



Zions

April 2024

NewZflash

Letter from our Pastor

Hi friends!

What do you think of when you turn over the calendar to April? Jokes! April Fool's jokes.

Here are some items that different companies are thinking about selling: sour cream and onion flavored soda, a Da-Da Decoder that will translate the sounds that your baby makes into understandable human language, a Dole Banana Peel sleeping bag that looks like ... a Dole banana sleeping bag, and a Korean BBQ deodorant.

Sometimes during the month of November people will extend beyond a single day the idea of giving thanks. Instead, each day of the month they will identify something for which they are thankful.

What if we did a similar thing in April? What if, instead of merely having a single day of hopefully funny surprises, we attempt to surprise others with a month of blessings. What if we worked to create really special surprises for others in our life. They wouldn't have to be expensive or time consuming. Just thoughtful gestures that could be cherished. When I think about this idea, there's a Scripture that came to my mind. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

Did you catch that? We were created in Christ Jesus for good works? We were created to do good things in the name of Jesus. So many people will complain about all the negativity of the world in which we live. And they're right. There are a lot of things about which we could complain.

Yet, every now and then, someone will tell me a story. They'll begin, "You'll never believe what happened to me..." and they'll precede to tell a story of an unexpected act of kindness that someone did for them. It might have been the smallest thing, and yet they continue to tell others about their experience. What they're describing is an act of simple kindness. A teenager holding open a door for an elderly person brings a blessing. Listening to a young child tell a story of importance to them brings joy. Again, it doesn't have to take much time or even effort. Just thoughtfulness could go a long way, especially for someone different than you. When we reach across to someone of a different age or someone of a different race or ethnicity, it can be surprising and even heartwarming.

Let's be that person this month. Lots of people will try to pull off a little silly April Fool's prank to create a couple of laughs. Why don't we mix it up this month, and for the next 30 days, creatively surprise people with acts of kindness that will bless their hearts. Do something unexpected that could bring joy to another person.

Here's what I hope to achieve when I do something kind—it's captured by something Jesus said. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 ESV)

How great would that be? How wonderful, if we showed kindness to someone, and Jesus got the praise! That's why we live. To please him and bring him praise.

In Christ's love,

Randy



Volunteer Fair

Each of us has a God-given gift or talent which can be shared within Zion's Church. The church offers many opportunities throughout the year in which you can get involved. We have many events and we would certainly appreciate your assistance.

If you feel a calling to volunteer, plan to stop by the Volunteer Fair tables between services on April 14.

Road Rally

Join us April 28th from 1:30 to 4:00 outside the Fellowship Hall for our first Road Rally!

You'll be forming groups of 2-6 people in one vehicle trying to follow clues to be the first to find all 10, as well as do it with the least amount of miles! Drivers must be 21+. Register at Zionchurch.org/register!

Blue Rocks Clean Up

The Walk: Young Adults group has been invited to the Blue Rocks Campground for a service project outside on Saturday, April 20!

We'll help them clean up trash off of the rocks so their campground is ready for the summer season. Take care of our earth with us!

More details to come. Follow us on social media for updates and more!



Zion's Bells

Two More Times...

It's hard to believe, but our 2023-2024 handbell ringing season is quickly coming to a close... we will be playing two more times (April 28 and May 19), before we take a summer break.

This group is so incredibly beautiful!

They truly possess the Fruit of the Spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!

(All of the qualities Pastor Randy has been encouraging us to strive for.)

I Am Blessed Beyond Measure!

We're hoping you can join us for worship every Sunday but ESPECIALLY on April 28th at 8:15 a.m.

Thank You for All Your Support...We Are Sincerely Grateful,

Linda and Zion's Bells

*The Lord Almighty has sworn,
"Surely, as I have planned, so it will be,
and as I have purposed, so it will happen."
Isaiah 14:24*

Sidewalk Breakfast with Journey Church

The Walk: Young Adults group is partnering with The Journey Church for an outreach Sunday service!

Join us at the Journey Cafe, April 7th, at 10am to help them set up and run their official church-launch.

We'll have breakfast, worship, and a time of awesome fellowship.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



MudRun

There's a small team of ladies heading to meet this really fun challenge. If you're crazy enough to consider coming with us, you can purchase a new ticket, currently around \$60, or let us know and we can save you some dough - we have ONE ticket available for transfer at a lesser cost from a team member unable to participate. See Marie Perry or email admin@inspiredsisters.org. The MudRun is June 1st at the Pocono Raceway.

