



ZION'S NEWZFLASH

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| www.zionschurch.org

Letter from our Pastor

My dearest friends in Jesus,

Thank you! Thank you for the amazing privilege of serving as your pastor for these past forty-two and a half years. Thank you!

I remember doing my very first funeral. As I was preparing to do that funeral (which no one in seminary had taught me how to do along with a bunch of other really practical stuff!), I thought to myself, how can I be entrusted with this incredibly special event? I called my dad up. "Dad, how do you do a funeral?" Sometimes education is so theoretical, it can miss the point. With my father's counsel, I did the first funeral followed by hundreds more, along with weddings, and worship services.


I had 31 in my first confirmation class. My predecessor wasn't popular, and parents had been holding their kids back, waiting for the new pastor. They had had a two year program that I merged into one year. That's why I had such a large class. I had a curriculum, but I was teaching it as I went along, preparing just one week ahead of the class.

That's the way it was with everything. I was so young and inexperienced. And you accepted me. You responded to me. You came to love me.

And when I say you accepted me, it wasn't most of you reading these words right now. In the very beginning, I was accepted by people you don't know, because many of them have gone to be with Jesus. As I'm writing these words, I'm thinking of them as well as you. I'm thanking them, and I'm thanking you. I thank all of you who have sat in the pews of Zion's Church under my leadership, those still present and those who have gone on.

Best of all, you allowed me to be me. I know that I'm different. One of my seminary classmates expressed disbelief that I could be a pastor, because I didn't fit the mold he had for a pastor. But you allowed me to be the pastor who I was meant to be, without requiring me to fit into some mold of what a pastor was supposed to look like. Thank you!

It's incredible when I think about it. There can be some very confining, restrictive conditions that are placed on pastors. But you didn't require me to wear that kind of cultural strait jacket. I was allowed to be me and serve Jesus as your pastor at the same time. You have no idea how significant that is. I wasn't required to put on an act. I could simply be me, serving as your pastor.



Letter from Our Pastor Continued...

I think that was the greatest gift you could have ever given me. When I came to this church, I had no idea how creative I could be. I had no idea the places we would go and the things we would do together. You allowed me to be creative, spontaneous and use my giftedness. You allowed me to be silly and passionate. You allowed me to invest myself in a countless number of human relationships and lives. Many individuals and couples gave me their trust and shared some of their deepest pains and hurts with me, as we tried together to pursue healing that can come from the Lord. You allowed me to work with you in reaching out in all kinds of innovative ways to share Jesus' love. As I write these words, the memories are flooding over me. On and on I could go.

One of my favorite Scriptures was written by Paul to the Christians in Philippi. Paul's words are my words. I embrace every single word. I think of you as Paul thought of the Philippian Christians. Here are just a few of the words. Read the rest of what Paul said through verse eleven on your own time. So many of those words capture my heart.

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now." Philippians 1:3-5

From the depth of my heart, thank you! Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor! It's been the greatest joy of my life. You have been the best church for me there could have ever been! Thank you!

I love you all!
Randy

Ladies Sunday School

Join Us in Women's Sunday School: New Study on Ephesians Starting April 6th!

Have you ever asked yourself, "Who am I?" Ladies, we invite you to be part of our Women's Sunday School class, starting April 6th in Room 111! Together, we will dive into the powerful book of Ephesians through a transformative 7-session video study led by Jackie Hill Perry, Jasmine Holmes, and Melissa Kruger.

This study explores key themes in Ephesians, such as our identity in Christ, the power of God's grace, the unity of the church, and living out our faith in practical ways. The insights provided will deepen your understanding of God's Word, encourage you to live with purpose, and empower you to embrace your true identity in Christ. Each session includes dynamic teaching, group discussions, and personal reflection to help you apply biblical truths in your daily life.

Whether you are new in your faith or have been growing for years, this study offers something for everyone. It's a great opportunity to grow in your faith, connect with other women, and be uplifted in a supportive, community-centered environment.

