



From The Desk Of...

*Lou Piel*

Pastor Emeritus

**Mount Zion UMC - Finksburg  
Friday July 7, 2023**

I have always loved the opening words in the letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in the city of Philippi (called "Philippians"). It goes like this ***"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."*** (1.3-5)

Wonderful words of love and spiritual affection not just two-thousand years ago but also for our lives today.

For those of you who came to the church building last Sunday morning and were "alive in worship" I give thanks that you not only had Pastor Shawn (Vollmerhausen) with you but also his wife Morrissa, their son Noah and his Mother-in-Law Joy.

This past week Pastor Shawn met with our "worship team" Leslie Gablr (Director of Music) and Jerry Knop (Lay Leader) to go over ways to make morning worship even more meaningful.

Judy and I were very pleased that we had 53+ in congregational worship last Sunday. Faithful congregational worship is at the heart of who we are as followers of Jesus.

I understand from news-letter editors Barbara Hayes & Melanie Stranix that the newsletter

you will receive this week has a picture of Pastor Shawn and a brief write up. Get to know him! He is a man of the Lord! Even if you cannot get to the church building read his column and lift up a prayer for him, his family and his church family at Mount Zion. I know he is praying for all of us.

Please remember that this coming Sunday ("Second Sunday") we will be having fellowship and refreshments following morning worship in the social hall. This is your opportunity to greet your friends and get to know Pastor Shawn better.

This past Wednesday I had lunch with Rev. Jerry Gautcher, one of the Associate Pastors of the North Carroll Cooperative pastoral team. He is an Associate Pastor and his team responsibility is for pastoral care and caring ministries. If you are not able to get to the church building on Sunday and may be homebound don't be surprised to receive a call from him introducing himself. A fine person deeply committed to the ministry of Jesus our Lord.

Our Community Service Fund: Wednesday evening I received a phone call from one of our church members who had gone to a little park off Rt. 30 between Hampstead and Manchester. She met a very fine young man who has a job with the C.J. Miller company but had no place to stay that evening. He had been dropped off that morning by his girlfriend (Hanover, Pa) but could not return as she lives in Section-8 housing and might lose her apartment if he returned. With the help of a church friend, Carl, he finally decided to accept my offer to go to Westminster and the Boston Inn for housing. Interesting that the Hampstead police did not know of a motel in their area. He said his "boss" could pick him up on Thursday morning and take him to work.

Your support of our Community Service Fund helped him with safe lodging and something to eat. Although we keep information confidential through the years, we have had many incidents like this one. God is still working. Working through faithful followers of Jesus.

Let me close with a prayer request. Lift up your prayers for the City of Baltimore, for the Mayor and those in leadership and especially for those who are angry and frustrated and take out their pain on others. Not just the city but in the suburbs and even in rural areas where far too often violence against one another is occurring.

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