

ZION'S NEWZFLASH

JANUARY 2026



A YEAR OF SEEKING

As we step into a new year, I don't feel drawn toward resolutions. I feel drawn toward Jesus. Not toward fixing things. Not toward promising to do better. But toward seeking. That's the word that has settled in my heart for this year: A Year of Seeking.

Scripture doesn't say, "If you try hard enough, you'll find Me." It says, "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Seeking is different than striving. Striving is loud and anxious. Seeking is quiet, honest, and hungry. Seeking begins when we admit that we don't just want God's help—we want God Himself.

At the beginning of this year, my prayer for Zion's Church is simple: that we would be a people who seek the presence of Jesus before anything else. Before answers. Before outcomes. Before activity. That we would learn again how to sit with Him, listen to Him, and let Him search us. Seeking Jesus means surrender—not dramatic surrender but daily surrender. The kind that says, "Lord, You can lead. You can interrupt. You can rearrange." It means opening our hearts wide enough to feel what He feels. To carry what He carries. To be bothered by what burdens Him.

When we draw close to Jesus, something happens quietly but deep within our lives and our church. Our priorities soften. Our hearts become more tender. We stop rushing past people. We stop filling every silence. We become more aware of the Holy Spirit's nearness and more willing to obey His gentle nudges. I don't believe this year needs more noise. I believe it needs more nearness.

If we seek Jesus—truly seek Him—I trust that everything else will follow in its proper time. Direction will come. Fruit will grow. Healing will happen. But it will all flow from relationship with the one who holds the whole world and Zion's Church right in the palm of His hand. As your pastor, my heart is not that we would become a church that does more but a church that leans in. A church that knows how to wait on Jesus. A church that listens. A church that walks closely enough with Jesus to recognize His voice.

This is our invitation as we begin the year: Not a list to complete, and not a standard to meet, but a Person to pursue. May this be a Year of Seeking—with open hearts, unhurried souls, and a deep hunger for Jesus. I'm truly grateful to seek Him alongside you.

With love and expectation,
Pastor Roy

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: THANK YOU

On behalf of all our veterans and their families and friends at Zion's Cemetery I want to thank everyone who participated in Wreaths Across America this year. When we come together to honor our veterans in this way, as a community, I truly feel like not one single veteran is forgotten. I personally have learned a lot about each veteran here and that makes them more than just a name. I especially seek out veterans to research with no known family surviving or some of the very oldest veterans whose families may not even realize they are descended from Revolutionary War veterans. I hope that everyone who participated in our ceremony and everyone who attended felt connected to these wonderful veterans who served our country and helped to shape it and preserve it. I hope our children realize all the history and all the bravery there is to discover at Zion's cemetery. I will not forget everyone who helped make this year amazing and I'm proud to honor our veterans alongside all of you, this year and next year. Thank you to The Consistory for waiving the fee for the Fellowship Hall. We absolutely couldn't have this nationwide event here without their help. Thank you Pastor Roy for your Invocation. Your sincerity and your faith shine brightly. And to Emily Adams ... Zion's Church has been blessed with you as their secretary. You helped me more times than I can count - from answering my endless questions to giving me advice and just listening as I learn the ropes about volunteering. She leads by excellent example and I'm proud to know her. God Bless everyone who sponsored wreaths, volunteered to place wreaths and everyone who attended the Remembrance Ceremony on 12/13/2025. Wreath clean-off date is set for 1/24/2026 at 1:00 pm. I hope to see everyone next year on 12/19/2026 for our third annual Remembrance Ceremony and Wreath Placement!

Sincerely,
Michelle Koletar
610-781-4037
M68m79@yahoo.com

Assistant Caretaker of Zion's Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township,
Berks County, Pa

WAA Volunteer Location Coordinator for Zion's Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township



CONSISTORY CORNER

The Elders have placed a green suggestion box outside of the sanctuary doors. Feel free to use it to submit prayer requests or any other suggestions/concerns that you might want to share with the Elders.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY

Zion's Cemetery Company of Perry Township, Inc.
Annual Lot Owner's Meeting and Monthly Board Meeting date:
January 15, 2026
Website:
<https://zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network>

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies Bible Study, "The Way of Wisdom" - Starts Tuesday, January 20th, 6:30-8:30pm, 8 sessions

Join bible teachers Jen Wilkin, Ruth Chou Simons, Kelly Minter, Adrienne Camp, Elizabeth Woodson, and Courtney Doctor as they invite you to place your feet firmly on the path of life revealed in the book of Proverbs, considering wisdom principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence, and more. You'll discover the wisdom of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk God's way in God's world.

MEN'S MINISTRY

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 and how to be godly men living for Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

BELL CHOIR

*Thank You, Lord, for giving us this brand new year ahead!
Help us live the way we should as each new day we tread.
Give us gentle wisdom that we might help a friend.
Give us strength and courage so a shoulder we might lend.
The year ahead is empty...help us fill it with good things.
Each new day filled with joy and the happiness it brings.*

We thank the Lord for His endless blessings and wait with faith and joy to see what He has planned for us in the New Year!

We look forward to learning and sharing more music to honor and glorify our Precious Savior!

Thank You, Congregation, for all your support of the handbell choir...

OUR VERY BEST TO YOU IN 2026!

January 25th will be our next Sunday of ringing at the 8:15 a.m. worship service.

Zion's Bells

GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

You can register at griefshare.org/findagroup OR just show up on Wednesday night!

The program runs from January 7 - April 1.

No need to attend every session.

Just come when you can!

