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# ZIONS



# NEWZFLASH

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## A Letter from Our Pastor

Friends!

One of the most enriching experiences I've had in my life was helping families recover after devastating storms with the organization, Samaritan's Purse. Our church's experience with Samaritan's Purse started back in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. From 2005 to 2007, we did 20 different trips to southern Mississippi to assist in various phases of their recovery from that storm. About 200 different people went on those trips.

Since that introduction to Samaritan's Purse, different groups and individuals from our congregation have done a variety of disaster relief trips. Many have found those trips to be some of the most impactful efforts they've made in their lives. We've been to a variety of states in our country, and we've gotten to share the love of Jesus with many different people.

One of the more recent challenges has been to coordinate our schedules. Samaritan's Purse was in Mississippi for almost two years. Trips could be planned well in advance of going. Most other disaster relief efforts require more immediate responsiveness. The storm hits, Samaritan's Purse comes into an area right after the storm, and then leaves within six weeks. Many people have difficulty making the arrangements to get off work to go on such short notice.

I've decided I'm going to plan ahead for a trip this fall, perhaps in September or October. Without knowing where we're going, I'm going to schedule a group of people to go under the assumption that there will be a place to serve, because based on past experiences, there nearly always is somewhere that Samaritan's Purse is serving. Samaritan's Purse is a well-funded organization, and typically, there is little cost involved in going.

Here's my pitch. Does anyone want or feel called to come on a life changing Samaritan's Purse trip with me this fall? If you want to be a part of that experience, let me know who you are! Send me an email ([Revrbond@comcast.net](mailto:Revrbond@comcast.net)) or call the church office at 610-562-2300 and leave a message with the secretary. I'll see how many people we have by the end of May.

Then we will get together and try to figure out some dates together and make preliminary arrangements to go on a trip together. I'm trusting that it will be a week of service to others in the name of Jesus that just might change your life too.

Let me know soon: are you interested?

In Jesus' love for you and others!

Randy

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## From the Pastoral Search Committee

It has been a busy couple of months for the Pastoral Search Committee. The members of the committee are: Tina Blatt, Priscilla Faller, Tyler Perry, Dan Scott, and Ralph Sievert.

The Elders met for over a year to discuss, pray, and chart out a recommended plan for the Pastoral Search Committee to follow. We are blessed to have that roadmap to follow, and we are making excellent progress on those plans.

Our team recognizes that there will be many things during this pastoral search process which will require a great deal of faith and prayer from our team and our congregation.

We would like to thank all who have offered to be Prayer Partners with our Pastoral Search Committee. If you have signed up to be a Prayer Partner and have not yet received our welcome email that provides an overview of the weekly prayer topics, please reach out to either Dan Scott ([danandjennscott@gmail.com](mailto:danandjennscott@gmail.com)) or Tina Blatt ([604tinbla@gmail.com](mailto:604tinbla@gmail.com)) and we will be sure to share that with you. If you want to sign up as a Prayer Partner, there is a Sign up sheet on the bulletin board across from the upstairs bathrooms. In addition, if you speak to any of the Pastoral Search Committee members, we will take your contact information and make sure you are added to our Prayer Partners list.

A big thank you also needs to be extended to those in groups or leadership who helped us by responding to our survey regarding current and future needs of the church. Your input is very valuable to us, and will help to guide our conversations and thought processes as we move into the next steps in the hiring process.

What are our next steps? We are now in the process of creating the materials that will be available for any prospective candidates to learn more about our position and our church. Those materials will include, but are not limited to, brochures, website content, a brief introductory video, and documentation that will help an interested applicant to know the details of the position and what is being offered with a salary and benefits package.

It is a very busy time for us. Our team would appreciate the prayers of all the members and visitors to our church.

Zion's Church has been blessed with having Randy as our Pastor for the last 40 years, and it is our team's goal to listen to the leading from God to find the next Pastor who will love and serve our church for many, many years to come.

Blessings to all,  
Tina Blatt

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## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you for all you do! Zion's doesn't work without its volunteers.

We are a church family. We help each other and we help the community.

We spread the word of God through kid's, men's, women's, and adult programs. It's a beautiful thing. Let's come together and celebrate one another!

On May 17, at 6 PM, meet at the Leathermans' Barn:

718 Laurel Rd.

Hamburg, PA 19526

We'll eat Mission BBQ, learn some line dancing, and play cornhole.

Sign up at [zionschurch.org/register](http://zionschurch.org/register), on REALM, or on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.

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## Celebrating a Mother's Love

When you have lost a child, Mother's Day is an extremely difficult holiday. This event is to share in the highs and lows of losing a child while celebrating Mother's Day.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to  
grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope.

