



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

The Story of the First Easter Egg



Every year, when Easter comes around, the shelves of stores become lined with Easter Bunnies and Easter Chickens. We look forward to Easter Egg Hunts and getting baskets of candy (people especially like Peeps, I don't really get it but you do you). Many folks argue that these traditions take away from the good news of Christ's resurrection. Certainly, a case can be made about the consumerism that infects Easter (let alone Christmas). But what many don't know is that there is a long tradition in Christianity which associates Easter Eggs, specifically the *first* Easter Egg, with Mary Magdalene. Allow me to tell you the story.

Before it was associated with Easter, eggs were honored at many rite-of-Spring festivals throughout ancient lands, such as Roman, Gaul, China, Egypt, and Persia. Eggs were cherished as a symbol of the universe and served as signs of earth's rebirth every Spring. As Christianity grew, the symbolism of the egg began to change, referencing *not* nature's rebirth, but the rebirth of humanity *through Christ*.

According to legend, Saint Mary Magdalene had been given an audience before the Emperor in Rome to speak about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. She spoke forcefully against Pilate's kangaroo court trial against Jesus and shared the good news that Jesus is risen. As she shared the good news about the empty tomb, she grabbed a hen's egg from the dinner table to illustrate her point about the resurrection. The Roman Emperor was unconvinced. He said there was as much chance of a dead human being coming back to life as there was for Mary's egg to turn red.

In that moment, the egg miraculously turned red in her hand proving her point that Christ is Risen! Many in the audience that day came to believe in Jesus.

This is the main tradition that has been passed down to us, although there are other, smaller traditions associated with Mary Magdalene and the Virgin Mary. Today, many Christians around the globe, especially Eastern Orthodox Christians, will exchange red eggs at Easter to remember Mary Magdalene's witness to the resurrection.

Today, we celebrate Easter with colored eggs as a way to remember that Christ has overcome death, and in doing so, has given us new life— a “new birth.” Through faith and the waters of baptism, we all have been “born from above” (John 3:5-7). Likewise, Paul writes, “Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in the *newness of life*” (Romans 6:4; italics mine). What better news could there be?

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Pastor Summers



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Zion office - office@ziontippcity.org **Prayer requests** - prayers@ziontippcity.org or office@ziontippcity.org

Jessica Dorn, Christian Education director - christianed@ziontippcity.org

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE May “TIDINGS” is Friday, April 24, 2026

April Birthdays

		14	Gary Groth Alex Kauffmann Zach Kauffman Lisa Sebastian	24	Linda Sumner
1	Debbie Rudisill Kari Kennard			26	Scot Coppock Deb Keppel
2	John Sebastian	15	Carly Breen Mike Patzek	28	Judy Bailey
3	Katie Kessler Dan Holt Kristy McKibbin Adam Cartwright	18	John LeGros Edwin Witwer	29	Debby Geiman
5	Sharon Knick	22	Jaren Summers		
13	Madison Dorn	23	Randy Turner Henry Rizzotte		



Mission of the Month

Seeds of Hope

On any given day in Ohio there are over 16,000 children in foster care and over 124,000 children in kinship care. Seeds of Hope was born out of the need to support and encourage the families that care for these children. Over the past 4 years, Seeds of Hope in Troy has filled over 1,000 need requests from foster, kinship and adoptive families in Troy, Miami County and the surrounding counties.



Zion is collecting the following items. They will be taken to Seeds of Hope in Troy. Please drop off your donations in the narthex by **Sunday April 26th**.

- All sizes of diapers
- Girls and boys training pants
- Baby wipes
- New or lightly used baby/toddler clothes
- Walmart gift cards

Upcoming Events



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday

Friday, April 3 - 7:00 pm

Easter

Saturday, April 4 - 5:00 pm

Sunrise service at Global Methodist Church 7:00 am

Sunday, April 5 - 10:00 am



Bible and Brew

Tuesday, April 21st
5:30 – 6:30

Chaffee's Brewhouse
15 E. Second Street, Tipp



Everyone is welcome to join in on these interesting and thought-provoking gatherings. The monthly topics are diverse and relevant.

Chaffee's offers a selection of craft beers, coffees, and a variety of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.



This is a gathering for all people interested in the topics of living out our faith in real life. There will be various workshops throughout the day focused on sharing our faith stories, ways we can work together in Christ, and a whole host of other topics. This is a life-long learning opportunity all people can enjoy.

Contact Pastor Summers with questions.

Women's Daytime Fellowship

April 22nd, 10:00 a.m.

