

ZIONS NEWZFLASH

Official Newsletter of Zion's Church



A Letter from our Pastor

Happy October!

Boo! That's something you'll see in a lot of yards over the next month, and it raises a question. What evokes fear for you?

Seriously. Stop for a moment and think. What are three things that you're afraid of?

When I wrote this article, Deanna was in Bloomsburg for a couple of days watching three of our seven grandchildren. Some of you will understand what I'm about to say, and perhaps others won't, but when you hit my age, the thought will sometimes cross my mind: what would I do if Deanna died? How would I survive? That's something I'm afraid of...her dying first...how am I going to live? Not how am I going to eat or how do you do laundry and the million other things that are part of what she does in our home. How am I going to live, alone?

For some reason I always remember sitting at a lunch after a funeral a couple of decades ago. I was seated across from a widow who I didn't know. She said that sometimes other women would try to comfort her - women who still had their husbands but had experienced some loss in their lives - and they'd say, "I know what just you're going through." She said, "No one knows what it's like until you wake up at 2 in the morning, reach over to the other side of the bed and no one is there." That scares me, because... Maybe because I just don't know what that's going to be like. I'm fearful about how alone I'll feel. How will I handle it? How will I live alone?

There's a lot of people who fear snakes. I have some advice for you. Move to Alaska. You know why? There's no snakes in Alaska. Reptiles can't live there because it's too cold and because for large parts of the year, there's no daylight. Snakes and other reptiles rely on the sun's heat to warm their bodies. So without sun or warm weather, you don't have reptiles.

The problem is that I don't live in Alaska. I live in Pennsylvania. We have rattlesnakes and copperheads here. Yikes!

That's my problem with the idea of hiking the Appalachian Trail. I kind of would like the challenge. That'd be a cool thing to do, but what if I see a rattlesnake? You know what would help me? If I had a massively experienced backpacker with me who had absolutely no fear of snakes and could handle them. My fear would be greatly diminished.

Here's what the Bible says. "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear." (Hebrews 13:6) When Deanna dies, the Lord is going to be with me. Just like having an experienced hiker going with me on the Appalachian Trail, I have the Lord traveling with me through life and through the experience of the loss of Deanna. That doesn't mean it won't be incredibly, phenomenally hard. I know people who have grieved who have attempted to describe the pain of grief to me. I'm under no delusions. It will hurt, but the Lord is my helper. I do believe he will bring me through that horrible season of my life. I'm putting my trust in him.

And I believe that one day he'll take me to a place very similar to Alaska. It's called heaven. And heaven is a place where, as Alaska doesn't have snakes, heaven has no fear. There is no fear in heaven. Fear can't exist. Not because of the many hours of darkness in heaven, but because of the many hours of light! "And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light." (Revelation 21:23) Fear doesn't exist in heaven. And that gives me hope! No matter how difficult life can be, whether my fears come true or not, one day, in heaven, all fear is gone! Because heaven is filled with the light of God's love.

But I do have one final question, just to playfully pull your chain! Some of you like to believe that your pets will be in heaven, that creatures will be in heaven. If that's what you believe, do you also believe snakes will be there too?! Just a question to bring a smile to your face!! Or not!

Fear! Be gone! Jesus is with you, my friends!

Family Fall Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH 4-6:30 PM

Do you know what happens when you drop a pumpkin from over 40 feet in the air?

Come to our Family Fall Festival to find out. Watch our over 40-foot pumpkin drop which begins at 4:15 PM in the lower parking lot. Then take a hayride to the barn for family pumpkin painting or carving, petting farm animals, games, campfires, and food. The adventurous can exit the barn using our 40-foot-long tube slide that comes out the side of the barn.

RSVP at zionschurch.org/register

Questions? Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org or 610-562-2300 option 6

Bell Choir

BY LINDA HARTMAN

Do you know what handbell ringers eat for lunch?

BELLogna Sandwiches!!!

Hahahaha!!!

SPEAKING OF HANDBELLS...

It's time for Zion's Bells to get back to ringing again!

REHEARSALS BEGIN

Tuesday, October 3 at 6 p.m.

I, for one, can't wait!!!

P.S. Hoping to be ringing in church on October 29 at the 8:15 a.m. service.

Prime Timers

IMPORTANT DATES

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| SAT, Oct. 7 | 9 AM | Breakfast | Perry Restaurant |
| MON, Oct. 9 | 11:30 AM | Lunch/BINGO | Fellowship Hall |
| FRI, Oct. 13 | 1 PM | Council meeting | Fellowship Hall |
| FRI, Oct. 20 | 10 AM | Lunch/Games | Journey Cafe |

Life's Choices Banquet

OCTOBER 12, 2023

STONE SPRINGS FARM

If you've already signed up with Marie Perry or Katie Bailey, you should have received an email by now confirming your registration. If not, please text Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 or email mperry@kassay.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon or Dinner.

And if you missed the RSVP date of September 25th but wish you could still attend, contact Marie Perry...there may still be seats available!

Planet Shakers

OCTOBER 11

Planet Shakers will have a special visitor on October 11 -- Bravo, the therapy dog. Come see his tricks and pet our friendly, furry friend.



LADIES NIGHT

Women's Retreat

NOVEMBER 3-5, WILLOW POND RESORT

Change is good, right? We agree, so we're spending a weekend at a new place, the Willow Pond Resort in Honesdale PA.

