

The Mount Zion Messenger of Good Tidings

Mount Zion Church + Finksburg, Md. + Since 1856

A United Methodist Congregation

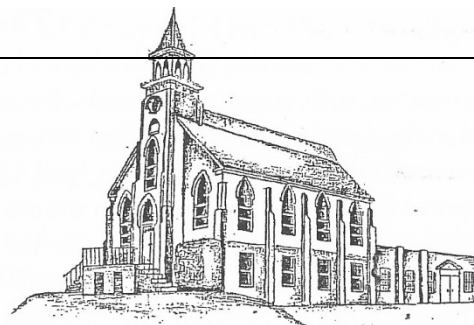
3006 Old Westminster Pike, Post Office Box 755

Finksburg, Maryland 21048

Church Office Phone 410-517-2300

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



+The January, 2018 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!

JANUARY



+ In January We Celebrate God's Light +

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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 January Church Newsletter

Is given to the Glory of God!

+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

+Presented by Joan Resch in Loving Memory of Her Husband Ron

They Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 8th 2017

Our appreciation to those who sponsor our monthly newsletter!

Dedication of the Christmas Poinsettias 2017

Our thanks to those who donated poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones.

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Daisy Atkinson-Levy in Honor of Beatrice Atkinson & Ronald Atkinson
Pat & George Beck to the Glory of God
James Bosley, Jr. in Memory of Franklin & Hilda Bosley

Suzann & Bruce Carson in Honor of our Parents, Children & Grandchildren
Shirley Cox in Memory of her parents Russell & Mary Fox

Sylvia Creamer (Peterson) in Honor of Bob Peterson & Son Bruce Peterson
Royce Floyd in Memory of Karen Floyd

Mark & Diana Fraser in Honor of Bill & Mary Flury and In Memory of Robert & Nancy Fraser

Robin Hadel & Marc Binkley in Memory of Katie Hadel & Jean, Henry & Judd Binkley
Laverne Harden in Honor of Children and Grandchildren and in Loving Memory of Gordon Harden, Sr.
Don Hennessee in Memory of Wife Mary Charlynn & and Son Donald
Keith and in Honor of Robert & Lisa Hennessee

Virginia & Bill Hoy in Memory of Thomas R. Harry, Jr.
Joyce Iglehart in Honor of her Children and Memory of Isaac Iglehart
Melissa Johnson in Memory of Michelle Johnson
Linda King in Memory of Alic King

Ray & Joyce Lowe in Memory of Lawson & Arlene Hammond
Jean & Lee McDonough in Memory of Molly, our beloved Border Collie
Chris Piel in Honor of Craig Luesing, Jimmy & Debbie Hockett & Family, Sue & Chrissy Moscati & Family,
and in Memory of Angela Kelly, Brenda Luesing, Lyndsey Hockett and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hockett

Judy & Lou Piel in Memory of Parents, Roland & Martha Piel, and Harry & Nan Boyd
and in Honor of our Children, Chris & Elizabeth and Grandchildren Emma & Rebekah.
Judy & Lou Piel in Appreciation of Church Musician/Choir-Director Leslie Gabler
and Members of the Church Choir.

Pam Roos in memory of Dennis Roos, Sr.
Sarah Jane Taylor in Memory of Loved Ones

Charlie & Missie Wise to the Glory of God
Clifford Yingling in Memory of Claretta Yingling
Dawn Zepp in Honor of Children & Grandchildren and in Memory of Roger Zepp

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A Thought

“But my sense of Christmas is also different now. I understand better that Jesus was addressing all people on the planet, not just wanting them to join his organization but to adopt his vision for a better human race. I now see how Christmas and Jesus’ vision line up and I see that the enchantment of Christmas is a taste of what would be possible if human beings could really love one each other. Given all of that, I understand how the infant in the manger symbolizes the new life in me, the potential I have to be a new kind of being dedicated to ‘agape’, to a love of the other whoever he or she is.”