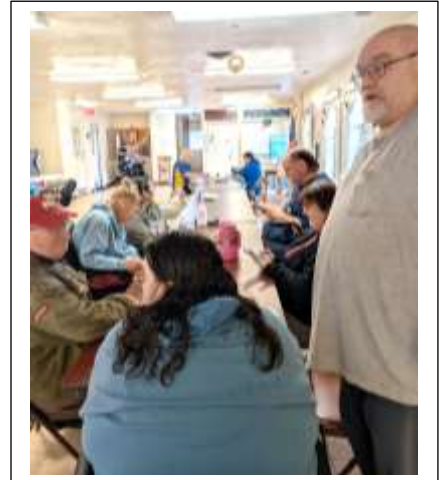
All women are invited.
Be prepared to share an experience when you were a recipient of a kindness or shared one.

Our purpose is to form friendships, support for each other, and to grow in our Christianity.
We meet for an hour.



Serving at Kennedy Hall

On Saturday March 7, members of Zion served lunch at Kennedy Hall in Troy. Seventeen people were served onsite and 42 home deliveries were made. Our menu was Chicken Stroganoff, green beans, and cookies/brownies. Leftovers were taken to St. Patrick Soup Kitchen in Troy. Members of Zion who helped cook, deliver, and serve were Donna Mertz, Ray and Heather Phillips, Beth Ferryman, and Linda Holt. Thanks to all who donated cookies and brownies. As you can see from the pictures, Zion members kept busy cooking/serving and the attendees enjoyed the food! Serving Christ Through Serving Others!



Easter Sunrise Service

The Global Methodist Church is having an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. Pastor Summers has been asked to participate and all are welcome to attend. Weather permitting, it will be held in the parking lot. If the weather is inclement, it will be moved inside the church.



Women of Zion

March 8, 2026

- Debbie Rudisill shared a reading from *Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado.
- Deb Keppel read Jill's minutes from the February Meeting.
- Sue Rambeau gave an account of deposits made and checks written with a balance of \$18,695.52 in our checking account.

In old business;

- We discussed the February Fellowship Event; Valentine Video Night.
- The March mission of the month was completed yesterday as Linda Holt and a group of Zion members brought a chicken tetrazine meal to Kennedy Hall for the residents of Terrace Ridge in Troy.
- The WoZ board and Donna Slyman shopped for a variety of needed items for the Zion kitchen on February 17th.

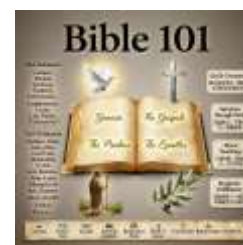
In new business:

- Linda Holt reported that she has not been able to nail down what items are needed for **Seeds of Hope**, our April Mission of the month.
- The May WoZ meeting/event will be a Women's Tea to be held on Sunday afternoon, May 3rd at 3:00. More details and a sign-up sheet will be forthcoming.
- The group made a motion to allow the Back Bay Mission team from Zion to take 3 crockpots to Biloxi for meal prep. Further discussion will be made to decide if WoZ will make a donation to Back Bay Mission.
- Debbie Rudisill reported that there are quite a few prayer shawls needing to be blessed. She will contact Pastor for a Sunday to bless the shawls.
- It was moved and seconded to order a one-year subscription to *Gather*, which is a magazine for Women of the ELCA to see if any women of Zion might be interested in subscribing to it.
- Carla Frame will have devotions for the next meeting.

Next meeting is **April 12th at 5:00 pm**

Adult Sunday School






Pastor Jaren will be continuing his series, Bible 101, for Adult Education in April. **Join us at 9am** on Sunday mornings as we talk about the basics of the Bible. Come with any and all questions. We look forward to seeing you!



Children & Youth Sunday School

If you have a preschool aged child who would like to be included in Sunday School, we are happy to include them accompanied by a parent. Kindergartners and older may be dropped off to a teacher at 9am.

All Sunday School students will be learning about the same topics, which coincide with our lectionary.

	Easter	Easter Day	4/5/2026	No Sunday School	
	Easter	Easter 2	4/12/2026	Thomas Answers Jesus	John 20:19-31
	Easter	Easter 3	4/19/2026	Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-35
	Easter	Easter 4	4/26/2026	The Lord Is My Shepherd	Psalm 23
	Easter	Easter 5	5/3/2026	Living Stones, Chosen People	1 Peter 2:2-10

Confirmation for 6th graders and older who have already spoken to Pastor Summers: April 7th.

Vacation Bible School Cleanout

Calling organizers and truck owners!

