

We are ... ordinary people, praising God, caring for others, learning to be the Family of God

August 2021

Hope everyone has had a good summer, enjoyed a little more freedom, and been able to visit with family and friends.

The good news is that Zion is re-opening on September 12, with COVID-19 precautions which include pre-registration, wearing a mask, hand sanitizing, and social distancing. From our earlier survey, 40% replied they will return at the first opportunity! That is great news!! I'm sure so many are anxious to meet Rev. Maggie in person, and she is anxious to meet all of you!

Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge with gratitude that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the New Credit, Haudenosaunee, and Attiwonderonk Nations, on land that was subject to Treaty 3 an area also known as the [Between the Lakes Purchase](#).

We also acknowledge the importance of The Dish with One Spoon Covenant, a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth, to take only what we need, leave enough for others, and keep the dish clean.

By acknowledging this covenant and the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, we are reminded of our important connection to this land where we live, learn, and work together as a community.



Dates to Remember

Sept. 3	Visit us on YouTube
Sept. 12	Zion is open! Please join us if you are double-vaccinated.
Sept. 19	Zion is open! Please join us if you are double-vaccinated.
Sept. 26	Zion is open! Please join us if you are double-vaccinated.

House Teams

Kathryn Murrell and House Team 3 are starting our re-opening month off. Please follow their directions for hand-sanitizing, signing in, and seating. The other House Teams will be greeting and ushering as follows:

October - House Team 5 (Ann Shantz)

November - House Team 4 (Dorothy Wilson)

December - House Team 2 (Don & Janet)

If you would like to be on a House Team, please call Janet Worthington (519) 662-3601.

Re-Opening Task Force News

The Reopening Task Force has been working through the summer to develop a reopening plan. We plan to reopen Sunday September 12 at 9:30 for in person worship. We also know that the Property Team and Praising Team have been planning to ensure we proceed as safely as possible.

The folks on this task Force have been very committed to developing a plan that will meet the government and Public Health guidelines for a safe reopening. I am grateful to Rev. Maggie Dieter, Kathryn Murrell, Cathy Bowman, Pat McGlynn, Anne Bradshaw and Janet Worthington. Initially Byron Scheer also participated with this group.

We know there are mixed feelings about returning to in person worship for some. Each of us must decide what is the best way to move forward for ourselves. We know that some people will choose not to return at this time and will continue to enjoy the online services. We encourage you to do what is best for your own situation and comfort.

Please carefully read the Welcome Back package that will come to you shortly. We hope it will answer many of your questions:

We have on more than one occasion discussed the question of mandatory vaccination. At this time, we consider how the Apostle Paul approached some difficult

issues. As he approached a decision he considered "What is the loving thing to do?" This question considers the issue from both sides to include how the decision will affect those on both sides of a question. To this end, we have decided we will ask people attending worship to be fully vaccinated.

Please contact me if you have any questions at maburnard@gmail.com or 519-662-3458

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Burnard

Nomination Committee

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will soon be upon us.

The Nomination Committee would like to thank everyone who has stepped up to fill vacant positions on our church teams. We are looking for people to fill the following roles. If you are interested, please contact either Kathryn Murrell (519 662-9926) or Pat McGlynn (905-826-5021)

