

## Faith Connection Story – Zion UCC, Blain

On Sunday, July 22, 2017, Zion United Church of Christ in Blain held a joint worship service with Zion Lutheran Church of Blain to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Union Church in Blain. Prior to the founding of the Union Church, the two denominations (German Reformed and Lutheran) had been worshipping together unofficially in houses and barn, with an occasional service at the Union Church in Loysville. However, in May of 1816 Pastor Heim (Lutheran) and Pastor Helffenstein (Reformed) jointly laid the cornerstone of a stone church that would be completed in July 1817. The two denominations worshiped together for eighty years before splitting amicably in 1897 to become two churches.

The service on Sunday the 23rd was attended by Zion UCC, Sandy Hill UCC, Zion Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran churches. Elements of the Reformed tradition were combined with a Lutheran communion service. A potluck luncheon followed, and many have requested that we consider having a joint service each year.

