

# NEWS from the pews

Mount Zion United Methodist Church  
Finksburg, Maryland



The bi-monthly newsletter for our members and friends

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

7:30 p.m. - Finance Meeting

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service &  
Fellowship

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

7:30 p.m. - Trustees Meeting

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

7:30 p.m. - Church Council

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

### DECEMBER

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service &  
Fellowship  
6:45 a.m. - Community Men's  
Communion Breakfast

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

9:55 a.m. - Christmas Eve Service

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

## Notes from the Pastor



*Rev. Shawn Vollmerhausen*

What a blessing these past few months have been for myself and my family in becoming a part of the church family here at Mount Zion. I can tell you that we have been welcomed with open arms and we truly feel the love and support flowing through each of you.

I know this year for Mount Zion has been a difficult one. One that has been filled with uncertainty and change. Both of these in themselves can be unsettling, uncomfortable, and frustrating. I understand these feelings myself with losing my full-time career and entering into ministry full-time and into a cooperative parish setting that I have no experience in.

I also understand the frustration on the odd Sundays when I have had to leave right away and leave before the service was completed as we experienced the last Sunday in October. I understand that there is a feeling that it is not ideal for the congregation and there is a desire to have your pastor there with you in worship.

However, we are blessed to have members who feel called to lead worship in many different roles, and this is a great opportunity for them to share their gifts and callings. I just want all of you to know that I hear your anger, frustrations, desires, etc. I want you to know that I am here for all of you, and want to ease your concerns and fears.

The first thing I'd like to express is that **this is still and always will be your church**. Each and every one of you holds Mount Zion close to your hearts for your own individual reasons. During times of change there is a fear that those things we hold close to us will be lost.

We can always do certain things to keep our own identity and still do things that have made you fall in love with your church. For example, if music was something that you loved about your church we can still keep that alive. One way we can do this, and something that is simple and small but can add a huge impact to our worship, would be singing some of your favorite hymns whether old or new before service as a hymn sing. Maybe bringing more times of fellowship back to the church. This

*continued on page 3*



**NOVEMBER**

- 14 Peggy James
- 16 Jim Mirfin
- 18 Tom Stranix
- 19 James Kirby
- 25 Nathan Armacost  
Melanie Stranix

**DECEMBER**

- 1 Jimmy Hockett  
Joe Staub
- 2 Ashley Bigley
- 4 Don Hennessee
- 7 Evangeline Davis
- 8 Karen Bounds
- 12 Dan Bussard  
Megan Davis
- 16 Wayne Wray
- 20 Jackson Bakewell
- 22 Roger Davis
- 22 Marie Zepp
- 30 Heather Bussard

**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.

**Allen Rhodes** (Gerri Rhodes) • **Marty Brown** • **Ginny Hoy** • **Peggy Bosley** • **Pat Murphy** • **Mary Moores** • The family of **Bobby Graham** who lost his brother William • **Morrisa Vollmerhausen** (wife of our Pastor) • **Tracey Davidson** (Bonnie Moores)

**Hutton** (son of Wendy Raymond – Sherry Reed – in Israel) • **Sandra Hawkins** (Bonnie Moores) • **Robert Tighe** (Joan Tighe) • **Joan Resch** (the Villages, Florida) • **Joey Palmerino** (Dawn Zepp)

**At Home or in Care Homes:**

- **Virginia Hoy**, 5060 Harney Road, Taneytown, MD 21787
- **Peggy Wade** Spring Arbor of Severna Park, Room #114, 345 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park, MD 21146
- **Tommy DeMoss**, Westminster Healthcare Center, #221, 1234 Washington Rd, Westminster, MD 21157
- **Wayne Wray**, 5836 Bartholow Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784



Help us keep our Prayer Ministry up to date! Please report any prayer concerns to **Barb Hayes** at 410-596-1483 or **Bob Hayes** at 410-596-9004 or [bbhayes@verizon.net](mailto:bbhayes@verizon.net).

We will keep a name on the prayer list for 30 days, but you can renew it by contacting 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 **Geri and Allen Rhodes** who are serving as our ushers in November and to **Shirley Love** and **Barb and Bob Hayes** who are serving as our ushers in December.

The November/December Newsletter is sponsored by **Barb and Bob Hayes** to the glory of God.

The November/December issue of **The Upper Room** is given by **Inez and Charles Beckhardt** to the glory of God and in honor of their children and spouses and grandchildren. Get your free copy of this Daily Devotional Guide! Both regular and large print are available.



