

STAFF

Dr. Clark Stewart,
Senior Pastor
Cell: 985-276-0282
Email: broclark@newzion.net
Rev. Toby Hughes,
Associate Pastor/Music Minister/
Celebrate Recovery Director
Cell: 985-590-8034
tobhug622@aol.com Prayer requests
Rev. David Maxwell,
Associate Pastor/Administrator/
Education/Outreach
Cell: 985-789-8673
Email: david@newzion.net
Dr. Matthew Smith,
Youth & Children's Minister
Cell: 985-778-8568
Email: matthew@newzion.net
Bro. James Gibson,
College & Career Intern
985-515-5078
Email: james.gibson215@gmail.com



*"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship Service In Sanctuary
& Drive-Up (Tune into FM 87.9)

Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.
Bible Study (All Ages)
(Drive-Up Available)

Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.
Worship in Sanctuary & Drive-Up
(Live-Streamed & available on
Church App Sunday afternoon)

Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship Service

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study (FMC 101)
Young Adult Bible Study
(Ages 18-30) FMC 207
Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Adult Teachers' Meeting (FMC 213)
Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)
RA's, GA's & Mission Friends (FMC)

Phone: 985-892-4711
FAX: 985-892-9845
Email: newzion@newzion.net
Website: www.newzion.net



New Zion News

New Zion Baptist Church
17387 New Zion Church Road
"The Place to Begin Again"
May 2026



FROM YOUR SENIOR PASTOR'S PEN

I am constantly amazed at the continual movement of God at New Zion! People are being saved and added to our fellowship, and so many are growing spiritually. When God moves, there is a sweet spirit among us and a spirit of anticipation. I look forward to every worship service and our small group Bible studies every Sunday.

I want to wish every mother a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day! We will honor our mothers on Sunday, May 10th, in each morning worship service. In Exodus 20, verse 12, God tells us to "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." This is the first of the Ten Commandments with promise. May we all honor our mother every day, but especially on Mother's Day. We honor them by showing them respect, spending time with them and blessing them. I thank the Lord for my mother; she is in heaven now, but I recall often the blessing she was in my life. I thank God for Pam; she has been such a godly mother to our two sons.

We will honor our graduates on Sunday, May 17th. What an honor to see and celebrate all the accomplishments in their lives. Congratulations to every graduate! We are proud of you.

May we keep our focus on Jesus, serve Him faithfully, and share Him with others.

**You Are Loved,
Bro. Clark**

- September
Andrew Hughes
Morgan Voth
Jonathan Voth
Thomas Morgan
Darian Powell
Drake Giovenco
Clinton Levi Morgan
Darel Marcotte
Delinda Marcotte
Baileigh Marcotte
Marilyn Wallace
Daniel Hamilton
Linda Sanchez
Tammy Ramp
- October
Ricky Lester
Cindy Lester
Hailey Finch
Allisen Borgstede
- November
Shane Hickman
Christian Hickman
Timothy Marcotte
Joleen Hickman
Frank Palmisano
Kim Palmisano
- January
Charene O'Hara
Margaret "Susan" Freyder
- February
Lynn LeBlanc
Hadley Casadaban
- March
Joni Andrews
Milagros Calix
Christina Calix
Mark Morris
Joey Deidrich
Angie Deidrich
Troy W. Welch, Sr.
Tammy McMahon
Carlos Hurd
- April
Shea Tongate
Jonathan Campbell



New Zion Baptist Church
17387 New Zion Church Road
Covington, LA 70435

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Covington, Louisiana
Permit #58



FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR/MINISTER OF MUSIC/CELEBRATE RECOVERY LIAISON

Dear Church Family,

April has flown by and brought in many showers of blessings! Our Easter Musical went great and was a huge blessing! Thank you, choir and tech team!! Our Easter services went great too! Wow, what a turnout. What a Savior! May we continue to celebrate and walk in the power of His resurrection.

May is here and that means more big celebrations: God's precious gift to each and EVERY ONE of us: our mother. Let's show our love, appreciation and SERVE our mothers while we can. Many of us remember our Godly mothers who've gone to Heaven with Jesus. Many of us will see her again and that's the hope we have in Christ, Hallelujah!

I'm so thankful for the many soloists and groups we've had lately. They used their God-given talents and abilities for the Lord and we got the blessing too. Our choir is in need of more members to help us with our Patriotic music on June 30th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Come and join us Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, IF you love patriotic music. ALSO, we have a DESPARATE NEED for an 8:00 a.m. sound tech. If you're feeling called to serve in this area, we will train you and greatly appreciate you! Just see me or Bro. Johnny Kern. We also need assistant operators and assistant projectionists and camera operators. Is God calling YOU to serve? Can HE count on YOU?

Our Celebrate Recovery ministry meets every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the FMC. What is it that you need to recover from? What hurt? What hangup? What habit? What loved one do you need to bring so that THEY will come and experience recovery? Our CR leadership stands faithfully ready to help!

Sharing His love through music and more,
Bro Toby

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ADMINISTRATOR

As we think about the state of the world we live in, sometimes we can become less than excited. However, I want to share some exciting news concerning God's Word, the Bible.

The latest statistics on Bible study attendance in the USA reveal a significant increase in engagement, particularly among younger generations. Here are some key points.

Weekly Bible Reading: The percentage of U.S. adults reading the Bible weekly has rebounded to 42% in 2025, up from a 15 year low in 2024.

Millennial and Gen Z Trends: Millennials and Gen Z are leading the way in Bible reading, with 50% of Millennials and 49% of Gen Z reading the Bible weekly.

Gender Gap: The traditional gender gap in Bible reading is narrowing, with 54% of Gen Z men and 57% of Millennial men reading Scripture weekly compared to 46% of Gen Z women and 43 % of Millennial women.

