

The Mount Zion Messenger of Good Tidings

Mount Zion Church + Finksburg, Md. + Since 1856

A United Methodist Congregation

3006 Old Westminster Pike, Post Office Box 755

Finksburg, Maryland 21048

Church Office Phone 410-517-2300

Web Address www.mtzionumc-finksburg.org

Wm. Louis Piel, Pastor + Home 410-751-9049

+The December, 2017 Edition+

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!



+ In December We Prepare Once Again +

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"God loved the world (and you!) so much that God gave....!"

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Your Personal Guide

To the Advent Season and the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord!

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OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND LIVES AND LET HIM IN!

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Invite a friend, family member, neighbor to worship with you!

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Our December Church Newsletter

Is given to the Glory of God!

Presented by Ron & Joan Resch on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

December 8th 2017

Presented by Charles & Inez Beckhardt to God's glory and the continual presence of

God's Son, Jesus the Christ, in our lives,

And the real reason for the Christmas Season

Our appreciation to those who sponsor our monthly newsletter!

There is Power in Prayer + *Our Prayer Ministry*

Our Mount Zion Prayer Ministry is one of our church foundational blocks of faith. lives are touched through the power of prayer. We encourage all of our people to pray. We list prayer concerns in our worship bulletin every Sunday morning. We also have "Prayer Warriors" who believe in and practice *intercessory prayer*.

For more information call Barbara Menchey 410-861-8827. Bob Hayes keeps our email prayer list up to date. 410-857-8461. If you know of someone that needs a personal contact from our Pastor please call Rev. Piel 410-751-9049 immediately! If you would like to put someone on the Prayer Chain please call Barbara Menchey.

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DID YOU KNOW that Mount Zion has no "secret" sources of income to support our many programs of ministry and outreach? We depend directly on the faithfulness of our members and friends for financial support. Thank you!

Mount Zion Financial for November

A Quick Word about Our Financial Foundation.

Mount Zion does not have any secret financial funds for our ministry and witness alive in the community. We simply depend week-by-week on the faithfulness of our members and friends. We give thanks to God for each one of you who take seriously your commitments to your vows and to the ministry and programs and outreach of this congregation in name of Jesus.

We need \$2,021.18 every Sunday morning to meet our conservative Operating Budget (Current Expenses.)

In November our average Sunday giving was \$2,218.50

The Maintenance/Building Fund total received in November was \$1,409.

Our thanks to everyone, members and friends alike who support our "Maintenance/Building Fund. Many of you go the extra mile in your financial giving but the amount of repairs and improvements you have helped make possible is amazing. Thank you very much. We deeply appreciate your concern for the building and the property of our facility. Linda King, Coordinator, Maintenance & Building Fund.



The Mount Zion Boy Scout Troop #1750 meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall and NOW is the time they are receiving new boys. If you know of someone in your family, a grandchild or a friend in your neighborhood that might be interested in Scouting please call Dave Yingling, Boy Scout Scoutmaster at 443-340-5592.

Scouting changes lives!

**+ OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER +
Friday Evening, December 1st 6:30 p.m.**



**At One meal we celebrate three important festival holiday days!
+ Thanksgiving + Advent + Christmas +**

**Even if you did not sign up to bring some food item STILL COME! We always have enough food for all to share. We share a meal together and then have a brief worship Service linking all three "holidays" together. Join us.
For more information call Joan Tighe 410-7510-3868**

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**"Come and Sing of Christmas with Us!
OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING**



**CAROLING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**

**We gather at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Melissa Johnson/Barbara & Bob Hayes
1142 Deer Park Road + 410-857-8461**

The "big yellow school bus" leaves on time at 2:00 p.m.

There are a number of important stops we make from Owings Mills to Taneytown and places in between.

When we come back we are greeted by hot chocolate, and wonderful refreshments.

This is always an important day for our people especially those that we sing for. Plan now to sing with us.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOT OVER!



Thus far (Praise to God!) 50 individuals at Mount Zion have made a commitment to “officially” start January 1st 2018.

They have written “with the help of the Holy Spirit” I will make a commitment to (1) have a strong prayer life (2) attend congregational worship services on a faithful basis (3) support the work and ministry of the church with my financial gifts (4) do at least one act of Christian service on a regular basis and (5) share my faith in Jesus with another person!

You can still join your fellow-believers and make that commitment simply by taking one of our commitment cards, pray over it, and sign it and return it to the church. Copies can be mailed to you!

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OUR 2017 DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

“Advent: A Calendar of Devotions for 2017”

Copies were handed out the last Sunday of November and we still have copies for free distribution. Get yours this Sunday.

If you live away or are not able to get to the church building please call 410-751-9049 and one will be mailed to you.

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We will need your help.....

Thanks to a financial gift from the family of evangelist Ken Steward we have purchased little Christmas booklets “*A Special Gift for You*” that we would like your help in distributing. This coming Sunday we hand them out. The “catch” is that you can look at it but you cannot keep it.