**NOVEMBER**

- 5 April & Bill Beall
- 7 Megan & Roger Davis

**DECEMBER**

- 22 Mary & Dan Armacost

# 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 2024! 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](mailto: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 Shawn Vollmerhausen  
410-790-5214

Leslie Gabler,  
Director of Music

A United Methodist  
community congregation  
since 1856



3006 Old Westminster Pike • P.O. Box 511  
Finksburg, Maryland 21048  
410-517-2300 • MtZionUMC-Finksburg.org

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

*continued from page 1*

could be as simple as just having coffee and donuts, to the men getting together to make breakfast for the ladies and vice versa. These are just a few thoughts and I'd love to hear other thoughts or ideas that you have in mind.

Secondly, going back to change and how we feel about that unsettling word, even though it invokes different feelings for all of us, not all change is bad. I know just that sentence may invoke feelings in itself. Believe me, I completely understand as I'm not a huge fan of change myself. However, if it were not for change I would have possibly never been blessed to become a part of your amazing family here at Mount Zion.

I wish to leave you with this scripture from Matthew 16:18 "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Mount Zion is a strong church and a blessing to our community. There is so much that this church has done and there is so much more that we can and will do in the future. It is the future in which I am truly excited for.

We are approaching Thanksgiving and there is so much for us to be thankful for. Right on the heels of Thanksgiving we usher in Advent and the excitement and wonder of the birth of our Lord. We have so much to look forward to in the coming months and my hope and prayer is that we come together as the church and enjoy this excitement together.

God Bless and we look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday!



## PASTOR APPRECIATION

On Sunday, October 8, we held our after-worship fellowship and took the opportunity to recognize and appreciate our new pastor, **Pastor Shawn Vollmerhausen!**



## THANKSGIVING TRIVIA QUIZ

- Which of these foods was most likely served at the first Thanksgiving in 1621?
  - Cranberry sauce
  - Cornbread
  - Pumpkin pie
  - Candied yams
- Whose appearance regularly marks the end of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?
  - Frosty the Snowman
  - The mayor of New York
  - Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
  - Santa Claus
- What Indigenous people participated in the first Thanksgiving of 1621?
  - Seminole
  - Ute
  - Wampanoag
  - Navajo
- In 1863 which U.S. president proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be a national day of thanksgiving?
  - Thomas Jefferson
  - Abraham Lincoln
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - George Washington
- True or False? Tryptophan in turkey causes severe drowsiness.
- Spurred on by economic reasons, Franklin Roosevelt made what change to Thanksgiving?
  - Canceled it
  - Made it a two-day holiday
  - Made it earlier in the year
  - Advocated for chicken instead of turkey
- Besides the United States, what other country celebrates Thanksgiving?
  - Canada
  - Great Britain
  - Mexico
  - France
- What professional football team has played on nearly every Thanksgiving Day since 1934?
  - Dallas Cowboys
  - Detroit Lions
  - New England Patriots
  - Jacksonville Jaguars

Answers on page 5

## MISSIONS REPORT

By Barb Hayes

### Thanksgiving Food Giving!

**THE GOAT IS HUNGRY!!** We are asking everyone to continue to Feed the Goat each week. Remember.... just one canned good per person each week will help us help others. We have been able to assist so many folks with your help and we want to continue. And don't forget, if you know someone who needs food or if you need assistance yourself, please do not hesitate to ask.

**PLEASE DONATE FOOD!!** We are collecting foods for Thanksgiving dinners for those in need. If you, or someone you know needs help, please let Barb Hayes know. Among the items requested are:

- Cereal bars/ Pop-Tarts
- Instant potatoes
- Canned veggies (corn, peas, carrots, mixed veggies)
- Canned beans (any variety)
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Canned fruit
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned tuna
- Stuffing mix
- Oatmeal (instant or regular)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Juice boxes
- Applesauce
- Cranberry sauce
- Powdered milk
- Package of pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Tomato soup
- Chicken noodle soup
- Grocery store gift cards

Please place items into the Goat by **Sunday, November 19**. If you know of a family in need, please let Barb Hayes or Melanie Stranix know as we will make every attempt to help them first.

