

NEWS from the pews

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Finksburg, Maryland



The bi-monthly newsletter for our members and friends

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:55 a.m. - Sunday Service



Notes and News

Getting to Know You

Enjoy fellowship with Pastor Shawn and the North Carroll Cooperative Parish pastors!

ANNUAL PICNIC CANCELLED The Annual Picnic was originally scheduled for Sunday, September 17, but it has been cancelled because too few people signed up. Instead, we will hold fellowship in the Social Hall after worship on the 17th.

AFTER-CHURCH FELLOWSHIP We regularly hold after-church fellowship in the Social Hall on the second Sunday of each month. Since other pastors of the North Carroll Cooperative Parish will be leading worship on the second Sunday of the month this fall, we'll have the opportunity to get to know them in person as they join us for after-church fellowship in the Social Hall.

However, Pastor Shawn and his wife Morrissa want to get to know us better too, so in September, October, and November, we will hold after-church fellowship on the **third Sunday** of the month as well!

Barb Hayes is looking for people to assist in setting up and providing food for fellowship. If you can help, give her a call (or text) at 410-596-1483.

FALL

The season of cozy, delicious, wisdom-inducing rediscovery

By David G. Allan, CNN

"Autumn light is the loveliest light there is," wrote author Margaret Renkl. "Soft, forgiving, it makes all the world an illuminated dream."

It is by that light (even if there is less of it with each passing day) that we witness the harvest moon, pumpkins, football and baseball games, wildflowers blooming along roadsides, squirrels secreting away nuts, and the first frost.

I like to watch perennial fall films like "Rushmore," "When Harry Met Sally," "St. Elmo's Fire" or "Donnie Darko." Halloween, of course, has no shortage of scary films that bring us closer to that which we mortally fear and by doing so, help us feel more alive.

Continued on page 5



SEPTEMBER

- 1 Jason Armacost
- 5 Ray Lowe
- 8 Teresa Tighe
- 10 Bobby Graham
- 15 Joyce Lowe
- 19 Dylan Bussard
Jean McDonough
- 20 Leslie Gabler
- 22 Ben Tingler
- 23 Zach Stranix
- 24 Erin Stahl
- 25 Kathy Giroux
- 27 Carolyn Hill
- 29 Edgar Kirby

OCTOBER

- 2 Mark Hemler
- 6 Allen Rhodes
- 9 Judy Bower
- 12 Jerry Knop
- 13 Beth McFadden
- 21 Mary Armacost
Bruce Carson
- 22 Becky Knop
- 25 Susan Douglas
- 31 Joyce Mirfin



SEPTEMBER

- 23 Bonnie and Dan Moores

OCTOBER

- 9 Sandy & Roger Bicksler
- 17 Lee & Jean McDonough
- 23 Becky & Jerry Knop
- 25 Geri & Allen Rhodes

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.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to the family of **Rev. Joe Puckhaber**, former Pastor at Mount Zion.

We ask special prayers for the families of **Thelma Otto, Ruth Pitroff,** and **Lauren Spivey Slacum.**

Bill Hoy (hospice) and **Virginia • Pat Murphy • Mary Moores • Morrisa Vollmerhausen** (wife of our pastor) • The family of **Tyler McConnel** (Elizabeth Kirby) • **Peggy Bosley • Bobby Evans** (Robin Hadel) • **Jim Moore** (Nancy Cross) • **Marty Brown • Stephen Merkson** (Lois Pulket) • **Laura Sallada • Robert Tighe** (Joan Tighe) • **Joan Resch** (Rehab the Villages, Florida) • **Susan Lewis** (Melanie Stranix) • **Wendy** at Copper Ridge (Dawn Zepp) • **Lynn Stranix** (Melanie & Tom Stranix)

At Home or in Care Homes:

- **Virginia & Bill 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, 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.

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

BIBLE JEOPARDY

Who doesn't love *Jeopardy*? Check your knowledge of the Bible by reading these "answers" and responding in the form of a question. *Answers on page 5*

1. "God reveals in Genesis, "Neither shall there anymore be a" this "to destroy the earth"
2. It "goeth before destruction"
3. At 969, he was the Bible's longest-lived man
4. From Matthew 26, "The spirit indeed is willing, but" this
5. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way," the this "and the life"
6. "And the Lord came down upon" this place, "on the top of" it... "and Moses went up"
7. In the book of Matthew, to calm his disciples who are on a boat during a storm, Jesus does this
8. Matthew 25:35—"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a "this," and ye took me in"
9. The shortest verse in the King James Bible is John 11:35, these two words
10. He "exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom"

The Bulletin Board

THE JOY OF BEING THE CHURCH

By Pastor Emeritus Lou Piel

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) 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.

As we welcome the fall I would like you to take a church challenge. What is the difference between "going to church" and "being the church?"