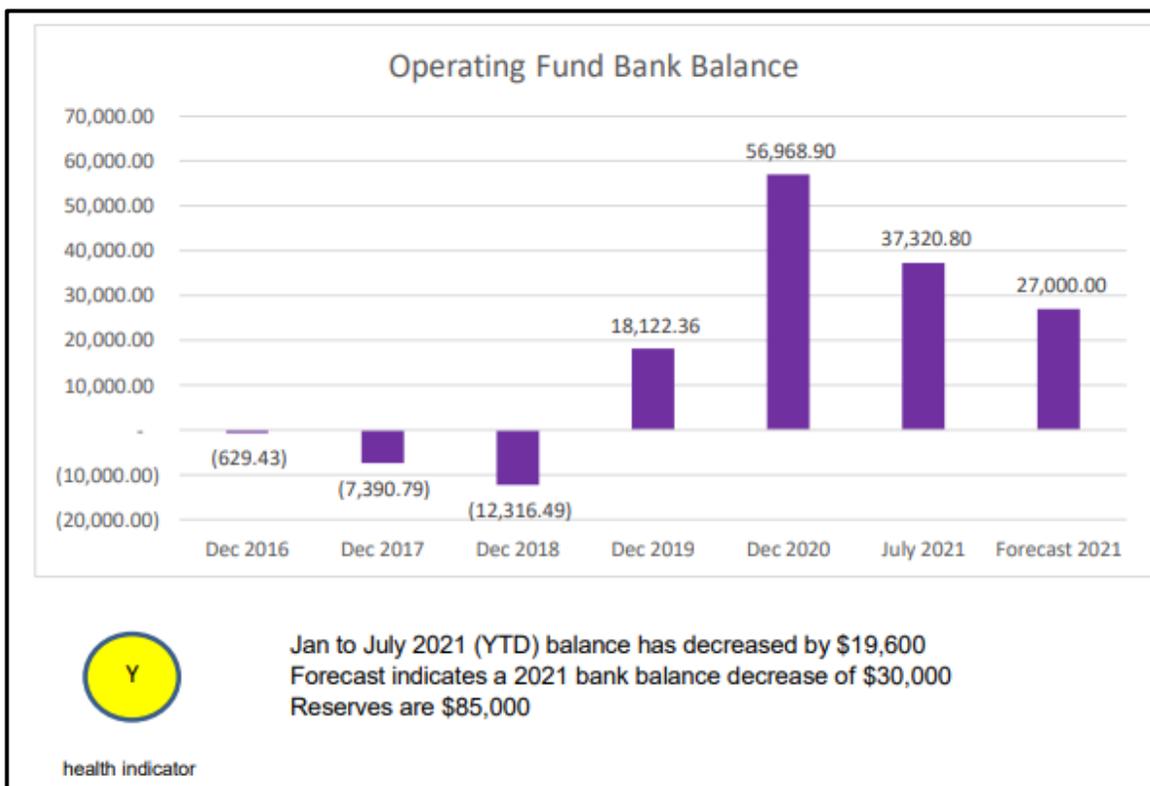
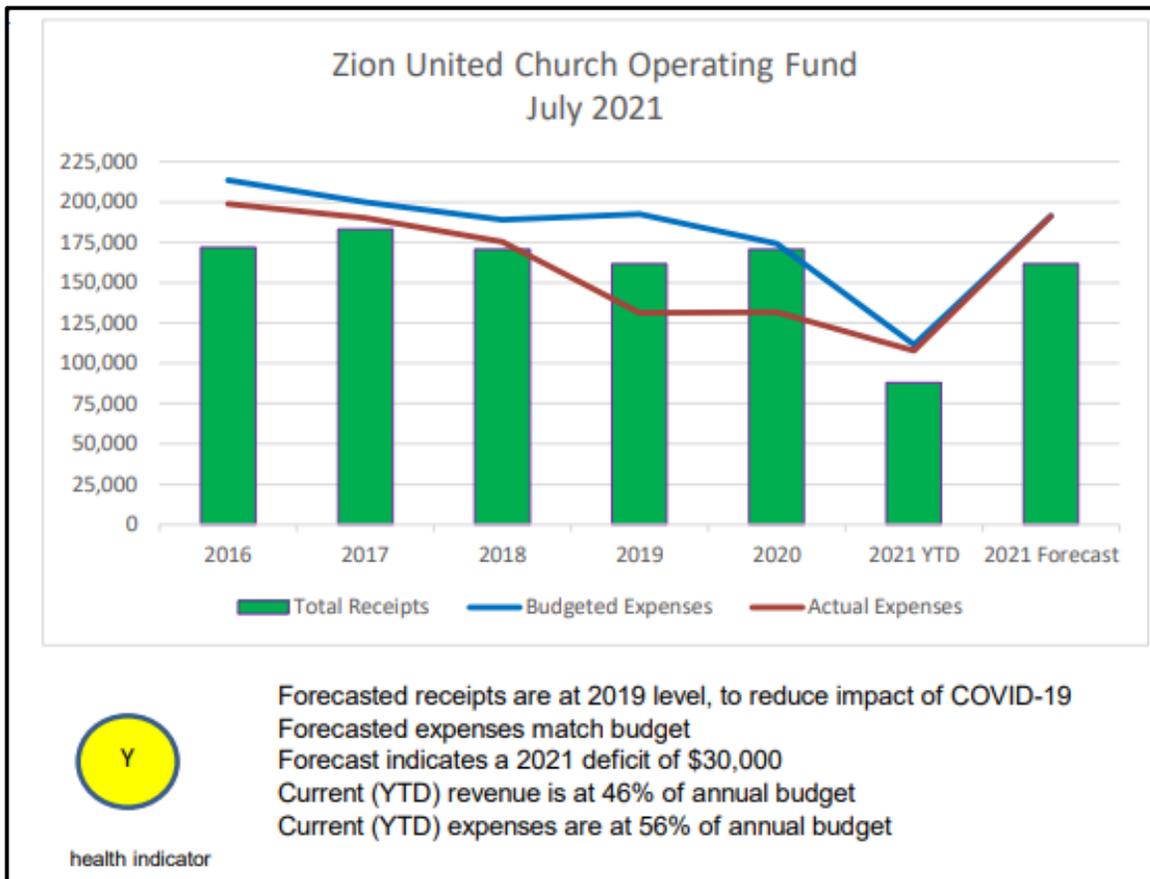
Positions:

