

Dec 2018/Jan 2019

Zion's News

Reflecting Christ, we share God's gifts in Jonestown and beyond.



Pastor Caitlin Kurtz

Last week, I was visiting one of our members who lives in a nursing home. We were talking about various activities that the nursing home hosts, and she made the comment that "we're getting into the really busy season here. There are groups in and out all the time". I chuckled at the accuracy of that. This time of year, youth groups, Scouts, school age children, and all sorts of other well-meaning folks reach out to nursing homes, food banks, and other community organizations to lend a hand for the holiday season. And, of course, that's a good thing, but it does raise the question: How might we best serve these communities all year long?

But then this wise woman went on to say: "I remember the years when the holidays were busy, busy, busy. We got so stressed about things. But, now, I realize that's not what it's all about."

As a new mom, I already feel the pressure to make the holidays 'just right' for Madelyn (even though I'm well aware that, at eight months old, she's not going to remember *anything* about this Christmas). I've got lists of ways to make sure she knows the Christmas story, ideas for how we can give to others, memories I want us to make together, and, yes, a list of some gifts. It's only halfway through November and I already find that I must check myself. Stop. Breathe. Remember, in the words of that wise woman, that <u>this really isn't</u> what it's all about.

The liturgical season of Advent invites us to remember what Christmas *is really about* as we look *back* to the incarnation of God in the infant Jesus and *forward* to God's promised return to earth one day. The Bible stories during Advent remind us of God's big, *cosmic*, plan for salvation, and assure us that "the perfect Christmas" isn't dependent on our actions or preparations, but has, in fact, already been completed in the birth of a babe in Bethlehem. Advent calls us to be alert for signs of God's work in our daily lives—a practice that is not easily accomplished in the usual hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

So as Advent begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, I invite you once again into the practices of the season: watching, waiting, praying, and trusting. At the All Church Event that morning, we'll have projects for you to complete that will help you practice Advent at home this season—an iSpy nativity ornament (particularly helpful for teaching the story to children), an Advent candle to be lit each day (or as often as you can!) as you read Zion's in-house Advent Devotional, a jar with 24 simple ways to stop, breathe, serve, and pray during the season, and a Random Act of Kindness for you to share with someone. We invite people of all ages to join us for this time of learning and preparation so that we might, together, resist the hustle and bustle and remember what Christmas is all about.

In hope, Pastor Caitlin

#### Advent and Christmas Dates at a Glance

Sunday December 2: All Church Event 9:15 AM Advent 1 Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday December 9: Advent 2 Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday December 16: Advent 3 Worship 10:30 AM with rite of healing

Christmas Pageant 7 PM

Thursday December 20: Quiet Christmas 7 PM

Sunday December 23: Advent 4 Worship 10:30 AM

Monday, December 24: Family Worship 7 PM Traditional Worship 10:30 PM

Sunday December 30: Three Wise Women Service of Lessons and Carols 10:30 AM Congregational Care Team (formerly called Social Ministry)

Chair: Sharon Davis (<u>dsdavis11@comcast.net;</u> 865-2781)

#### Angel Tree to Benefit Needy Families in the Jonestown Area:

- 1. Choose a paper angel from the tree in the Gathering Area.
- 2. Shop for the item.
- 3. Gift wrap it, and tape the angel to the front of the package.
- 4. Return it to church and place in the designated area in the Social Hall by the deadline: Dec. 16.

If you would like to give a monetary gift which will be used to purchase some of the gifts, place your gift in an envelope and mark it "Needy Families". Thank-you for your help in spreading the Christmas cheer! Deadline: Dec. 16.

# **Homebound Birthdays**

(cards, calls, visits)

Harold Schaeffer Juniper Village Rm. 219 1125 Birch Rd. Lebanon, PA 17042

Birthday: Dec. 19 Ph: 717-272-8782

## **Caroling to our Homebound:**

All are invited to join in caroling to our homebound on Sun., Dec. 9. We will gathering in the social hall following worship to have a light lunch. About 1:00 pm, we will carpool to our homebound to carol and deliver poinsettias.

# С Эf



Christmas is coming, but it's nice to be remembered any time o
the year too!
Below is a list of our homebound members.

