

Faith Connection Story – St. Jacob’s Stone and Zion, Arendtsville

REACH volunteers from St. Jacob’s Stone UCC Church & Zion UCC of Arendtsville gathered on Sun. 8/20/17 to offer to the Congregation a presentation of their mission trip to Crossville, TN. Stone Church sent 35 people—24 youth and 11 adult volunteers to Crossville, TN with work buckets, two trailers of tools and equipment, several vans for volunteers, and many well-wishers saying goodbye to the group before volunteers left Hanover PA at 7:30 am.

The group traveled to Homestead Elementary School, their home base. They were divided into work crews with many other church & youth groups from across the country. After each day’s breakfast, the crews would gather for morning devotions, then travel to their work crew assignment locations, meet their neighbor, and complete all the tasks listed for their neighbor. At the end of the workday, crews would travel back to home base, clean up, and have supper & evening devotions. Wednesday was a short workday with crews returning to home base, clean up, and have the afternoon for a group activity. Stone Church group visited Ozone Falls State Natural Area for a refreshing walk on trails and water. After a busy week of work repairing & constructing on many neighbor’s properties, the group gave each neighbor gifts to keep and said good-byes. Over and over, neighbors expressed their appreciation for all the work that was completed. One neighbor was amazed that young people sacrificed their summer fun time for work to help her. On leaving Crossville, the group traveled to Dollywood for a day of fun. Sunday was a traveling day to return home on July 23rd. During the presentation, group members expressed appreciation to the Congregation for their financial donations and support.

1 Peter 4:10 on which the 2017 mission theme was based—“ *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*”

Here is a list of work that the group helped to complete during their week together: building ramps, deck construction, deck repair, interior painting, exterior painting, exterior trim, roof repairs, replace entire roof, gutter repair, interior floor repairs and siding replacement.