Digital Platforms: Millennials are increasingly engaging with the Bible through digital platforms like TikTok and YouTube, suggesting a shift in how they access Scripture.

These statistics indicate a positive trend in Bible study attendance and engagement in the USA, reflecting a broader interest.

Sources: Baptist Press, Family Research Council, beautifulbible.org, and the American Bible Society

Over the past few years, our research has revealed a concerning decline in U.S. Bible engagement. Yet in 2024, the U.S. saw a resurgence in Bible sales, a signal of renewed interest. The 2025 data suggest that this potential rebound may be taking root, especially among Millennials and men. Meanwhile, engagement among other groups—including Baby Boomers and women—remains steady. Why this renewed curiosity about the Bible? One possible reason is the Bible's growing presence in public discourse. With such wide access to Scripture in the U.S., many are choosing to look past others' portrayals of the Bible and discover what the Bible actually says for themselves. The Church has a unique opportunity in this moment—to invite seekers into genuine encounters with the living Word of God. As Psalm 34:8 encourages, "Find out for yourself how good the LORD is." But perhaps there is another factor at work. The 2025 World Happiness Report, a study conducted by the University of Oxford, Gallup, and the United Nations, revealed that U.S. happiness has dropped to a record low. In a world where many feel weary, anxious, or unsatisfied, Scripture offers an enduring message of hope. As Isaiah 40:31 reminds us, "But those who trust in the LORD for help will find their strength renewed ..."

Source: American Bible Society

God has provided man with THE GUIDE BOOK FOR LIFE, THE BIBLE. He also gave us a free will to read/ study it or to leave it on the coffee table. It's our choice. My prayer is that "WE" all take this special gift from God and hide it in our hearts that we might not sin against Him.

There is a place for you here at New Zion to study God's Word weekly. You can call it Sunday School, Life Groups or whatever. But if you are not studying God's Word, you are missing one of the most important blessings God has given us as mankind. I want to encourage you to find a class and start attending each Sunday. Along with home Bible study you will not only grow in Christ's likeness, our goal as Christians, but you will develop life-long relationships with fellow believers.

In His Service,
Bro. David



MONDAYS
7:00 PM



Ladies' ONLY FREE exercise class
Thursdays ~ 6 pm-7 pm (SFH)

FROM YOUR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTER

2026 GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY MAY 17TH 10:30 AM
SUBMIT GRADUATE INFORMATION AND PICTURES AT
WWW.NEWZION.NET/YOUTH

ONE PAISE
Be Still & Know I Am God
PSALM 46:10
Youth Camp 2026
June 22nd- June 26
Orange Beach, AL
Learn more and sign up at www.newzion.net/youth

Vacation Bible School
New Zion Baptist Church
July 6-10
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Age 3 - 5th grade
Illumination Station
VBS KICK OFF PARTY
SUNDAY, JUNE 28th 5:00 pm
Sign-Up online @ newzion.net

We need VBS volunteers. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord by serving our children. The two primary areas are Group Leaders & Assistant Group Leaders. Group leaders are responsible for escorting children to track times including Bible study, crafts, recreation, missions, & refreshments. Group leaders are not required to teach. Assistant Group Leaders assist group leaders in escorting children to their track times. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments & recreation as well. If you plan to volunteer in any area of VBS, please register online. Volunteers must complete a background check. If you completed one last year, you do not have to complete one this year. If you have a special request, please note it when you register online @ newzion.net/vbs. Thank you for your service to the Lord. Bro. Matt

SATURDAY MAY 23 10:00AM - 3:00 PM
New Zion's Youth and Children's Ministry
Family Lake Day
Free Event
Location: Hunt Branch Retreat
51539 Louisiana Industries Rd Franklinton, LA 70438
Parents must attend with children 6th grade and below.
• Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Hot dogs provided.
• Bring side dishes and desserts to share.
• Activities: Swimming, Kayaking, Volleyball, Water Slide
• Bring your own life jacket, beach toys and beach chairs
Sign up at www.newzion.net

Worship
Bible Study
Games
Free Meal at 6:00 pm
IGNITE Youth VBS
RISING 7TH - 12TH GRADE
Sunday July 19th - Wednesday July 22nd
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
17387 New Zion Church Rd Covington, La 70435

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MOTHER'S DAY ~ SUNDAY, MAY 10TH
(No Evening Activities at New Zion)

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Bake Sale Fundraiser
Sunday, May 10th ~ 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Women's Prayer Ministry (SFH) ~ Wednesday, May 13th @ 6:30p.m.

Graduate Recognition Service
Sunday, May 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 25TH

SUNDAY ~ MAY 31ST
NO 8:00 a.m. Service
9:15 a.m. Life Groups
10:30 a.m. Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering
(Meal to Follow in the FMC Gym)

MAY MEETINGS
Adult Class SS Teachers' Meeting
Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. FMC 213
Cemetery Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 3rd @ 3:00 p.m.
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 13th @ 5:30 p.m.
Women's Prayer Ministry (SFH)
Wednesday, May 13th @ 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Safety Meeting (Youth Room)
Thursday, May 14th @ 6:00 p.m.
Stewardship Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 17th @ 3:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting
Sunday, May 17th @ 4:00 p.m.
REAL Moms Meeting
Thursday, May 21st @ 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting
Sunday, May 31st @ 7:15 p.m.

Women on Mission Sewing for Missions
Saturday, May 30th
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ~ FMC

LADIES' EXERCISE CLASS
Tuesdays & Fridays @ 9:00 a.m. ~ Small Fellowship Hall
Weights, Bands, Balls (Water Bottles/Soup Cans-Bring what you have.)
Work at your own pace and strength level. ALL AGES WELCOME!