At Mount Zion we have made a distinction (an important faith distinction") on the difference between the two.

For some "going to church" means about the same thing as "going to see a play." First, you have to ask yourself the question "do I want to go to the church this morning or is there something else I would rather do?" Thus, you can take it or leave it.

Tragically, for some "going to church" means singing a couple of hymns, reading a Bible lesson, listening to a preacher, hearing an anthem, giving some money and then going home. Sadly, for some, what we do on Sunday morning has nothing to do with their daily lives. Far too often for those who simply "go to church" if they hear something they don't like, or it irritates them or they disagree with it you can always "walk away!"

On the other hand "being the church" means you never just walk away. It's not just about me. Rather, it's about Jesus and me. For Christ Jesus followers we are called to "internalize" the "life, message, death and resurrection of our Lord in our lives." His life is lived in me. His message becomes my message. It doesn't end when the worship service is over and I walk out of the church doors.

When Jesus commands me to tear down the walls of separation and build bridges of understanding, that becomes my message! When Jesus commands me to love even those I radically disagree with, that becomes my message! When Jesus commands me to help bring the Kingdom of God to earth, I say, "Where do I start?"

The joy of "being the church" is more than a building, or a preacher, or even a program. It is a personal relationship with the "living God!"

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 **Shirley Love** and **Don Hennessee** who are serving as our ushers in September and to **LaDonna Schemm** and **Eddy Wessel** who are serving as our ushers in October.

The September/October Newsletter is sponsored by **Barb and Bob Hayes** in loving memory of Thelma Otto and Ruth Pitroff—they will be dearly missed.

The September/October issue of **The Upper Room** is given by **Melanie and Tom Stranix** in loving memory of Thelma Otto and Ruth Pitroff and all the faithful who have gone on before us. Get your free copy of this Daily Devotional Guide! Both regular and large print are available.

Welcome to Mount Zion!

Pastor Shawn Vollmerhausen
410-790-5214

Leslie Gabler,
Director of Music

A United Methodist community congregation since 1856



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ONE JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER

When we first started attending our church, we noticed this jar of peanut butter sitting outside one of the church offices on our way to our small group. Every week it was there. After we became friends with the man the office belonged to our curiosity finally got the best of us. "Why does this jar of peanut butter always sit outside your office," we asked? He smiled. "Oh, it's not the same one. There's a person here who wanted to contribute to the food bank and so they leave a jar of peanut butter outside my office every week."

One jar. Every single week.

You may not feel like you can do a lot for God. Maybe you don't feel like you have a lot to offer. Five years is 260 jars, y'all. Ten years is over 500. If you've ever raised children, you know what kind of difference that much peanut butter could make. Figure out what you can do and then do it consistently. That's all it takes.



MISSIONS REPORT

By Barb Hayes

Food donations are always welcome!

BACK TO SCHOOL! How many items does it take to fill 2,000 backpacks? **A LOT!** This summer, The Shepherd's Staff will utilize 48,532 school supplies to meet the needs of registered students, grades pre-K through college. If you can help, please check The Shepherd's Staff Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdsStaffCC> for an updated list of needs, or visit their Amazon Wish List at: <https://tinyurl.com/37mhc68h>.

The **COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND** helps those who need assistance with food, rent, and electric bills and other needs. Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Community Service Fund. Rest assured, that amount you donate on the first Sunday of the month goes to help those in need. Please speak to Pastor Emeritus Lou Piel or Barb Hayes to request assistance. We're here to help when we can.

Supplies Needed

1" binders	1,424
Wide-ruled spiral notebooks	464
Wide-ruled composition notebooks	1,494
Wide-ruled filler paper	940
Pocket folders	3,752
Pocket folders w/brads	2,848
Pencil pouches	1,856
3x5 lined index cards	1,404
Pack of colored pencils	1,404
Pencils	6,556
Black pens	2,848
Blue pens	2,848
Red pens	1,424
Highlighters	2,796
Block erasers	1,856
Glue sticks	3,964
Rulers	The Shepherd's Staff 464
Scissors	Back to School Program 1,042
24 ct. Crayons	452
Primary, (fat) crayons	126
Primary, (fat) pencils	252
College-ruled composition notebooks	940
College-ruled spiral notebooks	1,940
College-ruled filler paper	960
Dividers	960
3x3 Post-It notes	940
Markers	578
Backpacks	2,000
TOTAL	48,532



JUST ONE CANNED GOOD If you can, bring just one canned good every week to help out the Blessing Closet at The Shepherd's Staff. Read the story, left, and see what a difference "just one jar of peanut butter" makes! Thanks everyone for your help.

PLEASE REMEMBER, the Missions program exists because of the generosity of our members and friends. We want people to know that we are here for them in their time of need. Thankfully, our little church has made incredible amounts of food and financial assistance available to the community for 16 years. Let's keep it up!

