



Paster Shawn Vollmerhausen / ShawnVollmerhausen@gmail.com / Phone: 410-790-5214
Church Email: MtZionUMCFinksburg@gmail.com / Office: 410-517-2300
3006 Old Westminster Pike - P.O. Box 511 - Finksburg, MD 21048

Church family,

As we enter the heart of summer, I pray this month brings you rest, renewal, and moments that remind you of God's steady presence. July has a way of slowing our pace. Mornings feel quieter, evenings stretch a little longer, and many of you are traveling or spending time with family. Wherever this season takes you, may you sense Christ walking with you.

A Word for July Fourth

This weekend we celebrate Independence Day. It is a time to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and to reflect on how we use those freedoms in ways that honor God. In worship, we will touch briefly on the idea that true freedom is not only about what we are free from, but what we are free for. I will save the heart of the message for Sunday, but it centers on how God shapes us into people who use freedom with compassion, humility, and love for our neighbors.

July Sermon Series: Hidden Treasure

Beginning July 12, we will enter a new sermon series titled **Hidden Treasure**. The Kingdom of God is often quiet and easily overlooked. It rarely demands our attention. Instead, it waits to be discovered by hearts willing to slow down and look beneath the surface. This series will help us uncover the value of what God places right in front of us and invite us to reorient our desires and priorities around the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.

Here is a brief look at the weeks ahead:

- **July 12: What Are You Chasing?** Matthew 6:21 We will examine the pursuits that shape our lives and consider whether they lead us toward Christ or away from Him.
- **July 19: The Danger of Lesser Treasures** Luke 12:15 Jesus warns that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. We will explore how good things can become lesser treasures that quietly steal our devotion.
- **July 26: Living for What Matters Most** Philippians 3:7-8 Paul counted everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. This week calls us to embrace Kingdom values with clarity, courage, and joy.

I am excited to walk through these teachings with you and pray they help us see the Kingdom more clearly.

Pastoral Encouragement for Summer

As many of you travel, camp, visit family, or simply enjoy the slower rhythm of July, I encourage you to stay connected to God and to one another. Even when you are away, your church family is praying for you. Take time to breathe deeply, to notice beauty, and to let God restore what busy seasons often wear thin.

And when you are home, I hope you will join us in worship. Your presence strengthens our community. Your faith encourages others. Your voice matters.

May this month be filled with grace, rest, and the gentle reminders that God is with us in every season.

In Christ's love, **Pastor Shawn**

LOOKING AHEAD...

- July & August : No Fellowship during these months
- Wednesday Bible Study has concluded for the summer. We will resume in the fall.

The Mt Zion "Summer Singers"

During the summer months, anyone who would like to sing during the special music time of Sunday worship is invited to join us. We will learn short choruses at 9:45 each Sunday morning. Music will be provided. These choruses will be easy to learn and add just a little extra to worship while the Faithful Few are resting for the upcoming fall session.



**New Sunday Service Starting Time
10:30 AM**

The **UPPER ROOM** daily devotional booklet for **JULY / AUGUST** is given to the Glory of God by Tom & Melanix Stranix in honor of their son Zach, daughter-in-law Emily and grand children Olive (7), Violet (3). The Upper Room is free in both regular and large print editions thanks to our sponsors.

USHERS still needed for August, November & December. See Becky Knop to volunteer.

NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP a coordinator for this month is still needed. See Becky.

MISSIONS

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

FEED THE GOAT: Things that are needed most...

Food Items, Paper Towels, and Toilet Paper.

