

Zwingli United Church of Christ

Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

Zwingli Hill News

January/February 2023

Vol. 61 No. 1

Do we have time for Lent?

Dear Zwingli United Church of Christ,

Welcome to the beginning of 2023. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be at the end of January. With the end of January fast approaching, we are almost to the end of Epiphany. Then Lent will start on Wednesday, February 22. Phew! Time flies, doesn't it? But in all the hustle and bustle of life, do we have time for Lent?

When Lent arrives, what do we do? We pause and reflect. We try to add spiritual practices and meditations that will bolster our spiritual journey. Now, with all that is going on in our personal lives and church lives, and our kids' lives, we may not feel like we have the time to pause and reflect. But I would encourage you to take the time to pause and reflect because there are tremendous benefits to our mental and spiritual health.

Yes, it is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming days of Jesus' last supper, his trial, death, burial, and resurrection. Yes, it is a time of focusing on self-improvement, spiritual improvement, and spiritual growth in the time leading up to Easter. Yes, some even use it as a time to reflect on death and all that death implies — to better themselves in the light of all Christ has done and will do for us. But did you know that taking time to pause and reflect, meditate, and add spiritual practices to our lives helps enhance self-regulation, attention control, emotional regulation, and self-awareness? Taking time to pause from busyness enhances our overall health. It also creates time for the whole family to spend together during the busyness of winter and spring. We might not WANT to reflect on the impending death of Jesus. We might not want to pause and reflect on ways to improve ourselves, as it is just one more thing to add to our plates during the busyness of our lives. But I think that it is imperative that we do.

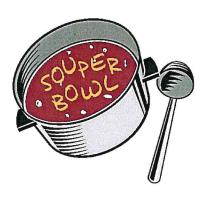
I hope you will join us for our Lenten study and the other Lenten offerings that will help bolster your spiritual practices for this New Year and prepare your hearts and minds for this coming Holy Week leading up to Easter. Look for details on our Lenten study and Lenten events coming very soon!

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Alan

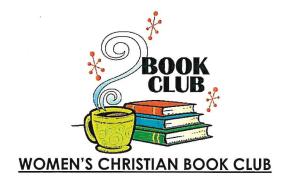
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WHO WILL BE IN THE SOUPER BOWL??? WHO WILL WIN???

Join the shepherds for a "souper bowl" luncheon on February 12. We will gather in the FLC at 12noon for delicious soup, bread and to cheer on your favorite (or not so favorite) team. We are in need of a few people to donate bread and or dessert. See the sign-up sheet on the shepherds' bulletin board.



A good book has the ability to encourage us and provoke us to take a step closer to God. Whether it's a devotional book for women or about Christian living, there is wisdom to be gained and insight to consider. We can learn many lessons through the lives, trials, varying theological perspectives, and victories of those who have taken the time to write down their thoughts and their stories.

Please consider joining the Women's Christian Book Club and provide your unique perspective to the discussions. We will meet every other Wednesday starting the end of January. Stay tuned for specific details and location. Invite family and friends in the community, all women are welcome to participate. This is a come and go group. We will post the books we will be

reading in advance to allow time for all to choose what fits in your schedule and peaks your interests. Can't join every discussion? Join when you can! Don't like to read? Come and fellowship! We will meet in various locations in our community for our discussions. All will be posted well in advance of the date.

Book: A Year of Biblical Womanhood. By Rachel Held Evans.

We will meet **Wednesday**, **January 25 at 7** pm.

Meeting Place: JT Bankers, 309 S Main St, Sellersville, PA 18960. *Upper Floor*. Questions, please contact Toni Kramlik at tonikramlik@yahoo.com or 267-421-7087

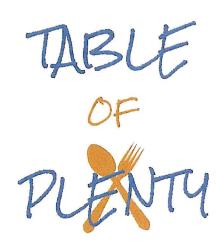


TABLE OF PLENTY

Table of Plenty needs 2-3 volunteers on Mondays from January through March. The Table serves lunch to 15-25 people each Monday and Wednesday at Zion Mennonite Church, 149 e. Cherry Lane, Souderton. If you can help any of the Mondays in these months, please contact Carol Reiff for additional information. Email carolreiff@yahoo.com; call or text cell – 484-213-6372 or her land line 215-723-7014. Hours are from 10:30-1PM approximately. Nothing fancy and no experience necessary. Thank you



BARELY FINISHED MAKING COOKIES AND NOW GUESS WHAT TIME IT IS????? TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS

FASTNACHT MAKING- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 9AM UNTIL WE FINISH

Needed, mixers, rollers, fryers, sugar bag shakers, runners, tasters and of course sellers. No experience necessary. We need everyone. It's a fun day for all ages. Please consider coming out for the morning, afternoon or better yet stay all day. Lunch is always provided. This is a long time, wonderful, Zwingli tradition and we need your help to keep it going. This year the proceeds will go to our youth to help defray some of the costs for their mission trip in the summer.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET IS ON THE SHEPHERDS' BULLETIN BOARD





FASTNACHTS

Order your fastnachts today!

