



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

Fred was a hard-working woodcutter. With axe and saw, he usually could harvest a cord of wood a day and load it neatly into his old pick-up. A friend told Fred he should get a chain saw to triple his production. So, Fred goes into town and buys one, eagerly putting it to work the next day. Despite good effort, he ends up with less than one cord. So, he takes it back to the store hoping for a refund. The store manager says, "let me have a look." He starts it up and Fred says, "what's that noise?"

\* \* \*

Have you ever discovered something about a gadget you own that you didn't know it could do? This happens with me and technology more often than I feel it should. But I'm learning something new all the time. You certainly want to get the best out of something you have and that's really what I wanted to get into in this month's article.

I'm not talking about a particular gadget, though. Unless you consider your pastor a gadget, that is. Did you know that if you are in the hospital and you'd like me to visit that you can call the church and I'll stop by to see you? Did you know that if you or someone in your home has had a life and death emergency that you can contact me at any hour of the day and, barring some significant limitation, I'll be there? Did you know that if you wanted to just lay something at my feet to pray about or simply talk about that you can schedule a time to meet with me either in your home, my office, or elsewhere? More than all of this, I do it all for free.

Please don't think I'm trying to make a mockery of my work here because I genuinely wonder if everyone knows what it is their pastor is here to do. I can't tell you the number of times I've heard about someone being in the hospital days or even weeks after they've come home, or how someone could've really used some counseling before a big decision and I find out only after that big moment has come and gone, or that a loved one has died and the funeral was last week.

We can't do everything on our own, we can't live by our power. That's why God gives us spouses and families. That's why God gives us the Church. That's why God gives us pastors. Don't forget about yours.

*"Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."*

– Ephesians 3:20

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew



*Create in me a  
pure heart, O God,  
and renew a  
steadfast spirit  
within me  
Psalm 51:10*

### **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

## COE President's Message *by Anita Reck*

*"Come to me all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you."*

*Matthew 11:28*

Spring is finally here after flooding rains and cool temperatures. Spring is often the time to clean, renew, and refresh our homes and ourselves. By putting ourselves in the hands of our God, we will truly feel refreshed and be ready to meet any challenges.

The Council of Elders is refreshing the communication lines between it and the congregation. The monthly meeting minutes are now available in draft form about one week after the COE meeting. These draft minutes are emailed to ministry chairs and are available to members of the congregation by contacting the church office. Meeting minutes will be officially approved at the next COE meeting and will then be available in with the other monthly reports. If any member has any questions or concerns, please speak to me or any other member of the COE.

Our Treasurer, John Thatcher, the office staff, and I have been hard at work refreshing our understanding of the financial software implemented by the previous COE in mid-2023. We have a wonderful resource in a CPA/bookkeeper who is familiar with online QuickBooks and she has been training John and the office staff how to best use the software. Because of the changes made in transitioning to QuickBooks from 360Ledger, the treasurer reports are being refreshed and will look different from the past, but all the financial information will be included. Our hope is that by the time of this newsletter, our Treasurer's first report will be available.

The Ministry of Property has refreshed the entrance alcove off the parking lot. It is now a comfortable and welcoming space with two overstuffed chairs and a small table which will hold our Zion information brochures, which are in the process of being revised and refreshed. The ministry has also refreshed the main hallway of the third floor, removing the clutter, and making it more open and cleaner.

These are all practical things. Pastor Mathew is refreshing Zion's spirits through his teachings and insights on God's Word. Together, we continue to pray for God's direction and refreshed hearts for Zion.

