

Subject: A Note From Pastor Emeritus Lou Piel + August 5, 2023 + Mt Zion UMC Finksburg
From: Mark Hemler <Mark.Hemler428_rt+gmail@breezechms.com>
Date: 8/5/2023, 10:35 AM
To: Kathy Giroux <krixham@comcast.net>



From The Desk Of...

Lou Piel

Pastor Emeritus

**Mount Zion UMC - Finksburg
Saturday August 5, 2023**

After retiring for the third time, Judy and I took a couple of weeks to give our new Pastor Shawn some breathing room. We visited one of our former congregations in Gaithersburg, with plans to visit others in Cumberland, Owings Mills and Arbutus.

What a joy it was last Sunday to get back to Mount Zion our church home for the past seventeen years.

If you were in attendance for morning worship you already know how meaningful Pastor Shawn's message was. One of his lines went "one of the reasons we gather to gather is to encourage one another." We liked that line so much we put it on the Rt. 140 church road sign.

He added "we need more encouragement not less" and "we need to move to Christ centered love." I have always loved the Biblical passage he took from the New Testament letter "Hebrews: *"and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet as is the habit of some but encouraging one another with all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (10.24-25).

Let me share a few additional words from the morning message: *"We need to be rooted in*

social contacts,” and “what are we missing when we isolate ourselves from one another,” and finally something like “gathering together is not just important from the Bible but in order for us to have to health lives.”

In special music Jerry shared the meaningful song “Believe” but this time added a video background as he sang. It rang a chord with many of us in how we are called to live our lives day by day. With Leslie on the clavanna we can always count on the power of Christian music to strength our souls.

Congregational worship is not an option for confessing follower of Jesus, rather, it is foundational. We are not called to be “lone rangers” but part of the ecclesia (the people of God), and the Body of Christ Jesus.

Seventeen years ago you opened your hearts to Judy and to me. I am so glad you have done the same thing to Pastor Shawn, his wife Morrissa, their son Noah and son and Mother in Law Joy.

There are many ways to do ministry and being part of NCCP (the North Carroll Cooperative Parish” is another way although new to some of us. This ministry has been going on for over twenty-years with very positive faith results.

Through the years the people of Mount Zion have weathered many things. Change is not always easy, especially as we get older yet God’s Spirit has always been with us - guiding us. I believe in the ministry of our church and I firmly believe God has a special place for smaller congregations. I love the hymn that goes “bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.”

Sunday service starts at 9:55am
3006 Old Westminster Pike
Finksburg, MD 21048
Accessible Friendly Building

Grace and peace
Lou Piel, Pastor Emeritus
Mt. Zion UMC - Finksburg, MD
julo1@verizon.net
H: (410) 751-9049
C: (301) 351-6689