory members in a vulnerable position.

Rick Fisher, Consistory President.

Hats Off to Our Graduates

We will recognize all graduates in the June *Zeal for Zion*. If you have a family member who is graduating from high school, college, or trade school, we would love to know.



You may email ZionUCC@gmail.com or submit your information in writing to the Church Office by May 8, 2020.

Please include about the graduate the following: name, relationship to church member, where they attended school, the city and state if they are not local, any special honors, college plans or college degree and their future plans.

Be sure that you include a daytime phone number where you may be reached in case anything needs clarified.



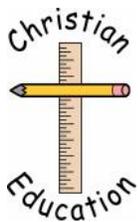
Graduation is such an exciting time! We want to share your excitement and help you celebrate such a wonderful, joyous event and milestone for your family member!

The many activities that normally happen in May are temporarily on hold. Please watch for information to be posted on Facebook or on the website. You may also contact the Church Office Monday - Friday from 9 am to noon with any questions you may have.

Here is our wait and see list of activities:



Pipe Organ Hymns+



Celebration Sunday



Totenfest

The Zion Annual Report will be available May 1 by email or at the Church.



Monday, May 25
On This Federal Holiday
The Church Building is Closed.

What is a Mother?

A heart that can hear every unspoken need.
Wisdom to know when to quietly lead.
Hands that reach out always helping and sharing -
A mother is caring.

Eyes that reflect every joy that you find.
Arms to encircle but never to bind.
A talent for making the most out of living -
A mother is giving.

A voice that can soothe or inspire or delight.
A smile that keeps shining
when things don't go right.

An angel God sends us
from Heaven above -
A mother is caring
and giving and love.



Happy
Mother's Day!
Sunday, May 10!!

Communion on May 31, 2020



The celebration of Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the reality that we all have the unifying Spirit that was poured out upon the first-century church. It is a reminder that we are co-heirs with Christ, to suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him; that the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good; that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body; and that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives inside all of the believers. This gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised and given to all believers on the first Pentecost is promised for you and your children and for all who are far off whom the Lord our God will call.



My time as the Office Manager for Zion UCC is coming to an end. My last day of employment will be Friday, May 29, 2020. I am looking forward to my new life of leisure, but of course, I am a little saddened by the thought of not seeing all of you on a regular basis.

First, I will state the obvious – I will miss you all. Believe me, that is not a trite generalization. Over the past 5 ½ years, I have learned something valuable from each and every one of you.

I have had so many opportunities to interact with so many of you that if I started to make a list, I, unfortunately, would surely miss a name or two. Some of my favorite memories were the many Auctions and Fundraisers, Breakfast with Santa, the Fall Festivals, MOPS, our Zion Candlelight Service, Operation Christmas Child, Swiss Steak Dinners, and Vacation Bible School.

When I started at Zion, I was the Secretary, typing bulletins, answering phones, and helping church members. Through the years, my position as Office Manager has expanded to include the security system with nine cameras, a buzzer door, an electronic sign, a specially designed website, Facebook, and other technology throughout the building. As we all know, one thing that is for sure - change is inevitable.

In the short term I will be focusing on enjoying time with my family, getting back to some hobbies, spending time outside, gardening, and working on a few home projects.

To all of the wonderful people whom I have had the opportunity to work with and those who have volunteered for me and with me, I thank you! The times shared, friendships that have grown, and the wonderful activities we have enjoyed together have been an extraordinary part of my life. I am leaving my position at Zion, but I am taking all of your friendships with me.

As a good friend said to me recently, “everything has a beginning and an end”. The timing to end this chapter seems about as right as it could be. I thank you all for your love, support and friendship. Stay safe and healthy!!

Blessings to all!
Sherry Sampson



Ecuador Mission Trip Canceled



For the safety of all of the participants, the Mission Trip to Ecuador has been canceled for this year. We thank you all for the great love and wonderful support you have shown us through this journey. God Bless You!
Alycia & Pam Kakos



An Easter dinner was prepared and shared with some of our members who are living alone. Thank you to the following members and businesses who safely helped to make it happen:

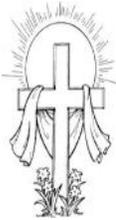
Pam & Tim Bailey, FreshThyme, Brenda & Stacy Green and family, Connie Hausenfleck, Johnnie's Bakery, Dave Jones, Rev. Eli Klingensmith, Lisa McCleaster, Sandra Merrill, Sherry Sampson, Carol Sebald, Brenda Shelkofsky, Jody Vaughn, and Char Warstler.