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### Council of Elders (COE) – Vacancy

The Council of Elders currently has a vacancy. If you have been a member of Zion for four years or more, you are eligible to serve on the Council of Elders. The term served would be from the present date until the end of 2024. During the November election process, the congregation will elect a member to serve the remainder of Hal Donachy's term for 2025.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Anita Reck at [President@zicbrentwood.org](mailto:President@zicbrentwood.org)

## In Our Prayers

Kevin Barrett  
Marilyn & David Detwiler  
Mary Ann Dunlap  
Corey Fischer  
Casey Hirsh  
Pat Jason  
George Langford  
Ron Mann  
Glenn Ribblett  
Dani Richey  
George Schubert  
Family of Pat Sheridan  
Sara Smerkar

## PASTOR'S SUMMER SERMON SERIES

### Real Life Discipleship: Meditations on the Life of Jacob

#### MAY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Nico Puglin	May 6, 2007
Christopher Dodge	May 10, 2008
Molly Hedrick	May 12, 2019
Samuel Grice	May 13, 2018
Lucy Hedrick	May 14, 2017
Anna Pierce	May 15, 2022
Mya Schneider	May 19, 2019
Brooklyn Nagel	May 21, 2011
Shiloh Koeppel	May 27, 2018
Dean Langholz Jr.	May 30, 2021

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

## Pew Bibles

We are donating our old pew Bibles. If anyone would like to keep a Bible in which he/she placed a dedication, the Bibles will be available in the narthex from April 27 through May 5. After May 5, the remaining dedications will be removed from the Bibles and the Bibles will be donated.

## Altar Flowers Price Increase

The price for altar flowers has increased from \$30 to \$40 effective 06/01/24. Please keep this in mind if you are adorning the altar with fresh flowers.

## May Fellowship 10:00 –10:30 AM Second Sunday

On the second Sunday in May, between Sunday school and worship, please join your fellow Zion members for Coffee, Tea and Fellowship,

### All are welcome!

Hosted by Family Ministry





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**SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS**  
**In-Tents Church Camp, Somerset County**

**GRADES 3-5 July 15-17, 2024**  
**2 night Elementary Camp**  
**Cost \$125.00**

**GRADES 6th—12th July 8-12, 2024**  
**Middle and High School Camp**  
**Cost \$225.00**

Pastor Mathew is hoping to get a group together to attend each In-Tents camps for fun, games, campfires, food and Jesus. Please reach out to him for more information or to let him know your interest. These camps provide an opportunity for youth to unplug, enjoy nature and deepen their faith.

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**GAMES NIGHT** (dates pending)

The Ministry of Disciple Life has been contacted about coordinating an indoor games night event in Fellowship Hall. If you or your family would be interested in participating, please contact Jack Reck at jackhoo76@aol.com.

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**CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC**

**August 11, 2024 12N-3:30pm**      **South Park-Woodland Crest Pavillion**

Games, s'mores, great food, fellowship—Bring a dish to share!  
Sign-up will be forthcoming.

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**COMMUNITY CLOTHES EXCHANGE**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 10 AM—2 PM**

**Free** Clothing from newborn to adult 3XL, shoes and more.  
Please share.

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**GRANDMA'S ATTIC**

Zion's Grandma's Attic flea market will be held on August 3rd from 8:00am – 2:00pm and after worship services on August 3rd & 4th. Further details to follow.

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*"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, Just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." \_\_\_Ephesians 4:32*

## **Discipleship by Ministry of Disciple Life**

***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*** —John 13:34-35

### **What is a disciple?**

A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is being changed by Jesus and is committed to joining Jesus on His mission.

### **What does a disciple do?**

The purpose of being a disciple is daily living and sharing the love of Jesus and showing others how to do the same.

### **What is a Culture of Discipleship?**

We focus on positive words and actions that build others up and encourage deepening relationship with others in Christ and serving Him. We trust in the love and grace of Jesus when we fail and extend that love and grace to others.

### **Taking the Next Step**

Earlier in the Easter season we heard Jesus talk to us about the vine and the branches. Part of this lesson was to teach us that to be his disciples is to abide in him like a branch abides in the vine. It's pretty simple. But, in order for the branch to continue producing fruit the branch needs continual pruning. We learned how that pruning is done by our deepening connection with Christ and the Church. Letting those branches go wild without pruning can actually inhibit fruit-bearing.

Part of the culture of discipleship we are living and creating here at Zion involves fostering an environment of next steps and encouraging everyone to take next steps. Zion is not going to be full of wild branches but branches that are continually pruned so as to produce more and more fruit. What this means is that we want everyone to always be looking at a new step they can take in deepening their faith journey through their connection with Christ and the Church. Maybe that next step is stepping up to serve in a new way or more often. Maybe it means joining a Bible study or small group.