It (along with a church information sheet) must be given to a non-churched person or someone who is inactive in any church or someone you would like to share this booklet with. In this way you can help us promote the good news of the Nativity of our Lord.

Thank you!

**OUR ANNUAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ADVENT + CHRISTMAS
BREAKFAST!**

**Please call in your "free" reservations so we know
how many to expect!**

Sunday morning, December 10th 8:15 a.m. in our Social Hall



Everyone is invited! Everyone is welcome!

+ Bring a guest +

Call Judy Piel 410-751-9049 or Linda King 410-848-8413

Sponsored by our United Methodist Women

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+ SHARING A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF MUSIC FOR THE CONGREGATION!

**"A GIFT OF MUSIC FROM OUR CHURCH CHOIR
TO THE MOUNT ZION CONGREGATION"
LESLIE GABLER, DIRECTOR**

**Sunday Morning in Morning Worship + December 17th
Advent Three + Worship 9:55 a.m.**

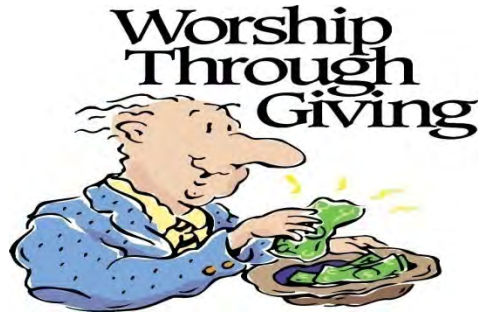


**A Christmas musical presentation based on "Two Thousand Decembers Ago"
Come and Enjoy!**

Invite your family, your friends and your neighbors!

**The Musical was created by Joel Lindsey
And arranged by Russell Maudlin.**

YOUR END-OF-THE-YEAR FINANCIAL GIVING



Please prayerfully consider making an “end-of-the-year” financial gift
+ If you are behind in your financial support of the church

+If you have been financially blessed this year and would like to go an extra mile in your
financial giving!

Our December Volunteers

Our December Church Newsletter is given to the Glory of God by Ron & Joan Resch in recognition of their 60th wedding anniversary celebrated on December 8th AND by Charles & Inez Beckhardt to God’s glory and the continual presence of God’s Son Jesus the Christ in our lives and the “real reason for the season of Christmas.”
The December Worship Bulletins are given by Doug & Jim Bosley in loving memory of Franklin & Hilda Bosley.
December Ushers .Jim Bosley and Joan Tighe. Substitute Ushers Bobby & Bonnie Graham, Pam Roos, Ruth Pitroff, Sarah Jane Taylor, Mark Fraser, Carlton Gabler, Bruce Carson.
First Sunday Communion Ushers are Doug Bosley, Jim Bosley.
Holy Communion Supplies for November & December are given by Mary Ellen Barnes in memory of her husband Kenny and supplied by the Worship Committee
Our Thanks to those who have signed up to coordinate “after worship refreshments in December. See Linda King for more information if you would be willing to simply put out refreshments and clean up following our fellowship time.
The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide for November &December is given by(1) Linda King in memory of Alic King (2) Debbie Hockett in honor and memory of all those who have served their country both in the military and as police officers (3) Jean & Lee Mc Donough in memory of our Fathers Joe McDonough and Jerry Papke.

+ Send A Greeting in December +

Did we miss you or a church friend of yours? Let the Pastor know immediately!

Did we miss anyone? If so, call 410-751-9049 or email julo1@verizon.net. Thank you)

Important Note. Who did we miss? We are always trying to keep our listing of birthdays and wedding anniversaries up to date. If we have missed anyone please report it in writing to the Pastor or email him . Thank you.;

December Birthdays . 1 Hunter McFadden, 2 Aaron Stahl, 4 Donald Hennessee, 6 Thomas DeMoss, 11 Albert Johnson, 12 Daniel Bussard, 16 Wayne Wray, 18 Karen Solomon, 20 Jackson Bakewell, 22 Marie Zepp, 30 Heather Bussard

December Anniversaries: 22 Dan & Mary Armacost

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A Burning Question!

**When was the last time you invited someone to worship
or have Christian fellowship with you.**

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Thank You Mount Zion! + Words of Appreciation

"Mount Zion parishioners" I would like to tell you how much we have been touched by your generous gifts to the Domestic Violence program of Carroll County. I'm sure you know without the help of the community those who survive may not be able to walk away without help. If you were unable to attend the Forum on 10/25/17 please log into the Carroll County Media Center search for Domestic Violence and you can see part of my story. Again thank you from the bottom of my heart your generosity is very appreciated. God bless. Terry Smack."