On **Sunday, May 3rd** the youth will be cleaning out a room, once used for VBS, behind the technology desk (next to the sports closet) in order to provide technology a place to store their items. There will be a lot of items to throw away and recycle. We need a few organize loving adults willing to help the youth complete this task along with a couple of people who are able to transport trash or recycling.

Do you know of a church that is in need of Vacation Bible School (VBS) material? If so please have them contact Jessica Dorn!

This project will hopefully be completed May 3 after worship with pizza provided.

Upcoming Youth Events

2027 Youth Gathering – Minneapolis. If you have a current 8th-12th grader who may be interesting in attending the youth gathering on **June 28-July 2, 2027** please reach out to Jessica as soon as possible because planning is currently underway!



2026 Ohio Youth Retreat at Hopewood. All middle and high school youth are invited to attend the Ohio Youth Retreat **June 28th – July 2nd**. If you have a youth or high schooler in middle school who is interested in attending, please tell Jessica Dorn. More information will be coming.

Graduates: We want to celebrate and pray for you! Please email Jessica Dorn at christianed@ziontippcity with a picture and more information about what your plans are, which will be shared with the congregation.



Family to Family Sports Exchange

A new season and families are preparing for a new sport! The sports closet is for families of any income size who have kids or youth who need gear for a sport. We currently support baseball, softball, soccer, and football with gently used gear such as cleats, helmets, balls, bats, and more! Playing a sport can be expensive and we are here to help families subsidize the expense by trading in sports gear that no longer fits and getting gear that is more suited for the growing child or youth.



There was a lot of interest in the sports closet this month from the Bethel Middle and High School Softball as they struggled to find enough girls to fill their teams and recruited 3 new players who have never played before. One high school girl was able to get everything required for her first-time playing softball saving the family an estimated \$300, allowing the girl to try a new sport. She received a ball bag, bat, glove, fielder mask, helmet, and two pairs of practice socks along with a 10% off coupon from Dunham's Sports to purchase other items she might want to get such as sliding shorts, practice softball pants, and batting gloves.

Donations can be placed in the donation bin outside of the church's Walnut Street entrance, while those wanting to "shop" can contact christianed@ziontipcity.org to set up a time for the family to come in. All children and youth needing gear must be present to try on gear to ensure that it fits. All we ask of families is to return the gear that is still usable when they are done with it so that it so that it can be used by another family.

Choir News

We're so happy to welcome Kevin Meyer as a new choir member! He's joining our bass/baritone section, which makes our choir even richer. The guitars are back, bringing hymns and beautiful unison singing. Last month, "Be Still My Soul" and "Come to the Water" really touched the hearts of our congregation.

This Easter morning, we sing a wonderful arrangement of the Dutch folk melody, "This Joyful Eastertide", a Dutch Easter carol with roots going back to the 17th century. The tune, known as *Vreuchten* meaning "joys". The text begins with the familiar lines celebrating the Resurrection and the joy of Easter. It has since become a staple of Easter liturgy in Anglican, Lutheran, and other Protestant traditions. "*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain; but now hath Christ arisen,*" is its most recognizable feature.

Now, for all you choir hopefuls out there, just a heads-up that we do skip a few rehearsals and Sunday performances each year. But don't worry, you can always check the bulletin for the latest rehearsal schedules.

Outreach Opportunity

The Veteran's Administration (VA) facility in Dayton is in dire need of walker bags. We have a few quilters who make them but we need more volunteers. The design is easy so you don't need to be an expert seamstress. Patterns are available from Kathy Groth or Maggie Powder and fabric is available in the quilting room.





How Can I Get Involved?

We are so happy to welcome new people to our congregation. We've been asked about ways to plug in to activities. To provide information about the multitude of opportunities, this an ongoing section in Tidings, which describes a specific ministry area and ways to become involved. This month we are highlighting **Fun, Faithful Fellowship Events** (Formerly Fun Family Fellowship).

In the 1960-1990's Vacation Bible School (VBS) became increasingly popular as a way to give kids something to do during summer break. Churches saw the mischief that kids were getting into with a lack of parental supervision and used it as an opportunity to reach God's Children. Churches, however, were not the only people who saw this problem as more and more programs were developed to keep kids busy.

In 2026 kids and youth have a number of programs inside and outside of school that they can be involved in. Scouts, sports, and band make up just a few of these extracurricular activities to keep young minds and bodies busy. Families today are overwhelmed with the number of available activities making VBS less needed than in the past.

