

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 February 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!

February+ Come Home!

It's Not Too Early to make your Shrove Tuesday Church-wide Pancake Supper reservations! You must have advance pre-paid reservations!

Tuesday Evening, February 28th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$8.00 for adults & youth and \$4.00 for children under 12.

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Plan NOW to worship on Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1st

Two worship services

12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

Make sure you receive you special daily devotional guide for each day in the Lenten Season. It is free!

Available on Sunday morning, February 26th

If you cannot get to the church building or live out of town it can be mailed (free of charge directly to you).

Our February Church Newsletter

Is given to the Glory of God!

By Ray & Joyce Lowe

In Honor of Their Grandson Coflice in the U.S. Navy

And Our Nation's Military

And in Loving Memory of Her Sister Marie Johnson.

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Our appreciation to those who sponsor our monthly newsletter!

Interested in sponsoring a monthly newsletter? See or contact our Pasto

+ Looking Back at a Spirit Filled December +

From music to fellowship to sharing the love of Jesus to Others!

Our thanks to everyone who made our Christmas Eve worship and Christmas Day worship so special!

“It is good for God’s people to come together to worship!”



December was a wonderful month at Mount Zion. We share some of our memories and spirit!

Once Again our choir under the direction of Church Musician Organist/Choir Director Leslie Gabler presented a beautiful musical Sunday morning (*above right*) “One Holy Night.” The story of the Nativity of our Lord in song! We give thanks to our choir for their music and faithfulness.

The Annual Women’s Fellowship (*above left*) gathered once more on an early Sunday morning to share fellowship with one another along with good food. Melanie Stranix shared a reading about the meaning of this special season. Thank you for good breakfast food and a meaningful morning sponsored by our United Methodist Women. The Women’s Fellowship will have a special study/fellowship gathering on two Saturday mornings in April, the 22nd and 29th with special guests leading our group. Ladies – watch for more information and reserve these two early morning on your schedule.

December also special in that many of our friends & members brought their financial giving up to date or made strong year-end financial gifts through the church. We ended the year with all our bills paid and a small surplus in the Operating Budget. Thank you for supporting your church at Mount Zion.

Our Annual Church-Wide Christmas Caroling (*the two pictures below*) was a great success with many stops in our “big yellow school bus.” A cool Sunday afternoon but spirit filled. Our thanks to all of those who are not able to get to the church building for allowing us to come and sing. And a special thanks to the Hayes family for hosting our after caroling food and fellowship at their home.



From a New Baby to Sign Repair to Gifts for Needy Children to a Retirement!

Welcome to the world Karleigh Nicole Pyzik
Born January 25, 2017
Nick & Amanda and their daughter Kayla



Congratulations to the Pyzik family on their second beautiful daughter. They live at 4844 Hillock Lane in Hampstead, Md. 21074. Include them in your prayers and drop them a note of congratulations.

Once Again our congregation responded to children with needs in our annual support of our United Methodist Board of Child Care – an awarding winning program for children. Each year we supply Christmas gifts (*upper left*) for one cottage at this fine institution off Liberty Road in Rockdale. Many of the children/young people who live at this location would probably not have much of a special Christmas without the gifts supplied by Mount Zion. This year we raised slightly over \$1,800 and not only took care of an entire cottage but supplied last minute gifts for additional children/youth. Our thanks to Barbara & Bob Hayes (with many shopping helpers) who coordinated this yearly event. A special thanks to everyone who found extra dollars to help us go over the top.

The Cleaning of Rt. 140 threw heavy ice onto our church sign and thanks to two of our Trustees (*below left*) the sign was fixed along with a new barrier hopefully to keep it happening again. We are grateful to our church Trustees who volunteer their labor along with financial support from the Mount Zion congregation through our important Building Fund. Your funding of the Building Fund is important. Thank You!

Thank You Shelby MacFarlane (*lower right*) for eight years of faithful service as our Church Musician Organist. Shelby “officially” retired this past December but her love of church music will never be retired. We give her our love and thanks for Sunday after Sunday leading us in music. We are forever grateful!



The Power of 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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Feed Our Goat! Sometimes It Gets Hungry!

Mount Zion has a "long-time special relationship with the Christian outreach called the Shepherd Staff. This award winning outreach program does not receive Federal or State funding. It is up to those who believe that Jesus calls us to reach out to those in need. Our "goat" receptacle is located just inside the Social Hall door.

