



NEWS from the pews

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Finksburg, Maryland

The monthly newsletter for our members and friends



MAY-JUNE 2023

CALENDAR

MAY

SUNDAY, MAY 7

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

TUESDAY, MAY 9

7:30 p.m. - Finance Committee

SUNDAY, MAY 14

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service
Mother's Day

TUESDAY, MAY 16

7:30 p.m. - Church Trustees

SUNDAY, MAY 21

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

TUESDAY, MAY 23

7:30 p.m. - Church Council

SUNDAY, MAY 28

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service
Pentecost

JUNE

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service
Father's Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

Notes from the Pastor



Rev. Wm. Louis Piel

Our Journey of Faith

Celebrating the Wind, the Breath & the Pentecost-Power of God

In the Genesis story of creation (1.2) the "wind" of the Creator (in Hebrew "ruah" –spirit) blew over the waters. Words like **"Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew"** are found in Edwin Hatch's power hymn. African-

American writer James Weldon Johnson in his sermon in verse wrote words like - **then the Great God breathed into the lump of clay and blew into it the breath of life!**

Following the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were filled with unconquerable joy but confused as to what they should do next. That question was answered on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) –"Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting."

That "Wind" — that "Breath" — that "Spirit" — radically changed their lives. Their resurrection faith was translated into every-day resurrection lives.

I still believe that the "wind/ruah" of God still blows.

I would affirm with my "amen" the words of the hymn by Daniel Iverson: "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me!"

The Spirit of Pentecost is the Spirit of the living Jesus who said "Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28.20).

The **"Gift of the Holy Spirit"** (which we celebrate on Sunday, May 28) is more than an important day on the Christian church calendar.

It is the call, even the command of Jesus "to go into the world but not be of the world!"

It is a reminder of what we often say at the close of our Sunday worship service "when you leave this place and go into the world do not leave your faith behind you!"

My closing words "breathe on your people O God, breathe on us the breath of life."

Grace and peace+



MAY

- 1 Roger Bicksler
- 3 Walter Diaz
- 4 Lori Lesky
- 6 Millie Muse
- 9 Tracey Yingling
- 13 Michelle Conrad
- 16 Matthew Yingling
- 29 John Bigley
- 30 David Yingling

JUNE

- 4 Emily Armacost
- 14 April Beall
- 15 Joyce Iglehart
Mark Lesky
- 16 Charles Beckhardt
- 26 Shaylee Beall
- 27 Logan Beall
- 30 Michael Holbert
Riley Kirby

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.

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 **Lois Plunket** and **Judy Piel**, who are serving as our ushers in May and **Bonnie and Bobby Graham**, who will serve as our ushers in June.

The May/June Newsletter is sponsored by **Becky and Jerry Knop** in loving memory of son Duane Fuller and Becky's sister Kathryn Damico and by **Charles and Inez Beckhardt** in honor of their children, their spouses and grandchildren and in honor of the Beckhardt's 63rd wedding anniversary on May 28th.

The May/June issue of **The Upper Room** is given by **Joyce Iglehart** to the Glory of God, in honor of her family, and in memory of loved ones. Get your free copy of this Daily Devotional Guide! Both regular and large print are available.



MAY

- 16 Teresa & Bill Tighe
- 19 Suzann & Bruce Carson
- 28 Inez & Charles Beckhardt

JUNE

No June anniversaries

The Bulletin Board

Music Ministry

Music is a vital part of our congregational worship of God. Why not become part of our Sunday music yourself? Become a member of our "Faithful Few!" To get involved please talk to **Director of Music Leslie Gabler**. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings.

Ushers and Greeters

We need ushers and greeters for 2022! Please see **Barb Hayes** or call her at 410-596-1483 to sign up for a month or just a Sunday.

Ushers and greeters are asked to come early and hand out bulletins and help collect the offering. Please help!

Newsletter News

If you have congregational news or photos to share with our church family, please send them along to Melanie or Barb.

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please let Barb know (bbhayes@verizon.net) and forward her your email address.

Copies of the newsletter are handed out at church on the first Sunday of each month. If you don't pick yours up, it will be mailed to you.

Welcome to Mount Zion!