Don't miss out on this chance to grow spiritually and in fellowship with other women. We'd love for you to join us on this encouraging and uplifting journey through the book of Ephesians. Come grow in community and in the Word!

If you have questions please reach out to Katie Keck (610-406-7441 or kkeck011@gmail.com)

Consistory Corner

- The Three Strands team has signed the agreement for their shared use of the Journey Cafe. This has been in the works since they moved in, and we wanted to make sure the agreement honors the wishes and terms of both parties.
- The Journey Cafe exterior renovations are underway! The team has picked a beautiful stonework to cover the bottom part of the walls (facing 3rd and Pine) and a bright white vinyl siding to cover the upper portion (all sides of the building). Additionally, permanent awnings will be added above the doors to the Cafe, with room to position any new signage above the awnings.
- We would encourage the congregation to continue praying for our church and for a smooth transition between Randy leaving and Pastor Roy fulfilling the Senior Pastor role.
- We are doing another card shower for Natalie Schappell. There will be pieces of paper with her address in the back of the church and in the Welcome Center.
- We are currently working on a Yearbook/Directory of sorts bringing back the old tradition of being able to find all the info and attendees of Zion's Church easily. This started as a gift for Pastor Roy but will be offered in May as an item the congregation can purchase. It will be a hardcover book with images and history throughout. The pricing will be around \$50. Talk to Dan Smith if you have any questions.



Bell Choir

We Have a New Member!!!

Jessica is back and brought Baby Harlan along, too! It's so wonderful having both of you with us again!!! **God is so good...ALL THE TIME!**

Exuberant Joy!!!

Can you imagine the joy the women felt on that first Easter morning when they discovered Jesus had risen?!! I am sure one of their emotions had to be exuberant joy!!!

Zion's Bells will be playing **PRELUDE** music on Easter morning at the 8:15 a.m. service.

One of our selections is

"Now the Green Blade Riseth."

If I were to describe how it makes me feel, I would have to say EXUBERANT!

It's a challenging piece but SO WORTH the challenge! We can't wait to add to your joy on Easter morning...

The Lord Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!!!

And, One More Time...

OUR HANDBELL SEASON IS QUICKLY COMING TO A CLOSE!

WE WILL BE PLAYING ON MAY 4 DURING THE 8:15 A.M. SERVICE.

**Thank You for All Your Support...We Sincerely Appreciate You,
Linda and Zion's Bells**

WOMEN

Spring Chicken 5K

Spring has sprung, and the chicken is gearing up for his annual 5K on Saturday, April 26th....are you too? LC Medical's Annual Spring Chicken 5K Fundraiser is once again offering Chick-Fil-A sandwiches at the finish line - who can pass that up? This year there's two ways to support LC Medical and it's familial support and outreach: join the Zions Finishers team to run, walk, jog, or skip, or sponsor someone to do that work for you! Either way, you're a do-gooder! Lots of friends from Zions participate, and we'd love to have you come along too - we're sure you can find someone to run faster than or just walk beside! Scan code for more info:

SCAN
ME! >>



Registration Prices: Adult 5K - \$35.00 • Child (12 and under) - \$20.00 • Team (Family of 4) - \$25.00 each

And, if you'd like to challenge yourself by running the 5K and could really use some additional encouragement and accountability, visit our Facebook group, RunWithMe to post up when you run, walk, bike, or exercise - it'll be a great way to train for the race and even beyond - scan the QR code to join this private group:



Hope to see you at the START line!

Moms of the Vine

Tuesday, April 15th from 10-12 in the Fellowship Hall:

Please join us in creating resurrection snacks along with a devotional and light brunch (pancakes!).

MudRun & Trailriding

LADIES HORSEBACK TRAILRIDING & MUDRUN ACTIVITIES, MAY 31st, POCONOS

We know the MudRun part sounds crazy, but it's actually kind of fun!

And why not add a horseback trail ride to the mix (yes, we know it's kind of random, but so what!?). Spots are filling up for the horseback riding (it's not a private group event, so we can't hold any spots). Additionally, the MudRun registration prices increase as the date gets closer. Visit inspiredsisters.org or scan the QR code to register and pay for one or both events and let us know you're just as crazy as we are!