The "most needed" items are: Toilet Paper, powdered laundry detergent, Small sizes of deodorant, shampoo, also trash bags, dish soap, Pine Sol, paper towels, diapers and Pull-ups of all sizes. All items go to the Blessings Closet at the Shepherd's Staff Christian Ministry. Thanks!!

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+ Send A Greeting in February +

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

February Birthdays, 7 Nancy Cross, 9 Pamela Roos, 14 Clara Kirby, 17 Justin Bussard, 18 Bill Beall, 19 Logan Yingling, 21 Thelma Otto, 21 Julia Stahl, 22 Dwight Jones, 25 Cindy Hunter, 26 Sandy Bicksler

February Anniversaries: (None Listed)

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.;

Our February Volunteers

Our February Church Newsletter is given by Ray & Joyce Loew in Honor of their Grandson Colfice in the US Navy and the US Military and in Memory of her sister Marie Johnson.

The February Worship Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carl & June Twigg (*and in the past by Carl & June in memory of their parents Sherwood & Glova Kay*) by the Children and Family of Carl & June.

February Ushers. R.J. & Vicki Hileman, Substitute Ushers Pan Roos, Ruth Pitroff, Sarah Jane Taylor, Dwight Jones, Mark Fraser, Carlton Gabler, Bruce Carson.

First Sunday Communion Ushers are Doug Bosley, Jim Bosley.

Our Thanks to those who have signed up to coordinate "after worship refreshments in February and March. See Linda King for more information if you would like to simply put out refreshments.

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide for January & February is given by (1) Ron & Joan Resch in memory of their parents, Milton & Helen Wirth & George & Gerty Waxter; (2) By Debbie Hockett & Family in honor & memory of those who served our country in the military and as police officers; (3) By George & LaDonna Schemm in honor of George W, Mike, Lisa and Aubrey Schemm.

Holy Communion Supplies for February and March are given by Mary Ellen Barnes in memory of her husband Kenny and supplied by the Worship Committee

Don't Forget! *Make Your Reservations Now!*

You MUST have advance pre-paid reservations!

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!!

**Tuesday Evening, February 28th
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Adults & Youth \$7.00 + Children 6 to 12 \$3.00 + Children under 6 Free

Always a wonderful Evening! Plan to Attend!

**Advance pre-paid reservations are a MUST so we know how many to plan for!
Reservations MUST be turned in by February 21st**

**Sign up and pay at church (Or call or see Joan Tighe or Judy Piel)
Checks should be made out to "Mount Zion UM Church" marked "Shrove Tuesday Pancake"
For information call Joan 410-751-3868 or Judy 410-751-9049**

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+ The Beginning of the Important Lenten Season +

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 1st

**Two worship services 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.
In the Church Sanctuary**

**A special worship service for a special day
For those who follow Jesus!**

The imposition of ashes and the sharing of the Eucharistic Meal!

**For those who follow Jesus as a disciple Easter is the most important day in our lives!
Every time we gather we celebrate a "little Easter"**

**The Forty-day season of Lent (not counting Sundays) guides us on our journey of faith
to Holy Week and the Day of Resurrection!**

We encourage all believes to worship at one of these important services of worship!

**If you are unable to get to the church building ashes and the Holy Communion
will be brought to you. Call our Pastor 410-751-9049!**

**Please make sure you get a free copy of our Lenten daily devotional guide
which will be given out on Sunday morning, February 26th**

**If you are unable to attend worship that morning and would like
a copy of this important devotional guide one will be mailed
to you. Simply call our Pastor 410-751-9049!**

Parish Nurse's Corner: The Health Benefits of Love

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

1. **Love yourself:** When you learn to love yourself, you accept yourself and you value your existence. Exercises and activities where you care for your body and mind help you to love yourself. They also provide additional mental and physical health benefits such as reduced stress and increased stamina. If you satisfy your physical, psychological, and spiritual needs you will take better care of yourself, finding health and peace.

