



Zions NewZflash

A NEWSLETTER OF ZIONS CHURCH

A Letter from our Pastor

Friends,

Since 1996, some of us in the church have shared in a life changing experience—we've gone to the Creation Festival. Earlier this year, the organizers of the festival announced that Creation was ending, but the Christian organization who owns the venue has decided to create their own festival—Agape Fest.

I thought I'd use this space to take a little trip down memory lane. The first time I went to the Creation Festival with the church I saw something that was deeply moving to me. Young people all over the arena at Hershey Park (the festival had been flooded out in its usual location) were listening to Christian praise music and raising their hands in praise of the Lord. Whether you like that style of music or not, there's something to be celebrated in seeing younger people truly worshipping God. I came away from the experience with this desire—I wanted to see every single student in Hamburg High School go to Creation. I felt that maybe somehow, they could come to trust in Jesus. It was a powerful event.

That's why we tried to get as many people as possible to come with us—in hopes that God would break through into people's lives. And I've seen it happen year after year. Actually the biggest God moments at Creation happened on Sunday mornings, after I had already gone back to church to preach. By Sunday morning, everyone was in the process of clearing the grounds on Agape Farm. Our group was also packing up to come home, but before leaving, at our own camping area, we had a worship service featuring our own people sharing testimonies. It was at that time of worship on a Sunday morning that all kinds of people shared about what God had been doing in their lives during the course of the week. Going to Creation has always been a lot of work but those testimonies made it all worthwhile. Lives were being impacted.

Some people saw the movie Jesus Revolution recently. That's a movie that told the story of the Jesus movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Some young people were leaving the drug culture of that time period and starting to follow Jesus. It was from that movement that the Creation Festival was started. At its peak, there were probably 100,000 people who came to listen to Christian bands from around the world. It was an amazing experience, but it started with just a bunch of Christians coming together, camping out, and worshipping the Lord.

That's what I think is going to happen this year. It's going to be a lot less impressive. There will be bands, including the youth praise band from our church, playing music instead of internationally known bands. There may be some of those, but this year's event will likely be a lot more like the kind of music and experience from 1979 when it all started. If it's a powerful experience, and I have a feeling it's going to be, it's going to be because the Holy Spirit is present and moving among us.

I'm looking forward to Agape Fest this year, and if you've never shared the experience, I invite you to come along. The price is just \$25 for the food we're going to share together. The rest of the event itself is free! And the star of the show will be the Holy Spirit and whatever He decides to do among us. I'm all in for whatever unexpected adventure the Lord has in store for us. If you have any interest in coming, call the church office or keep your eyes peeled for other sign-up options coming out soon!

Bell Choir

By Linda Hartman

Time flies when you're having fun... our handbell ringing time has absolutely flown by!!! We close our ringing season on May 21 during the prelude at the 8:15 a.m. service. (We'll be back in fall!) One of our songs will be to honor a congregational request.

Words cannot express how much I appreciate and love this incredible group of ringers! They never backed down from a challenge; were anxious to learn new techniques and "tweak" old ones. They are talented... kind...fun...cooperative... BLESSINGS OF LOVE! I am truly honored and humbled to share the Joy of Music with them.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation for everything and everyone, Linda

Choir

By Sharon Stump

Thank you to everyone who helped to sing on the choir Easter Sunday. It was such a blessing to hear your beautiful voices sing praise to our risen Lord.

The choir will be singing on June 25th at the 8:15 AM Service. The name of the song is Following Jesus Medley. It is a very simple song and a fun song to sing. Please consider volunteering to help sing.

Rehearsal will be Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:15 PM in the choir room.

Please call me at 610-756-3476 or email me at sls2horses@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to sing.

Grief Share

By Priscilla Faller

GriefShare wrapped up in April.

We break for the summer and resume in September.

GriefShare.org is available anytime. Check it out.

May 4th:
The National Day
of
Prayer

Hamburger Fest

By Emily Adams

Hamburger Fest will be September 2, 2023.

The Evangelism Team is looking for volunteers to help with Zion's annual event at the Journey Cafe.

We need help with set-up and tear-down, as well as people willing to pray with festival attendees or hand out tracts and Zion's promotional materials. Please call or text Josh Lynn at 610-914-6251 if you can help in any way.

This is a great opportunity to reach out to the local community and beyond!

Frolf 2: The Great Grizbee

By The Walk: Young Adults

Join us May 20th at the Long Trout Winery at 1pm for Frolf 2: The Great Grizbee!

This will be a fun afternoon of frisbee-golf, followed by a picnic afterwards. Feel free to bring something to share if you'd like but we will be providing food as well. You require NO LEVEL OF SKILL to participate and it's super easy to learn.

Hope to see you there!



Dan Bailey &
Gene Schappell
accept the
PSATS award
on behalf of the
Journey Cafe Youth
Group.

Rock Us: 5th Grader Night

Wednesday, May 3rd

All 5th graders are invited to a special night to welcome next year's 6th graders at Rock-Us at the Journey Cafe (3rd & Pine St., Hamburg).

The night will be filled with a pizza meal, games, a live worship band, and an engaging lesson.

Come see all the excitement at the Cafe on a Wednesday night. The program runs from 5:45 pm - 8:30 pm.

Family Picnic & Kickball

Sunday, June 4th

Join us from 9:40am - 1:00 pm.

There will be games involving lots of balls during the Sunday school hour.

Afterwards, parents will join their kids for a provided picnic lunch followed by a family kickball game and outdoor activities.

RSVP at the check-in station or at jennifer.scott@zionschurch.org

Save the Date: Z-World

Saturday & Sunday, July 29 - 30

Z-World: Weekend Edition will be Saturday, July 29th and Sunday, July 30th . This is a free event for preschool thru elementary students and their families with activities including a zipline, Alpine slide, slip 'n slide, and more, as well as funny skits, a live band, and plenty of food. Families can camp overnight on Saturday or return on Sunday for more activities.

More details and registration coming soon.

Inspired Sisters: Women's Conference

Saturday, May 13th

Doors open at 8:15am at the Journey Cafe. The Program is from 9:15am to 4:30pm.

We couldn't be more excited to tell you that this year we welcome guest Associate Pastor and Worship leader, Jennifer Eckhart, of Blue Mountain Community Church for the morning half of our one-day Conference.

We'll have worship, messages, raffle prizes (including a discounted Women's Retreat ticket!!!), food, sister-ship, and fun.

There's still time to register, but make sure to do so before May 7th for the \$40 registration price. You can get all the details on our webpage (InspiredSisters.org) and sign-up there too, or you can see Marie Perry at the Soundboard or Katie Keck at the Women's Sunday School 9:40 class to register in person. You can contact Marie Perry at admin@inspiredsisters.org or text 610-587-2136 for any other questions or info. Hope to see you there!

Worship at the Journey Cafe

Prayer Request

Dan Bailey and Randy Bond are currently exploring the possibility of starting an additional worship service at The Journey Café.

They are seeking ways to especially reach the young adult population of our community, especially people who have been through the teenage ministries at the café over the years. They are in the very early planning stages of this opportunity and are hoping to connect with people who are not currently engaged in our church family and either don't have a faith or have become spiritually stagnated.

They would welcome your prayers as they seek the Lord's direction.

Planet Shakers

Wednesday, May 10th

The last night for Planet Shakers for this school year will be Wednesday, May 10th. Thank you to the parents who were so committed to bringing their children each week; we have loved getting to know your kids. We'll take a break for the summer and hope to see your family in September.