Ingrid Erb 48 Supervisor Dr. Jonestown, PA 17038	717-865-5850
Catherine Freeman Luther Acres 400 Saint Luke Dr., Rm. 205 Lititz, PA 17543	717-892-5306
Grace Dennis P.O. Box 316 Jonestown, PA 17038	717-865-4660
Elvin Heller Country Meadows Apt. 225 451 Sand Hill Rd. Hershey, PA 17033	717-298-3190
Elvena Mohn 37 N. King St. P.O. Box 212 Jonestown, PA 17038	717-865-2590
Donald & Nancy Kleinfelter 260 Greble Rd. Jonestown, PA 17038	717-865-4567

Alma Paul Frey Village - Rm 115B 1020 N. Union St. Middletown, PA 17057	281-202-3891
Harold Schaeffer Elmcroft Rm. 145 860 Norman Dr. Lebanon, PA 17042	717-228-0909
Paul Zimmerman Providence Place 24 Hikes Hollow Rd. Pine Grove, PA 17963 Our Young Adult in Global I	570-345-4999 Mission:
Hope Guelzow c/o Janelle Neubauer PO Box 5692 Kigali RWANDA	



Zion's Rental property at 123 E. Market St., Jonestown, is looking for a new renter. The monthly rent is \$750. It has a newly carpeted living and dining room, full kitchen, two bedrooms and a full bath on the second floor, and a half bath on the first floor. Appliances included currently are washer, dryer, oven, and dishwasher. The house is otherwise unfurnished. It also includes an attached garage. The renter will pay for its own utilities. For a viewing of the premises and other questions regarding details of the lease please contact Ed Ludwig at 717-507-4758. Ed Ludwig



Christian Education

#### Chair: Michele McQuaide(michelemcquaide@rocketmail.com;330-958-3399)

# All Church Sundays

All church Sundays are when all ages meet in the social hall at 9:15 for a fun and interactive Sunday School experience, which concludes with Getting to Know you Time, (aka cookie day),

December 2 - Advent Event. Join us in the social hall to learn more about the season of Advent and to create an Advent project that will help you to make intentional time to spend in God's word.



January 13, 2019 will be the first All Church Sunday of 2019. Hope to see you there!

# LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch bunch will be held December 13, at 12:30 at the Swatara Coffee Company. When we meet, we will discuss chapter four,

"Does God get what God wants", in Rob Bell's book, *Love Wins*.

Women's Bible study will meet

on Thursday, December 6 @ 7:00 pm, at the home of Jean Fowler. We will be discussing chapters four and five of Liz Curtis Higgs' book, The Girl's Still Got It, as well as Ruth 1:19-2:7. All are welcome!

**"Wise" guys: Men's Bible study** will be held on December 8 at 8:00 a.m. in Zion's social hall. All men of the congregation are invited to join us for a morning of fellowship and learning, as well as some sweet goodies!



# CHRISTIAN BOOK EXCHANGE LIBRARY IN THE GATHERING AREA



A reminder to everyone that if you are looking for a good book to read during the winter months, you should check out Zion's book exchange on the bottom two shelves of the library in the Gathering Area. There is really a good assortment of Christian-related topics for adults and for teens and children, and new titles have been recently added, books that were donated for the

Hollyberry Bazaar but were not sold.

You don't necessarily have to add a book to take a book, we just ask that you either return it when you've read it or pass it on to someone else. Also, anybody wanting to donate books to Zion's library, please leave them on the shelves. Thank you.

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE HAS BEGUN AT ZION'S Join the celebration by:

Bringing your Bible to worship, opening and using it as scripture is read. If you don't have a Bible, please take one from the pew, put your name in it, and call it your own!

Using the "Taking Faith Home" insert throughout the week, with questions to reflect on Sunday's Gospel readings, and additional scripture readings for each day of the week.

# Mission Ministry, (formerly Evangelism) Chair: Elaine Ludwig (eludadvo@comcast.net; 865-3757)

#### **ADVENT PROJECT**

As Christians we are called to respond to the needs of others. In light of the tremendous devastation caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael this fall, Mission Ministry focusing our Advent Initiative on gathering much needed cleaning supplies. Our goal is to gather enough supplies for 5 buckets. A chart will be in the gathering area with a list of the supplies that are needed. These buckets are sent to victims of natural disasters as they occur in order to help them rebuild their lives. There will also be cards available if you choose to donate supplies in someone's name as a Christmas gift.