- Chair of Leadership Council
- Secretary of Leadership Council
- Member at Large Leadership Council
- Finance Committee (1)
- Human Resources Committee (2)
- Property Committee (1)
- Caring Team (1)

Thanks so much for your consideration.



Finance Report



Baptism

On August 6, 2021, we celebrated the sacrament of baptism with young **Olivia Christina Breitkopf**, daughter of Samantha and Joshua Breitkopf of Plattsville. A number of family members were present, along with Godparents Jessica Ross (Bender) and Jay D'Aguilar. Mary Koch presented the baptism certificate and candle on behalf of the Zion community. Mary played a supportive role for Samantha when she was preparing for her confirmation of faith here at Zion United.

Samantha's family has a rich history with the Zion community of faith. Samantha and Joshua were married at Zion in 2016.

Samantha's family attended Zion in the 80s, 90s and early 2000s. Her parents, Stephen and Christine Bender, were married at Zion in 1986 and all of their children were baptized, and later confirmed at Zion. Samantha's grandparents, Mahlon and Sandra Horst, were members during the same period of time. Mahlon was a member of the choir.

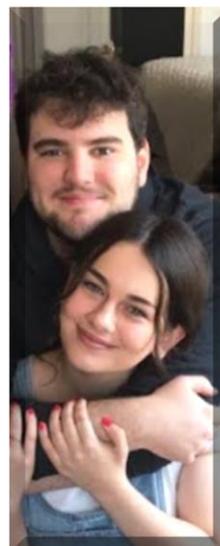
We have been blessed in abundance to reconnect and commit to supporting this wonderful family in their faith journey.

Human Resources Report

We have a new pianist starting in September. Here is his introduction:

"Hello! I'm Jack Wyndham. I am a local pianist born and raised in Kitchener, but I spent a lot of my childhood right here in New Hamburg. I play the piano mostly by ear which allows me to have a large repertoire of pieces ready to go at a moment's notice! This

skill has helped me greatly this past year and a half while I was working for Preston Mennonite Church as it allowed me to always have a new prelude and postlude for their services, and now it will allow me to do the same for Zion United! I am incredibly excited to continue working in this environment, especially in a church so close to home now that my girlfriend Meghan and I are based in Baden. Although I don't regard myself as belonging to any specific religion, I am a very spiritual person and look forward to strengthening that part of my soul, as well as



receiving many lessons in how to treat those around me with love and care. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every member of the congregation, so do not hesitate to come say hello to me if you see me around town or even just after services! See everyone soon!

I am currently a third-year student in the Faculty of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University."