We as a church made the difficult decision to end the 5-day VBS program, BUT we knew we still wanted to offer something for families. After a lot of prayer and taking a long hard look at our congregation, we realized that what was needed was more fellowship. The church family (people of all ages) were missing out on opportunities to have fellowship with one another.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Come and join in on the fellowship! Whether you are older or younger we are all God's children in need of fellowship. Your presence is needed to make this program work.
- Share your talent or passion! Do you have an interactive talent or activity that you'd like to share with others? Talk to Jessica Dorn, let's see if we can find a way to share it!
- Donate your time or money! These programs are typically easy programs that cost little and take a small time to put together. Many hands make light work and any help or donation is appreciated.
- Lead! While Jessica enjoys leading all of these activities, she would love to just show up and participate. Ask how you can lead today!

CURRENT NEEDS:

We are currently putting together a list of events for this summer. The schedule and events will be based on availability.

- People/time
 - Crotchet or knitting teacher
 - Science guru to show us about natural water filters
 - Bakers to help us bake cookies
 - Extrovert to contact police, fire, and EMS in Tipp City
 - Art teacher or lover
- Popsicles (for in the park or church)
- Water bottles
- Snacks
- AND MORE!

Contact Jessica Dorn with more information on how to get involved!

Council Meeting Report



The March 10th meeting of the Church Council opened with prayer and a thoughtful devotion based on Mark 10, reflecting on Jesus' teaching that true greatness is found in service. Council was invited to consider how discipleship is lived out through humility, compassion, and the willingness to place the needs of others before our own—an especially meaningful reminder as we approach Holy Week.

Pastor Summers shared that Tipp City Methodist Church will host a Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 7:00 AM, and Zion has been invited to participate. Weather permitting, the service will be held outdoors in their parking lot; if needed, it will move into their sanctuary.

Pastor also led Council through Finding Your Spiritual Gifts, a reflective exercise designed to help individuals identify the unique ways God equips them for ministry. This meaningful activity is something Pastor hopes to offer to the wider congregation in the future.

President Matt Sauls reported that the Executive Committee is beginning work on the formation of a personnel committee, including drafting a job description and defining the committee's role and responsibilities. Council members were asked to prayerfully consider potential candidates who could serve with wisdom and care.

The Welcoming/Communications Committee continues to build momentum for fellowship and connection in the coming months. Upcoming events include:

- Bunco Night – March 21
 - An evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.
- Easter Luncheon & Egg Hunt – March 29
 - A joyful celebration following the worship service.
- Dayton Dragons Outing – July 25
 - Zion will have 90 tickets available for this summer tradition.

The Worship and Music Committee reviewed and prepared for the upcoming worship schedule:

- Palm Sunday – March 28–29
- Maundy Thursday – April 2
- Good Friday – April 3
- Easter – April 4–5
- Mother's Day – May 9–10
- Pentecost – May 23–24
- Holy Trinity – May 30–31

As part of Zion's 200th Anniversary celebration, the Anniversary Committee reported on their next major event: the Rededication of the English Lutheran Cemetery, scheduled for Sunday, May 17th at 2:00 PM at the cemetery. This service will honor the earliest members of Zion and preserve their stories with dignity and care.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, [April 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Bunco Fun

Another fun time was had by all on Saturday, March 21st.



Bible and Brew

A good time was had on St. Patrick's Day at the one-year anniversary of Bible and Brew. In addition to other topics, the conversation centered on St. Patrick and how suffering impacts spirituality. These gatherings are casual and interesting. Everyone is welcome, so mark your calendars to attend on April 21st.



Thank You

Dear Church members:

Needy Basket acknowledges your donation of \$65 on February 10, 2026 to support our efforts to assist the needy families of southern Miami County. Your donation is very much appreciated. Thank you.



In 2025, Needy Basket volunteers helped 1,170 families with requests for food assistance under our emergency food program. In addition, we continued our support for the "Lunch on Us" program that provides lunches to children of low-income families during the summer when they are out of school. We also provided 215 families with a Christmas meal, toys for children ten years of age and younger and a VISA gift card for those who are eleven to fifteen years old, through our annual Holiday Program.

We welcome your continued support to help us provide aid to families of southern Miami County needing assistance. If you have any question, feel free to contact me.

Gratefully,

Thomas Enders, Treasurer, Needy Basket

Editor's Note: The \$65 was from the Souper Bowl of Caring. They stop by regularly to pick up food items out of our collection bin in the entry.