Hidden Hearts

There are countless reasons to hide God's Word in our hearts as Psalm 119:11 instructs us to do. "I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." To help with this, we've found an activity we'd like to share with you: "Hidden Hearts" is a scripture memorization activity designed to help study and memorize scripture. You'll receive monthly updates written by women's ministry leaders of Blue Mountain Community Church, challenging you to spend each month reading, writing, reflecting, journaling, and most importantly, memorizing a specific scripture. Don't worry—there are no tests or check-ins, so you can approach this with no stress - this activity is meant to be a personal challenge, allowing you to grow at your own rate. We'll provide you with a journal, and each month you'll receive an email with that month's Hidden Hearts scripture and reflection, and we'll send you an invite for our Facebook group too, so you can share your thoughts, reflections, or even helpful memorization tips. Visit inspiredsisters.org/hidden-hearts/ to sign-up or scan the QR code.



Bond Another Day

42 years of respectable and outstanding service, not only to Zion's Church, but to God. Please join us on April 27th at The Warehouse to celebrate Randy's Retirement. Doors will open at 12:30 PM after church and there will be parking but please carpool when possible. The event will run from 1 PM until 5 PM but feel free to come and go as you wish. The theme is "Bond Another Day" based off of Randy's longest and "least funniest" joke. Bond. Randy Bond.

Food will be catered and will be somewhere between Lunch and Dinner items with refreshments as well as a cake.

Please Note: The Gift giving to Randy will be at 2:30 PM if you'd like to attend that. Let's come together and celebrate the man, the career, the Bond.

Are You a Numbers Person?

The Business Team is looking for two or three individuals to volunteer their time to perform a financial review of the 2024 accounting records. Individuals must be at least 21 years of age and have a working knowledge of accounting/recordkeeping. Assigned tasks can be performed as time permits with the period of one month and should not require more than 10-15 hours to complete. This is a once a year project and does not require any additional time throughout the year. If interested, please contact Julie Freeman between the 1st & 2nd service or Gene Schappell between the 2nd & 3rd service.

The Walk

The Walk Young Adults are beginning bi-monthly hikes on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month, starting on Sunday, March 23rd. Meet up with us at the Hamburg Reservoir hiking area at 1:30pm. We will be hiking together to the Pulpit. Feel free to bring a packed lunch or a snack for the top!

Prime Timers

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|------------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • April 5 | 9 am | Friendship Circle Breakfast | Perry Restaurant |
| • April 14 | 11:30 am | Bingo & Lunch | Fellowship Hall |
| • April 18 | 10 am | Game Day | Journey Cafe |
| • April 26 | 12 noon | The Lunch Bunch | Crossroads |

Important Dates

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|------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| • April 17 | 7 pm | Maundy Thursday Service | Zion's Church |
| • April 20 | 8:15, 9:40, 11:05 am | Easter Sunday Services | Zion's Church |
| • April 27 | All 3 services | Randy's last sermon | Zion's Church |
| • May 4 | All 3 services | Pastor Roy's first sermon | Zion's Church |

CHILDREN & FAMILY HAPPENINGS

B.L.A.S.T. Kids

Being Light & Salt Together

3 years old - 5th grade

Sundays at 9:40 am

- April 13th: Palm Sunday festivities
- April 20th: Easter celebration

Planet Shakers

Where K-5th graders learn to shake up the world for Jesus

Wednesdays - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

- April 16th: NO Planet Shakers
- April 30th: 5th grade night at Rock-Us
- May 14th: last Planet Shakers

family meal at 5:45 pm
year end party at 6:30 pm

held in the fellowship hall

Save-the-Date Z-World

July 26th & 27th

Free family event

Zipline, 200 ft Alpine slide, slip 'n slide, pony rides, silly skits, food, and more

Moms of the Vine

Where moms & kids can share life together & grow in Christ

April 15th - Easter event

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Enjoy fellowship, snacks, and a resurrection craft with the kids held in the fellowship hall

More Info

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