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

### GOD IS EVERYWHERE

God is everywhere and in everything. God is love and provides us with everything we need. All we have to do is have faith in Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. His love for us is everlasting. God is the creator of the universe and everything in it. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever present. God is good, and His love for us is everlasting. We can trust Him with our lives and know that He has our best interests at heart. When we seek Him, we will find Him. Whether we are faced with heartache or happiness, God is always by our side.

## THANKSGIVING TRIVIA QUIZ-ANSWERS

- 1.B. Cornbread** – Colonists did not have access to wheat flour, so there were no crusts for traditional Thanksgiving pies. Cranberries wouldn't be served as sauce for another 50 years, and candied yams appeared in 1889.
- 2.D. Santa Claus** – The annual Thanksgiving spectacular began in 1924 and didn't include its trademark balloons until 1927.
- 3.C. Wampanoag** – The Wampanoag lived on land which now constitutes parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- 4.B. Abraham Lincoln** – Shortly after a hard-fought victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be set aside as a day of thanksgiving.
- 5. False** – Tryptophan can make a person sleepy, but this does not happen when combined with other amino acids, of which turkey has plenty. More likely the culprit is simply overconsuming rich foods, which redirects blood flow away from the brain to the stomach.
- 6.C. Made it earlier in the year** – Thanksgiving had traditionally been celebrated on the last Thursday of November. In 1939 that happened to be the last day of the month, curtailing the Christmas shopping season during the tail end of the Great Depression. FDR moved Thanksgiving to be a week earlier. After two years Congress set the holiday as the fourth Thursday.
- 7.A. Canada** – Canadian Thanksgiving dates back to 1578, when explorer Martin Frobisher held a celebration in Nunavut to give thanks for the safety of his fleet. Today it's held on the second Monday in October.
- 8.B. Detroit Lions** – New team owner George A. Richards came up with the idea for his team to play on the holiday to boost awareness and ticket sales. It worked. The Lions played to a sellout crowd and have continued the tradition every year since, except for a pause between 1939 and 1944.

## IT'S THE GIVING TIME OF YEAR

By *Melanie Stranix*

Well, we're back to that time of year again – holiday on top of holiday! Of course, if we wanted to be technical, we'd say that the Thanksgiving/Christmas season started on September 1. That's just how it is these days – hurry, hurry, rush, rush.

Don't get me wrong, I love these two holidays. The problem is that we no longer celebrate holidays for what they were intended. Somewhere in the 20th century we lost the real meaning of many of our holidays. So many holidays now center on sports and parties, not just Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thanksgiving was started to celebrate the harvest and the blessings our ancestors received from God during the year. Most families still gather together for the Big Meal. Everyone pitches in, and we gorge ourselves on turkey, stuffing, and pie. Last year, Mt. Zion adopted families and group homes to help them have those wonderful meals like the rest of us. And that's a good thing! It's one of the things that we should be doing to show our thanks to God for the many blessings that we have received. Being able to share is a blessing in itself. God is hopefully very proud of this holiday for the goodness that it generates.

And then there's Christmas: the holiday that is supposed to celebrate the birth of Christ. There is no holiday that is more beloved, sometimes for the wrong reasons. The problem is that it has changed dramatically over the years. Many people no longer care about attending Christmas Eve services or for some people, that's the only time they do show up at church. Too many folks don't care about others and forget about donating food or toys for children in need. We at Mount Zion have always shared with others at Christmas. It's this show of love for others that God likes to see.

So, this Thanksgiving and Christmas, I ask you to give. Give food, give toys, just give what you can to help those who need our help. Remember that God loves a cheerful giver. What better time of the year than the season of good cheer, giving, hope, and love to be that person?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.



### 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](mailto: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](http://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!

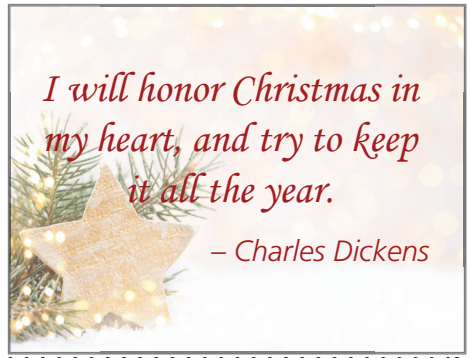
I love this church!



### 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.



*I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.*

*- Charles Dickens*

### Mount Zion United Methodist Church

3006 Old Westminster Pike

P. O. Box 511

Finksburg, MD 21048



**Our  
Nov.-Dec. 2023  
Newsletter!**