Maybe it means going from attending a Bible study to co-leading one of the sessions. Maybe it means simply taking part in fellowship opportunities and getting to know other disciples. There are always opportunities to expand our reach and gain more exposure in our learning and in our serving as we deepen those connections with Christ and His Church. Let's help you take that next step today.



# The CHOSEN



**July 10 - August 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.**

Join The Ministry of Disciple Life for summer "movie nights" featuring Season 1 of "The Chosen." Join in the viewing of each episode to be followed by fellowship and discussion on Wednesdays this summer.

Please contact Vicky Thatcher, [vlthatcher24@gmail.com](mailto:vlthatcher24@gmail.com) if you are interested.



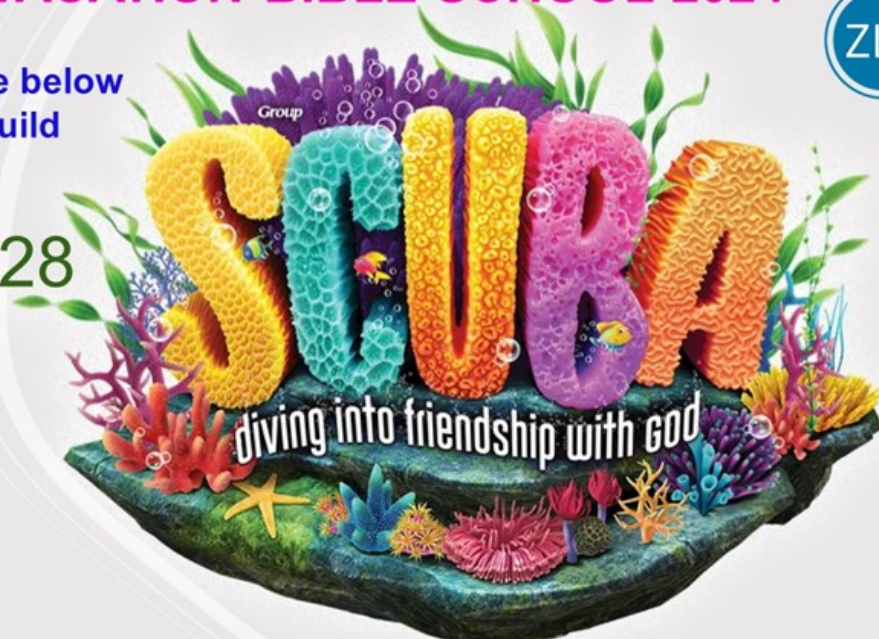
The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season drama series about the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. It allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



Join us and dive below  
the surface to build  
a strong faith

June 24-28



Both children (preschool through fifth grade) and teen/adult volunteers can register using the QR code above or via the Zion Website

For questions, contact Dan Fisher at [danfish169@gmail.com](mailto:danfish169@gmail.com) or 412-884-3247



**PITTSBURGH MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM – 3:00**  
**Victory Family Church**  
**Cranberry Township**

will challenge you to be the best godly leader you can be and raise awareness of the devastating impact of fatherlessness among youth today. Breakouts, breakfast and lunch are included with the event. Recommended for ages 15+. Tickets are \$39 for registration by April 30 and \$49 starting May 1. If interested in attending, please contact the church office.

Maximize your impact in your home, neighborhood and city. Keynote speakers, local pastors and sports personalities

**“LOCK ARMS WITH US AS WE GROW TOGETHER IN CHRIST”**

## MAY SENIOR CITIZENS BRUNCH

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

10:30 AM—1 PM

At Zion

Register at  
[zlcbrantwood.org](http://zlcbrantwood.org)  
or call the church  
office by May 12.

Come and let us  
serve you!  
Enjoy food,  
fellowship, music  
and worship.

For information on opportunities for small group study or Sunday School see Faith Education on the Zion website.





## Sing in Worship

The Sunday School Children  
will sing in worship.

**Sunday, May 5**

Please plan to attend and hear what the  
children have been learning!



RESURRECTION WALK 2024 - HE IS RISEN!

alleluia