

# ZION'S

# NEWZFLASH

March 2026



Zion's  
Church

Greetings church family,

As we keep walking through this “Year of Seeking,” I’ve found myself thinking about what happens after the first step. In January we talked about seeking Jesus, not as a religious goal or a resolution, but as a real turning of the heart toward Him. And the more I pray into that, the more I realize seeking always becomes personal pretty quickly. We start by saying, “Lord, we want You,” and before long we’re saying, “Lord, have more of me than You’ve had before.” We start by saying, “Give me a desire for you,” and then we’re stirred to declare, “I need more of you!” Hallelujah.

That’s the thing about drawing close to Jesus: He doesn’t just give comfort to His people; He brings a real and literal clarity into our hearts. Not the kind of clarity that crushes you, but the kind that heals you and makes life more than we imagined it could be. When we’re honest enough to seek Jesus, we start noticing the places where we’ve made room for Him, but we haven’t really handed Him everything. We’ve let Him be part of our lives but not always the center. We’ve given Him access to the “public rooms,” but we’ve kept a few doors closed—sometimes without even realizing it.

And I don’t say that as a scolding. I say it as a pastor who knows how easy it is to keep things looking fine while still holding onto things that don’t belong in the life of someone who desperately wants and needs Jesus. Some of it isn’t even “big” or obvious. It can be old patterns we’ve learned to live with. Old comforts we keep running back to when we’re tired. Old reactions that feel normal to us now. A bitterness we’ve made peace with. A fear that keeps steering our decisions. Things that should have lost their voice in our lives a long time ago.

What I’m learning—what I think we’re learning together—is that you can’t seek God deeply while holding tightly to what replaces Him. Seeking Jesus isn’t just about adding prayer time or reading your Bible more consistently (though those things matter). It’s about letting Jesus touch the places we’ve protected, and letting Him lovingly say, “You don’t need to carry that anymore.” And when the Spirit puts His finger on something, it isn’t because He wants to shame us; it’s because He wants to free us. He’s not trying to expose you to embarrass you; He’s trying to heal you so you can breathe again. And others can enjoy being around you again! We all want that.

So here’s a simple question I’ve been asking the Lord to ask me: Is there anything in my life that isn’t of Him, but I’ve kept it around because it’s familiar? Something I’ve tolerated, negotiated with, excused, or renamed? And if He’s been speaking to you about something like that—something that needs to be laid to rest—don’t mistake that as Him being harsh with you. That’s the kindness of God. That’s the Shepherd putting His hand on what’s been weighing you down. Jesus said it like this, Come to me all who are weary and broken, and I will refresh you with rest.

This month, my prayer for us is straightforward: “Lord, we are seeking You, not on our terms, but on Yours. Help us lay to rest what isn’t of You.” Bury those bones! It doesn’t have to be noisy or dramatic, but it needs to be honest. And I believe if we keep doing that—if we keep opening our hearts instead of guarding the doors—Jesus will meet us in a deeper way than we expect. He’s not looking for a polished church. He’s looking for a yielded people. And I’m grateful to be seeking Him alongside you.

With love and gratitude,  
Pastor Roy

## Safety Team

### SPRING SAFETY TIPS

#### *Home and Property Maintenance*

- Safety Upgrades: Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, replacing batteries as needed.
- Roof and Gutter Cleaning: Clear debris to prevent water damage from spring rains.
- Foundation Check: Inspect the foundation for cracks or issues caused by winter freezing.
- Dryer Vent Cleaning: Remove lint build-up to reduce fire hazards.

#### *Outdoor Safety and Gardening*

- Ladder Safety: Ensure ladders are on level ground, wear non-slip shoes, and never work alone.
- Lawn Mower Safety: Wear eye and ear protection, check for debris before mowing, and never fuel a hot engine.
- Protect Your Skin: Apply sunscreen (SPF 30+) and use insect repellent containing DEET.
- Safe Digging: Call local utilities to mark underground lines before digging.

#### *Weather and Personal Safety*

- Severe Weather Alerts: Stay informed about thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash floods. When thunder roars, go indoors.
- Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water during outdoor activities.
- Emergency Planning: Review emergency plans and kits (water, food, radio) with family.
- Drive Safely: Be cautious of slick roads from spring showers, check tire pressure, and ensure wipers are working.

#### *Spring Cleaning Safety*

- Ventilation: Use cleaning products in well-ventilated areas to avoid fumes.
- Safe Storage: Keep chemicals and cleaning supplies away from children.
- Avoid Overexertion: Take breaks while moving heavy items or doing yard work.

## Picture Day

Picture Days are coming back for the 2026 Directory!

Whether you got your picture taken last year or you're a new member, every Sunday in March there will be a Photo Booth after all 3 services, or you can email your photo and name in to [fellowshipzionschurch@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipzionschurch@gmail.com). Talk to Dan Smith for more information!

