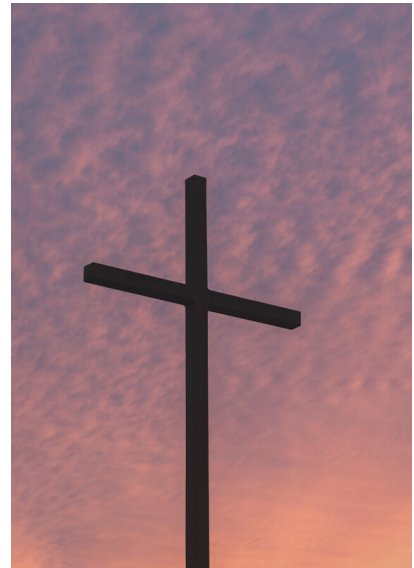


FEBRUARY 2023 | ISSUE 15

Zions NewZflash

The Official Newsletter of Zion's Church



Letter from the Pastor

Dear friends!

This August, I will celebrate 41 years of ministry at Zion's! That's amazing. I've been given the privilege of confirming some individuals as teenagers, and then officiated at their weddings, baptized/dedicated their babies, confirmed those same children when they became teenagers, and in some cases even married and baptized yet another generation. It's crazy to think about. At the same time, I've officiated at the funerals of their parents, grandparents and even great grandparents. Together we've shared some really important times over the years, and we've come to love each other.

Why mention all of this? Because this month, I am celebrating my 66th birthday. If you attended or listened to the last 2 services of January, you know that the elders and I have been talking about my eventual retirement. I told them I was hoping to retire around the age of 70, but I wanted to give them a 3.5 year window so they would have flexibility for that challenging transition. As it appears right now, we're aiming to have someone replace me around July of 2025... 2.5 years from now.

What I appreciate about the elders is that they are conscientiously praying and talking very reflectively about various issues in preparation for my retirement. They love our church as much as any of us do. They are also taking their responsibility of stewarding our church into its future seriously. I have complete confidence in them. I trust and support their efforts, and I encourage you to do the same.

Even more importantly, I have confidence in the Lord. Over 40 years ago, for a period of about 3 years, there was a group of women who met in the fellowship hall of our church for prayer. As you would expect, they prayed about all kinds of things. However, there was one very special thing they were praying for—their future pastor. They were asking God to send the right person to our church, and that turned out to be me. I am so thankful. I have been so blessed to be at Zion's all these years, and I think you feel blessed as well. While I think we all have various emotions about my eventual retirement, we can have confidence in one thing. The Lord is going to care for our church and make provision. I honestly believe the Lord is already preparing someone to replace me. None of us know exactly when that time will come, but the day is approaching, and it will be good.

For years, I've had a sense that the best years of our church will be beyond my time of service, and I'm still embracing that hope. I love you! I love this church! And I love and have confidence in the Lord. While it's going to be hard and none of us likes change, I truly believe God's blessing will continue into our future, as we put our trust and confidence in Him.

Let's unite together in praying daily for our future. Where two or three are gathered together in His name, He is present, and He will do great things. The best is yet to come!

In Jesus' love,
Randy

Ski, Snowboard, & Tubing

February 10, 2023

There's a group of people heading to the mountain for this trip. Most are planning to ski or snowboard with an 8-hour lift ticket, preferably beginning mid-morning and staying to early evening, (for example, 11:00am to 7:00pm). If you would like to head up later in the day, perhaps late afternoon, you are still welcome to join us with your purchase of a 4-hour lift ticket instead. The mountain is open from 9:00am to 9:00pm usually. If you've already RSVP'd to Marie, please make sure to purchase your ticket if you have not already. If you need to still RSVP, please do so at <http://inspiredsisters.org/inspired-sisters-zions-church-ski-and-snowboard-trip-february-23-2023/>. Be on the lookout for an email on Thursday, Feb 2nd that will begin coordinating travel. If you are unsure or have any questions, please contact Marie Perry at mperry@kassay.com right away.

Ladies Bowling Night

February 17, 2023

Join us for a fun night of food, laughs, and bowling at Strike Zone in Pottsville! 2 hour lane package with shoe rental will cost about \$20.00 per person. Food and refreshments can be purchased there additionally.

Sign up here!

<http://www.inspiredsisters.org/inspired-sisters-ladies-bowling-night/>

Surrendering the Secret

Begins the last week in February

Bible Study (ONLY open to women) - Surrendering the Secret, a bible study for post-abortive women: finding grace, hope and healing after abortion.

Sisters alongside sisters, exemplifying the beauty of the body of Christ, sharing burdens and healing together. So many women attending Zion's have gone through this bible study with a sister-in-Christ, together, and come out better on the other side. If you've experienced the pain and heartbreak of abortion, please consider participation in a post-abortive healing through "Surrendering The Secret", an 8-week bible study created by Pat Layton to heal hurting women and the heartbreak of abortion through honest, meaningful group experiences, and unique journal and biblical exercises within a confidential and caring group. Privacy is paramount, so no one needs to know, and it's open to any sister in need, regardless of church affiliation or none at all.

I encourage you to view this trailer:

<https://youtu.be/QuVt-5kn4yY> and reach out to either of the class leaders, Katie Bailey at katie.lifeschoices@gmail.com, or co-leader Marie Perry at mperry@kassay.com. Katie works for Life's Choices, a pregnancy help center with offices in Hamburg and Kutztown, and Marie has experienced the guilt and regret that follow abortion, and can testify to the healing and forgiveness to be found. We are praying that you can take the first step towards healing, or to help another sister to find it too by joining the class to go through it alongside her.

Bell Choir

Thank you very much!

We would like to give you a Great Big Belated "Thank You!" We sincerely appreciated that you respectfully listened to the handbell choir on December 18, when we shared the "singing bell" technique during "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It takes hours of rehearsal time to "get a song ready" to share on a Sunday morning! Your cooperation, support and love are AWESOME!!! We hope you can join us the next time we are scheduled to GIVE GOD THE GLORY... February 19th at 8:15 a.m.

See you in church,
Zion's Bells

Snow Games

Family Event

On Sunday, February 19th, there will be snow-themed activities and lessons for the kids during Sunday school. Parents will join their kids for lunch and snow games following Sunday school. If there is no snow outside, we'll make our own and bring it inside to play. More details coming soon.

Women's Conference

April 29, 2023

Save the Date! The Inspired Sisters Women's Conference is coming to The Journey Café. More details to follow!



Important Dates

PRIME TIMERS

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ◦ Feb 4 | 9:00 AM | Friendship Circle Breakfast | Perry Restaurant |
| ◦ Feb 10 | 1:00 PM | Prime Timers Council | Fellowship Hall |
| ◦ Feb 25 | 12:00 PM | Prime Timers Luncheon | Fiore's (Shoey) |

PLANET SHAKERS

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| ◦ Feb 1 | 6:30 PM | Pajama Night | Fellowship Hall |
| ◦ Feb 22 | 6:30 PM | Fishing Game | Fellowship Hall |

WINTER JAM

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|----------|---------|------------|-----------------|
| ◦ Feb 23 | 6:00 PM | Winter Jam | Santander Arena |
|----------|---------|------------|-----------------|

LENT

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| ◦ Feb 26 | | First Sunday of Lent | |
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