

Zions NewZflash

ZION'S CHURCH

◆
March 2024



A Letter from Our Pastor

Friends!

Should Donald Trump be a friend of Nancy Pelosi? Should Joe Biden be a friend of Marjorie Taylor Greene? I think they both claim to be Christians, so that would mean they are striving to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In that light, listen to this observation that some people made of Jesus saying that Jesus was "...a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!" (Luke 7:35) I read recently that 30 percent of Gen Z people do not want to be friends of people who voted for the opposite political candidate. Should they? Would Jesus?

A friend, according to what I've read, is "a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations." If that's correct, do you think that Jesus had a relationship of mutual affection with tax collectors and other sinners? In other words, do you think Jesus actually liked tax collectors and other sinners? Were they his friends? Truthfully, he went further than merely liking them—he loved them! Did he approve of everything they did and all the values they held? Of course not, but then, he doesn't approve of all the things that we do and likely some of the values that we hold, but he still loves us.

He liked them. Did they like him? Do you remember what happened after the former tax collector Matthew (also known as Levi) became a Christian? "Later, Levi (Matthew) held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them." Guess what? Those tax collectors showed up to eat that meal with Jesus. They were at least curious and by the end of the evening, when the Pharisees called the tax collectors a bunch of scum and Jesus defended them as deserving of his love—if they didn't like him before, they probably liked him then.

What about you? How many true friendships do you have with democrats? With republicans? With people who are truly different than you are? People who think differently, act differently, and have different lifestyles and values? How many friendships do you have with people who are truly different than you?

Jesus' answer: lots! Jesus had a lot of friends who were different than him. That doesn't mean he approved of everything they did or every value they held, but Jesus had friendships with all kinds of people.

In a societal sense, I see us as isolating more from people who are different than us. I don't see Jesus doing that. And I'm not sure how effectively we can share the love of Jesus with people who don't like us and who we don't like. It would be preferable if we became friends with more people who were different from us. Because that's what Jesus did.

Lord, help me to love as you loved all people. Hopefully, this stirs your thoughts!

In Jesus' love,

Randy Bond

PS That opening reference to different politicians was in there just to entice you to read this article! It looks like it worked!

Zion's Bells

*Christ Is Risen, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Christ the Lord is risen today,
Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angels say
Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high.
Hallelujah!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply.
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*
This is the joyful proclamation of one of the songs Zion's Bells will be sharing on Easter morning at the 8:15 AM service! We can't wait to raise our joys and triumphs high on Easter morning...
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
What a Savior!!!*

Bricktastic Bash

Sunday, April 7th 9:40 AM – 12:30 PM

Preschool thru 5th grade kids and their families are invited to join us for a morning full of games and activities with kids' favorite Lego building bricks during the Sunday school hour, followed by a meal for the entire family and family Lego challenges and builds.

Come get your brick on!

Sign up and more details at zionschurch.org/register.

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.

Choir

The choir will be singing at the 8:15 AM service on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Anyone wishing to help sing, please contact Sharon Stump at 610-756-3476 or email sls2horses@gmail.com. Rehearsals will be Thursday, March 14th and March 21st from 7:15 PM to 8:00 PM in the choir room. Please join us in celebrating our risen Lord.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, March 10th, at 10:45 AM, following the second worship service, we will hold a brief congregational meeting to discuss and vote about upgrading the air conditioning and heating system downstairs.



Easter News

Maundy Thursday

- March 28
- Time: 7 PM

Easter Sunday

- March 31
- Normal Service Times
 - 8:15 AM
 - 9:40 AM
 - 11:05 AM
- Journey Church will not meet. Attendees may join Zion's for Easter worship.

Ski & Snowboard Trip

Blue Mountain Ski Area, Palmerton -
Open to All

Let us know if you're interested in joining us on Monday, March 11th. We can plan to head out first thing in the morning to take advantage of the corduroy or just an early afternoon arrival.

Text Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 or email admin@inspiredsisters.org

Ladies Game Night

The Journey Cafe, Friday, March 1st
Doors open at 6:30 PM; Games begin at 7:00 PM.

Refreshments and coffee will be available. Please bring a snack item to share, a favorite game (if you have one), and be ready to laugh!

Young Adult Hangout Night

Need some fun Friday night plans? We got you covered! Join us on Friday, March 8th at 6 PM at the Journey Cafe for a great evening!