“The Soul of Christmas” Thomas Moore
Franciscan Media, 2016

+ Celebrating Light! + January at Mount Zion-Finksburg +



Celebrating Light! “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.” (John 1.5)

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

The Gospel According to John 8.12

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“Jesus said, You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lamp stand And it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way let your light shine before others so that they may see your good Works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Gospel According to Matthew 5.14-16

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Sunday, January 7th Theme “Go, tell it on the mountain and everywhere!”

January 6th is called The Epiphany of Our Lord.” We celebrate the manifestation of the Nativity of our Lord to “all” the world – to everyone! Remember the “Magi” were foreigners who came and then shared the “good news.” “Our theme song is “Go! Tell it on the mountain!” The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be administered.

Sunday, January 14th Theme “The Baptism of Jesus and our Baptismal Renewal”

This is a very special Sunday as we remember the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3.13-17) and its Scriptural meaning. We also ask our members & friends to “remember their own “water & Spirit” Baptism and renew their vows of faith and commitment.

Sunday, January 21st Theme “Is Unity Among Christians Ever Possible?”

The week of January 18-25 is known as “*The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.*” Jesus said “*may they all be one*” (John 17.21). Is that possible among followers of Jesus? Are there some unifying beliefs that could bind us with cords that cannot be broken? Could there be unity in America among warring political parties? What about Martin Luther Kings comment that “someday” there may be respect and unity?

Sunday, January 28th Theme “What Is the Message of the Magi for Our Life Today?”

Some call them “Wise Men” but actually they were “astrologers” probably from Persia. In reality they were foreigners. This Biblical story is only found in the Gospel of Matthew (Ch 2). Why did Matthew include this story in the Nativity account? Why was Jesus living in a “house” not a manger when they arrived. What is the meaning of their “three gifts?” What relevance does this story have for you and for me today?

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**Congregational Worship is at the Heart
of Our Congregation at Mount Zion! Worship God with Us!**

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God's Love is Meant to Be Given Away!
Again this year the people of Mount Zion have responded to needs
in our larger community. We give thanks to God for each one of You!



This year among many "outreach" programs we once again supported the Carroll County/Westminster Police Department with their "Shop with a Cop" program for needy children. (*Our own Barbara Hayes and Sgt. Adam F. Laser are pictured above left*).

Again this year our congregation went over our goal of \$1,400 by \$500 in support of a cottage at the award winning UM Board of Child Care. Many of these children were not able to go home for the holiday. We supplied gifts to each one and went the extra mile in our giving. Thank you members and friends of Mount Zion for thinking of children at Christmas.

(Rev. Stacey Nickerson of the UM Board of Child Care is seen -upper right - with some Of the many packages of gifts provided by Mount Zion.)

"Because We Care for One Another!"

"If one member suffers , all suffer together with it; If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

I Corinthians 12.26

**We continue to thank the faithful people of Mount Zion for supporting
The Mount Zion Community Service Fund!**

Helping people with emergency needs because we care!

**Support this monthly offering on the first Sunday of the month
or make a donation any time!**

Interested In Sponsoring a Monthly Newsletter or Worship Bulletin?

Our church newsletter is our "only" means of communicating

With our congregation. It makes a wonderful way to

Remember a loved or can be given in honor

Of a person or family.

Please see our Pastor for more information. We have 2018 openings!

Evangeline + Welcome to The World!
**On Thursday, December 7th Mount Zion welcomed Evangeline Taylor Davis
to the world and to our church fellowship. A rose was placed on the altar in recognition of this
joyful occasion.**

Drop a note to Roger Davis & Megan Spivey.
They live at 4203 Glenmore Avenue,
Apartment One, Baltimore, Md. 21206

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OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING! (*Picture top right*). On Sunday afternoon December 3rd we boarded a “big yellow school bus” and made our way to visit some of those who are unable to get to the church building. Led by our Music Director Leslie Gabler we sang carols of Christmas and each person was given a gift from the congregation. On our trip home we had a wonderful fellowship and food at the home of Bob & Barbara Hayes with refreshments provided by them, Joan Tighe and others.

