



ZION'S FRIENDLY CHIMES

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

I am not the most faithful blood donor in the world. I've dodged far more calls from the American Red Cross than I've answered. I value the practice, I just seem to always give in less-than-ideal circumstances—on days when I'm rushed or hot or didn't drink enough water—and then I get queasy. And yet, I know firsthand how a blood transfusion can be lifesaving. So when Zion hosts a blood drive, I try to give my pint. Afterwards, I like to track my blood's journey to see how this act of biological stewardship can save a life elsewhere in the country.

For all those who volunteered or donated at our May 1st drive, thank you for making an impact in our world. If you missed the opportunity to participate in May, you'll have another chance to give or volunteer on July 24 at Zion.

I often think on the slogan used by blood and organ donation groups: Give the gift of life! That's a good one. Whoever coined that deserves a raise. But as I lay on the table with the needle embedded in my arm, I am reminded that the church is also in the business of giving the gift of life. The gift we produce is not of blood, but of the gospel.

The gospel is lifesaving. The fruit it produces in us can bring about justice, acceptance, liberty, peace, dignity, love, and human necessity. Each week, as we go in peace to love and serve the Lord we enter into the "mission field" of our families, friends, and community with the fresh opportunity to make the grace of God real through our words, actions, and relationships. As disciples of Jesus Christ, the good news of the gospel doesn't simply stop with us, it passes through us so that we may share it with all we encounter.

As a follower of Jesus, give the gift of life. Donate blood and organs if you can, but don't shy away from giving the gift of life that comes through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Jesus came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. That's the gift of life we can share on a daily basis.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July**
10-14 Family Camp - Sequanota
24 Blood Drive
- **August**
16 CFY Outdoor Gathering
30 Church Picnic

AUGUST 30 CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 30th at 12:30 p.m.
The main dish will be provided but please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share!
(Location to be determined)

- **September**
4 & 18 Afterburners
6 Rally Day
10-13 Adult Retreat (Sequanota)

SEPTEMBER 10-13 ADULT RETREAT

Enjoy a time of relaxation and study at
Camp Sequanota (Bowersox Center)



FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH

A focus of my ministry with you in the last ten years has been partnership with local non profits, community organizations, and other congregations. There is so much good work being done in our community! We can offer our time, resource, and energy to efforts that are already in place. As followers of Jesus, we are given a responsibility to care for our community. Like many counties throughout the state and country, Blair County has issues with homelessness and poverty. The disease of addiction hurts families and connects to a host of social issues. People experience food insecurity and children are in need of support. People hurt in Blair County. However, there are so many people and organizations working to combat these heartbreaking realities. As a church, we want to help. Zion has organized itself to make outreach a priority. There are things we can do on our own, but often the most effective work is done in partnership.

As a staff member at Zion, I have been connected with a variety of organizations and groups over the years; including Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships, Rise for Recovery (recovery advocacy), the Hollidaysburg Ministerium and Youth Ministerium, Pyramid Healthcare, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Blair Regional YMCA, Hope for the Homeless, Leadership Blair County, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), the Hollidaysburg Area School District, Blair County CYF, and more. Zion also has established partnerships with Bridge of Hope, BDAP, the Central PA Food Bank, the Hope Drop In Center, American Rescue Workers, and more! We have made partnership a priority at Zion, and our ministry benefits greatly. Sometimes the best way to help is to look and see who is already at work and how we can help them!

Zion's Outreach Board is looking for more and new opportunities to bless our community. Are you or a family member connected to a non profit, charity, or organization that cares for hurting people or animals in our area? Is there a way that Zion could partner with those efforts or help out? We would love to hear from you! If you have an idea how Zion can partner with an existing effort, please let us know! You can contact the church office at (814) 695-0091, send an email to office@zionhollidaysburg.org, or contact me or Pastor Dave. Ideas will be taken to the Zion Outreach Board for consideration.