*1 Thessalonians 4:13*

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

*Psalms 126:5*

We try to put into words how the sorrow of losing a child affects us and we never quite know what to say. What do we do with this grief on Mother's Day? How do we deal with so many different emotions?

This event is in response to that very question. Please join us and celebrate the love we have for the children who have left this earth. Our goal is to help you find some peace while dealing with your loss.

We will be using the book "Choose Joy, Because Happiness Isn't Enough" by Kay Warren.

### PLEASE JOIN US

- Saturday, May 11, 2024
- 1-4 PM
- Hope Lutheran Church  
550 Fleetwood Road  
Bowers, PA 19511
- \$12 Adult
- 610-682-4970 for more info
- Reserve tickets by May 4
- Lite refreshments of snacks, beverages, & desserts

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## Prime Timers

Saturday, May 4	9 am	Friendship Circle Breakfast	Perry Restaurant
Monday, May 13	11:30 am	Lunch/BINGO	Fellowship Hall
Friday, May 10	1 pm	Council meeting	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, May 11	5:30 pm	Oldies Dance	Journey Café
Friday, May 17	10 am	Games/Snacks	Journey Café
Saturday, May 25	12 noon	Lunch Bunch	Fiore's, Shoemakersville

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# WOMEN

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## Women's Sunday School

Women's Sunday School: 9:40 am - Room 111

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 111 for coffee and conversation.

On May 5th, we will be starting a new 6-week study called "Together," led by Sadie Robertson Huff and her husband Christian. We are wired for relationships. But relationships are anything but easy to maintain – even close friendships can fall apart. In a world where people quickly write each other off, where isolation has become the norm, and marriages dissolve overnight, what is God's hope for our relationships? In this 6-session series, Sadie and Christian Huff dig into God's word to show us how to live holy and healthy lives together – with God, with our close circle, and our community. 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! Led by Katie Keck: [kkecko11@gmail.com](mailto:kkecko11@gmail.com) or 610-406-7441

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## MudRun

June 1, Pocono Raceway

There's a small team of ladies heading to meet this really fun challenge, and there might be still time for you to come along. See Marie Perry or email [admin@inspiredsisters.org](mailto:admin@inspiredsisters.org).

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## Ladies Kayaking

June 8, Schuylkill River

Join us for a fun trip down the Schuylkill River on Saturday, June 8. All women are welcome. If you want to go but don't have a kayak, let us know - we may be able to locate one for you!

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## Did you miss attending a Women's Event recently?

We do our best to offer opportunities to let you know what's happening with the Women's Ministry through screen promos in the sanctuary in-between the worship 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](http://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](mailto:admin@inspiredsisters.org).

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## Zion's Bells

Time flies when you're having fun... our handbell ringing time has absolutely flown by!!!

We close our ringing season on May 26th at the 8:15 am service. (We'll be back in fall!) One of our songs, "Fairest Lord Jesus," incorporates a most beautiful handbell technique...the singing bell technique!!! Let's talk about that technique for a minute! The handbell ringer "stirs" the outer rim of the handbell with a dowel rod until the bell starts to sing! When I listen to it, it reminds me of I Kings 19:11-13. "Go out and stand before me on top of the mountain," the Lord said to him. Then the Lord passed by and sent a furious wind that split the hills... then there was an earthquake...after the earthquake there was a fire – but the Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. After the fire there was the soft whisper of a voice. That is what the singing bell technique feels like to me... I hope you feel it, too!!! But don't stop listening after the singing bell part is over... the "twinkling" ending is pretty cool, too! Honestly, I LOVE THE ENTIRE SONG!!! It's a Keeper!!!

And speaking of KEEPERS, words cannot express how much I appreciate and love this incredible group of ringers! They never back down from a challenge; are anxious to learn new techniques and "tweak" old ones. They are talented... kind...fun...cooperative...dedicated BLESSINGS OF LOVE! I am truly honored and humbled to share the Joy of Music with them.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation for everything and everyone,  
Linda

## Frolf

Our third annual Frolf event (aka The Great Grizbee) is here! Young adults are invited for tacos and frisbee golf on Sunday, May 5th at 4:30 pm at Zion's Church! Frolf skills are unnecessary, we're just here to have a fun time!

\*High school seniors are also invited to this event!

## THE WALK: YOUNG ADULTS

## Cemetery Service Project

After church on Sunday, May 19th, young adults are invited to join us as we place flags at the graves of veterans. We want to honor those who have served their country for the freedom that we enjoy today. This event will be held after the 3rd service. We will have a time of fellowship after this project!

## Talk To Us

610-562-2300

info@zionschurch.org

zionschurch.org

770 Zion Church Rd.

Hamburg, PA 19526

## This Month Events



### Oldies Dance

With Danny & the Dreamers

May 11, 2024

6:00 - 9:00 PM



### Confirmation Sunday

With Communion

May 19, 2024

11:05 AM