Cost - \$8.00 dozen, \$4.00 ½ dozen

Pick Up – Monday 2/20 between 4-7pm

Tuesday 2/21 7am-9am

Order Deadline – Friday, February 17

If you are unable to sign up in church, please call your order in to the church office 215-723-1186

ABOUT FASTNACHT (from Wikipedia)

Fastnacht (also spelled Fasnacht, or in Pennsylvania German: Faasenacht) is an annual Pennsylvania Dutch celebration that falls on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. The word translates to "Fasting Night" or "Almost Night" in English. The tradition is to eat the very best foods, which are part of the German tradition, and much of them, before the Lenten fast. Fastnachts (pronounced /'fastnaxt/in German) are doughnuts. There are three types of Fasnacht, one made with yeast, one made with baking powder, and one made with potatoes and yeast. All are slightly crispy on the outside and not as sweet as standard doughnuts.



ICE SKATING!

You Are Invited to the Zwingli Youth and Families
Winter Event (Lyft Families and Youth Group)
We Would Love for You to Join Us!!!!

WHEN: Sunday, February 26th
WHERE: Spring Mountain, 757 Spring Mount
Road

Spring Mount, PA 19478

<u>Public Skating - Spring Mountain</u>

Adventures

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 PM

RSVP by Feb 12th to Pastor Alan

pastoralan@zwingli.org, we will be
purchasing tickets in advance of the event

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL'
THERE!



FINAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS

For the 2023 Mission Plan, 44 Faith Promise Cards were received containing pledged amounts of \$209,444 for the General Fund, \$18,906 for Missions and \$7,380 for Bldg/Mortgage. This represents only 51% of the approved 2023 budget. Although two less cards were received this year than for 2022, the total pledged is 7% higher for 2023. The average pledge for 2023 was \$5,367, whereas the average pledge for 2022 was \$4,806. It is heartening to see the congregation stepping up and increasing their pledged giving to help meet the church's expenses. The total number of pledges have been down significantly for 2022 and 2023. We normally received 60 or more pledges. The Ministry of Stewards requests that those who did not submit a Faith Promise card prayerfully consider doing so next year. The process is anonymous and is relied upon by the Stewards for planning purposes for the coming year.

2022 FINANCIAL STATUS

General Fund giving for December 2022 totaled \$40,527. This was \$9,186 more than General Fund offerings in November 2022 and \$4,141 more than what was received in December 2021. The 2022 total expenses have not yet been tallied, so the overall 2022 budget shortfall is not yet known. The Ministry of Stewards will keep the congregation updated once the 2022 Financial Report is ready.



We thank the following Zwingli members for having served on the various Ministries and Church Council. Their work has been greatly appreciated and they will be missed!

Evangelism: Mark Comden **Missioners:** Jim See, Larry Moss

Shepherds: Betsy Villareal, Eleta Hittinger

Trustees: Barry Tice **Moderator:** Ed Bibic

Member at Large: Lee Hunsicker

ON-LINE WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

Prelude music will begin at 8:45 am. Worship will begin at 9 am.

To join us on Facebook Live, go to: www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc

Don't have a Facebook Account? No problem –below are directions to watch the worship service without a Facebook account.

- 1. Click on www.facebook.com/Zwingli.ucc/live at 8:45 am.
- 2. If video is not playing, click the word "videos" in the left column, then look at the first video thumbnail under "all videos". This should be the most current Live video. If you are early, you may need to refresh the page by hitting F5 on your keyboard.
- 3. You DO NOT need to log in or sign up to be able to view the service.

4. Remember, if you load the page before the stream starts, the stream will not pop up. You will need to refresh the page.

If you miss our live broadcast, you can watch at a later time:

Go to www.zwingli.org or Go to Facebook.com/Zwingliucc or Go to Twitter #Zwingliucc or Check your weekly Z-News on Monday.



LENTEN WORSHIP AND PROGRAM

Please mark your calendar for worship opportunities and program being planned for the season of Lent. We will join with our friends from Emmanuel Lutheran this year!

Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 22, 7:00 pm at Zwingli with a program on the Wednesdays following through March 29 (place and time to be announced). A combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service will be held at Emmanuel April 7 at 7:00 pm.



Healthy Moment New Year's Goal: Give Blood By Kristie Lowery, Faith Congregational Nurse

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Proverbs 3:27

January is more than just the start of the New year. It is also National Blood Donor Month, an opportunity to recognize those across the country who regularly roll up their sleeves and help save lives. Without the generosity of those who give so selflessly, millions of patients each year would not have the blood they require for emergency needs or ongoing treatments. Blood is unique in our healthcare ecosystem. It cannot be synthetically made, meaning volunteers are the only way to provide blood to those in need. And the demand is great: every two seconds, someone in America needs a blood transfusion.

One in seven patients entering a hospital require blood to be available. This ranges from trauma victims to patients battling sickle cell disease or to ensure a successful organ or bone marrow transplant. Cancer patients use 25 percent of all blood donations and blood transfusions are needed in one out of every 83 newborn deliveries in America each day, a rate that has increased by more than 50 percent between 2006-2015.

In short, all of us are likely to know someone who will need blood. Despite this, only three percent of all Americans donate blood. That reality should trouble all of us. Older Americans are among the most frequent donors. The rate of donations from those 65 and older increased by 15 percent between 2017 to 2019, a figure that should make us all proud. However, during that same time period, the percentage of younger donors who donated blood decreased by double digits.

The trajectory is unsustainable. The answer, however, is looking many of us in the mirror. Every eligible donor has the ability to create a more reliable and available blood supply for our community. The actual blood donation can take as little as 10 minutes. You can be in and out of the donation center is less time than it takes to watch an episode of your favorite television show. Donating is easy, safe and can be done every 56 days. This gives us all an opportunity to do a lot of good each year. It is critical that donors seize these chances to make giving blood a routine way of giving back.

A donation takes 12 to 48 hours to process and be available for patients needing blood. All donated blood is run through more than a dozen tests to make sure it is safe for transfusion. The best way to help is to give blood whenever you can, is to assure that blood is available for the next emergency. Seven million blood donors walk through blood center doors annually. We all owe a debt of gratitude for their dedication to helping save lives. As we make our resolutions for the new year, I encourage all those who can to make blood donation a priority. Together we can help save lives and support more people across our community. And conveniently, Miller-Keystone Blood Center holds a blood drive at Zwinali UCC monthly the fourth Tuesday of the month. Make a New Year's Goal to give blood, and sign up for the next available donor seat at Zwingli!

Resource: "National Blood Donor Month 2023 Toolkit". ADRP. (www.ADRP.org). https://www.adrp.org/resources/NBDM%202023/NBDM%20Draft%200p=Ed.docxn



ADULT ELECTIVES

Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the sanctuary for the following classes:

January 2 Grounds for Hope: Blacks, Jews, and the Future of Democracy

Description: Presented by Terrence L. Johnson, Associate Professor of Religion and Politics, Georgetown University. This talk explores the relations of African Americans and Jewish Americans in the 20th and 21st centuries, touching on the political and ethical implications of the dynamic between the two groups. It offers a religious model, based on the Biblical Exodus narrative, as a shared ground for future conversation and cooperation. Discussion will be led by Pastor Alan.

January 29
Joint Adult Bible Study
Led by Charlotte Kramer

February 5 Pre-Planning

We will welcome Dennis Detweiler, of Anders-Detweiler Funeral Home, who will

speak to the benefits of pre-planning funerals.

February 12 Intergenerational Joint Session with Sunday School

We are happy to announce that Intergenerational Sunday School is Back!! Please join us on February 12th for some fun interactive activities and a short Bible lesson. We will also have several craft tables where we will be creating cards and other crafts to be sent to college kids/homebound members of Zwingli. We hope to see you there!

February 19 ONA: Souderton Area for All

Learn about this local organization and their vision of the Souderton area being a more just, equitable, and compassionate community where children and families flourish and thrive regardless of race, ethnicity, cultural heritage, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, religion, or disability.

February 26 Fraud Prevention

FBI Special Agent Joseph McGinn will present strategies for individuals to avoid being a victim of fraud.



A very special thank you to everyone who participated in our Angel Tree gift collection for the youth at Bethany Children's Home. Thank you, Tony and Betsy Villareal for delivering the gifts to Bethany. The folk at Bethany were thrilled by the gifts that helped to provide the youth at Bethany Children's Home a very special Christmas.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Join us on our mission trip where we will serve alongside local organizations and families, with a focus on those experiencing poverty, in Cleveland through construction and relational ministry.

