



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

"God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." — Romans 5:8

I heard a story about two women who were meeting together for coffee one day. We'll call them Betty and Jane. Betty looked at Jane and said, "I hear you broke off your engagement." Jane replied, "Yeah, I did. My feelings toward him just weren't the same as when we first met." Just then a flash caught Betty's eye. It came from Jane's hand, more particularly from a sizable diamond ring. Betty said, "So, you're going to return the ring then too?" "Actually, no," Jane responded, "my feelings toward the ring haven't changed a bit."

\* \* \*

April 2023 brings about Holy Week and Easter. I really must implore you, ask you, nearly require you to attend worship during Holy Week. The reason church is church is because of that week. Jesus gave his life for you, so please give him a few hours of your time to remember that great sacrifice. There's something special about it too.

Thinking about the story above, Jane's feelings toward her fiancé had changed. He was expendable but the ring was not. Feelings can be a very powerful force in life. They come from our gut. They give us a sense of things. They may speak to us from the depths of our heart. Wherever they come from, feelings can guide our lives. But, should they?

We should listen less to our emotions than we actually do. Our relationships with others should not be left to changing whims and feelings. While God gave us a heart, a gut, and a will, we are called to rise above our feelings and join Him in letting true love guide our lives.

Think about it this way. As we reflect on Holy Week and Easter, we must realize how often we humans must grieve God or disappoint him terribly in our sinfulness. We may even get God ticked off at us. Yet, God has done the unthinkable. God has not allowed feelings to get in the way of true love. God did not break off the relationships despite our behavior and lack of commitment. God pursued us. God pursued you.

Don't let the analogy go too far here. I'm not saying some relationships aren't toxic. We do live in a broken world. But I think God should be our role model more often. Don't just go by what your feelings tell you. If God did that, we'd still be lost.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you all,

Pastor Mathew

### OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact (Ephesians 4:11-26).



#### Inside this issue

Pastor's message.....	1
COE President's Message.....	2
Prayer Concerns.....	3
Baptismal Birthdays.....	3
Youth Fundraiser.....	3
Altar Guild .....	3
Holy Week Services.....	4
Resurrection Walk.....	4
March Madness pictures...5	
Parent's night out.....	5
Music Ministry.....	6

#### Communications Team

*Cara Mittenzwey  
Carolyn Giovannitti  
Hal Donachy  
Cheryl Squier*

## COE President's Message *by Hal Donachy*

How important are you and just how Big is your God? I often wonder what it is that drives us. Why do we: act or not; do what we've done in times of conflict or difficulty; refuse little things that should be freely given? Why are we so quick or self-justified to allow our negative experiences with one person to determine our negative expectations of someone else? Little things are often indication of bigger things being veiled; and after all, hurt people hurt people - don't they? God is much bigger than any of that.

But as Christians (even if we're hurting) we're called to be a living example, live to a higher set of expectations than the world around us. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (*Ephesians 5:21*); to paraphrase two more: Turn the other cheek (*Luke 6:29*), trust in God (*Romans 8:28*). Are we living it out LOUDLY...or are we luke-warm Christians at best?

Many of you will remember the results of our strategic plan pointing us outwardly as we were assessed as internally focused with somewhat burned-out leaders; resistance to change, leadership distrust and shared concerns for Zion's communication strategy. Although COVID's effects didn't help, I ask: Are we living examples of Christ doing the little things that give the outward indications of Him living inside of us?

Because we are impacting lives, I want to acknowledge some of our shining stars of accomplishment (details in our monthly reports): **HEALTH & SAFETY** committee has outlined a great plan and are true stewards. Older buildings are inherently a challenge, and the committee is working hard for us all. **Ministries on the move:** **YOUTH:** there's a truly amazing plan being developed for our teens and confirmands to be. **PROPERTY:** always improving our Church home, with mostly unnoticed interruption, spring is a big time of year for this group and we're looking forward to more joiners. **DISCIPLE LIFE:** joining two ministries was no small feat but our group is really doing it well including disaster response kits, clothing exchange, and LIFE to LIFE discipleship ministry.

As a part of the council, I can tell you that we have some big work ahead, and I again welcome your attendance and involvement at our monthly meetings. In fact, revisiting our strategic plan efforts and outcomes to date, and setting our trajectory are just the beginning. I wonder if you considered the hook from last month's big ask: "**You make us possible**" and found a new way to plug in. I mean it when I say we need you to join the effort with Zion. The bottom line is that we need to act, and always know that God is in control. Seriously, check out **Hebrews 11** (Thanks Phil)

Please do something new - little or big - for Christ today every day.