#### Jonestown Outreach pantrY (JOY) Wish List:

Canned Fruits, Canned Beets, Carrots, Peas, Limas, Mac & Cheese, Canned Pasta, Baked Beans, Cream Soups, Vegetable Soups, Instant Potatoes, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tuna, Canned Meats, Stews, Chicken, Spam, Toilet Paper, Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent. Place contributions in the container marked "JOY" in social hall. (Watch expiration dates)

#### Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM) Wish List:

The clothing bank is in desperate need of NEW undergarments.

Place contributions in the container marked "LCCM" in social hall.

#### **Our Young Adult in Global Mission**

Hope's latest newsletter is available on our website and in the email version of our newsletter. Here's one of her interesting stories:

One night after dinner, my eyes were especially tired, but I was not ready to sleep yet. I decided to take out my contacts and put on my glasses for the rest of the evening. As I announced that I would go put my glasses on, my family raised concerns about my eyes—when do you have to wear glasses? Can you see me now without glasses? Now, no one in Gicumbi wears contact lenses, let alone has ever seen someone who wears them, so when I told them I have a tiny piece of plastic on my eyeball that allows me to see, they stared at me in disbelief. I quick washed my hands and removed one contact for them. Haleluya, who is 21 years old, literally screamed. . . .



**December 9, 2018—Zion's congregational membership meeting** will be convened after worship on December 9, 2018, for the purpose of electing Council members to the 2019 Council and approving the proposed 2019 budget, which is available in the gathering area.

Anyone interested in having their name included on the nominee's ballot for Council election should contact Michelle McQuaide, Dawn Wolfe, or Pastor Caitlin.

Save the date: Sunday, January 27, 2019 is the date of the Annual Congregational Dinner meeting. COUNCIL

Next Meeting: Dec. 13, 2018

President: Tom Mohn (tommohn@verizon.net; 717-865-3341)

#### Council Highlights from Nov. 6, 2018 meeting

• Pastor Caitlin led a discussion about how to efficiently structure committee and Council meetings so they lean toward the future and attend to living our mission on a regular basis. We hope to soon implement timed, consent agendas that will help us stay on track with visions for the future, and a five minute meeting recap at the end of the meeting.

• Council adopted a proposed amendment to the Endowment Continuing Resolution, which will more closely align the resolution to the other documents explaining the Endowment Fund. The resolution now reads: "The [endowment] committee will determine what percentage of the distributions shall go to 1. educational ministries such as scholar-ships, seminarian support, youth group activities, camperships, and leadership training 2. local ministries such as congregational ministries, emergency appeals, or seed money for new initiatives 3. extended ministries such as national, synodical, international, disaster-related, and missionary support 4. congregational programs such as capital improvements, unbudgeted building expenses, and other items beyond the scope of the annual budget and 5. named charities, as specified." Remember, Endowment applications are due December 1.

• Council discussed and approved the 2019 Budget, which is included in this newsletter.

• Tom Mohn is putting together a Safety Team to help us prepare for emergencies. If you are interested in serving on this Team, please see Tom or Pastor Caitlin

• Remember, a Congregational meeting to approve the 2019 Budget and elect new Council members will be held after worship on Sunday December 9, 2018. Please plan to attend.

 The Congregational Dinner, with a program reviewing where we've been and where we are going, will be held on Sunday January 27 following worship.

#### KOINONIA CLASS

President: Sharon Davis (dsdavis11@comcast.net, 717-865-2781)

#### **Upcoming Activity**

Koinonia Christmas Banquet – Sat. Dec. 8 at 6:30 pm at the Ono Family Restaurant. You will find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. All are welcome to attend.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Sat. Jan. 12 at 12:00 noon at Ivana's.

**Hollyberry Bazaar Wrap-up:** Our annual Hollyberry Bazaar on Nov. 3 brought many volunteers together to prepare, set-up, run the booths, and tear down. Thank-you for your help! Profit from the bazaar is \$3, 352.25. Of that money, \$2000 was given to help pay the Social Hall loan. The rest of the money will be used throughout the year to pay for coffee, paper goods and other items for the kitchen, as well as needs that arise for the church throughout the year.



