



ZIONS NEWZFLASH

NEWSLETTER OF ZIONS CHURCH

Letter from our Pastor

Happy February!!

There are two holidays that I think about in February—Groundhog Day—my favorite holiday of all, and Valentine’s Day—the holiday celebrating love.

What kind of love? Romantic, but let’s broaden that love beyond our couple relationships to others. There’s a real convicting line in the Scripture in 1 John. “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar, for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.” 1 John 4: 20-21

Calling us out as potential liars—that’s pretty tough language, but here’s my question; To whom are we lying? I think ourselves. I think we’re being called out for self-deception. If we claim to love God, and yet hate people, I think we’re kidding ourselves. Loving God requires us to love others.

So, buy your flowers or your chocolates for that special person in your life, but wouldn’t it be great this year, to go beyond the romantic and show love to others on February 14? Now that I think about it...why stop with one day? Why not this month of February show love to a different person each day. I’m sure Jesus did that and showing love to people every day would really honor and please Jesus.

What do you think?

In Christ’s love,

Randy



GROUPS

ZION'S BELLS

Lent begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday.

And the next time Zion's Bells will be ringing is **February 18**, the 1st Sunday of Lent, at 8:15 A.M.

Don't look for them in their "usual location"...THEY WON'T BE THERE! They will be in the choir loft.

The song they will be sharing, during the prelude, is a handbell/organ duet based on Psalm 121.

We hope it will help to begin your Lenten season in a most meaningful way.

Thank You!

Linda and Zion's Bells

KNITTING 101

Would you like to learn how to knit?

Read a pattern? Choose a pattern and receive help to complete it?

Come join this group - all ages ok - held Thursday nights from 6:30-8pm at the Journey Cafe apartment, led by Sandy Plummer and Bev Sander.

Hope to see you there starting **February 8th**. We'll have yarn and needles for the beginners, or bring your own.

Sign up on Realm or on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board across from the upstairs bathrooms.

If you forget to sign up, no worries! Just show up anyway!

GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share will begin its winter session on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 6:30 pm, meeting in Room 201.

This 13-week series uses videos, personal workbook activities, and group discussion to help process the loss of a loved one.

LADIES SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please consider joining the Ladies Sunday School class as we dig deeper into the *Heart of God*; a 6-week study by Francis Chan. What thoughts come to mind when you think of God? Do you wonder what he's like, what he thinks about you, or what he wants for you? The good news is that we don't have to go far to find answers. God tells us all we need to know about who he is and what he's like - about his heart - and why that matters for our lives. Join with friends, new and old, as we take a journey of discovery to the heart of God and we will walk away knowing God better and loving him more.

This study will wrap up on **February 18th**.

The following **Sunday, Feb 25th** will be breakfast! Bring a breakfast item to share.

The next study will start **March 3rd**.

Can't join us every Sunday? No problem.

This study, along with the study guide, is available through our free resource with RightNow Media. If this study sounds like something you would like to dig into - It's a new year, start a new thing and join us!

-Led by Katie Keck

-Room 109 at 9:40 AM

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LADIES BOWLING NIGHT

On **Friday, February 16th**, join us for a fun night of food, laughs, and bowling! Ladies will meet at the Journey Cafe for a "Group Dinner" before heading to the bowling alley. What does a "Group Dinner" look like? Bring your favorite take-out to the Cafe and sit with your friends to eat together.

Then we'll carpool to Strike Zone in Pottstown for a little friendly competition. Food and refreshments can be purchased there additionally. Sign up here!

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

SURRENDERING THE SECRET BIBLE STUDY

This bible study is ONLY open to women. Beginning in **March**, it is a place for post-abortive women to find 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 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.

SAVE THE DATES

- Inspired Sisters Women's Conference
 - **Saturday, March 16th**
 - The Journey Cafe
- Life's Choices Spring Chicken 5K Run/Walk
 - **Saturday, April 27th**
 - Hamburg Park



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUP-ER BOWL WATCH PARTY

The Walk presents: SOUP-er Bowl Watch Party!

All are invited to come watch the big game at The Journey Cafe on **Sunday, February 11th**. Doors open at 6pm, please bring snacks or drinks to share!

This event is also a chance for us to give back to the community, so please bring some canned soup or non-perishable food for us to donate to the local food pantry!

*This is a great event to bring new people who aren't connected with our church yet!

ZION'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER JOB FAIR

Zion's Church is looking for a few good volunteers!

Each of us has a God-given gift or talent which should and can be shared within Zion's Church.

Zion's Church offers many opportunities throughout the year in which you can get involved. We have many programs and events, both scheduled and planned, and we would certainly appreciate and welcome your assistance and advice.

If you feel a calling to volunteer to assist in these programs and events; or if you have any talents or expertise which the church may need, we ask that you plan to stop by the Volunteer Job Fair tables between services on **April 14**.

-The Zion's Church Ministry Team

SKI & SNOWBOARD TRIP TO BLUE MOUNTAIN

OPEN TO ALL- Last year we tried this for the first time, choosing a Friday to avoid the crowds, but this year we are hoping to encourage more participants by planning a Saturday trip instead. We're trying to work out something for everyone interested, but we need your input. If you're already subscribed to the inspiredsisters.org website, you should have received an email with a link to the RSVP. Otherwise, you can visit inspiredsisters.org. You can also contact Marie Perry at mperry@kassay.com.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Are you passionate about providing opportunities for Zions members to grow in their faith in between church services? Amy Miller is looking for a few folks to join the Discipleship Team to help plan and promote these types of activities. The Discipleship Team currently oversees Adult Sunday School, Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study, the Church Library, the Infant Nursery, and RightNow Media implementation. If you have ideas about making any of those areas more successful – or think there's a gap that should be filled – please reach out to Amy Miller at amy.miller08@gmail.com or 484-225-6217.