Girlfriends Night Out: Worship Event

If you were at the Women's Conference last month and you enjoyed the Worship Leader, Jennifer Eckhart, here's your chance to praise the Lord with her and her team. We'll be heading up to Blue Mountain Community Church around 5pm on Friday, April 26th for a Girlfriends Night of Worship. The event starts at 6:30 pm. If you'd like to hop in a ride with us, email admin@inspiredsisters.org or see Katie Keck in the Women's Sunday School.

We'll be at the Volunteer Fair

Here's your chance to share your God-given talents and blessings by joining the Women's Ministry team or any other team here at Zions Church.

Inspired Women's events like conferences, retreats, and even simple friendship-building activities like Ladies Bowling Nights takes a volunteer or two to organize. So stop by our Ladies Table at the Zions Church Volunteer Fair at any of the times in-between the Sunday services on April 14th. As always, we'll be there with coffee and cookies (who doesn't love coffee and cookies?!). Hope to see you there!

Ladies Kayaking

Join us for a fun trip down the Schuylkill River on Saturday, June 8. All women are welcome!

Did you miss attending a women's event recently?

We do our best to let you know what's happening with the Women's Ministry through screen promos in the sanctuary in between services and a list of upcoming events on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. In addition to these newsletter updates, we also offer a convenient email subscription to deliver information directly to your inbox throughout the month via our website, inspiredsisters.org. We absolutely love connecting with old and new friends, so why not check us out? And if you have an idea for a new event or activity, let us know! We're always looking for new and fun ways to grow in our faith and in our friendships with our sisters-in-Christ! admin@inspiredsisters.org.



Life's Choices Medical Spring Chicken 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, April 27th at 9:30 am

What's better than a walk or run on a flat trail along the Schuylkill River with friends? How about a Chick-Fil-A chicken sandwich when you reach the finish line! That might be the tastiest reason to participate in this event, but here's some more that make it fun and worthwhile: a t-shirt and some swag, a fun-run for the kids, prizes for top runners, even your dog will enjoy the course! But most of all, it's a great way to support LC Medical and support services as they provide evidence-based information, cost-free services, and practical support to women and families experiencing an unexpected or unsupported pregnancy. Online registration is now open through April 14th: \$30pp, \$15 for kids, or \$20 with the "Zion's Church" team! Whether it's running, walking, or just cheerleading, sign-up with us - it's a great way to move with friends and raise money for an honorable cause! Scan the QR Code for more information:



New Member Class

There's no time like the present...

If you've ever thought about becoming a member at Zion's Church, join Pastor Randy at the Journey Cafe on April 7th at 3 pm. There will be good conversation, bible teaching, and pizza!

No RSVP necessary. Just show up!



IMPORTANT DATES

Prime Timers

Saturday, April 6	9 a.m.	Friendship Circle Breakfast	Perry Restaurant
Monday, April 8	11:30 a.m.	Prime Timers Lunch/BINGO	Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 12	1 p.m.	Prime Timers Council meeting	Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 19	10 a.m.	Prime Timers Snacks/Games	Journey Cafe
Saturday, April 27	12 noon	Prime Timers Lunch Bunch	Ozgood's, Kutztown

Other Important Dates

Sunday, April 7	9:40 a.m.	Bricktastic Bash	Sunday School / FH
Sunday, April 7	3 p.m.	New Member Class	Journey Cafe
Saturday, April 13	5 p.m.	Three Strands Concert	Journey Cafe
Fri-Sun, April 19-21		Boys Campout	Blue Rocks
Saturday, April 20	8 a.m.	Earth Day Cleanup	Journey Cafe

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS



International Missions Trip

Hello!

My name is Clarkson Zimmerman and I had a chance to go on my first International Missions Trip.

We went to the Dominican Republic through "This Little Light Ministries." They support Dr. Mercedes' ministry there. This consists of medical help for the impoverished nation, traveling to the sugar cane fields, helping their migrant workers coming from Haiti with medicines, support with food and money to the churches and people there at those camps.

The children at the school are what got me. They wear uniforms that look really great, get a great education and learn more things about God, Jesus, and life.

We went down with 23 people, and Ron and Sandy who have been doing this for the last 27 years, every time building, painting, or just repairing. There is a nice big compound with a three-story school and a church on the premises.

Zion's Church was gracious enough to support me and if anyone would like to come with us this October 2024 or just talk to me about it, let me know (610-790-7799).

Have a great day in the Lord,
Clarkson Zimmerman