**Donations for the 2019 Hollyberry Bazaar:** Every year the Hollyberry Bazaar collects items for the used book table and the This and That table. This year the book table profit was \$147.25 and the This and That table profit was \$52.95, not top money makers. However these tables offer people a chance to purchase items at rock bottom prices. As you are packing away your holiday items, unwanted/unneeded items can be set aside for the November 2, 2019 Bazaar. The This and That table sells items from five cents to \$2.00. Donations are welcome and do not have to be just Christmas-related. Suggestions: small toys/dolls/balls, activity books, knick knacks, stationery items, children's jewelry, puzzles/ games, new stuffed animals. This and That table donations can be given to Janet Bird throughout the year. Due to storage space, books are only collected in the fall. If you have donations or questions contact Janet Bird at jbird75@comcast.net.

Election of Officers Officers for 2019 are as follows:

President – Karen Hitz	Vice President – Blanche Sebastian
Secretary – Pat Keefer	Treasurer – Janet Bird

#### **Shore Weekend**

Mark your calendars for Zion's North Wildwood, NJ shore weekend-June 14-16, 2019. At this time I do not know the 2019 rates, but the Roman Holiday reservation staff will begin taking reservations for the 2019 season on Monday January 14<sup>th</sup>.

When I have the information, I will post reservation forms on the church bulletin board and in the February newsletter. If you would like me to e-mail you the form as soon as I have the 2019 rates, send me a message. Janet Bird jbird75@comcast.net.

# Worship Chair: Noel Strattan (dns@telecommute.net; 865-7747)

# **Advent Devotionals**

NEW this year, Zion's has created an Advent devotional booklet answering the question, "Where do you see Jesus?". Members have contributed to our booklet with their witness to Jesus in their lives. Please pick up a copy on the window sill outside the church sanctuary and read their reflections and stories. We hope that you will take time to ponder how Jesus has met, meets, and will meet your expectations and needs. We hope this devotional will help us as we celebrate the greatest gift God has ever given, Jesus.



# Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Zion's Sunday School Pageant will be held December 16 at 7:00 pm, in the social hall. We hope you will come out to enjoy the talents of our children and message they are spreading of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

# **Quiet Christmas Worship Service**



The Jonestown Council of Churches invites you to a Quiet Christmas Worship Service (formerly the Blue service) for those who find it hard to rejoice this year. With words, carols, and candle -lighting, we will give thanks for God's gifts of hope, grace, and love, while ac-knowledging the loss, grief, and heartache we are experiencing. All are welcome.

Thursday, December 20 at 7 PM Held at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

# **Christmas Eve at Zions**

**7:00 p.m.** Family Service with Holy Communion



**10:30 p.m.** Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion. Live music begins at 10 PM

# Proposed Budget for 2019

You will find in this newsletter, the proposed budget for Zion's for 2019. Copies can also be picked up on the small bulletin board in the church gathering area. Please review and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Caitlin., 717-865-3652 (office phone) or via email at: pastorckurtz@gmail.com. We will be voting to accept a budget for 2019 at the congregational meeting on De-

pastorckurtz@gmail.com. We will be voting to accept a budget for 2019 at the congregational meeting on December 9, following the 10:30 worship service.



# December 2018



SUNDAY	MON T	UE	WED TH	UR	FRI	SAT
2 9:15 All Church Sunday Getting to know you time 10:30 Worship	3	4	<ul> <li>5 5:30 Family Meal</li> <li>6:15 <b>REJOICING SPIRITS</b></li> <li>6:45 Kings Kids/Bible</li> <li>Study/Jr. Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:30 Adult Choir rehearsal</li> </ul>	6 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	7	1 8 8:00 am Men's Bible study 6:30 pm Koinonia Banquet
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship followed by Congregational meeting followed by Caroling to homebound	10	11	12 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 <b>REJOICING SPIRITS</b> 6:45 Kings Kids/Bible Study/Jr. Choir rehearsal 7:30 Adult Choir rehearsal	13 12:30 Lunch Bunch 7 PM Church Council	14	15 Angel tree gifts due Dec. 16
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 7:00 pm Sunday School pageant	17	18	<ul> <li>19 5:30 Family Meal</li> <li>6:15 REJOICING SPIRITS</li> <li>6:45 Kings Kids/Bible</li> <li>Study/Jr. Choir rehearsal</li> <li>7:30 Adult Choir rehearsal</li> </ul>	20 7:00 pm Quiet Christmas Service	21	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 30 No Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24 7:00 pm Family worship 10:30 pm Candlelight worship	25 CHRISTMAS	26 No Wednesday activities	27		29 ulletin deadline every Tuesday