Finally, see the weekly bulletin for information and announcements about upcoming opportunities at Zion! (Did you know? You can see the weekly bulletin announcements online each week at www.zionhollidaysburg.org under the "worship" tab). Finally, if you do not currently receive informational emails from Zion, you can add your name to the email list at www.zionhollidaysburg.org under "Congregational Life" → "Newsletters".

God's peace,
Ryan Custead, Dir. of Faith Formation & Outreach

Scan this QR Code for information about serving as an **Afterburner Chaperone** and to sign up online. Afterburners are special Friday nights at Zion for community youth and begin on **September 4th**.



zion **AB**

SCAN ME





PROPERTY BOARD

The Zion Friendly Chimes is a fantastic opportunity to share some of the exciting things property board is working on. Looking ahead is a worthwhile exercise because budgeting for our place of worship, like our households, recognizes costs are increasing for necessities like natural gas, electricity, and water. We continue to make energy efficient upgrades to the infrastructure to partially offset rising energy costs while making cosmetic improvements. Ongoing repairs throughout the worship area, educational center, and parsonage will be needed to sustain the basic functions while making them an enjoyable place to gather.

Property Board is in the process of conducting a 5 year maintenance plan. Shawn Restly has spent many hours identifying numerous components of our facilities that either are or will be at the end of their life spans in the near future. Examples include items such as replacing fluorescent lighting with energy efficient LED's in the office, library, fellowship hall, plus second floor and basement hallways. Ceiling tiles in some of these areas are broken or water stained and brittle. There are several exterior items, like down spouts and drain lines, that should be addressed before water collection around the building creates other issues. There are at least 12 other items the board is in the process of evaluating and ranking in the study.

Two potentially high cost and high ranking items currently under consideration are the church van and the parsonage remodel.

Zion's van is a 2010, 16 passenger Ford diesel with several mechanical and electrical problems. The ongoing electrical issue has been evaluated without being able to determine the cause. It is not road worthy and will not be available for use. Property board, together with representatives from committees having used the van, will meet to determine how church-related transportation will be handled going forward.

The church parsonage was constructed in the mid-1920's. There have been some upgrades made over the years, but the kitchen and bathrooms have gone many years without modernization, including electrical, plumbing, walls, and flooring. They are extremely outdated and not an efficient use of the space. The property board has been working with Pastor Dave and Kelsey to develop

a design. The property board approved design is currently out for price quotes with several contractors. Bids will be evaluated by the board, then presented to the CPC and congregation for funding request.

Our house of worship, just like our homes, requires funding to keep pace with the rising cost of property ownership. The property board is busy handling the day to day needs of our facilities, while being forward looking to prepare for what lies ahead. We appreciate your ongoing support.

Mike Jones, Property Board Director

NOTES OF THANKS

A special thank-you to Chuck and the landscape crew for the wonderful job they have done making Zion the best looking place on Allegheny Street.

It's time I say "thank you" for Christmas and Easter flowers!

Sincerely,
Barb Wachter

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

July 1, 2025 thru May 31, 2026

Income (Giving)	\$411,787.21
Expenses	\$375,103.47
Income vs. Expenses (Giving Only)	\$36,683.74

(REMINDER: The above income figure reflects money given in the "Current Expenses" portion of your giving envelopes and undesignated loose offering only. Benevolence and money given to designated funds is not included.)



A STEPHEN MINISTRY STORY

I'd like to take a moment to thank the people involved in the Stephen ministries program and encourage volunteers and others to consider using the program.

In the beginning I was not sure how all this would help because things were hopelessly out of our control. I was not sure how anyone could possibly understand the magnitude of stress and trauma we were under. Fear had consumed every fiber of our home and cell in my body. I was truly losing hope and was not sure how any of this could help. I do not communicate my feelings very well and was filled with anxiety and fear to get it all out. Everything was a mess and consuming my thoughts. Fear was a demon, robbing me of sleep and time I wanted to spend with family. I found that just being able to talk with someone helped me to get it off my chest and sort out all the other problems circling the main one.