## The Walk

Young adults are invited to spend an afternoon making some delicious Easter candy with us!

We'll make treat-boxes for members of Zion's Church who are currently house-bound, with plenty leftover for you to take home too!

Meet us at 2pm, Sunday March 22nd, in the Zion's fellowship hall for an extra-sweet time!

## Ladies Trivia Night

Ladies, you're invited to a night of laughter, connection, and a little friendly competition! 💡 ✨

Join us on March 27th for Women's Trivia Night with Inspired Sisters! Grab your friends, put on your thinking caps, and come ready for a great time together.

🕒 Doors open at 6:30 PM

🕒 Trivia starts at 7:00 PM

Bring a snack to share — drinks will be provided!

Because when women gather in faith and fun, beautiful things happen. ❤️

Any questions, reach out to Katie Keck 610-406-7441.

## Father/Son Retreat

**May 15-17, 2026**

Take the opportunity to invest in your father and son (ages 6-17) relationship with this active weekend, full of adventure and grounded in biblical teaching.

Program Includes:

- Climbing Wall, Giant Pendulum Swing, Ziplines, Fishing and Frogging, The BLOB and Boating, GAGA, Archery, Hawk Toss, Wiffleball, Kickball, Campfires, S'mores and always Worship and the WORD together with your son!

For more information or to register, go to Zion's Church Facebook or Instagram page. Hard copies are available at the Sunday School check-in station.

## Library

**Something New is Coming to Zion's Library!**

Zion's Church library has long been a quiet but meaningful resource for our congregation, offering a mix of Christian fiction, Bible studies, and discipleship materials to encourage both learning and spiritual growth. We are thankful for Abigail Scott, who faithfully serves as librarian — organizing materials, reviewing donations, and helping steward these resources well. Recently, Abigail has begun testing a new system aimed at making the library easier to explore and more visible to the congregation. This effort is part of a broader desire to help more people discover books and media that strengthen faith, deepen understanding, and support discipleship. We're encouraged by the early progress and look forward to sharing more about what this could mean for the church family. Please watch next month's newsletter for a fuller announcement and ways you can engage with the library in new ways.

— Discipleship Team

## Daytime Women's Bible Study

The spring session of the daytime Women's Bible Study begins on Wed, Mar. 25, 2026 and will continue for 10 weeks. This season's study will look at Phillip Keller's book *Taming Tension* where he shares with his readers a few simple secrets on how to understand and handle tension—secrets he learned from God throughout his tumultuous lifetime.

The group continues to meet every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 201 (the Meeting Room) at Zion's Church. It's a great way to enjoy a few moments of Christian Women's fellowship.



## Bell Choir

By the Time You Read This March Newsletter...

You will have either heard us play at the 8:15 a.m. service or can listen to it on YouTube! (We shared our Lenten music this first day of March!)

It's hard to believe, but our 2025-2026 handbell ringing season is quickly coming to a close.

We will be playing two more times... Easter Sunday, April 5 and in May (TBA) 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!

I Am Blessed Beyond Measure! We're hoping you can join us for worship every Sunday but ESPECIALLY on April 5th at 8:15 a.m.

We Can't Wait to Raise Our Joys and Triumphs High on Easter Morning!!!

Thank You for All Your Support...

We Are Sincerely Grateful,  
Zion's Bells and Linda

## Men

### 9:40 Sunday School

Men, be inspired and encouraged as we learn from inspiring stories of Christian men living their faith and look to do the same in our own lives.

### Tuesday Nights

Men, join us Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we learn what it means to be godly men living for Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

## Transition Team

Dear Zion's Church Family,  
As we approach the one-year anniversary of Pastor Roy becoming Zion's Senior Pastor, the Transition Team would like to share a brief update.

Over the past several months, we have been collecting feedback and data from church leaders regarding this first year of ministry. We are now merging that input with a self-assessment completed by Pastor Roy to gain a well-rounded understanding of this season of transition.

Our team has been meeting in conjunction with Pastor Roy since July 2025 and will continue to meet in the months ahead. These conversations are intended to support Pastor Roy, strengthen his leadership, and ensure the ongoing health and vitality of our church.

If you have feedback you would like to share from the past year, we welcome your input. Please feel free to contact any member of the Transition Team. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,  
Heather Mengel, Steve Perry,  
Derek Schroeder, and Dan Scott

## Cemetery

### Zion's Cemetery Company of Perry Township, Inc.

Monthly Board Meeting Date:

March 12, 2026

Our website:

[zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network](http://zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network)

## Letter from our Youth Minister

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways! (Romans 11:33 NLT). Under the direct inspiration of God, the Apostle Paul penned these profound lines in his letter to the church in Rome. From his transformation upon meeting the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus and throughout his ministry, Paul personally experienced the amazing and unfathomable ways that God works. William Cowper, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Anglican poet and hymn-writer, also grasped God's amazing ways. He wrote the hymn entitled "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." Cowper's hymn is most likely the source of a commonly used phrase among Christians: "God works in mysterious ways." God uses everything in His mysterious work for the good (re. Romans 8:28). And He also allows us to be involved in His good works (re. Ephesians 2:10).