We have put a listing of those unable to get to the church building at the bottom of the page. Please drop them a note to say hello – we are thinking of you!

OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Our thanks to Joan Tighe (and family), and members of the Worship Committee for the lovely decorations placed around the church building at this very special time of the year. From door decorations, to the sanctuary tree which changes names from (1) The Advent Tree to the (2) The Chrismon Tree (Christian monograms) to (3) The Epiphany Tree (January 6th) which remain up until the beginning of Lent which this year Ash Wednesday is February 14th. A wonderful display of poinsettias (*picture on the left*) and much more. Thank you to everyone who helped make our church building look so good for this special season.

For Our Home-Bound & Shut-ins *Nora Beaver (Morning Glory Senior Living, 419 North Queen St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340), Ruth Sedicum (132 Cedarmere Rd, Owings Mills, 21117), Jane Phenecie (1807 Reese Manor Road, Finksburg, 21048), Millie Muse (In California with her daughter), Barbara Stevens, Bob Peterson (Leland of Laurel Run, 120 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Penna.17268),),), Fred & Ann Hurt (Brookdale Senior Living, 2611 Olney Sandy Spring Rd, #319, Olney, Md. 20833),*

+ An End-Of-The-Year THANK YOU! +
Thank you to everyone, members & friends who made
“end of the year” financial gifts to the church!
All 2017 bills are paid - All commitments honored
And we ended up with a slight surplus!
God is Good! All the Time!

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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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Keeping Up On Those Who Are On Our Prayer Chain and Prayer Ministry
Every Sunday in the morning worship bulletin we list those names who
Have been placed on the Prayer Chain or our Prayer List.
Since this changes from week to week if you would
Like a copy of that list please give a call to our
Pastor 410-751-9049
Julo1@verizon.net

And one will be mailed to you free of charge!
AT MOUNT ZION WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER!

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Feed Our Goat! Sometimes It Gets Hungry! ***Remember every time you go to the grocery store!!***

The “most needed” items are: Toilet Paper, powdered laundry detergent (they divide it up into smaller units for distribution), 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 for thinking of others.
Mount Zion has a “long-time special relationship with the Christian outreach called the Shepherd Staff.

January Meetings

Finance Committee Tuesday, January 2nd , 7:30 p.m.
Trustees, Tuesday, January 9th , 7:30, p.m.
Church Council, Tuesday, January 16th , 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Worship is at the Very Heart of our Congregation!

Parish Nurse Article

I recently read this quote:

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.” (Plato)

It immediately made me think: how many times is the word: “light” mentioned in the bible: 237 times in the King James Version.

During this holiday season may we all strive to be a light for Christ in all we say and do and when we take the light out at the end of the service at MT Zion think of one of the below scriptures.

John 8:12 : Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 5:8 For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Psalms 27:1 Of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 42:16 I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 12:36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

John 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Isaiah 60:20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Revelation 21:23 And the city for the glory of God gives it light, has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Psalms 18:28 For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

John 3:19-21 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

(Continued on Next Page)

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 1:7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

Lynn M Jones RN

Our January Volunteers

Our January Church Newsletter is given to the Glory of God by Joan Resch in Loving Memory of her husband Ron They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary 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 January Worship Bulletins are given by Teresa Tighe in Honor of My Loving Husband Bill.

January Ushers .Bob & Barbara Hayes: 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 January & February 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 January. 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 January & February is given by (1) George & LaDonna Schemm in Honor George W., Mike & Lisa Schemm and Audrey and their new Grandson Colson Miles Schemm (2) By Debbie Hockett in Honor and Memory of all those who have served their country both in the military and police officers (3) Joan Resch to the Glory of God and in loving Memory of her husband Ron, and in Memory of their parents, Milton & Helen Wirth and George & Gerty Waxter.

