

Mount Zion
A United Methodist Congregation
+ Since 1856 +

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Mount Zion Weekly

Sunday December 29, 2024



Christmas is Not Over! Our celebration of the Nativity and the gift of God's love in a Bethlehem manger continues! Faithful followers of Jesus may pack up their Christmas decorations for another year BUT don't pack up the message of Jesus. Simply said, the message of Christmas is that our Creator loves us (*even when we turn our back on God*) through Jesus and challenges us to "love one another, even the un-loveable. As we approach the new year please read the bulletin insert on suggested "Church New Year Resolutions". We also urge our people to seriously consider joining our Pastor's weekly Bible Study and embracing a faithful worship attendance.



For those who follow the liturgical calendar the Christmas season lasts for twelve days and ends on Epiphany January 6th. But where did the "Twelve Days of Christmas" come from? Christian tradition is that the twelve days mark the time it took after the birth of Jesus (*December 25 although we do not know the exact date*) for the magi or wise men to travel to Bethlehem for the **Epiphany ???** when they recognized Jesus as the Son of God. The specific time period was likely part of the early church's efforts to adapt pre-Christian celebrations that helped the ancient Europeans to get through the long winter nights.

Donations to Mt Zion UMC are counted on Sundays. All of what is received during the week is counted and credited accordingly on that Sunday. TODAY is the last Sunday in 2024 and the last counting for 2024. Anything received after today, (Sunday) will become part of 2025 when the counters count donations for the first Sunday of 2025.



Our Committee on Finance urges all of our people, friends and members to use free church offering envelopes. This means if you miss a Sunday the mission & outreach of the church does not stop. Please see Mark Hemler, Financial Secretary for more information on how you can get envelopes for 2025.

If you have not picked up your free 2025 church envelope box Mark has them on the back pew near the sound cabinets.



Church Meetings @ 7:00pm
Finance/Trustees Tuesday, January 7th Bill Tighe Chair
Church Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21st Dan Armacost Chair

Did you know that most people attend because they were personally invited?



Meet Our Staff...



+ Our Pastor: Shawn Vollmerhausen +

Phone: 410-790-5214 Email: shawnvollmerhausen@gmail.com

Church Email: MtZionUMCFinksburg@gmail.com Church Office: 410-517-2300

Director of Music: Leslie Gabler December Ushers: David Fitzwater & Dawn Zepp

Website & Facebook Page: Kathy Giroux / Chair Church Council: Dan Armacost

Worship Technology & Today's Weekly: Mark Hemler Video: Peggy James

Trustees & Finance Chair: Bill Tighe Lay Leader: Jerry Knop

As your Mission Chairperson I want to Thank You All for your generosity this past year with the PJ's, Coats, canned goods and Items for the blessing closet of the Shepherd Staff. Also, with the school supplies which this year helped over 1000 children. We are looking forward to 2025 where we will be collecting all items again. I wish I could share the smiles of the children when they get their PJ's. Please just bring items and put in the goat. Also I want to thank each of you for the donations to the Community Service Fund which has helped many in the community with groceries, gas and rent. ALSO... I'm collecting all cards (Christmas, Birthday and any other kind) that you receive and don't know what to do with. I have Students from the Arc and their care givers come to my shop and they will take the cards and remake them and put in groups to sell. I will bring some to church and you can see what they do and purchase some if you wish.



Thanks to all of you and God Bless. Barb Hayes



Are you reading any Christian material from one Sunday to another? A recent survey indicates that many Christians and church goers are not. For this reason we take seriously the Upper Room daily devotional guide. Every two months we receive both a large copy and a regular edition. It is free

because we have sponsors that donate in honor or memory of loved ones. The January/February edition is available this morning. Get your copy today. If you would like a copy mailed to you free of charge simply call 301-351-6689.

Finance & Attendance

In the "Year 2024" we need \$2136 each week for our Operating Budget
Last Sunday we received \$80 BELOW our Operating Expense
2024 average Sunday attendance: 37.1 / Last Sunday's attendance: 45



**Did you call or send a card to a homebound or shut-in this week?
For more information, please contact one of our Pastors.**



Last day to pick up in-house Christmas cards. They are in the Christmas card box at the door of the Social Hall.
If you need a church directory see Peggy James 410-259-4881,
peggyjames47@gmail.com