"THE UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR) Dear Friends at Mount Zion. Recently several hurricanes have hit the United States and the Caribbean. Hurricane Harvey and Irma have devastated Texas, Florida and other areas. As images have streamed across our screens, many of us have move to prayer, giving and action. We're grateful that you are partnering with us through The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Thank you for your gift received on 10/26/17 for \$1,937.00 through The Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church. You can learn more about UMCOR's disaster response, global health and development work by visiting our website at www.Umcor.org.Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during this time, and for your generous support. One hundred percent of your gift goes toward the project or ministry that you support. Grace and peace. Roland Fernandes General Treasurer, Rev. Russell Pierce, Mission Engagement, General Board of Global Ministries."

"Dear Members of Mount Zion...Thank you for your donation of \$1,000on check #3819 dated July 20, 2017 to the Shepherd's Staff. Your donation helped with our Back-To=School program. Over 1000 students from Head Start through High School received new backpacks, school materials, clothes and a shoe voucher for a new pair of shoes. A wonderful way to start the New Year! We greatly appreciate your extreme generosity, thoughtfulness and continued support of our efforts to help Carroll County families. Blessings, Brenda Meadows, Executive Director. (*Wow! Thank you so much! When you go to the Shepherd's Staff anyone is welcome and treated the same. They are a blessing. A guest.*)"

"Dear Pastor Lou and Friends of Mount Zion. I thank you for the opportunity to share with you in the special worship in November. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in supporting the United Methodist Board of Child Care our appeal and again this year sponsoring Christmas gift for youth in one of our cottages. It is deeply appreciated. All praise to God who provides all the blessings we need each day. My prayers for a Happy Thanksgiving and blessed Advent/Christmas. Sincerely, in Christ. Rev. Stacey Nickerson, Community & Church Coordinator, Board of Child Care."

(Editors Note: Please see other recorded gifts given by members and friends of Mount Zion in this newsletter. We pledged \$1400 to the award winning Board of Child Care. The congregation has given additional funds to the UMCOR for Puerto Rico which has now reached \$1,279. We thank your people for going the extra mile in your financial giving.)



Thank You Mount Zion! + Words of Appreciation

"If one member suffers all suffer together with it, if one member is honored all rejoice together with it." I Corinthians 12.26

(Editors Note: Our Community Service created by our Church Council about ten years ago has helped many both in the congregation and in the local community. Here are several comments from notes received. Names kept anonymous.)

"Dear Pastor Peel: Our family would like to thank your church people for the food coupons and the rent assistance. We go to the Shepherd's Staff on a regular basis. From time to time even through both of us work we still fall short at the end of the month. Thank your people for helping us even through you don't really know us.. (name with held)?

"People at Mount Zion. Even though I work two jobs it is difficult to keep my car running with gasoline. Thank you for providing a gift card for gas at the local station in Finksburg. In some ways it helped save my job."

"Dear Pastor. The other evening you and a representative of the Finksburg Roaring Run Lions Club delivered a gift certificate for food to the local Food Lion store. It is was deeply appreciated. We have three small children and at times it is hard to keep food on the table."

(Editors Note: At the last Church Council meeting it was reported through Missions that we have donated \$1,000 to the Westminster "Shop with a Cop Christmas program," and \$50.00 toward the Salvation Army Holiday Meal, and a \$500 donation to the Shepherd's Staff as part of the annual "Festival of Trees" which is their major fund raising effort. In addition week after week many of you donate items through our "Goat" for the local Blessings Closet of paper towels, toilet paper, feminine health items, canned food items, winter clothing, laundry items and much more. We give thanks to God for all of you who think of others."For more information on our outreach call Barbara Hayes 410-857-8461)

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We are grateful for our church musicians. We especially give thanks for our Music Director, Leslie Gabler. On Sunday mornings, December 10 & 17th please use the special "love gift" offering envelope to provide a love gift for the many hours that Leslie gives to our congregation. You can mail in your gift to Mt. Zion UM Church, Post Office Box 755 Finksburg, Md. 21048

The ARC of Carroll County

The Arc Carroll County promotes and protects the human rights of people
with intellectual and developmental disabilities
We now have ARC Christmas & Holiday greeting cards and gift tags/cards.
Only \$5.00 per pack and every dollar helps someone
They are available in the Social Hall of the Church



Christmas Eve Worship + Sunday Evening, December 24th
6:40 p.m. Pre-Service Music
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

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The Offering from our Thanksgiving Eve Worship was \$1,068.14
Grand Total to Date 1,909.45

Every dollar goes to our Christmas Cabin Gifts at the UM Board of Child Care!
One of our largest worshipping congregations in years!

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Would you like to donate one of the monthly church newsletter
Or a Sunday worship bulletin?

We have some openings in the coming new year 2018!
A Wonderful way to remember and honor a loved one!
Please see our Pastor for more information

"It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush..." (The Meanings of Christmas, Fr. Andrew Greeley)

MEN OF MOUNT ZION + We have been invited!

Why not joining our Pastor to attend the annual Glyndon United Methodist Men's
Advent Communion Breakfast?

Sunday morning, December 10th at 6:45 a.m.

If you are interested please see our Pastor as soon as possible. No charge.
Simply attend and enjoy the fellowship!