April Hymn – *Touch That Soothes and Heals*

For the month of April, we will learn a contemporary hymn in All Creation Sings. *Touch that Soothes and Heals* (or *See My Hands and Feet*) was written by Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle. Bringle received her doctorate from Emory University. As of 2020, she was a professor of philosophy and religious studies at Brevard College in North Carolina. She was honored as a fellow of the Hymn Society. She also served as chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song which produced Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. She considers herself a teacher first and in her spare time writes and translates hymn texts. She had others in her family who were musically inclined; her great-grandfather was a song leader and her father knew most hymns in the hymnal from memory. While she sang in church from the young age of 5, she did not start writing hymns until her 40s. It is noteworthy that Bringle has a dozen hymn texts in All Creation Sings (ACS). One of her most well-known hymns *When Memory Fades* was written for a friend's mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Bringle's hymns in All Creation Sings include:

ACS 901 – Now the Heavens Start to Whisper	ACS 1036 – Commonwealth is God's Commandment
ACS 908 – In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes	ACS 1040 – Love Has Brought Us Here Together
ACS 924 – As the Winter Days Grow Longer	ACS 1065 – Can You Feel the Seasons Turning
ACS 939 – Touch that Soothes and Heals	ACS 1081 – When Memory Fades
ACS 946 – The Play of the Godhead	ACS 1093 – In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness
ACS 1016 – Cast Out, O Christ	ACS 1099 – Kneeling in the Dust to Form Us

The tune for *Touch that Soothes and Heals* - CIVILITY - was composed by Gregg DeMey. DeMey was born in Grand Rapids, MI. He received his Bachelors of Arts from Calvin College (Michigan) in Music Theory and Composition. He received his Masters in Theological Studies in 1998 and Masters in Divinity in 2006 from Calvin Theological Seminary. He has served as a pastor in California, Michigan, and currently serves at the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church in Illinois.

Use the words from *Touch that Soothes and Heals* to reflect as we journey through Holy Week:

- (1) Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread; steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead.
 - (2) Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care, give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there.
 - (3) Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least. Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased.
 - (4) Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal, feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal.
- Refrain: "See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

Thank You

Thank you Communications -Welcoming Committee for your many notes while I was homebound. The notes pushed me to get well and get back to church as soon as possible. Zion is the best and its people are so CARING...in Christian love,

Ruth White

Our Zion Quilters need cotton fabric and are requesting donations!

By the Numbers

Instead of printing attendance and giving weekly in the bulletins, we are putting offerings and average monthly attendance for the previous month in Tidings. This is the month of March – four Sundays through the 22nd and three Saturdays through the 21st.

Average Attendance – Saturday: 45 Sunday: 75

Average Sunday School Attendance – Adult: 19 Youth: 4 Kids: 4

Total Giving: \$30,765.00

Prayer Requests

Prayers for those grieving: The Firstenberger family on the death of their father, Brian. He was a Bethel teacher and dad of 3 sons.

Pray for those fighting cancer: Prayer request for Sasha Tritle. She had surgery for breast cancer and now is having radiation treatments.

Prayer requests: Prayers are needed for Zion's former pastor, Steve Gellatly. He is in Hospice care. John Sebastian is recovering from his meniscus repair. Pray for Sue VonAschen who has sight problems. Carolyn Stocker (mother of Zion's custodian Tina Putman) is in Hospice care. Emily Clenney (daughter of Bill and Kim Jones) is having kidney issues and is being referred to a specialist. Prayers are requested for Richard Leflar. Keep in your prayers Williams' neighbor Regina, Jayson Williams, Sean and Doug Lowe, Jaxson Williams, Steven Williams, Brandon and Aubrey Lowe.

Continue to pray for: Shirley Rawlins, Betty Jackson, Chalmer Mader, Debbie Turner, Greg Watkins, Peggy McCoy, Christine Copeland, James Oaks, Brian Watkins, Colonel Troy Cramer, Rick Matson, Fred Staie, the Weprin family, Cindy Moore, and Carol Phillips.

Zion's Prayer Chain is sent out weekly through email. It lists prayers needed for those in our community and world. If you have signed up to receive the prayer chain and have not received it recently, please let the office or Linda Holt know. If you have never been a part of the prayer chain and would like to receive it, let us know that, as well.

To request prayers, or take an individual off the prayer chain, email them to prayers@ziontippcity.org. You can also access this through Zion's website www.ziontippcity.org or call the church office at (937) 667-3110.



April 2026

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:00 Bell Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2  Service 7:00	3  Service 7:00	4 Communion Saturday
5 	6 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property 6p	7 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	8 1:00 Bell Rehearsal NO Choir	9	10	11
12 WoZ 5:00	13 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5	14 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Comm Mtg 5p Council 7p	15 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 Communion Saturday
19	20 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5	21 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Bible & Brew 5:30 - Chafee's	22 10 Women's Fellowship 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 Storypoint Outreach	27 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5	28 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	29 Worship & Music 6 pm 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 Compassion. Friends 7:00		