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

2. **Love others:** is a hormone released when we touch someone we care about. Many of us know that this hormone increases with regular sexual intercourse, but we also have more of it in our systems when we are simply hanging out and having fun with friends. So the more loving our connections, the more we amass this fabulous chemical, which is known to lower blood pressure, decrease stress and even boost immunity. Oxytocin reduces aches and pains, increases energy and enables us to experience life more often on the upbeat.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

3. **Love of animals:** Pets can decrease your blood pressure, cholesterol levels, triglyceride levels and feelings of loneliness. Pets can increase your opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities and opportunities for socialization. Studies have shown that physiological changes occur when people touch animals: a drop in heart rate, lower blood pressure, and reduced stress.

Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord. How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:5-7

4. **Love of hobby: Hobbies have physical health benefits.** Research has found that engaging in enjoyable activities were associated with lower blood pressure, total cortisol, waist circumference, and body mass index. Engaging in these activities also correlated to higher levels of positive psychosocial states and lower levels of depression and negative affect. Hobbies are good for your mind *and* your body.

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" Colossians 3:17).

5. **Love of religious affiliation:** Stress has a direct negative effect on your immune system, reducing the ability of cells to attack disease inside the body. Studies have shown that religion reduces stress in a number of ways. Prayer, in particular, can reduce high blood pressure that is due to stress. The anxieties and stresses of modern life tend to encourage the body's fight or flight response. Prayer, worship and other spiritual activities can balance out this stress response by enhancing the body's relaxation response.

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' Mark 12:28-30

Lynn Jones R.N.

+ Every Week at Mount Zion In the Social Hall +

Every Tuesday Evening (Note change of day) Boy Scout Troop #1750 meets at 7:00 p.m. This fine group of young men are part of the scouting program that has been so effective in moral training. For more information on the Scout program please call Scoutmaster David Yingling 443-340-5592.

Every Thursday Evening the Alcoholic Anonymous program has a meeting. It is open to all. For more information please contact our Pastor.

Every Saturday & Sunday Evening the Narcotics Anonymous program meets. It is open to all. For more information please contact our Pastor.

+ With Gratitude +

“It is with a humble sense of gratitude that I thank the congregation and friends of Mount Zion for the most generous gift at Christmas. God has set my purpose in life to bring His Word through music and song. I will continue to serve Him and Mount Zion to the best of my ability. Thank you for your love and support!

Leslie Gabler, Church Musician

Year-End 2016 Financial Statements. The first week of February financial statements of your giving according to church records (checks, offering envelopes, etc.) were mailed out. If you did not receive yours please call 410-751-9049. If you have any concerns please contact the Chairperson of the Church Council Dan Armacost 443-463-6818 or Pastor Lou 410-751-9049. We will relay any concerns that you have to the Financial Secretary of the Finance Committee. Every attempt is made to keep your financial records accurate and confidential. *We give thanks to everyone who is helping to put a strong financial foundation under Mount Zion and our many fine programs of ministry, mission and worship.*

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+ Have you Marked Down Saturday, March 25th? +

This is the date of our semi-annual Pancake Brunch & Book Sale. **We always can use volunteers especially to set up the Social Hall, serve meals that Saturday and help to clean up when it is all over.** Time is 6:00 – 11:00 a.m. If you can help set up on Friday morning, March 24th call Judy Piel 410-751-9049. If you can help serving tables please call Lisa Tingler 410-861-8758 or sign up on the table in the Social Hall. If you would like some general information on how to get involved call Dan Armacost 443-463-6819.

Mount Zion Church is having another great Books... And More Sale! At the March 25, 2017, Pancake Breakfast, Mount Zion Church will hold its **Third Annual Books... and More Sale** to help raise money for the church Community Service Fund. Do you have new or used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, or video games to donate to the sale? Tell your friends and family, too! The more donations we get, the more successful the sale will be. We need your donations by **Sunday, March 19**. Leave in the book collection box in the Social Hall or you can drop donations off at Clover Hill Farm, 2500 Sandymount Road, Finksburg. Or, contact Diana or Mark Fraser at 410-871-3214 or e-mail DianaFraser@earthlink.net to arrange pick up.

Christianity & Islam

An Invitation to learn more

“Words unfamiliar to most Americans are now heard daily on the evening news, Jihad, Islam, Allah, Quran, fatwa, imam, unmah, Ramadan. Today, Islam is the Fastest growing religion in the world with more than 13,000 mosques in North America alone. Now that Muslims are our neighbors, how do we talk to them ab\ About Christ? What do Muslims think about Jesus? Which beliefs do we share in Common with Muslims, and where do we differ from them? Do we worship the same God they worship? Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad?”