+ Send A Greeting in January +

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.;

January Birthdays . 2 Kim Fitzwater, 5 Bonnie Graham, 6 Ted Frantum, 13 Lee McDonough, 16 Barbara Menchey, 23 Lisa Tingler, 26 Barbara Hayes, 28 Willa Johnson, 28 Fred Hurt, 30 Amanda Cobb-Crock.

January Anniversaries: 4 Carlton & Leslie Gabler, 6 Mark & Lori Lesky, 6 Dan & Heather Bussard, 20 James & Clara Kirby.

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A Burning Question!

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

**Did You Know? More people come to the church by personal invitation
than any other way!**

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**The United Methodist Women of Mount Zion
We would like to THANK EVERYONE who supported our Boscós Card Sale
and The annual Pancake Brunch BAKE TABLE.
With your help our unit of the United Methodist Women
donated to the following organizations in 2017.**

**United Methodist Committee on Relief
Gulf Coast & Houston Relief
Puerto Rico Relief
The Rape Crisis Center of Carroll County
The USO + Westminster Rescue Mission
Fisher House Foundation + Boys & Girls Club of Westminster**

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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!

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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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“Because We Care for One Another!”

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

I Corinthians 12.26

**We continue to thank the faithful people of Mount Zion for supporting
The Mount Zion Community Service Fund!
Helping people with emergency needs because we care!
Support this monthly offering on the first Sunday of the month
or make a donation any time!**

**When was the last time that you sent a greeting to one of our shut-ins, or
Home bound or nursing home residents?
Why not do it now! See our Pastor for more information!**

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IMPORTANT!

Mount Zion Financial for 2017 Year-End and December 2017

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.

In December 2017: *In 2017 we needed \$2,021.18 every Sunday morning to meet our conservative Operating Budget often called “Current Expenses.” In December thanks to “End of the Year” financial gifts we received \$2,813.00. Our “Maintenance/Building Fund in December received \$2,003.00*

Our Maintenance/Building Fund: In the past year of 2017 our “Maintenance/Building Fund” received a total of \$20,440.00. This is not only amazing but very important because it continues to allow our Church Trustees to do maintenance on our historic church building and make improvements. We continue to thank those of you who “go the extra mile” in your financial giving to support this fund. *We deeply appreciate your concern for the building and the property of our facility. Linda King, Coordinator, Maintenance & Building Fund.*

Our United Methodist Conference Connection: Along with over 700 congregations in the Baltimore –Washington Conference for the ninth consecutive year we fully paid our conference asking. We are “connected” to a vast program where if every congregation would do it fair-share amazing things could be done in the name of Jesus.

The 2018 Operating Budget was approved this past November by the Church Council on recommendation of the Finance Committee after receiving input from many who support our ministry, programs and building. Free copies of the budget are available from the Church Treasurer or the Pastor.

General Operating Budget Through December 31, 2017: Our Church Treasurer reported that thanks to faithful giving on the part of many we ended the year with a surplus of \$7,307.76. Although this may not sound like a lot of money to some it shows the support we have received from our committed people who take seriously their love of our Lord and the Mount Zion ministry.

The Finance Committee strongly urges all of our people to use “free” church offering envelopes. Even if you miss a Sunday using envelopes means that you financial giving never stops. If you have not received your envelopes they are available simply by calling our Church Financial Secretary or the Pastor.

Coming In February

Sunday, February 4th “Soup-er Bowl” Sunday

Following morning worship you are invited to go to the Social Hall and have a bowl Of homemade soup and bread. If you can supply a crock-pot of soup please see Barbara Hayes or sign up on the table in the Social Hall.

Tuesday, February 13th Our Annual “Shrove Tuesday” Pancake Supper

By advanced reservation. 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

Ash Wednesday, February 14th (The beginning of Lent)

Two worship experiences: Mid-Day at 12 Noon+ Evening at 7:30 p.m., In the church sanctuary. Plan now on your calendar to attend.