



# Heart Beat Newsletter



## **Zion United Methodist Church**

*In the Heart of Whitehouse*

APRIL, 2018

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### **Pastor Carol's Comments:**

The story of the Bible is one of the ongoing battle between good and evil, darkness and light. This is reflected in our Lent and Easter imagery. Just as Jesus emerged from the darkness of the tomb to the light of resurrection, we emerge from the somber Lenten season into the joy of Easter. This year, to continue that joyfulness, we will celebrate a little-known but centuries-old observance called "Laughter Sunday" or "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Sunday after Easter (4/8). This day reminds us of the cosmic joke that God played on Satan. Satan thought that in Jesus' death, he had won the battle against goodness and love. But, God had something else up his sleeve! Jesus was raised from the dead, death was defeated, and the joke was on Satan! On Holy Humor Sunday, prepare to be surprised by joy, fun, and laughter while we celebrate the divine trick God pulled on Satan!

### **New Sermon Series: "The Joyful Christian"**

Faith and the questions it addresses are serious matters. But humor, laughter, and joy are both essential ingredients and the certain outcome of a lively faith. Beginning with "Holy Humor Sunday" and continuing through 4/29, Pastor Carol's sermon series "Joy-Filled" will focus on why joy, coupled with humor and laughter, is one of the primary markers of the Christian life. Come and explore how God's grace enables us to "rejoice always"!

**Psalm 126:2-3** Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy."

### **News around Zion:**

#### **New Bible study: "Learning to STEeR"**

Every day we are faced with decisions and choices, large and small. How do we make them faithfully? As Methodists we have tools that help us STEeR our way: Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason. In this four-week study, we'll look at how we use these four resources to make good and faithful choices. Plan now to attend, Thursday evenings at 7:00, 4/26-5/17.

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Summer Church Camp information is available at the West Ohio Conference website at <https://www.westohiocamps.org/camp> If you'd like more information, please see Patricia Jones. We have camping guides for your family, also, and financial assistance may be available.

#### Zion Rocks at the Whitehouse Flower Market!

In April and May, Zion will rock, literally! We will have a table at the Whitehouse Flower Market on the first two Saturday mornings in May (5/5 and 5/12 from 9 a.m. to noon). We will offer hand-decorated rocks for gardens and flower pots featuring words of hope, love, and inspiration—just in time for Mother's Day!

Lots of hands will be needed. Watch for sign-ups for setting up, taking down, and working at the booth. But before then, come and help decorate our "Zion Rocks." Decorating sessions will be held on two Thursday evenings in April (4/12 and 4/19 at 7 p.m.) and on Sunday, 4/15 at 1:00. You don't need to be an artist; if you can print a word like "Love," Grace, "Peace," or Hope," you're artist enough! All ages can participate, and materials will be provided. Just come and enjoy the camaraderie that comes from working, playing, and creating together.

#### Save the Date for the Cherry Fest

Zion will be participating in the Cherry Fest, June 7-9. We will be offering a rest area for festival goers (or, as Pastor Carol calls it, the "Zion (Cherry) Pit Stop"). We will offer chairs for people to rest their legs, a diaper changing table, water, and band-aids. We also hope to participate in the parade. Finally, the Chamber of Commerce is putting together a service event focused on collecting food and money donations for the Food Pantry. This will be a great opportunity for the Whitehouse community to see what Zion is all about!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

April 3 and 17, 2018 – Food Pantry from 10 to noon; refreshments and fellowship from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

April 11, 18, and 25, 2018 – TAP from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

April 11, 2018 – Sisters in the Lord Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Lou Rupp's home

April 12 and 19, 2018 – Rock painting -Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

April 15, 2018 - Rock painting - Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

April 25, 2018 – TAP end-of-year picnic for students, their families and TAP tutors and their families. (after TAP at 4:45 p.m.)



April 26 to May 17, 2018 – **Learning to STEeR** Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. led by Pastor Carol (Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.)

May 5 and 12, 2018 – Whitehouse Flower Market from 9 to noon

June 7 to 9, 2018 – Whitehouse Cherry Fest booth

