

ZION'S NEWZFLASH

FEBRUARY 2026



A Mother's Perspective: Samantha K.

I'd love to share a mother's perspective from these first few weeks postpartum, because there's something sacred about this season—tender, raw, and holy all at once.

Not long ago, I came across a thought that really stayed with me: God sent His Son, Jesus, to us through a womb. For a time, Mary's womb was the safest place on earth for the Savior of the world. That idea resonated deeply, because Roy and I have often talked about childbirth as an act of worship—but this shifted my perspective even more. In a small and humbling way, I get to carry a baby the way Mary carried our Savior. What an honor it is to be a mother.

Psalm 127 has been especially meaningful to me lately. The Message puts it this way: "Don't you see that children are God's best gift? the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?"

Wow. God chooses women to carry life—His creation—and bring that life into the world. That's not something I want to rush past. It's weighty and wonderful. And birth truly is both beautiful and miraculous—honestly, even supernatural (yes, ask me sometime about my first son's birth!). But it's also messy, unpredictable, deeply vulnerable, and at times touched by grief and heartbreak. It can feel like a whirlwind of emotions and unknowns leading up to this incredible, almost triumphant moment when you finally meet your baby.

Going into this delivery, I had longed for a certain kind of birth experience. But what I needed to long for even more was meeting God in that sacred space—because the truth is, God longs to meet us. He longs for us. By the time I hit 41½ weeks, my heart and my body were more than ready to meet this baby. After a handful of moves across the state, a breech baby who finally flipped (third time's the charm!), and the steady reassurance that God is a faithful Provider, we were ready to bring this little one earth-side.

I labored for the better part of a day. And after so many hours, I reached a point where I honestly felt like giving up. In the thick of contractions, I felt this crushing guilt—like I had failed myself. My mind and body felt paralyzed under the emotional and physical overload. I was facing a decision I don't think anyone can fully understand unless they've been there—when you're exhausted, hurting, and trying to endure what feels impossible.

A Mother's Perspective (continued)

But God saw, He heard, and He already knew. He helped.

Right in those final moments—when I was seconds away from a decision I might have regretted—God met me with strength that wasn't mine. He gave power to overcome. And I delivered my beautiful son naturally and brought him straight to my chest, where we both needed that steady, calming moment together.

All I could think was: Woah, God... that was ALL You.

And here's what I'm holding onto now: I don't have to live under guilt and shame. I refuse to carry what the enemy wants to place on me. Instead, I'm choosing to see the mercy, the kindness, and the miracles of God threaded through every part of our story. My flesh wants to say, "I failed." But God reminds me, "I showed up." "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Like many birth stories, ours didn't go the way I planned. But isn't that often where the Lord meets us most clearly? When we realize how much we want control—and how gently He invites us back into trust.

Of course it's wise to prepare. But when we cling too tightly to our own expectations, we can miss the million little ways God is working all along the way. Sometimes His help is quiet and gradual. Sometimes—like for us—it comes in a moment so clear you can't deny it. And when that happens, we get to share it for His glory. Truly, I could list a hundred ways God met us in this season. I'm so grateful. And as we step forward as a family, we're choosing to follow Him—bringing our little "arrows" along with us (Psalm 127 again!)—and telling the story of His faithfulness wherever we can.

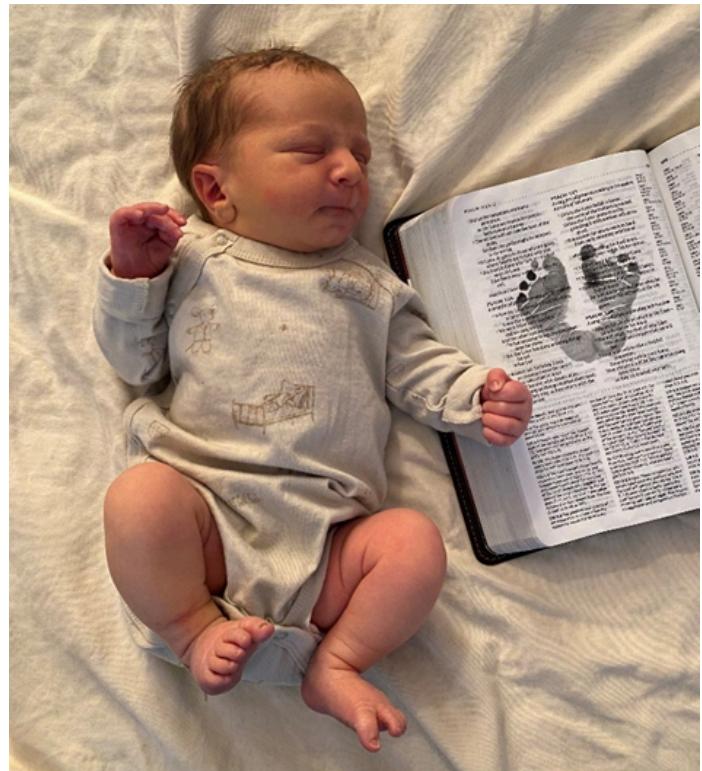
On Thursday, January 22nd, we welcomed baby Ezra Samuel into the world.