Pastor Lou Piel
410-751-9049
julo1@verizon.net

Leslie Gabler,
Director of Music

A United Methodist
community congregation
since 1856



3006 Old Westminster Pike • P.O. Box 511
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MOUNT ZION WORSHIP MAY-JUNE

SUNDAY, MAY 7

We Celebrate the Holy Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Mother's Day

Celebrating the Festival of the Christian Home
Each woman will receive a devotional "With All My Heart"

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Regular Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Pentecost - Celebrating the Gift of God's Holy Spirit

One of the most important Sundays of the Christian Church Year
Please prepare for this day by reading Acts of the Apostles, Chapter Two
Memorial Day Weekend - *We pause to remember and give thanks*

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

We Celebrate the Holy Communion

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Mount Zion Celebrates Anniversary Sunday

Our 167-year Anniversary

Stay for our annual anniversary Sunday luncheon

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Father's Day

Celebrating the Festival of the Christian Home
Each man will receive a devotional "God's Handiwork"

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

Regular Sunday Worship



MISSIONS REPORT

By Barb Hayes

Food donations are always welcome!

In May and June, we continue to request 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.

MOUNT ZION TO REMAIN A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

The Mount Zion United Methodist Church Council at their meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, reaffirmed what had been agreed upon at a previous meeting — that **our church will remain as part of the United Methodist Church denomination.**

There has been a lot of discussion among United Methodist congregations on whether to stay in the denomination or leave the denomination and join another Methodist group or go independent. It was felt at this time we need to stay in the denomination while at the same time learning more about related issues that are being discussed. We feel that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church being held in the fall of 2024 should give us some guidelines.



FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY AT SANDY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Westminster Rescue Mission will be holding monthly **Free Food Giveaways**, providing meat, dry and canned goods, and more at Sandy Mount United Methodist Church on the third Thursday of each month from 5 to 6 p.m.

Participants will be directed to park in the lot, line up for check in, and then walk through to select foods. Volunteers will be present to assist loading items into your vehicles. In the event of inclement weather, the giveaway will be a drive-through format.

Please bring reusable shopping bags if you have them. Bags will also be provided on site.

The next scheduled dates are **Thursday, May 18**, and **Thursday, June 15, between 5 and 6 p.m.** Sandy Mount Church is located at 2101 Old Westminster Pike in Finksburg.

For more information, call or text 443-547-8055 or email Mcrull@WestminsterRescueMission.org.



THE BUSY BEES ARE VERY BUSY!

By Melanie Stranix

You may not know that one of the groups who use our social hall is called the Busy Bees. Our own **Lois Pulket** is one of the Bees and helps coordinate the meetings and projects. The Bees are a group of women who like to teach each other quilting methods, techniques, and patterns. But, they're also buzzing around doing charitable projects that are both local and worldwide in scope, including their commitment to bring canned goods to each meeting to help fill our Goat.

The group meets on the second Friday of each month. It was on one of those days I happened to stop by to drop something at the church. It also happened to be the day that the Bees were busy putting together boxes of goodies for **military personnel** stationed overseas. The boxes were filled with donated toiletries, candy, and home-baked cookies. The Bees had also raised the funds needed to mail the boxes to our soldiers, and our Mission Fund assisted with that effort.

Another of their projects is making quilts and blankets for **Project Linus**, which gives these blankets to hospitalized children. They recently sent 75 blankets for distribution to children in Africa. Members of the group also made the wall hangings for our sanctuary that we saw in the Fall/Thanksgiving.

But the project that melted my heart is the **t-shirt dresses**. These dresses are styled using a t-shirt with material added to the bottom as a skirt. A pocket is added to each dress and stuffed with a pair of underwear. These dresses are sent to Haiti, where they are distributed to young girls who have no clothes. The dresses help to protect these girls from sexual assault.

So, while these ladies are sewing and creating for their own use, they are also on a mission to sting like bees at helping others. I'd like to see Mt. Zion jump in to help them. Do you have **unused fabric** lying around from sewing or craft projects that you aren't going to use? Can you purchase a package of **girl's underwear** (toddler to adult sizes)? How about a package of **t-shirts**? Any kind will do, no need to be fancy.