Who: 6th Graders - College

Date: July 9 -15, 2023

Registration Due: February 2

First Deposit: \$50 Due February 2

Second Deposit: \$245 due March 15

Third Deposit: \$245 due May 15

Total Cost: \$540

Participation in fundraisers is important as it will help defray our costs. If price is an issue, talk to Pastor Alan. Don't let cost prevent you from going.

Pastor Alan: <u>pastoralan@zwingli.org</u> or 215-723-1186.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

We will meet for Prayer Circle with Pastor Alan or Pastor Butch each Wednesday of the month from 12:00 to 12:30. The zoom invitation will be sent ahead of time. We feel that heartfelt communal prayer is especially needed on a consistent basis as we continue to deal with individual, family and church concerns, the pandemics of COVID 19 and racism, as well as other societal issues and direction.





CHURCH WORLD SERVICE EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKETS

Church World Service has a nearly constant need to have their warehouse supply of Emergency Cleanup Buckets replenished. Now, as there always is with

natural disasters, their need is at its greatest. The California flooding and heavy rains and storms in the Midwest have resulted in many families needing even the most basic equipment and supplies to move toward recovery.

CWS ships tens of thousands of kits, blankets and buckets throughout the year to flood and disaster survivors to help families and communities get on with their lives.

Starting in February and running thru the Lenten season, Zwingli will be helping with the effort to replenish Church World Services inventory of Emergency Cleanup Buckets.

You and/or your family can join us in this project in several ways:

1. Go find a new or clean bucket with a sealable lid and fill it with the items listed below. It's a lot like a Treasure Hunt!

(Exact sizes please or you can't get the lid on!)

2. Purchase items that can be used toward making a completed bucket.

Or 3. Make a donation marked "CWS Buckets". Envelopes can be found in the sanctuary card racks and in the atrium on the Missioners table.

Here's what you'll need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- NEW One 4-8oz. pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)

- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64oz. or two 25oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40oz. bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100ft. clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, nonsurgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- One 6-9oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spay bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

Thanks and good luck with the hunt! Questions or comments -Call this guy - Earl Ludwig 2215.723.5495



been in the past. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, or at a rehab or other health facility, please let the church office and the pastor(s) know directly. This is the only way you can be certain this information will be received.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a yearly special mission offering that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education, healthcare, small business micro-credit advocacy and resettlement for refuges and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. It also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. 95% of donations are used directly for mission programming. The remainder is used for interpretation materials. All administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support. Zwinali will be collecting for OGHS on Sunday, March 19. Zwingli has been a supporter of this worthwhile ministry each year. Please consider continuing your support.



IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

Due to privacy procedures implemented by all healthcare facilities, it is much more difficult for the church to obtain information about patients than it has



STAY INFORMED

If you want to stay current on what Zwingli Ministries and Council are doing, pick up a Pre-Council Report from vestibule or contact Lisa in the office for an electronic copy. See the wonderful ideas that are being shared by your leaders!



SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

GIANT, Landis and Shop Rite Gift Cards

By purchasing store gifts cards from Zwingli Church, on a Sunday morning or throughout the week, you help contribute 5% of your store spending to the general fund of our church. AND, it doesn't cost you a cent. Purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card to Giant Stores, Landis Supermarket or Shop Rite on Sunday mornings or through the church office. Thank you for your participation in this program!

A MESSAGE FROM AMAZONSMILE

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists.



2023 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

Would you like to sponsor the flowers in the chancel one Sunday morning or a bulletin?

Chancel flowers are \$44. Bulletins are \$15.

For either/both sponsorship, please pick up a form from the bulletin board next to the office, attach a check and drop off in the office, mail it or drop it in the offering plate. Our mailing address is 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA 18964. We appreciate your support.



Fasageo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria Fundraiser

We have partnered with Fasageo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria, 724 Ridge Rd., Sellersville, PA for an ongoing fundraiser. Fasageo's will return 10% of any food sales purchased to Zwingli. You just need to inform them when placing your order for dine in, pick up, or delivery that you are a member of Zwingli. It's that simple!



ZWINGLI NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATE

Zwingli Nursery School is now accepting registration for the 2023-24 school year!

Please call the church office, visit www.zwingli.org/zns

or see Lisa Cinciripini for a registration form.

Classes held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 – 11:30 am

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAILING ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH MAILING IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13!