As we wait for things to improve in our country and we continue to follow all of the suggested guidelines, please know that if you need help or have a concern, please reach out to your church. We are here for you! Stay safe!!



Easter White Gifts

Given in Memory of:



My beautiful daughter, Susan L. Turner, by her mother, Helen L. Shelton.
My husband, Harry Brown, Jr. and loved ones, by Jane Brown & family.

Lewis & Esta Walters and Howard Maxhimer, by Madalyn Maxhimer.

Wade Hawkins, by the Kurt Hawkins family.

Howard R. Willaman, by his family.

Marlyn Class, by his wife, Jean, his children & grandchildren, Dean, Pam, Alycia, & Erica Kakos.

Paul & Anna Mae Strausser and Carl & Virgilia Lehman, by Ned & Betty Lou Lehman.

Herbert & Georgia Snyder and Alva & Vivian Selinsky, by Ned & Nancy Selinsky.

Our parents and grandparents, Richard & Maybelle Smith and Clarence & Pearl Zumbach, by Jim & Charlene Hellyer and Bill & Sandy Dinkins.

Our loved ones, by George & Shirley Daniluk.

Warren Sahli, by his family and Janet Swihart.

Given in Honor of:

Dorris Hawkins, by the Kurt Hawkins family.

My family, by Carol Sebald.

Zion UCC, by Linda, Caitlin, and Joey Cronin.

My granddaughter, Olivia, who is graduating from Green High School, by Aileen McAfee.

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- 1st: Marilyn Stehler
- 2nd: Marlene Loutzenheiser
- 3rd: Ruth Hodapp
- 5th: Cheryl Mitchell, Jay Oatley
- 6th: Marilyn Boettler, Nancy Boudreau
- 7th: Bruce Calvin, Carol Young

8th: Faye Henley, Lukas Pemberton, Dick Stahl

9th: Richard Werstler

10th: Lyn Mariner

11th: Joan Hauser, Bonnie Zimmer

14th: Sherry Johanning

15th: Jan Kirby Kulma, Lori Sacks

16th: Ron Miller, Kylie Shambaugh

18th: Molly Pittman

20th: Lisa McCleaster, Holly Tobin

22nd: Jacquie Ferrel, Phil Kirby, Skip Marquardt

23rd: Betty Lou Lehman, Zachary Warstler

24th: Bobbie Baker

25th: Carolyn Howes, Dottie Pritt

26th: Alan Dawson, Stephanie Stephens, Bryan Witmer

29th: David Brandau

30th: Chase Merten



- Steven & Shirley Dobry May 2, 1981
- Mark & Tammy Morris May 5, 2007
- Jeffrey & Rebecca Renicker May 12, 1984
- Mike & Tami McMinn May 13, 1989
- John & Lorraine Summer May 20, 1967

Doug & Joyce Close May 25, 1968

Dennis & Pam Close May 28, 1983

Chris & Francesca Indorf May 28, 1999

Dan & Teresa Haren May 29, 1971

Rev. Gary & Lynn Smith May 29, 1969

Dale & Laurel Seeds May 31, 1980

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Due to our current situation, VBS is postponed until next year.

Vacation Bible School: Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway VBS. On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups

and downs. VBS is June 8-12 from 9 am-Noon. Registration forms can be found in the Office. You may also register online through our Facebook Event or at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/zionrailway> Attention volunteers - keep this week available! We need about 30 volunteers (both youth and adults). If you are interested in being a VBS volunteer, please contact Alycia Kakos soon.

VBS Donations Needed: We will be turning Beck Fellowship Hall, the Cloister, and the Top Floor into the Rocky Mountains. If you are willing to donate items, keep an eye out for a donations board in the cloister in May. If you are interested in donating a monetary gift to offset the cost of VBS supplies, please send it in an envelope labeled "Vacation Bible School".

Vacation Bible School Staff Meeting: We are having a VBS Staff meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 6 pm in Beck Fellowship Hall. All volunteers need to attend.

Youth Sunday: Sunday, June 14 is Youth Sunday at the 1015 am service. If you are interested in participating in worship, please contact Alycia Kakos.

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Congratulations Memorial Education 2020-2021 Grant Recipients!!

Caitlin Cronin: Year 2 at The Ohio State University.

Nathaniel Green: Year 2 at University of Toledo.

Sophia Llamas: Year 3 at Bowling Green State University.

Margaret (Megan) Shoop: Year 2 at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.