You can check it out at: willowpondresort.com - there's lots of rooms and there'll be homecooked meals this year too.

Visit www.inspiredsisters.org for all the details or use the QR code to the right of this article to register directly.

Retreat Weekend Registration Schedule

\$190.00 if paid by October 1st.

\$200.00 if paid after October 2nd.

Please note: If you cancel by October 5th, there will be a \$50.00 cancellation fee. If you cancel by October 15th, there will be a \$75.00 cancellation fee. If you cancel after October 15th, there will be no refund.

DayTripper Registration Schedule

\$99.00 if paid by October 1st

\$109.00 if paid after October 2nd

Please note: Cancellations before October 15th will result in a \$20.00 fee. After October 15th, there will be no refund.

****All registrations are transferable at any time, so if you can find a replacement, you will receive a full refund!**

Reach out to Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 by October 3rd and register for the Weekend Retreat, and we'll let you take advantage of the \$190.00 discounted price!

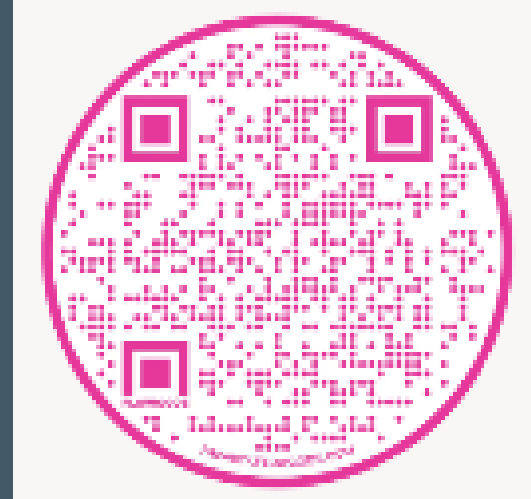
Ladies Game Night

OCTOBER 20, JOURNEY CAFE

Grab your favorite snack and your favorite game or two, and meet up with a few ladies at the Cafe for a night of some friendly competition.

Evening starts at 6:30 PM, and we'll provide light refreshments and coffee - hope to see you there!

Contact Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 for questions.



Connectionz Groups

SIGN UPS COMING SOON

Black & White Films with Deanna

We will meet at the Bond house to watch some classic movies on Sunday afternoons from 4pm-7pm on Oct. 15, 22, 29, and Nov. 5.

Crafting Christmas Gifts with Vesta

Here we go!!!! The pile is growing!! Get ready!!! Connection Group..."Let's Craft Christmas" will meet on Oct. 19, 26, & Nov. 2, and 19 in the Fellowship Hall. We are going to make those 4 weeks into a continued Christmas Party while we craft gifts to give or keep. Resin is always a blast!! Jewelry. Everything you need to design and make your own unique pieces. Vinyl on canvas. Pictures and pillows. Bible and recipe holders and more. Bath Bombs and Bath Salts. My mission is simple. To bring our new members together with our "Oldie but Goodies" members to see firsthand how awesome our church family is in a relaxed and fun way.

Christmas Decoration Preparing/Creating with Crystal

Are you interested in helping to assemble Christmas decorations that will be used to help beautify our sanctuary? What will the theme be this year? You can get a sneak peek if you are part of the group that will create this year's special addition to our greenery. The group will be meeting on Friday nights beginning Oct. 6 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Choir Chimes 101 with Linda

Anyone who can count to 4 and is between the ages of 8-88 years old is welcome to join this introduction to playing chimes on Tuesdays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7:15pm-8:00pm in the church library. Our group can range from 8-11 players/ringers, so pal up with friends and learn something new together.

History and Physical Tour of Zion's Church with Randy

Our church began in 1760.

Pastor Randy will guide you on a physical tour of the entire church including the belfry and attic while telling stories from the past and providing an opportunity to view interesting artifacts from our congregation's rich history. We will also visit the cemetery and talk about the three buildings that Zion's used prior to the current church building. Please be prepared to walk outside and to climb a ladder (the ladder climbing is optional). The group will share pizza at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and begin the tour around 1pm. The whole experience will last about 2 hours. This group is a one-day event that will be hosted on October 22 and then again on November 5. You can choose whichever day works best for you.

Wednesday Babysitting

HELP NEEDED

Do you love small children and want to serve parents at Zions? We are looking for another volunteer or two to provide childcare on Wednesday nights for the kids who are too young to attend Planet Shakers – infant to pre-K.

If you are available from 6:15 to 8 PM at least one Wednesday a month and have your PA Child Clearances or are willing to get them, please contact Amy at amy.miller08@gmail.com or 484-225-6217.

Thank you for your consideration!

Church Library

HELP NEEDED

Do you enjoy Christian fiction or nonfiction? Do you want to help make Biblically sound Christian books and DVDs available for children and adults at Zions? Then we need you!

We are looking for a few helpers for the church library. If you have a heart for this issue, please contact Deanna Bond at (484) 332-8397 or mygodmysaviour@gmail.com to learn more.

Choir

BY SHARON STUMP

The choir will be singing on Sun, Nov. 26th at the 8:15 AM Service.

Rehearsal will be on Thursday, Nov. 16th at 7:15 PM in the choir room.

If you like to sing, please consider joining us to sing praise to God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us. Contact Sharon Stump at sls2horses@gmail.com or 610-756-3476 if you are interested.