

NEWS from the pews

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Finksburg, Maryland



The monthly newsletter for our members and friends

MARCH-APRIL 2023

CALENDAR

MARCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service
Communion Sunday

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

7:30 p.m. - Finance Committee

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 p.m. - Church Trustees

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 p.m. - Church Council

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

9:55 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

12 noon - Holy Thursday Service
7:30 p.m. - Holy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

12 noon - Good Friday Service
7:30 p.m. - Good Friday Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - EASTER

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service
9:55 a.m. - Easter Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

Notes from the Pastor



Rev. Wm. Louis Piel

Our Journey of Faith

From Holy Week to Easter to Pentecost

We are asking you, the people of Mount Zion, to go on a "Journey of Faith." Walk with Jesus and his fellow believers. The key moment in our Christian faith is **Easter, the "Day of Resurrection."** With the words "why are you looking for Jesus among the dead, he has risen go and tell" (Luke 24.5ff), lives were never

the same again. Instead of hiding to save their lives they gave their lives to follow the risen one!

The early church in its wisdom felt that since the message of Easter was foundational to their faith there needed to be a time for spiritual repentance and reflection. It is called "**Lent**" from the Old English word "lencten" which referred to springtime. This 40-day season (not counting Sundays which are "little Easters") was the opportunity to take a critical look at their own lives in light of the life, teaching and message of Jesus.

Psalm 51 (v.10) says it well: "create in me a clean heart O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." The "Day of Resurrection" will take on more meaning and depth if we use the 40 days to open our hearts and minds to the living Christ.

For some, Easter is simply a day on the calendar. For others, it is a story that happened 2,000 years ago that we tell and retell. For those who follow Jesus it is much more. **It is a message that is as current and relevant and challenging as the morning newspaper.**

Songwriter William James said it well: "Every day to us is Easter with its resurrection song" and Brian Wren adds "Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now, and dwell in every place and time."

On this special day we urge you not to live in the past but to celebrate the present in the power of our resurrected Lord.

Grace and peace,



MARCH

- 1 Shirley Loveless
- 7 Melissa Johnson
- 10 Lew Wimmer
- 12 Jo Tully
- 15 Travis Bussard
Jeanette Holbert
- 16 Doris Euler
Elizabeth Kirby
- 23 Isabelle Diaz
- 30 David Fitzwater

APRIL

- 11 Bill Hoy
- 12 Gabrielle Diaz
- 18 Bill Tighe
- 19 Robin Hadel
Dawn Zepp
- 22 Bob Hayes
- 30 Daniel Yingling

PRAYER MINISTRY

As followers of Jesus, it is very important that we stay in touch with each other. Remember to call, send cards, visit, and pray for these members of our church family who are under the weather.

Virginia Hoy (at Transitions Rehab in Gettysburg) • **Charles Cooper** (father of Gerri Rhodes) • **Bill Hoy** • **Mary Moores** • **Stuart Campbell**

Marty Brown • **Joan Tighe** • **Joe Puckhaber** • **Greg Anderson** • **Charlotte Green** • **Bob Hayes**

The Eyler family (death of Lydia and prayers for Gwyneth) • **Greg Imhoff** • **Ruth Pitroff** • **Mary Watson** • **Wayne Wray** • **Connor Ohl**

Jesse Feeser • **Melanie Imhoff** • **Robert Tighe** • **Den Gray and family** • **Bekah** (a new mom)

At Home or in Care Homes:

• **Peggy Wade** Spring Arbor of Severna Park, 345 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park, MD 21146

• **Tommy DeMoss**, c/o Gerald DeMoss, 1604 St. Paul Street, Hampstead, MD 21074

Help us keep our Prayer Ministry up to date! Please report any prayer concerns to **Barbara Menchey** at 410-861-8827 or **Bob Hayes** at 410-596-9004 or bbhayes@verizon.net.

We will keep a name on the prayer list for 30 days, but you can renew it by contacting Barbara Menchey or Bob Hayes.



MARCH

None

APRIL

- 10 Ginny & Bill Hoy
- 20 Joyce & Jim Mirfin
- 21 Barb & Bob Hayes
- 23 Bonnie & Bobby Graham
Tracy & David Yingling

An Attitude of Gratitude!

We are grateful to those of you who are not able to be in Sunday worship attendance yet continue to financially support the ongoing ministry and outreach of the Mount Zion congregation.

Thank you to **LaDonna Schemm** and **Eddy**, who are serving as our ushers in March and **Shirley Loveless** and **Judy Piel**, who will serve as our ushers in April.

The March/April Newsletter is sponsored by **LaDonna Schemm** in loving memory of her husband George.