We'll have a make-your-own pizza station, along with some super-fun games planned! This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend to a Zion's Church event!

Want to stay updated with all our events? Follow us on Instagram: @thewalk320 "

Knitting & Crochet 101

Would you like to learn how to knit or crochet? Read a pattern? Choose a pattern and receive help to complete it? Come join this group (all ages ok), held Thursday nights from 6:30-8 PM at the Journey Cafe. We'll have yarn and needles for the beginners, or bring your own.

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Women's Daytime Bible Study

After a winter break, the Women's Daytime Bible Study will be starting up on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. The upcoming session will seek to gain new insight and fresh inspiration from some familiar, well-known passages in the Old Testament. This Bible study meets every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall here at Zion's Church.

If you are too busy to attend a weekly Bible study full time, you are always welcome to stop in for a visit and enjoy a morning of fellowship with Christian women and perhaps gain a few new insights into the Bible while you are there.

Since meeting dates sometimes change due to holidays or events, check the calendar in the church's bulletin or call the church office to verify a meeting date. This weekly study is led by Faye Weidenhammer.

Women's Conference

Join us for our annual Women's Spring Conference on Saturday, March 16th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM for inspirational worship and the message, "Enough: Stewarding Who We Are, What We Have, and Who We Have" as we welcome back Worship Leader and Pastor Jennifer Eckhart of Blue Mountain Community Church. Let God speak through this event to encourage and inspire your faith, and grow alongside the beautiful hearts of sisters-in-Christ. Our program will run from 10 AM to 3 PM. Doors will open at 9:15 AM for coffee and light breakfast fare, with lunch served at 12:30 PM. There will be worship, sermons, photobooth, food, raffles, discussion, prayer, and connecting. Pre-registration cost is \$35.00* per person and includes lunch. All ladies are welcome, but please note that event-day ticket pricing (without pre-registering) will be \$40 per person at the door. Please encourage anyone you might bring along with you to register by March 10th. And if you already signed up at church this past weekend, no need to fill out the form again – we got you! (*Please note cancellation and refund policy: tickets are transferable; no refund after March 10th). We know that you will be blessed too with Mrs. Eckhart and her team – last year was an amazing experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to text Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 or email admin@inspiredsisters.org.



Prime Timers

- Friendship Breakfast
 - March 2
 - 9 AM
 - Perry Restaurant
- Council Meeting
 - March 8
 - 1 PM
 - Fellowship Hall
- BINGO / Lunch
 - March 11
 - 11:30 AM
 - Fellowship Hall
- Games / Snacks
 - March 15
 - 10 AM
 - Journey Cafe
- Lunch
 - March 30
 - NOON
 - Fiore's (Shoey)

Surrendering the Secret

Bible Study (ONLY open to women) - finding grace, hope and healing after abortion

Sisters walking 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, consider participation in a post-abortive healing through "Surrendering The Secret", an 8-week bible study created 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, 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.

Adult Sunday School: Sunday mornings at 9:40 AM

Young Adult Sunday School (Age 18-35) – Room 201

Currently, we are reading through a book called "Unoffendable" by Brant Hansen. We are discussing human anger and offense, and the biblical response to those emotions.

The Foundry - (Men's Bible Study where men are being refined by the Word of God) - Room 108

We are doing a verse by verse study of the book of 1 Peter. We have group discussions about the Biblical meaning of the verses using other Scripture and how to apply it in our lives.

Ladies Sunday School – Room 109

Are you interested in meeting new friends and growing closer to God? Maybe you are looking for accountability and support? We are here for you! Join us Sunday mornings in Room 109 for coffee and conversation.

On March 3rd, we will be starting a new 7-week study called, "Miracles of Jesus". Miracles of Jesus explores all four Gospels with teaching from Jennie Allen, Bianca Juarez Olthoff, Jada Edwards, and Sadie Robertson. Discover the ways Jesus healed, provided for, calmed, and resurrected the people he encountered. This 7-session study is about believing in the power of God who can accomplish anything. There's nothing too big or too small for us to bring to Him. When we take time to learn about the overflowing kindness Jesus demonstrated to all kinds of people through miracles during his time on earth, we realize that he is radically generous, compassionate, and honoring toward all people.

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 – please consider joining us! You will end this study in awe of the Messiah who relentlessly seeks, saves, and restores us!

Led by Katie Keck: kkeck011@gmail.com or 610-406-7441

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