

OLD ZION'S TRUMPET

...Blow ye the trumpet in Zion...

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OLD ZION CHURCH AND GROUNDS CLOSED DUE TO COVID19: JUNE – AUG. 2020

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

CANCELLED

Traditionally, the Old Zion spring newsletter's lead story is an invitation to all to join in the Annual Strawberry Social. However, like so many events this summer concerns about COVID 19 have led to the cancellation of the Annual Strawberry Social.

June 2020 won't be the same without people, blankets, and lawn chairs set out across the Old Zion hillside lawn socializing, eating delicious home-made chicken corn soup and strawberry shortcake and enjoying the view of the beautiful Brubaker Valley.

In spite of heat, rain, and wind, this event has been held continuously for more than 40 years. Because Lancaster County strawberries are so special, the Strawberry Social has helped to draw the public to this special location. From the late 1970's until today, this fundraiser has helped defray costs to maintain the church and grounds of Old Zion.

Mark your calendars for June 12, 2021. Old Zion's Strawberry Social will be back and better than ever next year.



EASY STRAWBERRY PIE TO TRY
(in case you're missing the annual Strawberry Social)

- 1 refrigerated pie crust
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 - 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
 - 1 cup water
 - 1 package (3 oz.) strawberry gelatin
 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups sliced fresh strawberries
 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups blueberries
1. Unroll crust into a 9-inch pie plate. Trim edge. Line unpricked crust with double thickness of heavy-duty foil or

parchment. Bake at 450 degrees for 8 minutes. Remove foil: bake for 5 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

2. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch, and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate until slightly cooled, 15-20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, arrange strawberries and blueberries in the crust. Pour gelatin mixture over berries. Refrigerate until set. Optional to serve with whipped cream.

77th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

“DON’T JOIN THE CLOISTER”

“Don’t Join the Cloister” is the theme for the 2020 Old Zion Reformed Church Anniversary Service to be held on Sunday, September 13 at 4:00 PM.

The theme is taken from the religious controversy in the 1730’s with the establishment of the Cloister in Ephrata. Peter



Peter Miller

Miller (John Peter Mueller) was a German Reformed minister who emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania in 1730. After briefly serving congregations in southeastern Pennsylvania,

Miller moved to the Conestoga Valley in Lancaster County. He served the churches of White Oak (later known as Reyers, then Old

Zion), Seltenreich (East Earl) and Muddy Creek (where several baptisms by him are recorded in the Lutheran record).

Miller showed an inclination to the Seventh Day Dunkers (Baptists) and soon was recruited by their leader, Conrad Beisel, to join their movement. John Phillip Boehm, the founder and leader of the German Reformed church, warned the German Reformed folk about this “false spirit.” Boehm would write, “but the misguided and simple-minded people clung to him, until finally the deception... came to light and this Miller went over publicly to the evil sect of the Seventh Day Tumplers and was baptized in Tumbler fashion (by triune immersion) at Conestoga in the month of April, 1735.”

When Miller left the Reformed Church, he took with him about ten families, Lutheran and Reformed, who followed his example. Adding insult to injury, to make his exit from the Reformed Church as dramatic as possible, Peter Miller, Conrad Weiser and two other men had a book burning. They burnt the Reformed Catechism, the Lutheran Catechism, in all 36 books, in derision and disparagement.

The Old Zion Anniversary Service will reenact how the churches might have responded to this controversy. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Bruce Farrell, pastor of Zion Goshert’s Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, in Mt. Zion, PA. Rev. Farrell will play the part of John Phillip Boehm, founder of the Reformed Church. His sermon title will be “Don’t Join the Cloister.”

Rev. William LaSalle, a member of Old Zion’s Board of Directors, will play the part of Conrad Tempelman, who took over the pastoral leadership at White Oak (Old Zion)

after Miller's departure. The premise for this historical presentation will be that Tempelman has invited Boehm to come and speak to the Reformed folk and members of other churches who were concerned about what was happening in their churches.

The worship service will include music and hymns from the time period accompanied by J. P. Welliver on Old Zion's pump organ and readings of scripture in both English and German.

All are welcome to attend this meaningful mid-September service to learn more about the church's history and worship customs, and to socialize informally over lemonade and cookies following the service. Please join us!

[Note: The Anniversary Service will go on as scheduled depending on Pennsylvania Corona virus reopening guidelines. If the Board determines it is best to not open the church on September 13 for the Anniversary Service, a make-up date may be set for spring 2021.]



OLD ZION INFORMATION

There once was a time when you could pick up the phone and ask for information, please. Today, there's a smorgasbord to find information. The volunteer board of directors, stresses the word volunteer. Unlike a state museum, privately owned historical sites, or active churches today, Old Zion Church is without clerical staff or an office set up with multiple computers.

If you're looking for information about Old Zion or need to ask a question please use one of the two methods listed below. Old Zion Reformed Church, a 19th century church (1813), is very much a part of the 21st century. Information about the church and events can be found at www.oldzionchurch.org.

The website provides history, event info, newsletters, rental agreement, and wonderful photographs. It also includes directions and an easy way to contact the Board with questions, oldzionchurch@gmail.com.

FENCE RESTORATION AND REPAIR

The brick church is easy to recognize historically surrounded by white board fence and wrought iron fence. Last fall board volunteers removed the iron fence for restoration. Powder coating and new stability enhancements have brought the fence back to life so to speak.

In early spring, the wrought iron fencing was returned to its original place by Reifsnnyder Road. It looks fantastic and provides a pristine boarder to the church, landscaping, and grounds.



Near the wrought iron fencing sections, a section of white board fence has been removed and will be replaced. Unfortunately, speeding vehicles have crashed into this area of the property on a number of occasions, resulting in the need for repair.

The volunteer Board continues to oversee the preservation and maintenance of Old Zion's building and grounds. Replacement, restoration, and repairs are ongoing.

OLD ZION CLOSED SUMMER 2020

Due to COVID19 Old Zion's Board met virtually on April 24, 2020. In addition to routine business, the Board unanimously decided to keep Old Zion Church and grounds closed for public events during the entire summer including June through August. Plans are to decide by August to

reopen for events scheduled after September 1, 2020.

The decision for a summer closing was made to make certain that Old Zion would not be going against any state and local directives in place during the summer months. The Board did not want to hold any events that could possibly jeopardize the health and safety of its visitors.

Unlike other venues, Old Zion cannot be thoroughly disinfected without the possibility of compromising the historic interior of the church building. In addition, without access to running water, basic hand washing is not possible.

Unfortunately, this has resulted in the cancellation of Old Zion's Annual Strawberry Social. (see related article on p.1) In addition, two bridal parties chose to cancel their Old Zion weddings, while 3 others postponed their events to early fall of this year. The board truly regrets that closing the church was necessary, but are looking forward to the time when it is safe for everyone to enjoy this unique historic church and its grounds.