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm
ROOM 201

Zion's Church

770 Zion Church Rd.

Hamburg, PA 19526

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTER



SOME THOUGHTS ON PRIORITIES & RESOLUTIONS

As we enter the new year, many are thinking about resolutions. Our New Year's resolutions usually revolve around a review of our priorities (or what really matters to us in life) and then making efforts to better ourselves in priority areas. Priorities and resolutions are things that God is concerned with as well. Jesus talked about what our main priority should be in Matthew 6:33 when He said, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." In 1 John 2:24-25, the Apostle John added that the priority to seek and follow God is a continual process of faithful resolve: "So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. And in this fellowship, we enjoy the eternal life He promised us." These promises are true for everyone, no matter how old you are.

But this godly life isn't the way the majority of young people go today. Young people have so many priorities and they're being pulled in so many directions, most of which are not even close to God's direction. They need good Christian adults to teach them in the truth of Jesus Christ and guide them towards a life of seeking God and living His way. Parents, you have the most potential impact on your children's faith than anyone else in their lives. However, raising a child in the Christian faith may seem like a daunting task these days. But know this: you are not alone. God is with you!

Zion's Church is with you too and we're on your side. The staff and volunteers at Zion's Church and the Journey Café, want to help your children grow in faith. We have many great programs to help you with that. At church, we have Sunday School for preschool through high school, Planet Shakers for elementary-aged kids. At the Journey, we have lots of other ways for young people to connect with fellow Christians and grow in faith. These include our Rock Us youth group for middle school and high school students on Wednesday evenings, the Chop-&-Chat cooking program (Tuesdays at 3pm), and our youth praise band and skit team. In the summer, we have Z-World for kids, and our week-long youth mission project, Impact. We even have a full-functioning gym at the Journey that's lovingly staffed by Christian fitness experts.

But there's a problem: kids can't drive themselves to Zion's or the Journey Café. They need you, their parents. More importantly, your children need you to make faith, praying, Bible study, church attendance and Wednesday night youth group a family priority. So this New Year as you consider your family's priorities, will you resolve to seek God and His Kingdom first? Will you make and keep a New Year's resolution to bring your kids to church, Planet Shakers and Rock Us? You will not be disappointed if you do. This resolution is simple: seek God continually, live according to His ways, remain faithful to Jesus and His Word, and you will be blessed now and eternally.

YOUTH MINISTRY & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NEWS

Our church was recently blessed by our Christmas Eve contemporary program, which was entitled Christmas By The Sea. This original production was a multi-generational effort with church members from at least four generations being involved with the program. However, the lion's share of work for this production was accomplished by a truly dedicated group of eight youths and 12 young adults. All ten of the main acting roles were filled by youths and young adults. Young people also served in various roles like caroler, band member, A/V technician, prop maker, set designer, writer, director and producer. I am really proud of our church and for all involved in this program, especially our talented group of young people. May God continue to bless all generations at Zion's Church as we grow together in God's family!

SAVE THE DATE!

IMPACT '26 Youth Mission Week will be JUNE 21-26, 2026. (Please note this change in weeks from previous years.)

THREE STRANDS NEWS

It's been a full year now since the Three Strands Community Center has been operating their gym at the Journey. I know of many spiritual impacts that God has accomplished at the gym and I see God working through the Three Strands in many different ways.

For instance, Ryan Reigel and Jordan Boyer (two of the founders of the Three Strands) run a Saturday men's group at the Journey every Saturday morning (starting at 6am). Routinely, the group has over twenty guys there to study various Christian books. (We're currently reading *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller.) Each week features a yummy breakfast and some very honest and deep discussions. So men of Zion's Church, please feel free to come down Saturday mornings, meet some brothers in Christ and get involved with this amazing group of men.

The Three Strands ladies, Stef Boyer and Katie Reigel, also run a women's bible study group there on Wednesdays (starting at 9:30am). While geared towards young moms, the group is open to women of any age. Like the men's group, the ladies' study also features an array of tasty snacks and excellent times of sharing. Zion's women, if you're looking to meet other sisters in Christ, please consider coming to the ladies' group on Wednesday mornings.

May God richly bless you all this new year!

Dan Bailey, youth minister

SAFETY TEAM

Doors:

To ensure the safety of all our worshipers, always close doors behind you, never prop doors open and don't let others in through locked doors.

Your attention to keeping all doors closed and secure will assist in the safety of all at Zion's Church.

Winterize:

Winterize your home to help protect yourself and your family from any potential damage the cold temperatures and snow may bring.

Follow these tips to keep your home safe and warm:

- Check your heating systems.
- Clean out chimneys and fireplaces.
- Closely monitor any burning fires or candles.
- Check your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
- Remove ice and snow from walkways to prevent slips and falls.
- Keep an emergency kit in your home that includes flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, extra medicine, and baby items.
- If you lose power, your kit should also include food and water for three days for each family member, warm clothing if you have to evacuate, and toys and games for children.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

January 2026

Weekly Programs

B.L.A.S.T. Kids Sunday School

Being Light and Salt Together

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

Classes for middle school students through adults also available

Planet Shakers

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

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

January 7th - Christmas Party
Join us for the Christmas festivities the kids missed because of the snow in December

Free Resources for You

Did you know we have a library that is free to use? There are Christian books for kids of all reading levels, adult fiction & resource books, kid & family movies, Bible studies, & more. Visit the library next to the sanctuary and curl up with a good book or plan a movie night today.

Coming Soon

Snow Games

Feb. 22nd - 9:40am - 1:00pm

Winter family fun in the snow. If there's no snow on the ground, we'll make our own!

RSVP at zionschurch.org/hub

Moms of the Vine

Where moms & kids grow in Christ together

No January meeting

Find monthly devotions and upcoming events on Facebook: MomsOfTheVine

More Info

Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org

610-562-2300, option 6

zionschurch.org/hub