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

SONDAT MORITING OSTIERS/ORELIERS	
January 22	Barry & Lois Johnston
	Joan Yeager, Gladys Amspacher
January 29	Joanne & LaMar Kratz
	Liz Bibic, Jonathan Kratz
February 5	Scout Sunday
February 12	Maureen Hartman, Sue Wack
	Tom and Toni Kramlik
February 19	Ed and Sue Rauch
	Gene and Rhonda Moyer
February 26	Susie and Sale Woodland
	Dave and Carol Reiff
March 5	Rhonda Moyer, Larry Moss
	Pam and Pete Myers

SUNDAY MORNING USHERS/GREETERS

March 12 Jen Smeed, Gene Mattes Kristie Lowery, Mark Comden

ACOLYTE

January 22	Evan Chalmers
January 29	Jack Beidleman
February 5	Caleb Jalboot
February 12	Adalyn Neff
February 19	Claire Jalboot
February 26	Ryan Chalmers
March 5	Nora Jalboot
March 12	Madison Klausfelder

REFRESHMENTS

January 22	Ministry of Elders
January 29	Joey Bush, Lois Hunsicker
February 5	Ministry of Educators
February 12	Carol Reiff, Karen and Janet Rosenberger
February 19	Joey Bush, Lois Hunsicker
February 26	Kristie Lowery, Charlotte Kramer
March 5	Betsy Villareal, Myra See
March 12	Janet Whitefield, Liz Bibic

FACEBOOK MONITOR

January 22	Kristie Lowery
January 29	Toni Kramlik
February 5	Lisa Cinciripini
February 12	Sue Wack
February 19	Laurie Reynolds
February 26	Tony Villareal
March 5	Kristie Lowery
March 12	Toni Kramlik

GIFT CARD SALES

February 5	Carol Wenger
February 12	Pam Myers
February 19	Maureen Hartman
February 26	Betsy Villareal
March 5	Lisa Cinciripini
March 12	Maureen Hartman

MONEY COUNTERS

Steward of the Month – Rick Rogers January 22 Kristie Lowery, Becky Klausfelder

The second of th		
January 29	Tara Kuhnsman, Sue Wack	
Steward of the Month – Tara Kuhnsman		
February 5	Joanne Kramlik, Tara Kuhnsman	
February 12	Tara Kuhnsman, Rick Rogers	
February 19	Lee and Lois Hunsicker	
February 26	Tara Kuhnsman Lois Johnston	

Steward of the Month – Lois Johnston

March 5	Lois Johnston, Erin Chalmers
March 12	Carol Wenger, Kristie Lowery

Zwingli UCC Staff

Butch Kuykendall, [D.MinSenior Pastor
Alan Miles, M.Div	Associate Pastor
Steve Emery	Director of Music/Organist
Lisa Cinciripini	Office Administrator
Kristie Lowery	Office Assistant

Zwingli United Church of Christ, 350 Wile Avenue, Souderton, PA

Phone: 215-723-1186 Fax: 215-723-5402 www.zwingli.org office@zwingli.org

Office Hours

M-TH: 8:30-4:30, F: 8:30 – 3:30 Closed Daily 12-1 Some images used in this publication are used with permission from Bogdan Rosu, Freepik, and High Quality Icons.













ONA COVENANT

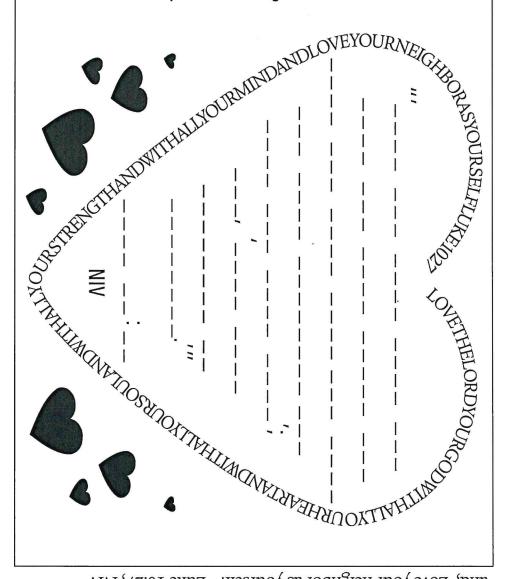
At Zwingli United Church of Christ, we promise to engage and nurture Christ's light in all of God's people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, race or ethnic background, social status, soul injury, religious beliefs, age, and physical, mental, or addiction challenges.

We aspire to be a counterweight to exclusion and discrimination. We choose to purposefully welcome and include all people in every aspect of our church family including worship, fellowship, and leadership, lay and ordained, and will meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. It is our commitment that all members should feel and be safe, as we express God's universal and unconditional love in our church, community and daily lives.

9.12.21

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, MIV