Ezra means "helped."

Thank you, O God, our very present "help" in time of trouble.

Love you all,

Samantha Kindelberger



Letter from our Youth Minister



Youth Ministry News

At Rock Us, we've started a new sermon series entitled the Red-Letter Challenge. This series is about Jesus' profound words in the New Testament and how our lives change when we seek Him and live out His teachings. The main verse for this series is Mt 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." This series is being done in conjunction with Pastor Roy's declarations that 2026 is a year for Zion's Church to seek the Lord, as well as his challenge to "Find your place, Find your passion, Find your people." We are believing that God is igniting a fresh fire in our youth, and we are already seeing evidence of it.

So far in the Red-Letter Challenge series, we've covered the Golden Rule (Mt 7:12) and Jesus' teachings about storing up treasures in Heaven rather than on earth (Mt 6:19-21). At Rock Us on January 21, we had several amazing moments. One student in our youth praise band reported experiencing God's powerful presence during our worship time. During small group discussion time, two high school boys reported about how they were in two very different, tough situations. They both reported that God prompted them to pray and minister to others, which they did. Finally, a female student who previously had some disciplinary issues with us came back to Rock Us for the first time in a long time. She participated in the small group time in a very engaging and respectful way, and she seemed to get a lot out of the experience. I'm really encouraged by the mighty movement of God among our youth and I ask you to pray for them and encourage them when you can.

Young Adult Ministry

Sadly, many churches today are dying out due to the fact that they only have one or two generations represented within their congregation. Without younger generations constantly coming along behind older ones, a church is in serious trouble. At Zion's, we are blessed by having six generations in our church family.

Our young adults currently span two generations, the Millennial generation and Gen Z. Our young adult group at Zion's is simply called The Walk. They are a dynamic and faith-filled group of young people ranging in age from about 18 to 35-ish. Each week, members of the group host a young adult Sunday School class at Zion's at 9:40am (Room 109). The Walk also hosts monthly fellowship events that are extremely fun and friendly. They also host several church-wide events throughout the year, participate in serving within other ministries, and conduct service projects and hikes from time to time. The members of The Walk are extremely kind and welcoming, and they're always glad to see newcomers.

Letter from our Youth Minister (continued)



So if you are a young adult or know a young adult that needs/wants to get connected with other young adults, please contact Greta Perry, Nate Keck or Kaylum Reppert. You can also connect with them via Instagram by searching for "thewalk320" or scanning this QR code:



Impact '26

Youth Mission Week: We're already beginning to prepare for this summer's amazing youth mission project, Impact '26, which will be JUNE 21-26. This year will mark our nineteenth year of doing our own, homegrown youth mission week. The purpose of Impact is to introduce youth to the idea of serving in a mission environment and to start thinking beyond themselves. For many, this is their first experience at working and helping someone in need in the Name of Jesus. During Impact, we conduct a series of service projects in the Hamburg area. This often involves low-key things like painting, mulching, weeding and simple carpentry work. We help disabled/elderly homeowners, various religious and civic organizations, and even do a series of Random Acts of Kindness to bless many. Impact is also a fun time. We stay locally at the Blue Mountain Olivet Camp on Mountain Road in Hamburg. There we swim in the pool, fish in the well-stocked pond, play volleyball on the sand court, have daily devotions, eat s'mores & sing around the campfire, and eat lots of good food. We also have a designated fun day at Knoebel's Grove to bless the kids for their hard work. And all this only costs \$25/student!

Impact is a richly impacting time for those we serve and for those who do the work. Many of our students tell us that Impact is a great experience that really changed them in profound ways. In fact, one of our past students at Impact is now a missionary in Malaysia! Parents, if you are interested in having your middle-/high school-age child participate or if you have any questions about Impact, please feel free to contact me (Dan Bailey) at 610-301-9911 (text me first please.)