The March/April issue of **The Upper Room** is given by **LaDonna Schemm** in loving memory of her husband George and in honor of her children George W. Schemm, and Lisa & Michael Schemm and her grandchildren Aubrey and Colson.





A Journey Through the Season of Lent

Sunday, March 5 - Second Sunday in Lent The Holy Communion is Celebrated

Jesus has to deal with his disciples and that isn't easy

Sunday, March 12 - Third Sunday in Lent

Jesus has to deal with the religious leaders and that isn't easy because they want to kill him!

Sunday, March 19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

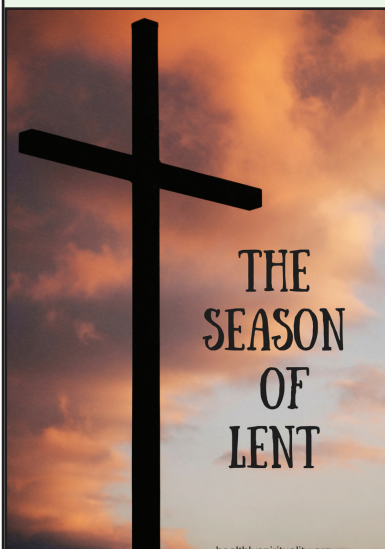
Jesus has to deal with Simon Peter who is up one day and down the next - a reflection of many of us

Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus has to deal with the crowds who one day are with him, shouting, "Hosanna" and the next day, "Crucify-Kill Him!"

SHOULD I OBSERVE LENT?

Ultimately, only you can discern if you should participate in Lent. It's not something we should do out of obligation but with a reverent heart. If you think you need to do certain things to earn God's favor, that can distract from an authentic relationship with Him.



So ask yourself what your purpose for Lent would be. If you have certain habits in mind, what is the context? If you want to start working out to lose weight or need to give up food that's bad for your health, those things may be more general self-improvement goals than Lent candidates.

While everything we do should point to God, including how we treat our physical and mental health, Lent is a time to give specific intention to our closeness to Jesus. Before you decide to give something up for Lent, open

your heart to where God wants to work in you. If you aren't ready for that step, God will be there as you move forward, and you can set goals at your own pace.

A Lenten Reflection

- Give up complaining; focus on gratitude
- Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts
- Give up worry; trust divine Providence
- Give up discouragement; be full of hope
- Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness
- Give up hatred; return good for evil
- Give up negativism; be positive
- Give up pettiness; become mature
- Give up jealousy; pray for trust



MISSIONS REPORT

By Barb Hayes

Help us feed the hungry!

In March and April, in keeping with Melanie's article (right), we are looking for donations of **non-perishable foods**, such as:

- Cans of soup, stew, or chili (with easy-open tops)
- Cheese and/or peanut butter crackers
- Individually wrapped breakfast bars or granola bars
- Coffee (ground) creamer, and sugar
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned pasta (Spaghetti-Os)
- Packaged pasta (macaroni & cheese, etc.)
- Hot and cold cereals
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Juice boxes and canned juices

Food donations are given to the Shepherd's Staff food pantry, the Cold Weather Shelter, a local group home for disabled adults, and others as needed. **If you, or someone you know needs help with groceries, please call or text Barb Hayes at 410-596-1483.**

Remember, we are *always* collecting personal hygiene items for the **Shepherd's Staff**. Please place your donations in the Goat, or contact **Barb Hayes** for pick-up.

THE NEED HAS NOT ENDED

By Melanie Stranix

Proverbs 22:9 A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

I recently read an article from CBS News regarding the coming **Hunger Cliff**. I had absolutely zero idea what that meant, so I continued reading to find out.

It seems that 32 states, including Maryland, are set to reduce their food stamp benefits in March 2023. These cuts will impact over **30 MILLION** people who are enrolled in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a federal food stamp program) in these states. As I understand it, this all boils down to the end of federal dollars given out during the pandemic.

No matter what, it means that there are people who will suffer. **The cost of groceries is significantly higher, up approximately 10%, from where they were 2 to 3 years ago.** Now, those folks who need this assistance will get less assistance with groceries. The average dollars lost for a single recipient (per the article) will be in the neighborhood of \$82.00 per month. That could be a week or more worth of food for some people. **Families could see an average cut of \$328.00 per month.** The worst hit could be to the elderly, especially those living on very limited incomes.



Let me say this: I am not attempting to be political here. I just want everyone to please remember this story when grocery shopping. This church has a reputation for supporting the food pantry at the Shepherd's Staff. We do special holiday food collections for several holidays where we adopt families and group homes. Food banks will be seeing increased requests for help and as God's people, we are asking those who can to help.



