Mt. Zion Messenger

November 2026

Dear Mt. Zion Family,

It's hard to believe November is already here. This is one of those months that seems to go by quickly. We start with All Saints Sunday, then Thanksgiving arrives, and by the end of the month we're already beginning Advent and looking toward Christmas.

But before we rush ahead, November gives us some good reasons to slow down.

On All Saints Sunday, we'll remember those who have gone before us and give thanks for the lives and faith of people who helped shape our own. Later in the month we'll recognize our veterans and thank those who have served our country. Then as Thanksgiving approaches, we have another opportunity to stop and recognize just how much we have to be thankful for.

That's something I hope we don't overlook. It's easy to think about gratitude when everything is going well. It can be harder when life hasn't gone the way we expected. Yet when we look back, we can still see the ways God has been with us. We can remember prayers that were answered, people God placed in our lives, strength we didn't know we had, and moments when God carried us through something we couldn't have handled on our own.

There are also some opportunities this month for our two churches to support and worship with one another.

On **Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14**, Sandy Mount will be holding its **2026 Holiday Bazaar**. There will be food, vendors, crafts, baked goods, a silent auction, a nativity display, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and plenty more. If you're looking for something to do that weekend, I encourage you to stop by.

Then, on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll welcome our brothers and sisters from Sandy Mount as we gather here at **Mt. Zion for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**. Before we get caught up in everything that comes with Thanksgiving Day, I hope you'll join us for a time of worship and thanksgiving together. It's always good when our two congregations have the opportunity to come together as one church family in Christ.

And then, just a few days later, Advent begins.

That transition always amazes me. One minute we're sitting around the Thanksgiving table and before we know it, Christmas is everywhere. Advent gives us a chance to slow things down a little. Before the shopping, decorating, parties, and everything else that fills December, the church reminds us to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

So maybe that's a good challenge for all of us this November: **slow down enough to notice what God is doing.** Remember, those who helped shape your faith. Give thanks for the people God has placed around you. Look back at the ways He has carried you. And as Advent approaches, make some room for Christ in the middle of everything else competing for your attention.

I'm thankful for each of you and grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I'm looking forward to everything November will bring as we worship and serve together.

Pastor Shawn

The **Upper Room** for November & December to the Glory of God, by Judy & Lou Piel, and in loving memory of our parents, Harry & Valere Boyd and Roland and Martha Piel, and in honor of our family: our son Christopher, our daughter Elizabeth & her husband Jason, and our grandchildren, Emma Boyd and Rebekah Elizabeth.

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Join us Saturday ~ December 19, 2026

12 Noon

at the FINKSBURG CEMETERY

3010 Baltimore Blvd Finksburg MD 21048
(directly across from Mt Zion United Methodist Church)

All Veterans Service Organizations are invited to attend.

A shuttle from the church to the cemetery will be available.

Refreshments served at the church after the ceremony.

For information contact Sam Mann - 443.789.9732 or
Lisa Tingler - 443.226.2948