

April 2026

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**MT. ZION**

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**MESSENGER**

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***Living as Easter People in a Season of New Beginnings***

Beloved Mt. Zion family,

Easter morning has come and gone on the calendar, but its meaning is still unfolding in us. April always feels like a month of holy in-between spaces. The earth is waking up, the days stretch a little longer, and signs of new life begin to appear in places that looked quiet and still only a few weeks ago. Resurrection has a way of doing that. It opens our eyes. It softens our hearts. It reminds us that God is still bringing life out of places we thought were finished.

The good news of Easter is not meant for a single Sunday. It is meant to shape how we live every day that follows.

**The Ongoing Work of Resurrection**

When Mary heard her name spoken in the garden, everything changed. When the disciples met Jesus on the road, their hearts burned with new understanding. When the women ran from the empty tomb, fear and joy mixed together in a way only God can hold.

Resurrection rarely arrives neatly. It comes with surprise, with questions, with wonder. It comes in moments when we least expect God to show up, and yet God does, again and again.

This month, I invite you to look for resurrection in the small places • In a conversation that brings healing • In a burden that suddenly feels lighter • In a moment of courage you did not know you had • In a quiet assurance that God is near

These are the everyday echoes of Easter.

**A Season of Prayer and Preparation**

As many of you know, this summer I will begin serving both Mt. Zion and Sandy Mount. Please know that my heart is fully here with you as we walk through these next months. I am grateful for the trust you place in me, and I am committed to leading with steadiness, clarity, and care.

I also ask you to join me in prayer for Sandy Mount as they prepare for this new season. Pray for their leaders. Pray for their congregation. Pray that God will guide both churches with wisdom and gentleness as we learn how to share ministry in ways that strengthen the witness of both communities.

This is not a season of loss. It is a season of growth. It is a season where God is inviting us to imagine what ministry can look like when two congregations support one another, encourage one another, and hold one another in prayer.

### **People of Hope**

We are called to be Easter people, people who carry hope into weary places, who speak peace where there is tension, who choose compassion over cynicism, who trust that God is not done writing the story.

The world needs that kind of hope right now. And Mt. Zion is at its best when we live it out together.

### **Walking Forward Together**

As April unfolds, may we lean into the new life God is stirring in us. May we listen for the risen Christ calling us by name. May we walk forward with confidence that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is still at work, renewing and restoring and reshaping us into a people of grace.

May the joy of Easter continue to rise in you this month. May God bless Mt. Zion. And may God guide us as we prepare for the months ahead.

Grace and peace, Pastor Shawn

### **USHERS ARE NEEDED**

We still have many openings to be filled. See Becky Knop to sign up. 410-979-3509  
August 16, 23, 30 / Sept 20 / October 4, 25 / November 1, 8, 15, 29 / Dec 6, 13, 20, 27

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

We thank both members & friends of Mount Zion for financially supporting our outreach/mission to those in need through our Community Service Fund.  
As of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we have received \$2223 so far this year. Thank You for thinking of others.

### **MISSIONS**

Mt Zion Missions Coordinator Barb Hayes – 410-596-1483 – bbhayes@verizon.net

The ON YOUR OWN Homeless Shelter is in need of ... Food, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Clothes both new or used, Soup and Personal Items. Contact Barb if you have questions.  
Leave donations in the Goat, located in the Social Hall.

### **EASTER at Mt. Zion**

Thanks to all who attended Easter services.

See picture on next page.

Both services turned out very nice. The Fellowship and snacks after the 7:00 service were enjoyed by many.

### **NEW SERMON SERIES**

Starts April 19<sup>th</sup>

“When You Don’t Know Your Purpose”