We hear a lot about how stressed today's youth are, middle aged folks caring for parents as well as children while balancing careers, and the elderly facing depression and loneliness. Many have very little time to take care of ourselves and have reservations about talking with someone. The degree of these struggles vary individually, but no matter who you are, at some point in life you have experienced something traumatic. These events force us to make decisions and these decisions make us who we are. I think that is the wonderful thing about Stephen Ministry - it provides guidance with Christ as the foundation and grows with our decisions from there. The program has no billing, no tight schedules and no abrupt ending when your hour is up. The entire program is so convenient. For our family, this ministry, which started as a simple act of kindness has changed our lives forever. We have all grown closer to God and can see the Holy Spirit working within our home. Stephen Ministry is the perfect example of compassion and reaching out to others. It has changed my life forever and made my family healthier. I would strongly encourage anyone interested in the program to participate. We love our Stephen Minister more than I can describe and are so thankful for her everyday. She is always there for us and I am just so surprised because there has just been so much to handle. I strongly encourage anyone who is struggling to reach out. There is confidentiality and no judgment and it honestly provides you with an angel by your side.

We have a wonderful church family here and I am incredibly thankful.

Thank you,
A former care receiver

SEMINARIAN STORIES

Friends in Christ,

I write this note to you as I return from a long "marathon" that started with Vacation Bible School and ended with the Tend Festival at Camp Sequanota. In between, was a week in Alaska with my family, the Zion Mission Trip in Ocean City, and a week of intensive course lectures at United Lutheran Seminary. It has been an incredible few weeks of ministry, some rest, and learning. I am truly blessed to do Gospel work with you all.

Course topics at United ranged from the Hebrew Bible, Old Testament, Pastoral Care, and Church History (particularly 300-1200AD). I found the lectures to be fascinating windows into the traditions of Scripture and story that shape so much of what we are and what we hope to become. I have been particularly grateful for the growing relationships with my classmates, who share my perspective and experience in many ways. I want to thank you all at Zion for the gift of support to my educational expenses. The congregation has been a source of blessing for me and my family for many years. I give thanks to God for each of you.

Coming to the end of my third term in the seminary process, I have established some routines and traditions while on campus. My favorite is what I call, "Lunch with Luther". Every day, rain or shine, I return from morning sessions, pack a lunch, and walk to the famous Martin Luther statue outside of the seminary's chapel. I sit at the foot of the statue and eat my lunch in quiet contemplation. I take time to appreciate all that I have been through in my life and to give thanks for the chance to learn and grow. God is good!

God's peace be with you, Ryan



ZION TECHNOLOGY

The person standing behind the large wooden object in the balcony is the worship streaming technician. Zion has a YouTube channel. Found on the channel are Sunday 10:45 worship services and special services on Christmas Eve at 7 PM and during Lent (Ash Wednesday 7 PM, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday). The services are live-streamed and recorded for viewership at another time. Typically 10 - 12 people watch a Sunday morning service live, and 40 - 60 people watch the recorded version.

The technicians are actually directing what the viewers see. There are two cameras and 8 preset location settings, which allow for a variety of choices for each technician.

The technicians are: Ann Weidel, Chuck Kormanski, Jess Arbogast, and the team of Rob & Ethan Donlan.

This program falls under 3 different boards. The property board is responsible for equipment. The Worship Board is responsible for worship content. The Communications Board covers subscription fees and the reach of the streaming service in addition to aiding in the staffing.

Our worship message is viewed by church members and non-members. Current member, Ann Stubbs, stated she truly enjoys the worship experience when her health doesn't allow her to be in the sanctuary. Sherry Lynn Harshberger, a previous member who moved away, said, "I always learn something new from Pastor Dave, and I enjoy seeing familiar faces." Betty Mancinelli, a non-member and mother of member John Mancinelli, quipped, "The Streaming Service on YouTube has been a Godsend to me. I can be in Church and in my living room at the same time."