Prayerfully,  
- Hal

## Prayer Concerns

Family of Michael Capozzoli  
 Corey Fischer  
 David Glenn  
 Bill Greiner  
 Joy Hepner  
 Jim Hinds  
 Pat Jason  
 George Langford  
 Karen Matalavage  
 Shirley Mosticone  
 Glenn & Phyllis Ribblett  
 Steele & Suzanne Roberts  
 Pat Sheridan  
 Cheryl Squier

If you would like to become a **Zion prayer warrior**, offer praise or have a prayer need, please contact the church office or the Prayer Circle Coordinator: Anita Reck at [areck1255@comcast.net](mailto:areck1255@comcast.net)

### APRIL BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Bradley Moore	April 11, 2021
Kenzie Banahasky	April 25, 2021
Robert (Charlie) Rankin	April 13, 2019
Lorelai Runevitch	April 13, 2019
Abraham Matuszewski	April 1, 2017
Margaret (Maggie) Brecht	April 1, 2012
Angelia Robinson	April 15, 2007

\*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER



There is still time to support Zion youth by ordering your Easter candy **online!** There is a \$5.00 flat shipping fee. Order must be in by 4/2/23.

[www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com)

Group ID# 10-1370

## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild honors God by preparing the altar and chancel areas of the sanctuary so that we can experience the grace of our Lord through the rites of Holy Communion and Baptism. Those who serve find enrichment of their spiritual life.

Currently, there are 4 teams of 2 serving on a rotating schedule. If you would like to serve on the Altar Guild, please contact the church office or Cheryl Squier [clsquier@comcast.net](mailto:clsquier@comcast.net)



# HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Matthew 21:9*

Regular Service Times — Saturday 4/1/23 @ 5:00 PM  
Sunday 4/2/23 @ 10:30 AM



**MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/6/23 @ 7:00 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY— TENEBRAE SERVICE  
4/7/23 @ 7:00 PM**



RESURRECTION  
WALK

FAMILY MINISTRY  
EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8  
10:00 am

South Park

In case of inclement  
weather, we will be  
at Zion

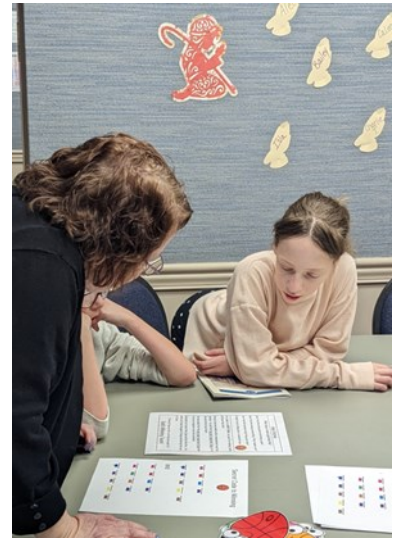
Meet at the Maple Springs Gazebo before 10 AM. We will take a short walk around the Gazebo Ground. Each person may collect a stick which will be used to form a cross with the others.

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*He Is Risen!*  
*Easter Sunday Services*

**Festival Communion  
8:00 and 10:30 AM**

# FAMILY FUN at MARCH MADNESS



**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**  
April 15th from 6-10pm

Drop off the kids  
(3yrs old through 5th grade)  
and enjoy a night out!

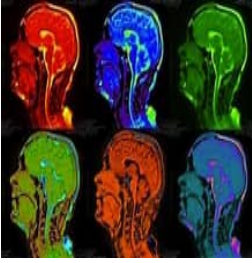


Please join us for  
**Weekly Sunday  
School**  
at  
**9:00 AM**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO  
ZION'S YOUTH  
MINISTRY FOR MAKING  
PARENT'S NIGHT  
POSSIBLE.**



## Health Benefits of Music by Sherry Galland



*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

– Colossians 3:16

Studies show music can have positive effects on the psyche, mood, pain and quality of life. When you sing or play music, your brain releases dopamine, a chemical that makes you feel good and motivates you to achieve your goals. Get involved in our music ministry today! Contact Sherry Galland, Director of Music Ministries at [musicministry@zlc Brentwood.org](mailto:musicministry@zlc Brentwood.org)

### **Women's Bible Study Resumes:** Experiencing God's Presence

This study meets every Thursday from 7-8 PM between 4/20—5/11/23

See Zion's website or contact office for more information.

### **Small Groups and Bible Studies**

If you are interested in growing in your faith journey, see Zion's website for faith education and small groups and studies.

## The LORD is risen indeed!

*Luke 24:34*