Using several contemporary video’s dealing with this subject you are invited to share on two Saturday mornings in March 4th and 18th these resources.

8:30 a.m. Light breakfast refreshments

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Viewing the Video’s

In our church Social Hall

“Christianity and Islam: An Insightful Series Comparing and Contrasting”

“In the House of Islam: God at Work in the Muslim World”

“The Challenge of Islam”

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On the far-left and the far-right there are many differing opinions about Islam and its relationship not only to Christianity but to America itself. The purpose of our video study is not to debate but to learn and gain more information before we decide on the next step of sharing and discussion. You are invited!

Please see our Pastor for more information!

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Ladies of Mount Zion + Mark down the dates!

Women’s Study Fellowship

.....is Coming to Mount Zion in April! Mark down the dates!

A wonderful opportunity for women of Mount Zion and their guests and friends

Saturday mornings April 22nd & 29th

8:30 a.m. A light fellowship breakfast

Guest Leaders

Diane Macklin, Storyteller, has delighted audiences for over 15 years, sharing tales through a “dynamic” style (Washington Post) seasoned with rhythm, sounds and movement to engage listeners of all ages.

Pastor Sheri McCourt is one of the pastors at Westminster UM Church, has served as a chaplain, extensive background working with women’s groups and is co-leader with our Pastor with the worship discussion group “Friends of John Wesley.”

See Melanie Stranix for more information. Mark down the two dates and plan to attend.

Mount Zion Finances in January

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

In January due to some bad Sunday weather (see below) our average giving was \$1,804.80. The Building Fund received in January \$1,708.00.

Bad Weather Sundays In January really hurt both attendance and financial giving . Out of five Sundays in January two had bad inclement weather! Our worship attendance dropped both of those Sundays. Our Operating Budget offerings also dropped \$ 1,773.36. We give thanks for those faith members and friends who keep up to date with the financial support of our congregation even if they miss a Sunday morning. Worship attendance is important although if the weather is bad give a “second thought” to see if you should go out on the road. If you need to know if we have to cancel a Sunday morning worship service please call 410-751-9049.

Thank You! For Our after worship fellowship coordinators!

After Worship Fellowship. *Please remember that if you are a “coordinator” at “After worship refreshments” you do not have to bring food. Simply put out the food we have and clean up after the fellowship time.*

The Following People have agreed to be coordinators as follows, January 15th Joyce Lowe & Becky Knop, Sunday, January 22nd Linda King, Sunday, January 29th Kathy Rixham & Nancy Cross,

In February: Sunday, February 5th “Our Annual Soup-er Bowl,” February 12 Judy Piel & Nancy Cross, Sunday, February 19 Bonnie Graham & Joyce Iglehart, Sunday, February 26 Lynn & D.J. Jones.

Even If You Are Not Responsible for After Worship Refreshments, please bring something for” light” after worship refreshments. *A bag of chips, pretzels, crackers/cheese, soft drinks. We depend on snack donations! Make a financial donation to the cost of coffee and paper supplies.*

Sharing Your Favorite Bible Passages!

Would you be willing to share your favorite Bible passages? Beginning on Ash Wednesday, (March 1) the start of the Lenten season and continuing through Holy Week & Easter (April 16) we will be inviting friends & members of the Mount Zion to share their favorite passages from our Holy Scriptures. These may be special passages related to our Lenten/Easter journey of faith or they may simply be passages that have special meaning for you. Please see our Pastor if you would like to volunteer to share one Sunday morning or in print. We thank you.

Our Monthly Church Newsletter is our “only” means of communication with our entire congregation of members & friends. We are covered for January & February, BUT we have openings for other months in 2017. If you are interested in being the sponsor for one of these months or sometime in 2017 please see the Pastor this morning. You can give it in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Coming! Mark Your Calendar! Our second “annual” community event called our “Spring Fling” will be held on Saturday, May 6th on our church grounds. A lot of activities are planned including special children’s games & crafts, bingo, music, good food, exhibits and much more. Vendor tables are available for the event. If you can help please see Joyce Mirfin or Peggy James. It promises to be a lot of fun. We will need your help in doing publicity. Plan now to support this community event.