This program has a far-reaching worship effect for not only our congregation but also the community at large. With over 100 plus followers on Zion's Facebook page, these folks can enjoy a familiar worship experience when weather, health, or travel doesn't allow them to be physically present at Zion or their own Church.

By: Chuck Kormanski



Our YouTube Channel

Zion Hollidaysburg
@zionhollidaysburg9100





FAITH NUGGETS FROM RUTH CIRCLE

Word of the Quarter: FREEDOM

A tradition at Zion is the annual “Women’s Night Out” hosted by the Ruth Circle. At this year’s first Ruth Circle meeting in September, one item on the agenda was to choose a theme for “Women’s Night Out” already on the calendar for May 5, 2026. After a brief discussion it was decided that a patriotic theme would be appropriate to link with the nation’s 250th anniversary.

In a decked out red, white and blue Fellowship Hall, approximately sixty women, ages 2 days to 101 years old, attended the “typical American picnic” dinner of hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad and patriotic cupcakes for dessert. After dinner attendees enjoyed an informative program about instrumental women in the Bible and noted women who encouraged women’s rights in the United States.

In keeping with this year’s “Women’s Night Out,” Ruth Circle members selected FREEDOM as our “Word of the Quarter” for this edition of the church newsletter.

The word “freedom” is to describe the liberation from the control of one power over another entity. Two events described in the Bible are prime examples of this use of the word “freedom”---- one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament.

The quote from Exodus 9:1, “Let my people go,” when God was instructing Moses what to say to the Pharaoh of Egypt in order to free the Israelites from slavery demonstrates this concept of freedom. It didn’t take guns, rifles, bullets, tanks, drones or bombs to win the Israelites’ freedom. Instead, God used a red blood Nile River, frogs, gnats, biting flies, dead livestock, festering boils, a hailstorm, locusts, darkness and the deaths of all non-Israelite firstborn to convince the Pharaoh to give freedom to the Israelite believers in God.

In the New Testament we learn how God defeated sin and death by sacrificing his dear son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. We are given the freedom to choose between right or wrong, eternal life or endless punishment. Our endless sins and errors are forgiven by believing and confessing that Jesus is our risen Savior. As we truly believe in Jesus as our Savior and attempt to follow God’s “battle plans” as given to us in the Bible, God forgives us our sins and errors. God doesn’t use any mechanical tools of war to conquer evil, instead he uses love and forgiveness. It’s our choice whether or not to “enlist” and march to the age-old hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers”!

By: Renetta Deremer, Ruth Circle Member

CHILDREN, FAMILY & YOUTH

At the beginning of June, the Children Family and Youth Board kicked off summer with a bang with Vacation Bible School. With over 60 children attending, and over 20 volunteers helping out, the week was very successful. Attendees consisted of both youth from our church as well as other youth from the community.

Everyone was served a nightly dinner, cooked by volunteers. Some meals were also donated to the church, thanks to some generous people. Dinner was followed by song time, games, science experiments, bible puppet shows, scripture learning, and more singing and dancing. The week was filled with lots of joy, laughter, learning, and energy. A midweek surprise celebrity visit from the one and only Wes Eberhart led to a very, very loud and exciting snack time celebration with all the children.

During the week, the youth also raised money for the care package project that will be completed in November during the holiday season. The money raised will be used to buy items that will be assembled and given out to those in need. In total, \$1,175.70 was raised throughout the week!

The end of VBS was followed by a final hoorah with a swim party at the Naugle house to cap off the week. Swimming, games, a campfire, and delicious food headlined the fun night. Overall, it was a very successful and fun week for all involved. An added bonus is that no children were lost in the process, that we know of ;)! Everyone is looking forward to another fun VBS again next summer.

Adam Naugle, CFY Board Director



Second Quarter 2026



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