FALL, continued from page 1

In election years, we can watch the final political debates and election night returns in the fall. Many political careers die in November, but many are born as well.

But it's mainly those beautiful, technicolor deciduous trees we love to look at, your maples, oaks and elms. "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is in flower," wrote Albert Camus.

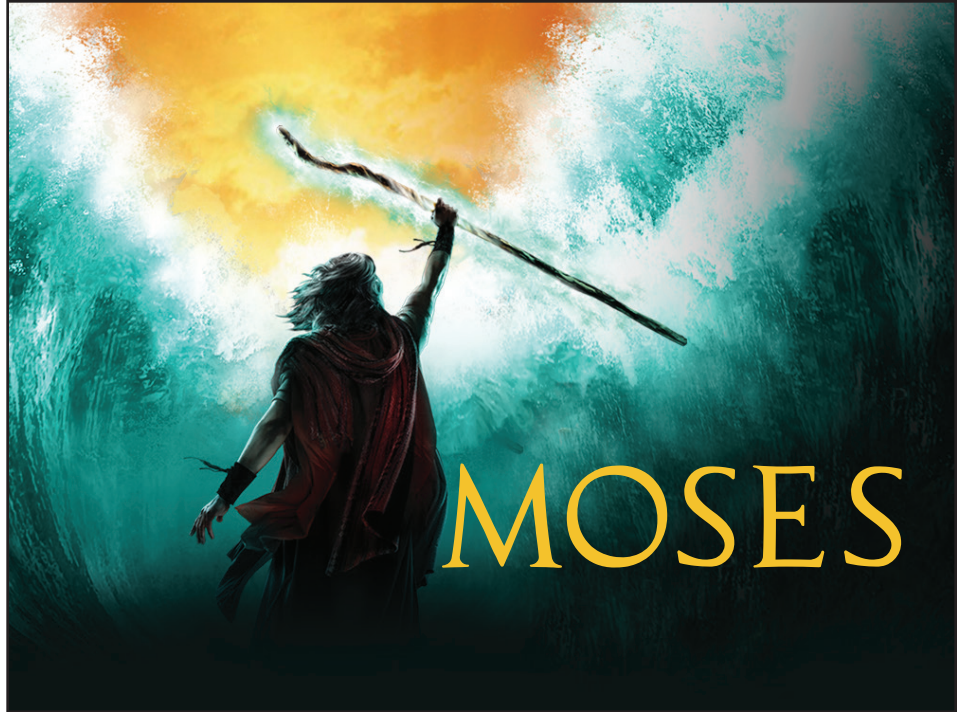
"I think of the trees and how simply they let go, let fall the riches of a season, how without grief (it seems) they can let go and go deep into their roots for renewal and sleep," wrote the poet and novelist May Sarton in "Journal of a Solitude."

And it's from Sarton that we get the stoic wisdom of the trees and their lesson in change. "Imitate the trees," she wrote. "Learn to lose in order to recover, and remember that nothing stays the same for long, not even pain, psychic pain. Sit it out. Let it all pass. Let it go."

ANSWERS TO BIBLE JEOPARDY

From page 2

1. What is a flood?
2. What is "pride?"
3. Who is Methuselah?
4. What is "the flesh is weak?"
5. What is "the truth?"
6. What is Mount Sinai?
7. What walks on water?
8. What is "a stranger?"
9. What is "Jesus wept?"
10. Who is King Solomon?



WE ARE NOT ALONE!

By *Melanie Stranix*

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of going to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This is a day trip I love to take. I enjoy seeing the Amish folks in their buggies, going to the Roots Market, and most of all seeing a show at the Sight & Sound Theater. If you've ever had the pleasure to see one of their productions, you understand my excitement.

The show we saw this time was "Moses." What an incredible production! Beyond the great singing and acting, there were incredible theatrics involved in the creation of the burning bush and the parting of the Red Sea.

A huge take-away for me was learning more about the messages in the book of Exodus. We learn that life's blows can be hard. Moses took some heavy blows along the way, just as we all do. Here's a baby left to float away in a stream and he is lucky enough to be found by royalty. He grows up with every privilege available at the time. Yet, he knows there is more to life. I got the impression that he felt very alone at times. All of us feel alone at times. Even though God is with us, we tend to forget that He is always there. There are times in the Moses story when that one little thing is forgotten, not only by Moses, but by his followers.

I understand that it's difficult to remember this, especially in today's unique and unsettled world. I'll be the first to admit that I forget; sometimes more than I remember! But it seems to me that as Christians, we need to choose to make the choice to remember that God is always by our side. So, remember: God is always with us. God is always there for us, no matter what our need. Our God is an awesome God, and the story of Moses sure does help bring this to light in our lives.

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.



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**Our
Sept.-Oct. 2023
Newsletter!**