#### December 9, 2018—Zion's congregational

**membership meeting** will be convened after worship on December 9, 2018, for the purpose of electing Council members to the 2019 Council and approving the proposed 2019 budget, which is available in the gathering area.



Sunday, January 27, 2019 is the date of the **Annual Congregational Dinner meeting**. Please sign-up in the gathering area for a head count!

#### Worship Participants for December

	Lector	Crucifer	Children's sermons	Acolytes	Communion Assistants	Counters	Prayers of the People
2	Deb Reiner	Daryl Hess	Tracy Hoy	Zoe Brossman Kathryn Sipe	Pam Bixler Noel Strattan	Larry & Sharon Houser	Matt Wolfe
9	Ed Ludwig	Joanna Guldin-Noll	Michelle Bucks	Cassie Bortz Logan Livingston	Linda Toth John Noll		Brian Adams
16	John Mohn Jr.	Mike Johnsen	Noel Strattan	Gavin Bush Max Clark	John Noll Joanna Guldin- Noll	Darryl Bush Deb Reiner	Grace Bucks
23	Tracy Hoy	Galen Kleinfelter	Nancy Ludwig	Mason Livingston Levi Bucks	Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Deb Long Kelly Rittle	Michelle Bucks
30	Sharon Davis	Brian Adams	Brian Adams	Max Clark Lily Harris	Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Noel Strattan	Sharon Davis

Altar Guild		Ushers	Getting to know you time
2, Jen & Noel	9, Bortz Family	Jack Beidler, Gavin Bender, Darryl Bush,	Dec. 2: Koinonia Class
16,23, Bucks Family	30, Pam & Dawn	Linda Wenrich	

# **TALES FROM THE HILLS**

#### THOUGHTS, STORIES, AND UPDATES FROM MY YEAR OF SERVICE IN RWANDA

### FAMILY BONDING

I've been living with my host family now for two months. And what a ride it has been! We spend a lot of time together talking, laughing, playing games, cooking, and watching movies. I am still adjusting to Rwanda family life—for example, it is totally weird to need alone time here. As an extrovert, I still need time alone to relax, write, read and the only way I can ensure undisturbed time is if I decide to take a nap. So, on more than a few occasions, I escape to my room and watch a movie in English or read a few chapters of my book. I have told my host family that I don't always sleep when I hide in my room, but we now have a running joke that whenever I emerge from my solitary sanctuary someone will say "Mwaramutse, wasinziriye neza?" (Good morning, did you sleep well?), even when it is 6pm.

Basically, everything in Rwanda is an adjustment for me. But I know my family is also adjusting to having a loud, laughing, American in their home. For instance, I never eat as much as a Rwandan can eat, nor as quickly. After I finish one heaping plate of potatoes, beans, rice, and dodo (a usually stewed, green, leafy, bitter, veg; like chard) I am full. And I know there is at least one cup of milk tea waiting for me at the end of every meal to further fill me up. I think Mama Haleluya, Jonathan, Joshua, and Halelu take turns each night ordering me to eat more or silently, and not so subtlety, inching the bowls closer to me. Most of the time I try for seconds, but I always pass on thirds.

One night after dinner, my eyes were especially tired, but I was not ready to sleep yet. I decided to take out my contacts and put on my glasses for the rest of the evening. As I announced that I would go put my glasses on, my family raised concerns about my eyes—when do you have to wear glasses? Can you see me now without glasses? Now, no one in Gicumbi wears contact lenses, let alone has ever seen someone who wears them, so when I told them I have a tiny piece of plastic



<u>Above</u>: Pastor Caleb and I posing in a neighbor's beautiful garden before enjoying a visit complete with milk tea and freshly made omelets!