I'm so blessed to see God working in mysterious ways, too, in our youth and young adult ministries at the Journey Café youth center & the Journey Church service, in our praise bands, at the two men's groups that I attend, and at the Three Strands gym. One thing I see is God using connections between people to further His Kingdom.

Recently, we have been encouraging our attendees to invite their friends and family to our various services, groups and activities. Over the past few weeks, we've seen a lot of new faces at the Café After-School Program and at Rock Us, our Wednesday night youth group. These new faces are present because a friend (who already attends) invites them to come. We've seen the same thing at the Journey Church recently too with a decent number of new people beginning to attend. Most often, new people come to the Journey Church because a friend has invited them (I've tracked the specific data on this for the Journey Church attendance, so I can verify this fact).

An invitation by a friend to youth group or church and then physically accompanying their friend there both help to make the first steps toward pursuing God easier and less awkward. This is also happening in The Walk young adult ministry too, as well as among the Three Strands ministries, who operate at the Journey. In the past week, the Three Strands gym passed the threshold of 400 members. At their Saturday morning men's group, we now regularly have 20 to 25 men in attendance. This group, which meets at 6:00am and is open to any man, has more than doubled since the Three Strands moved to the Journey. Why?... Because most often these new men come because their friend invited them. So one of the most basic ways you can help expand God's Kingdom is simply to invite your friends to come out. Then, take the time and come along with them. It's that simple and easy.

Of course, God can use connections and friendship between people for even more: encouragement, discipleship, help with physical needs, comfort, prayer, etc. This involves a deeper level of connection, commitment and concern, but it has perhaps deeper impact in God's economy.

## Letter from our Youth Minister continued...

And yes, I'm seeing this happening more and more too in our church family. Recently, I've seen our members at Zion's, the Journey various ministries, and the Three Strands come alongside people that are going through some very serious personal challenges. The hands and feet of Jesus Christ are moving and working to bless others and point them more towards the Father (re. Mt 5:16). This is so beautiful to behold, and it makes me really proud of our extended church family.

I believe God is stirring our hearts through His Holy Spirit, His Holy Word, and His Body here at Zion's Church. I think God's words in Isaiah 43:19 are absolutely applicable to us in this time:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

It's exhilarating to be part of God's work, and you can be part of it too. Allow God to use the personal connections that you have in life for His Kingdom and His glory. Just invite someone, show up to serve at a church ministry or at someone's house who needs help, be salt and light. The Christian life is exciting, rewarding, and meaningful. If you want to get involved with any of this stuff and be part of God's mysterious workings, ask Him in prayer what to do. Then take a step of action and faith and do it; you won't regret it. If you want any info on the ministries mentioned here or want to get involved in some way, contact me at 610-301-9911 (please text me first).

Many thanks to you all & may God bless you!

Sincerely,  
Dan Bailey

## National Bible Bee Summer Study

The 2026 Summer Study theme has been announced: Thrive, and the study passage is the Book of James. Over 8 weeks (June through August), kids work through a guided Discovery Journal that teaches them how to study the Bible using tools like keywords, cross-references, and word studies - all built around James. It only takes about 30 minutes a day, and kids can participate on their own or join a local group.

Group meetings will be held this summer at the Journey Cafe. This is an opportunity for children ages 5-18 to study and memorize the Bible this summer.

Early bird registration opens on March 2 at [biblebee.org/summer-study](https://biblebee.org/summer-study). Sign up early and stay tuned for more details on meeting dates & times.

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES



March 2026

## B.L.A.S.T. Kids

Being Light and Salt Together  
3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Sundays at 9:40 am

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Palm Sunday celebration

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter**

Nursery and all classes  
will meet on Easter and  
celebrate the resurrection  
of our Savior

## Bricktastic Bash

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**9:40 am - 1:00 pm**

A morning of brunch and family  
fun with Legos and building

## Planet Shakers

Where K-5<sup>th</sup> graders learn to shake up  
the world for Jesus  
Wednesdays - 6:30-8:00 pm

**March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Easter Celebration

A fun celebration of Jesus'  
resurrection

**April 1st**

**NO Planet Shakers**

Easter break

## Moms of the Vine

Moms & kids sharing life together

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Rainbows & God's Treasure

Fun kids projects & meaningful  
fellowship for moms

## Blessing Brigade

An intergenerational ministry of Zion's Church

Your family will be joined with a member of the New Adventurers group who  
will bless your family in ways such as writing letters & birthday cards for  
your kids, sending care packages, praying for you, and saying hello.

Sign up at the check in station in the fellowship hall to join.

More info: [Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org](mailto:Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org) - 610-562-2300, option 6  
[www.zionschurch.org](http://www.zionschurch.org)