This is a chance for us to assist one of our own who is involved with another mission project. If you can help with material, t-shirts, or underwear, please see Lois or bring it here to the hive (the Goat). They also accept cash donations to pay postage or buy things they need for community projects. I know that any help that we as a congregation can give will be appreciated by the group.

As Proverbs 3:17 says: Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. And here at Mt. Zion, we have shown that power over and over again. Let's continue!



SUMMER GIVING

Summer is a wonderful time of the year. At the same time, it can be a very difficult time for Mount Zion Church.

Many people are away from worship, on holiday or recreational trips

Often, we have found that while many of our people are financially faithful, we also know there are some "if they don't come, they don't give."

The months of June, July, August and even September are critical not only for our church but for many smaller congregations.

The ministry of our church does not stop in the summer.

Many congregations never recover from a summer financial shortfall.

Please be faithful this year.

We have no other source of income except the faithfulness of our people.

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than two thousand years ago there was born a man contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity.

He did not travel extensively. Only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which he lived; that was during his exile in childhood. He possessed neither wealth nor influence.

His relatives were inconspicuous, unimportant, and had neither training nor education.



In infancy he startled a king. In childhood he puzzled the doctors. In manhood he ruled the course of nature, walking upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for his service. He never wrote a book and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about him.

He never wrote a song and yet he furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools together cannot boast of having

as many students. He never practiced medicine, yet he has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, and yet no leader had more volunteers who have, under his orders, made more rebels stack guns and surrender without a shot being fired.

Every seventh day, the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone but the name of this man abounds more and more. Though time has spread two thousand years between the people of this generation and the scene of his crucifixion, yet he lives. Herod could not kill him, Satan could not seduce him, death could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints and feared by devils as our Lord and Savior, the living personal Christ.

- From LaDonna's Schemm's mother



WORSHIP WITH US!

Please make a resolution to be faithful in your worship attendance, whether in person or by watching our weekly video.

Every Sunday you have a choice ... We ask you to choose "church worship." The WORSHIP OF GOD is foundation for our church (or it should be!).

We know you have a busy schedule and you have a choice every Sunday to worship or not! We ask you to recommit yourself to "faithfulness" in congregational worship every Sunday or watch the weekly video as your schedule permits. Minimize worship and you will minimize your faith.

We are grateful to Mark Hemler, Peggy James, Jerry Knop, and Kathy Rixham for their tireless efforts to record, post, and distribute these videos every week. If you want to watch current and past videos, please visit (and subscribe to) our YouTube channel at:
<https://bit.ly/3z1Oz16>.

Choose worship ... one way or another.

*Being a Christian
may not always be an
easy job, and
may not always
pay well,
but the
retirement plan is
out of this world!*

SHOP IN HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
 One day I saw a sign that read Heaven's Grocery Store.
 As I got a little closer, the door came open wide.
 And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
 I saw a host of angels; they were standing everywhere.
 And one angel said, "My child shop with care."
 Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store.
 And all you couldn't carry you could come back the next day for more.
 First, I got some patience, Love was in the same row.
 Further down was understanding, you need that everywhere you go
 I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith
 I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for He was all over the place.
 I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run the race.
 By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace.
 I didn't forget salvation, for salvation that was free.
 So, I tried to get enough of that to save you and me.
 Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill.
 For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.
 As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer and just had to put that in.
 For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
 Peace and joy were plentiful, they were on the fast shelf.
 Song and praises were hanging near so I just helped myself.
 Then, I said now how much do I owe?
 He just smiled and said, just take them everywhere you go.
 How much do I really owe?
 He smiled and said, child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago.

- Lorine Woody



ONLINE GIVING

Are you tired of writing checks or bringing cash to the service? Do you keep forgetting to bring your envelope? Consider the convenience of online giving! It's fast, easy, and safe! You can give one time or set up recurring gifts.

For questions or help, contact Mark Hemler at 410-299-7517 or Mark.Hemler428@gmail.com. You can give your offering online, using a credit card, a debit card, or a bank ACH transaction at the following website:

mtzionumcfinksburg.breezechms.com/give/online

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.



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

3006 Old Westminster Pike

P. O. Box 511

Finksburg, MD 21048



**Our
May-June 2023
Newsletter!**