But we can't do Impact without adult volunteers. There are many ways to serve and we are extremely flexible with your time. We need adults to assist with supervising at our work sites, helping around the camp, and cooking meals (even helping with one meal would be great!) It's a great way to bless others in our area, and get to know our excellent youths in the process. If you're interested in serving or know someone that might be, please contact me too.

God bless you all!

Sincerely,
Dan Bailey, youth minister

Safety Team

American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a national observance to raise awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S., encouraging everyone to focus on cardiovascular health through lifestyle changes like healthy eating, physical activity, and knowing risk factors like blood pressure and cholesterol.

Key Focus Areas

- Know Your Risks: Understand factors like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, inactivity, and family history.
- Healthy Lifestyle: Eat nutritious foods (more veggies, less processed), stay active, maintain a healthy weight, and get enough sleep.
- Take Action: Check blood pressure, learn CPR, and participate in local events.



*We are working on hosting a CPR class. Stay tuned for more details.

Bell Choir

Wanted to let you know Zion's Bells will not be playing during the month of February!

BUT, WE WILL SEE YOU ON MARCH 1! Lent begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. We hope that our Lenten selections for March 1st will add meaning to the Lenten season.

WE'LL SEE YOU MARCH 1 AT THE 8:15 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
Thank You!
Linda and Zion's Bells

Men

Sunday School: 9:40am-Room 108

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.

Zion's Cemetery

Zion's Cemetery Company of Perry Township, Inc.

Monthly Board Meeting Date:
February 12, 2026

Our website:
zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network

New Adventures

Happy New Year!

For anyone who has not yet heard, Zion's has a new group that started in January. It is called the New Adventurers group.

How do you know if you belong to this group?

Are you an empty nester?

Are you in mid-life or older and looking for a group to fellowship with?

Have your grandkids grown, and do you have time to find your "place in life"?

Do you want to know people at Zion's more than just to say "hello" to each other on Sundays?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, you fit into the New Adventurers group.

Meeting days/times - 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 6-8 pm

Meeting location - Fellowship Hall

Don't come alone, bring a friend. They do NOT have to be members or attendants of Zion's Church.

This group will discover together what we want to do to fill our time. Every person who joins our group is asked to bring their interests, talents, abilities, desire to learn new things, curiosity about the people and community around them, and love for others.

February meetings will be scheduled for Monday, February 9, and Monday, February 23.

Feel free to sign up on the list on the bulletin board across from the upstairs bathrooms or speak to Fonda Reppert or Tina Blatt. You can also contact Tina at 484-637-7887 with any questions or to let us know if you are interested in attending.

God has led each of us to Zion's Church with a specific intention: to be an active part of the body of the church. Seek your place within our church family. If this is not the group for you, seek another one, but find a place where you can learn, laugh, and love along with the others in that group.

We pray all of God's blessings on each of you.

Fonda Reppert and Tina Blatt

NYC Bus Trip

Rescheduled Bus Trip

Join us Saturday, March 21st as we head to New York City and enjoy almost 9 hours of free Time!

All for the low price of \$50.

Talk to Dan Smith or go to the Zions hub to sign up today!

The Walk

Young Adult Game Night

We are planning a Family Feud game night at the Journey Cafe on Friday, Feb. 13th at 6:30 pm.

Young adults are invited to come for nachos and team games together!

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

February 2026



SNOW GAMES

February 22nd - 9:40 am - 1:00 pm

Snow-themed games for the kids during the Sunday school hour followed by lunch and family sledding. If there's no snow on the ground, we'll make our own and play snow games indoors.

sign up at zionschurch.org/hub
for preschool - 5th graders and their families

PLANET SHAKERS

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

Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm

Snow Party - February 25th

Join us for snow-themed games for the kids as we learn that Jesus loves us "snow" much

held in the fellowship hall

MORE INFORMATION

Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org

610-562-2300, option 6

www.zionschurch.org



MOMS OF THE VINE

Where moms & kids grow in Christ together

Feb. 12th - 10:00 am
Jesus loves you to pieces
Suncatcher heart craft for
kids & fellowship for moms

Feb. 28th - 10:00 am
Waffle Bar & PJ Party

Come in your PJs for
waffles & a snowman craft



Find monthly devotions at
[Facebook: MomsOfTheVine](https://www.facebook.com/MomsOfTheVine)

B.L.A.S.T. KIDS

Being Light and Salt Together

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

Nursery Promotion
February 8th

All 3 year olds will move up to the
preschool class

Worship with ASL

Twice a month our own
sign language interpreter
teaches us to worship with
our voices and hands

