



A Message from Pastor Mathew

Every four years the same thing happens and our calendars lengthen by a day thanks to that wonderful day in February known as Leap Day! While leap day happens once every four years, we can use it to help us remember a leap we can take every day of every year.

Let us take this rare occurrence of Leap Day and reflect on the leaps we take in our faith journey on a daily basis and the steadfast guidance of our Heavenly Father. I'm reminded of these words from Psalm 37 which say, "The steps of a man are established by the Lord when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand."

Leap Day occurs once every four years but reminds us that life is filled with moments of leaping into the unknown. Just as we trust the calendar to provide us an extra day to reorient our journey through space around the sun, we are called to trust God in our journey through life's uncertainties around the Son. See what I did there?

Look back on all those leaps of faith you've taken. Decisions you've had to make, changes you've had to endure, challenges you've had to confront and overcome. It's natural to feel uncertain or even afraid when we are faced with the unknown. Yet, we are assured that the steps of those who delight in the Lord are established by Him.

Let us leap into this leap year, into new days, into new opportunities, into new challenges, and let us take that leap of faith to find comfort in knowing that our Lord upholds us. Even if we stumble, we will not be abandoned because God is with us through every leap we take.

God's peace,

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



*Fear not for
I am with you;
Be not dismayed
for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
I will help you.
I will uphold you
with my righteous
right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

COE President's Message by Hal Donachy

If you want to create change in your home, marriage, school, work, or relationships, the way you talk to others will make **all** the difference in the world. I come up short here often, I guess we all do - forgiveness and restoration are the key. Without these you are an outsider.

When Nehemiah left his position as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes and traveled to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls, he knew he needed to identify with the people there. If he was going to get them on board with his plans, he needed to talk like an insider, not an outsider.

*Nehemiah 2:17 (NIV) reads **"You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace"**.*

Notice Nehemiah took the first step and he said "**us**," not "I." He said "**we**," not "me." What was he doing with his words? He was building community. He didn't point fingers and say, "I'm here to save the day and fix everything for you because you don't even seem to care that you're living in a heap of rubble." No, he said, "This is **our** problem. And, **together**, I know that we can succeed because God is with us."

When great leaders have a dream, they build a team. That's what leadership is all about. Great leaders don't show up and start blaming people. They accept part of the responsibility, and work at moving forward.

At times in your life, you'll see a problem and have to choose between fixing the blame or fixing the problem. Anytime you blame others, you lower their motivation. Anytime you focus on a solution instead, you increase motivation.

*Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) says, **"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen"**.*

Great things happen when you unite people with your words and offer to help them succeed in something they've always wanted to accomplish—together.

And finally from **1 Peter 5:1-3,5**: So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,^[a] not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;^[b] not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

So it will go with Zion in this new year, as it always has in Christianity. I will plead just once more, and urge you once again to be on the inside as part of the good within the Church and not on the outside doing anything else.

The Church and Zion need you now more than ever.

Prayer Concerns

Kevin Barrett
Marilyn & David Detwiler
Corey Fischer
Family of Barry Demsky (Galland's)
Casey Hirsh
Pat Jason
George Langford
Jennifer Meyer
Delores Pfefferman
Dani Richey
Glenn Ribblett
Pat Sheridan
Ed Sontag
Family of Jean Sontag
Sandy Valenson

Prayer Circle

If you would like to be part of Zion's prayer circle or are in need of prayer from the circle, please contact Anita Reck at areck1255@comcast.net

In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.

Psalm 120:1

FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Vienna Demi	February 4, 2023
Bella Morrow	February 15, 2015
Justin Thatcher	February 21, 2021
Josiah Pierce	February 28, 2015
Reed Taylor	February 29, 2020

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

Altar Guild

We are in need of additional members to honor God by serving on the Altar Guild. The time commitment is small and flexible. Please pray to see if God is calling you to serve.

If the answer is yes, Contact: Cheryl Squier
clsquier@comcast.net or the church office



Check out the NALC website to learn more about NALC, the VISION, Life-to-Life Discipleship, the resources that are available (prayers, devotions, newsletters).

<https://thenalc.org>

2024 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes are available in the narthex. If you are not able to pick up, contact the church office. If you would prefer online giving see Zion's website. www.zlcbrentwood/give-online



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 14 —7:00 PM

Lenten Midweek Prayer Services

Wednesdays,
February 21 - March 20

7:00 PM—Heritage Room

Following Prayer Services, (7:30 PM) Pastor Mathew will be leading a class on the Story of the Bible. Please stay!

JOIN US FOR LENTEN MEALS

The following Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

February 14

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20



Sign up to bring a soup, salad, dessert or bread on Mealtrain or call Karen Stoddart at 412-580-5814

<https://www.mealtrain.com/potlucks/71oq78>

Brentwood Meals on Wheels *by John Thatcher*

Zion's Benevolent Memorial Fund donated \$4,000 to the Brentwood Meals on Wheels program in January. With the closing of the South Park Meals on Wheels, the Brentwood program has increased from roughly 50 meals per day to almost 90. In addition, the program will be relocating to St Sylvester's Church later this year, where they have better facilities, and less rent. The donated funds will be used, in part, to cover the cost of new sinks and other kitchen equipment, to comply with Allegheny County Health Department requirements.



Carol Succop, Nancy Angelo, Betty Niziol, Mary Ruth Lackner and John Thatcher (presenting the check on behalf of Zion)

The Brentwood Meals on Wheels is in need of willing servants to drive and/or deliver meals. If you are available any days from Monday through Friday and are able to help, please call 412-881-6688 and leave a message with your name, phone number, your preference to drive or deliver and what day(s) you are available.

Altar Flower Schedule

The 2024 Altar Flower Schedule has been posted in the Narthex. Altar flowers remind us of the beauty of God's creation. Please sign up to honor, in memory of someone or to honor God's glory and grace. Sign up on the day of your choice. Contact the church office for questions or information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER RALLY DAY



If you are not plugged into Zion, here are some ways:



- ✦ Join a small group bible study.
- ✦ Serve on a ministry.
- ✦ Serve during worship services.
- ✦ Join in a meal fellowship.
- ✦ Become a member of a music group.
- ✦ Participate in or teach Sunday School.

There are many opportunities to get plugged in. If you are not sure which would work for you or where God is calling you to use your gifts, talk with Pastor Mathew.

See Zion's website for more information or reach out to a Council of Elders member, Ministry chair, another member, the Pastor or the church office. www.zlcbrentwood.org

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.
Proverbs 11:25

MUSIC MINISTRY

by Sherry Galland, Director of Music Ministries



After a busy season of music, the **Angelus Ringers** had their annual Christmas party in a member's home! Music ministry is not only made up of people who love music and love the Lord, but also people who enjoy fellowshiping together! We hope you will consider joining us!



Giving to our music ministry is a wonderful way to celebrate a legacy of faith through memorials, or milestones and anniversary celebrations. If you would like to give to Zion's music ministry, please mark your offering for the Music Ministry Restricted Fund. We are working toward the purchase of a Zimbelstern on the organ and outreach concerts.

For more information about the music ministry, contact Sherry Galland, Director of Music Ministries. musicministry@zcbrentwood.org

Council of Elders Installation



Karen Stoddart, Dan Fisher, Anita Reck, Shari Dodge
Alice Carney (not pictured) was installed at the Saturday worship service.

Lent is a church season of spiritual preparation before Easter. It reminds us to set aside time for reflection on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A 40 day period when we can consider his suffering and sacrifice for our sin and our salvation. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. Many observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline during this time. The goal of these spiritual disciplines is to strengthen our faith and to develop a closer relationship with God.



The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9