So here's my idea — let's try to bring one can of soup, vegetables, or meat per person every time you come to worship, attend a church meeting, or come here for another event. **Remember to get cans with pull tops!** We can **keep The Goat full** if all of us participate when we can. Let's try to be there for those who need us!

News from the Pews is published every month by Mount Zion Church, Finksburg, Maryland.

Send material you would like included to bbhayes@verizon.net.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Holy Week of Our Lord

For those who follow Jesus, this is a very important week to worship.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2, Worship 9:55 a.m.

HOLY/MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6, Two Worship Opportunities
12 Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7, Two Worship Opportunities
12 Noon & 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

THE CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

EASTER

Sunday, April 9, Two Worship Opportunities
Sunrise Service (Rain or Shine), 7:00 a.m.
Service of the Resurrection, 9:55 a.m.



EASTER DAY SUNDAY, APRIL 9

The Sunrise Worship Service will open with liturgy and song on the front lawn of the church building.

We will then move to the sanctuary with song, scripture and "Jesus as the bread of life." Each worshipper will receive a piece of bread.

The sanctuary worship service will celebrate Easter morning with the liturgy of resurrection in Holy Scripture and music.

The following five April Sunday worship services will deal with Biblical themes related to the new life in resurrection.

What are the implications of the resurrection of Jesus to our lives today?

We will be looking at the resurrection through the eyes of the four Gospels, Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, along with the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Corinth.

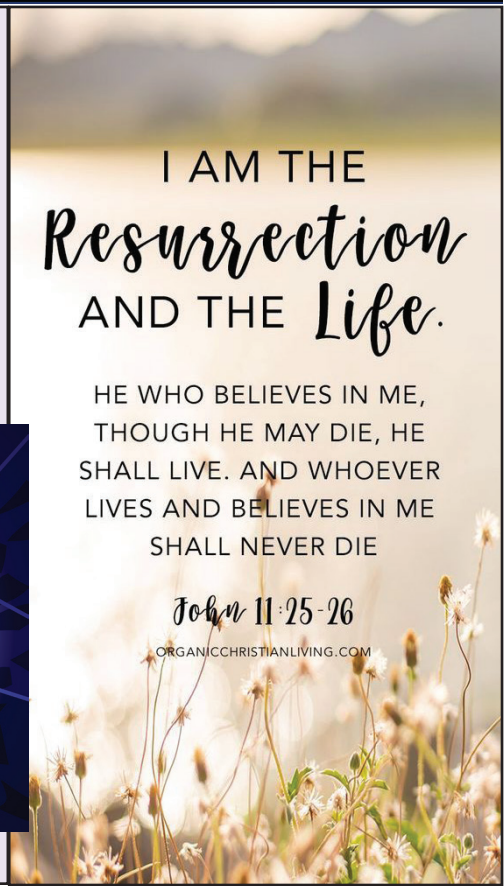


I AM THE
Resurrection
AND THE *Life*.

HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME,
THOUGH HE MAY DIE, HE
SHALL LIVE. AND WHOEVER
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
SHALL NEVER DIE

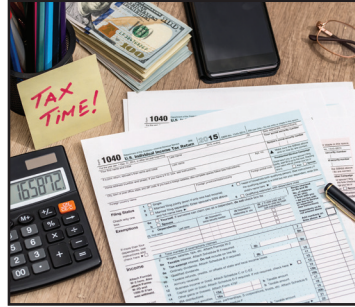
John 11:25-26

ORGANICCHRISTIANLIVING.COM



CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT FOR TAXES

Do you need an end-of-year 2022 Mount Zion UMC Contributions Statement for your taxes? All 2022 end-of-year statements were mailed out in late January. If you did not get yours and need one, please contact our Financial Secretary, **Mark Hemler**, by phone at 410-299-7517 or by email at Mark.Hemler428@gmail.com.



I Love This Church!

I love its history and heritage!
I love its vision and future!
I love the spirit of Jesus which is in the hearts and lives of our members and friends!

We aren't perfect but we are pressing on to be more "Christ-like" every day!

I love this church!



HELP FILL THE GOAT!

The need is year-round! Shepherd's Staff *always* needs your donations of paper towels, toilet paper, clothes soap, deodorant, and other personal items, like body wash, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste, dental floss, lotions, etc.

Also, please bring non-perishable food items to donate on the first Sunday of every month. Place all donations in the "goat" in the social hall.

Our Lord has written
the promise of the
resurrection, not in books
alone, but in every leaf in
spring-time.
- Martin Luther

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

3006 Old Westminster Pike
P. O. Box 511
Finksburg, MD 21048



**Our
Mar.-Apr. 2023
Newsletter!**