<u>Below:</u> Mama Haleluya and I cooking dinner. I oversaw making the vegetables—green beans, carrots, green pepper, onion, and tomato.



on my eyeball that allows me to see, they stared at me in disbelief. I quick washed my hands and removed one contact for them. Haleluya, who is 21 years old, literally screamed. Mama Haleluya said Yebabawe (Oh my God). Pastor and the boys stood, mouths gaping. Apparently, they thought I was taking my whole eyeball out...







Left: Haleluya and I sitting on a small hill in our front yard after a long photo shoot. We take lots of pictures in this house! Middle: Jonathan and I on a walk on a perfect sunny day. The terraced fields are popular in this region of Rwanda because of all the hills.

Right: Joshua and I (pretending to be super cold) on the day it hailed here. Neither of us are sure what Mama H is doing here...

# WHAT I'M DOING

I knew this year would push me. I just assumed the work I would be doing would provide a schedule and structure. My primary job right now in Gicumbi is to accompany. If you're familiar with YAGM this is one of our buzz words we heard often at orientation. It means to walk alongside, learn from and teach, share and respect culture as equals. *This* has been the past two months with my community.

The school I where I will teach English does not start a new year until January. They could not use me in the final

months of the school year, so since I arrived in September, the Kageyo Parish has been



<u>Above</u>: This is a "parent" meeting hosted in the yard on the side of our house. Evangelist Gad, Pastor Caleb's right hand man, led the discussion. The folks in this picture are parents of children who attend Saturday morning classes and sing in the choir on Sundays.





getting my full attention. I have been helping where I am needed, where the church asks me to be. I have visited sick church members, I have helped plant peas (see my post on the YAGM Rwanda Facebook page!) and I have attended church community meetings. I just started fixing a set of desktop computers

Left: This is my group of P3 and P4 (third and fourth grade) students at the church on Saturday morning. We were learning the names of colors. the Pight: Half of the same group of kiddos. P1 and P2 in the background. The students

<u>Right</u>: Half of the same group of kiddos—P1 and P2 in the background. The students played memory with the cards I made. They matched the color with the color name.

the church has access to in the building we rent to worship in. Computer skills classes will start soon!

I've been teaching English for the church too. Every Saturday, children in primary school come to the church for extra lessons and lunch. They practice mathematics and English. They learn songs and sing them as part of the children's choir on Sundays. Two volunteers who are church members and myself break the group up by grade and lead them in lessons for a few hours. I've reviewed and taught basic greetings, colors, and dates so far. We play games together. I get a chance to practice my Kinyarwanda with over 50 helpful little teachers. When I get to church on Sunday, they rush to greet me. Sometimes a few come over to Pastor's home and we play cards, monkey in the middle, or checkers.



<u>Above</u>: On a nice Saturday morning, the children will walk over the Pastor Caleb's house for lunch. Haleluya, Mama H, and some other women from church prepare lunch. This is the P5 and P6 group of students enjoying porridge, hard boiled eggs, and fresh bread for lunch.

It is not enough to keep me busy like I am used to, but I am learning the names and faces of the community I live in and everyday it starts to feel more like home.



# DEEP, PARTING THOUGHTS

I don't always find God in church, especially here. Going to church in Rwanda is hard. I don't understand most of what is happening. I sing the songs, but the lyrics are lost on me. The sermons are long, and the message is often shouted at us, to really drive the point home. But, it alienates me, a person who knows a gentler, less yell-y, church.

I've been relying on other ways to feel close to God. Watching the sunset over the hills, painting the sky in pink and orange makes me feel close to God. Listening to the children's choir sing and dance with the biggest smiles makes me feel close to God. Getting letters and emails from home reminding me of the power of prayer and community makes me feel close to God. Watching my host family interact and love each other makes me feel close to God.

So, I'll ask you. And maybe it's not 'God' for you; maybe it's the universe, the divine, the majesty of nature, the kindness of others, fate, the wonder of science. I'm curious-- where and when do you see God? What makes you feel close to God?

With love, Hope

If you want to read more stories about my life in Rwanda, my blog: https://hopeinrwanda.com/

If you want to contribute to my year of service, my donor page: http://support.elca.org/site/TR?px=1053694&fr\_id=1181&pg=personal