Caring Team

The Zion Food Pantry demand over the summer continues to be very active. A friendly reminder, if you would like to donate items, please drop off at Pat McGlynn's home, 171 Stonecroft Way, New Hamburg, or Karen Partridge's home, 231 Peel Street, New Hamburg. Thank you!



Items needed are:

Coffee, Canned Meat,
Canned Vegetables, Canned
Fruit/Fruit Cups, Cereal,
Cookies/Biscuits, Cleaning

Supplies, Jam, Juice, Paper
Towels, Peanut Butter, Sugar, Toilet Paper,
Tuna & Salmon

UCW News

Join us on Tuesday, September 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom to kick off our first UCW meeting for the 2021-2022 season. Carolyn Gibbons and her team will present "Summer Memories." Please join us! Contact Janet Worthington for Zoom link.

Mission & Services

A deadly earthquake on August 14 followed by torrential tropical storms, have left Haitians homeless, injured, and struggling to survive. The [United Church of Canada](#) is asking for our support for the people of Haiti to provide emergency shelter, potable water, and food. Please show your generosity and [DONATE NOW](#). Cheques can be forwarded



Buildings damaged by the earthquake in Haiti, August 2021.

to the
the
United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit
– Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor Street W.,
Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4. Please note

"Haiti Emergency Response" on the face of the cheque.

AV Tech Team

Behind Zion's YouTube scenes.

When you click to watch Zion's YouTube channel (tinyurl.com/zionunited), a lot has gone on behind the scenes in advance to make



that click possible.



Notice the extra computer screen and keyboard – on loan – for capturing the multi-media video that you watch. Also notice the multiple cameras, to show different angles -

especially helpful for singers, but also sometimes used with multiple speakers.

Zion Tech Team must move as we begin “hybrid church” where some people will choose to be in the sanctuary and others will participate via YouTube only. With people in the sanctuary, cameras and recording devices must be less intrusive, remotely operated. To achieve this result Zion’s Tech Team has developed a proposal for new equipment involving PTZ (Pan Tilt, Zoom) remotely controlled cameras, a “Shotgun” Microphone (to easily pick up all speaking and singing that happens at the chancel steps without extra microphones) a 24-inch monitor to help the camera operator see what each camera sees and choose the ones to engage.

The console which helps non-techy volunteers do this will respond to a key stroke or two to engage a camera at a pre focused level and zoom, record what’s happening, make a backup, and then switch to a second or third camera angle with the touch of another key.

To do all this, a request for a grant from the UPFund (United Possibilities Fund of the former Waterloo Presbytery) has been submitted. Of course, Zion will need to put some funds in as well. Total cost of all the equipment to make it happen, with volunteers doing the installation and set up is just under \$12,000.00 Canadian. The exchange rate is about 20% of that because most of the equipment comes from the USA. What would Zion need to contribute? Volunteer operators and of course financial donations covering 50% to 75% of the total cost, depending on the October 2021 decision of UPFund). If you are

unable to volunteer, please consider a donation to Zion’s Special Projects Fund: Tech Team.

Music 🎵🎵🎵

A huge thank you and best wishes to Barbara Kellerman, for providing us with such beautiful sacred piano and organ music over the last year and a half. I especially have appreciated Barbara’s accompaniment with the Zion singers. Thank you, Barbara, for such expertise at transposing, improvising, and re-arranging notes on the page, all at a moment’s notice, with great skill and a smile!

Community News



The Nith Valley EcoBoosters and Let’s Tree Wilmot are presenting a free webinar on Wednesday, September 29th, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. **Let’s Talk Healthy Trees - From the Roots Up**, will feature Sarah Taslimi, a Waterloo Region landscape architect and certified arborist. Registration details will be posted soon on <https://nvecoboosters.com/> Contact Dorothy Wilson at 519-662-9372 for more info.

Terry Fox



It’s the 25th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run. Our family is participating in the “One Day, Your Way” Wilmot Terry Fox Run on September 19. Don and I have appreciated the generosity of your donations over the past 8 years! If you would like to support us this year, we thank you. Please visit our web page to [donate](#).

