

3/7 email

Pastor Saylor will be meeting with some of our leaders and their families this week as he nears a decision on whether or not to accept our call to him. Again, here is the letter he sent last week:

Dear Members of Zion, Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ! I am in receipt of documents detailing the Divine Call your congregation extended to me on Sunday, February 19th. While for many the season of Lent is a time to give up something as an act of spiritual discipline and growth, this Lenten season Laura and I will instead take up the prayerful discussion and deliberation of seeking God's will concerning your Call to serve with you in Kalamazoo.

During this process I will remain in contact with your call committee, church leadership and Pastor Seeber. I'm certain we will be visiting your church as well at some point over the next couple of weeks. I am hoping to have a final answer for you by the end of March at the latest. I am honored to have received this Call to serve you, and I am grateful for your prayers during this time. Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Michael Saylor

Please keep Pastor Saylor and his wife Laura in your prayers!

Lenten Midweek services on Wednesdays at Noon and 6:30 pm. Plan on making Wednesdays in Lent a time for worship as we reflect on the passionate love of God through Jesus Christ. We will use the children's book "Charlotte's Web" this year for illustrations to help us focus on some of the major themes of Jesus' ministry for us. Join us each Wednesday in Lent.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS have been prepared by your pastoral staff and will be available beginning Sunday. These special devotions focus on the themes "breaking bread" and "washing feet." Make this part of your Lenten discipline this year. Feel free to share copies with neighbors and friends!

Facebook posts each week: Devotional posts on Mondays and Fridays. Preparing for the Sunday scripture lessons and themes on Wednesdays. Special Lenten posts on Tuesdays. If you find something useful, please share with a friend!

Friends of Jesus Preschool is now offering wraparound childcare beginning Fall 2023. As an addition to its preschool programs, Friends of Jesus will now offer before care beginning at 7 AM and after class care until 5:30 PM. For more information, contact Director Jen LaPorte at jen@zionkazoo.org or visit us for Open House on Thursday, March 16th from 10:30 AM-noon.

March Playdate is Thursday, March 9 from 9-11 AM. Children 0-5 and their caregivers are invited to join us for a sham-rockin' good time and some St. Patrick's Day fun and games. Activities begin around 9:30 AM but come whenever you can. More information can be found at <https://fb.me/e/2UxyisMsV>.

COFFEE & CRAFTS Women of Zion.... Come join a morning of fun! **Saturday, March 11th 9-11a.m.** Everything you need to get you caffeinated and crafting. Whether you're an expert or have never touched a bead or glue gun. A great time creating is at your fingertips and you'll go home with a beautiful craft. Sign up on the Kiosk or call the office. Contact Dana Butt 352-0063 or Sue Bickle 832-4493 for more information.

Worship This Week
Wednesday Noon or 6:30pm
Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 8:00 or 10:30 am
Classes for all ages at 9:15 am

Join us for the weekly Wednesday Meals at 5:15pm.

Menu for this week is: Loaded Baked Potato and Minestrone Soups

Zion Women's Book Group: March 21st @ 2:00p.m. "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict

Pastor Seeber has a few new copies of his book "Life Lessons" available should anyone be interested. Contact the church office for details.

Stop in Blends to view the new **Art Ministry SPIRIT of the PEN: A Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild Exhibit** A wonderful exhibit of calligraphy is on display March / April in BLENDS. This is courtesy of a local group of artists who have displayed several times at Zion in the past. We also have some new additions of calligraphy by Timothy Botts on display in the library.

*Join DCE Aaron Grube as he leads us through a study on prayer. This adult cluster will meet at **Zion during Lent (Wednesday's starting Feb. 22nd at 4:30pm)**. Consider joining the group as part of your Lenten discipline. To sign up for this class, contact the church office.*

Tired of the cold, gray days? Need something different to get you through to the coming sunshine? **The Puzzle Exchange Room, now available in room 307**, has had a donation of many new puzzles of all sizes. Stop in, look them over and take one (or more!) home with you. If you have puzzles that you are done with and would like to donate, please leave them on the tables. Happy puzzling! Spring is coming!

THANKS TO ALL who continue to bring new and gently used blankets to our collection box in our lobby. We will get them to St. Luke's Episcopal Church downtown to support their efforts for those with housing difficulties. Call for more information.

Food Gathering for LOAVES and FISHES! We continue to feed the hungry in our community through Loaves and Fishes. Any canned and boxed food items are accepted, but the greatest need is: **Canned fruit – no sugar.**

Thank you for your continued financial support. Any additional, regular support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you also for your prayers and the many other ways you are involved in and support our ministry!

To make an online donation, or to set up regular online giving, follow this link:

<https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/zionkazoo>

SYMBOL IN THE WINDOW: On the second panel from the left on the Old Testament side you will see water coming from the rock This is the manifestation of God's goodness to all people as written in Exodus 17: 1-7.

Adult Choir practices on Thursdays, under direction of Roxanne Nieboer. Come when you are able, we are always looking for more voices. Call Roxanne or church office for more info.

Weekly meditations are posted Mondays and Fridays on Zion's Facebook page!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES are posted each month on bulletin board.

We have been blessed with a number of guests and visitors over the past few months! Please introduce yourself to anyone you don't know! Help everyone (even fellow members) to feel welcome and special enough for you to talk to.

Pastor Seeber's Classes:

Sunday 9:15 am Gathering Space / relating Biblical characters and stories to daily living

Saturday Men's study 8:00 am (zoom) / real world issues and the Gospel of John (Contact Pastor Seeber for Zoom link if you would like to be included!)

Pastor Brelje's Class -- Book of Romans

Tuesdays 10am in Gathering Space

Church Office hours:
Mon - Thurs 9am to 4pm
382-2360 / zion@zionkazoo.org

For pastoral assistance:
Pastor Seeber 501-3624 / Pastor Couch 598-8167A
Aaron 271-2848 / Pastor Brelje 330-9538

If you have been hospitalized, are newly confined to home or a residence facility, or have a new address or phone number, or email address, please call the church office and let us know!

NOTICE: All gmail addresses 'rejected' last week's email. We believe we have solved the issue. As a reminder the weekly emails are available @ Zionkazoo.org website as well as posted weekly on the bulletin board and kiosk.

Weekly Ministry: **Zion Endowment Ministry** has been created through gifts of our members. Since 1975 the endowment has disbursed over \$1.2 million for creating new ministries, community outreach, supporting existing ministries, major maintenance and property support, campus ministry, music, and church worker scholarships. Members are encouraged to consider supporting this ministry in their estate planning.

Prayers: Kathy Harmon and family – death of her father, Segerdahl family – death of Carol's mother