

March 2026

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**MT. ZION**

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**MESSENGER**

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**Beloved in Christ,**

**March meets us with our Lenten journey already underway. We stepped into this season at the end of February, and now we find ourselves settling into its rhythm, walking a little more slowly and listening a little more closely. Lent has a way of inviting us to pay attention to what is stirring within us. It helps us notice what we have been carrying, what we may need to release, and where God is gently calling us to return. These days are not meant to burden us. They are meant to open us. Lent reminds us that transformation rarely happens all at once. It grows quietly, like roots beneath the soil, preparing us for the new life that will rise with Easter.**

**As we move through March, this season encourages us to reflect with honesty and hope. What is God inviting me to notice right now? What habits or worries have taken more space than they deserve? Where am I being called to trust more deeply? These questions are not meant to judge us. They are invitations to come home again, to remember who we are and who God has always been for us.**

**Many people choose a simple practice during Lent, not to prove anything, but to stay grounded. A few minutes of prayer, a moment of gratitude at the end of the day, a small fast from something that distracts the heart, or a weekly act of kindness can help us stay attentive to God's presence. Whatever you choose, let it be gentle and real. Let it draw you closer to the One who walks with you.**

**Even as we move through the shadows of Lent, we are already leaning toward Easter. The promise of resurrection is never far from us. God is preparing new life even now, long before we see it. The story we are approaching is a story of hope, renewal, and love that refuses to let darkness have the final word. As Holy Week draws near, may we enter it with open hearts, remembering the depth of Christ's love and the courage of his sacrifice, and preparing ourselves to receive the astonishing gift of life that God brings out of places that once felt lost.**

**If this season feels heavy, you are not alone. If it feels renewing, give thanks. If it feels uncertain, trust that God is still at work. Lent meets each of us differently, but its promise is the same. God is leading us toward life. May this month be a time of quiet courage, deep reflection, and growing hope. And may the light of Easter already be warming your spirit.**

**Grace and peace,  
Pastor Shawn**

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Mar 29 @ 10:00am = PALM SUNDAY

Apr 02 @ 5:00pm = Maundy Thursday

Apr 03 @ 5:00pm = Good Friday

Apr 05 @ 7:00am = Easter Sunrise Service & 10:00am Easter Service

### **PLAN NOW, TO INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN YOU AT SUNDAY SERVICE!**

The **UPPER ROOM** daily devotional guide for **MARCH / APRIL** is given by Betty Thomas to the Glory of God in loving memory of her husband George H. Thomas whose birthday is April 27<sup>th</sup>. And also, by LaDonna Schemm in loving memory of her husband George whose birth day is March 4<sup>th</sup> and in honor of her sons George and Michael and wife Lisa and grandchildren Aubry whose birthday is March 5<sup>th</sup> and Colson.

Our **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. For over 17 years this special fund has helped those both in the congregation and in the community with emergency needs. We are grateful for thinking of others.

Our **2026 BUDGET** has been approved, and it reflects both our commitment to ministry and the rising costs that shape our day to day operations. To meet our budget needs this year, we need to bring in about \$2300 each week. As of last week, we are behind by \$2065. Your consistent giving helps us close this gap and sustain the work God has entrusted to our church. Thank you for supporting the mission and life of our congregation with such faithfulness.

## **MISSIONS**

**EASTER BASKETS**: After Fellowship on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, we need help to assemble Easter Baskets for Shepherd's Staff. Supplies provided. If you wish to donate additional Easter basket supplies that would be very welcome also. See Barb Hayes for details.

**A CALL FOR COATS** Although the date has passed you can still donate new winter coats. By appointment only 410-857-5944. Coats can be purchased locally or from our Amazon Wishlist [amzn.to/318LTYI](https://www.amazon.com/wishlist/ref=wl_cr_text). Winter is here. Can you help someone?

**NEW CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS** for kids hospitalized with cancer. You can still donate. It is still winter. Pajamas will be donated to Josh's Jammies a non-profit organization. Donations go to children hospitalized at Sinai Hospital, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, and University of Maryland Hospital NICU and PICU units. Important: give pajamas to Barbara Hayes

