

ZIONS NEWZFLASH

Letter from Our Pastor

November 2024

Friends!

One time Jesus was in a boat, crossing the Sea of Galilee with his disciples. He was dead tired and sleeping. While he was resting, a fierce storm came on suddenly, with powerful winds and gigantic waves. It was scary.

In just a couple of days, we're going to have the opportunity to exercise a very special privilege as Americans. We can vote, and you should vote. Things seem to be so close that the outcome is unknown. And that can be ...scary.

There seems to be such strong contrasting opinions as to who should win this next election. There's going to be disappointment for some of us if our slate of candidates doesn't win. However, for many of us, disappointment isn't a strong enough word. Some of us are going to be scared. If the wrong candidate wins...we don't even want to think about it. It could be terrible.

On another occasion, there was another storm going to hit the disciples with great force. Jesus was going to die. It was going to feel like the end of the world. In that context, Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." John 14:1

What was he saying? Do not give in to fear. I am still in charge. No matter what happens, I am still in charge.

It's hard to believe sometimes. When we are surrounded by powerful storms in life, it's so easy to become overwhelmed with fear. And yet Jesus spoke to the winds and the waves and told them to be still. But when? Not immediately. They had to live through some of the stormy weather. He didn't immediately bring peace, but at the right time, peace came to those waters.

No matter what happens in this election, God is still in charge. "But, but..." you say. No! God is still in charge. It may seem like he's not doing what you think he should be doing or doing what you wish he would do in the time frame that you wish he would do it, but God is truly in charge.

Deanna has this idea that she's shared with me numerous times. When something happens, no matter what it is, God is not surprised. No matter what the outcome of the election, no matter what happens over the course of the next month, God is not surprised. God will not be caught flat footed and unable to respond. God is still on his throne, and he will carry us through. No matter what happens.

Here's a word from Jesus for this next season of time. "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me...I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:1, 27

No matter what the storm, God is still in charge. When the time is right, he will speak to the wind and the waves and demonstrate his authority over all things. Trust him, no matter what. Find your peace in him.

In Jesus' love,
Randy

More Info

info@zionschurch.org

610-562-2300

www.zionschurch.org

Thanksgiving Day Potluck

Holidays are hard sometimes, and sometimes you have nowhere to go. Come to the Journey Cafe on Thanksgiving Day from 12-4 p.m. for a Potluck, and celebrate with a place to go and be amongst your friends! Please consider bringing your favorite dish. The turkey will be provided. Ask Dan Smith or Fonda Reppert for more details and spread the word!

Zion's Bells



Did you ever think of handbell ringing as a sport?
IT IS!!!

And, it requires TEAMWORK like no other sport I can think of!!!

The handbell ringers WORK TOGETHER in harmony as ONE to complete their goal: BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!!!

Zion's Bells began rehearsals on October 1st and are blessed to have 11 ringers.

They shared their gifts in praising our Lord this past Sunday, October 27th at the 8:15 a.m. worship service.

We hope you will be able to join us when we play on November 24th at 8:15 a.m.

Thank You, Linda Hartman

Consistory Corner

- The teams have submitted 2025 budget proposals and we will begin working on the 2025 budget.
- The 2025 budget will be brought before the congregation for approval at the December 8, 2024 congregational meeting.

Moms of the Vine

Lattes & Thankful Chains

Please join us in enjoying a fresh latte / chai latte along with creating some thankful chains with the kiddos in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, 11/4, at 10 a.m.

Men

- Driven: Men's Ministry
 - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
 - Fellowship Hall
- Hike & Campfire
 - Nov. 16 @ 3 p.m.
 - Blue Rocks Campground

Wreaths Across America

W.A.A. is a national, non-profit organization which began over 30 years ago in Harrington, Maine. Mr. Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, had about 5000 surplus wreaths in 1992. He decided to honor our country's veterans with these wreaths. And so W.A.A. began at Arlington National Cemetery. The number of wreaths placed on veteran graves has grown to about 3 million last year! Mr. Worcester has said he hopes to have a wreath on every veteran's grave sometime in the foreseeable future.

This year, Zion's Cemetery is a registered location for WAA. We have over 250 veterans buried at Zions Cemetery. Wreaths can be sponsored for \$17.00 each through Boy Scout Troop 163 on the WAA website. There's also some wonderful information about WAA and you can sign up to volunteer, along with Boy Scout Troop 163. The event, sponsorship of veteran wreaths and volunteering on 12/14/24 for placement of sponsored wreaths are open to everyone in our community. Please sign up to volunteer! Be sure to use the sponsorship Group ID for the Boy Scout Troop (PA0868) and the Location ID for Zions Cemetery (PAZTPT) (all capital letters). When you sponsor or sign up to volunteer, the IDs guarantee your wreath will be at Zions Cemetery. Order forms are available at the big bulletin board outside of the Church Sanctuary if you prefer a paper option.

In order for a sponsored wreath at Zion's Cemetery to be placed this year, the cutoff date is 12/3/24. Wreaths sponsored after that date will be placed at Zion's Cemetery next year (2025). Also, the veteran wreaths can be sponsored 365 days a year. This cutoff date is solely for 2024 veteran wreath placement.

On 12/14/2024 at noon, there will be a Remembrance Ceremony followed by wreath placement. Refreshments and restrooms will be provided in the church Fellowship Hall. The wreaths will then be placed on veteran graves.

Please contact Michelle Koletar for more information! Thank you! Please help to honor our veterans with WAA on 12/14/24!

www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

Michele Koletar

Volunteer Location Coordinator/Assistant Caretaker for Zions Cemetery
610-781-4037 or m68m79@yahoo.com

Prime Timers

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| • Nov 2 | 9 am | Friendship Circle Breakfast | Perry Restaurant |
| • Nov 11 | 11:30 am | Bingo & Lunch | Fellowship Hall |
| • Nov 15 | 10 am | Game Day | Journey Cafe |

CHILDREN & FAMILY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Programs

B.L.A.S.T. Kids

Being Light and Salt Together

Sundays at 9:40 am
3 years old - 5th Grade

For our Christmas gift for Jesus, the children voted to collect money to purchase chickens for impoverished families through Compassion.

It's a friendly competition between classes to see who can raise the most money.

Please encourage your children to participate and give beyond themselves.

Planet Shakers

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

Wednesdays - 6:30-8:00pm

November 27th
NO Planet Shakers
Thanksgiving Break

A Grinchy Gathering

Saturday, December 7th
1:00-4:00 pm

Visit "Who-ville" with your family and learn along with the Grinch that there's more to Christmas than gifts.

sign-up: zionschurch.org/register

Moms of the Vine

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

Lattes & Thankful Chain Craft
Monday, November 4th

10:00am - 12:30pm
in the fellowship hall

Facebook: [MomsOfTheVine](https://www.facebook.com/MomsOfTheVine)

More Info

Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org

610-562-2300, option 6

www.zionschurch.org