



Mount Zion Weekly

Sunday January 12, 2025



We warmly welcome you today as we transition from the "Twelve Days of Christmas" into the season of Epiphany, which began on January 6th. If you're visiting this morning, we're delighted to have you here. If you're looking for a church home, we invite you to consider joining our church family—please see Pastor Shawn for more information.

To our faithful members and friends, we deeply value your commitment to our congregation. For those unable to attend in person, we encourage you to engage with our weekly worship videos each Sunday. Thank you for being part of our community!

The Baptism of Our Lord



Today, the Sunday following "The Epiphany," (January 12th) is celebrated by many Christian congregations and is called "The Baptism of our Lord." (Matthew 3.1-17) "Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River where John called the Baptizer was baptizing people for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus requested that John baptize him with water baptism. Just as Jesus came up out of the water, suddenly the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven said 'this is my Son the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" Some Biblical scholars believe that if Jesus had any doubts about his mission & ministry these were words of affirmation. The question has been raised by some as to why if we believe Jesus was sinless did he desire a baptism for the forgiveness of sins? Scholars believe this was his way of identifying himself with you and me and all humanity. He was one of us!

Renewal / Reaffirmation of the Baptism Covenant

In the letter of Paul to the Christians in Ephesus he writes "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism" (4.5-7). Since Holy Christian water baptism tells us more about God than ourselves and we receive baptism not as something we have earned but as a gift (grace) we stress "one baptism". The amount of water is not the issue. In some African countries baptism is done by three drops of water – in the name of the "Father" and of the "Son" and of the "Holy Spirit." Thus, we do not believe in rebaptism as if God had got it wrong in the first place. At the same time, we believe it is good for followers of Jesus not to be "re-baptized" but to renew or reaffirm their vows. As part of our worship service this Sunday, January 12th we will give worshipers the opportunity to dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross and hear the words "remember your baptism and be thankful". Thus, the word "remember" means: (1) remember what God has done for you, (2) remember what God is doing for you now and (3) remember by faith what God will do in the future." A very special Sunday. Be part of the congregation. Invite a friend.



Following morning worship, we invite you to join other worshippers in our Social Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. We have “after worship fellowship” on the second Sunday of the month. In February it will be on “Soup-er Bowl” Sunday. Our thanks to Beck Knop & Melanie Stranix for coordinating our time together. If you would like to volunteer to help one Sunday in the future, please see Melanie.



The Greek word “Epiphania” means “appearance” or “manifestation,” and it refers to the manifestation of Jesus to the world. The Festival of Epiphany always begins on January 6th (13 days after Christmas) and the season of the church year that follows is about the unwrapping of the Father’s gift to the world of his only-begotten Son (*‘epiphany’ is a Greek word for ‘to be visible’*). The liturgical color of the first two Sunday and the last Sunday is white. On the first Sunday after the Epiphany January 12th) we observe the baptism of our Lord and the renewal of our Baptismal vows. On the last Sunday of the season—before Ash Wednesday & Lent (March 5th we traditionally read about Jesus’ transfiguration. The color of green is used in-between those dates.

Thank you for those who supported our important Community Service Fund. Last Sunday we received \$259.00 to help those in need. If you would like to make a financial donation to this important outreach it can be done by mail. Make out your check to “Mount Zion UM Church, Post Office 511, Finksburg, Md. 21048. Important please mark your check “Community Service Fund.” We are grateful that you are helping others.



Important Change Church Meetings @ 7:00pm

Finance/Trustees Tuesday, January 14th Bill Tighe Chair
Church Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21st Dan Armacost Chair

Meet Our Staff...

+ 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 / Missions: Barb Hayes / Treasurer: Bob Hayes

Website & Facebook Page: Kathy Giroux / Lay Leader: Jerry Knop

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

Church Council Chair: Dan Armacost / Trustees & Finance Chair: Bill Tighe

Usher & Fellowship Coordinators: Becky Knop & Melanie Stranix



As we begin this new year, we encourage everyone to commit to a *daily faith devotion*. This practice will help us grow deeper in our faith in God and our Lord Jesus while providing guidance for our daily lives. The Upper Room devotional for January/February is available free of charge in both regular and large print editions. You can pick up a copy at the church or call 301-351-6689 to have one delivered directly to your home. This edition is lovingly provided by LaDonna Schemm in memory of her husband, George, and in honor of her son Mike, daughter-in-law Lisa, and grandchildren Aubrey and Colson, as well as her son George W. Schemm.

Finance & Attendance



In the “Year 2025” we need \$2183 each week for our Operating Budget.
Last Sunday we received \$89 BELOW our Operating Expense
2025 average Sunday attendance: 32 / Last Sunday’s attendance: 32

Donations to Mt Zion UMC are counted on Sundays. The year 2025 will consist of what is counted on Jan 5, 2025 thru and including what is counted on Dec 28, 2025. Anything received after Dec 28 will be considered 2026 income.

There are still a few **Church Envelope Boxes** yet to be picked up. If you would like a box of church envelopes of your own, please see Mark Hemler at the sound cabinet.

Volunteers are needed to handle our **FELLOWSHIP** Sundays throughout the year. We are asking that refreshments be kept simple...cookies, cake, fruit salad. The church will always provide drinks and chips. Our Fellowship is meant to be a time for sharing and friendship. There will be a few “special” Sundays throughout the year in addition to our Souper Bowl Sunday in February. More information to come on those later. Please see Melanie or Becky with questions or to sign up.

WHAT’S ON THE SCHEDULE...

- January Ushers: Bonnie & Bobby Graham.
- January 12th - Fellowship: Becky Knop & Melanie Stranix
- January 14th - Rescheduled Finance/Trustees Tuesday 7:00pm ... Bill Tighe Chair
- January 21st - Church Council Meeting Tuesday 7:00pm ... Dan Armacost Chair
- January 27th - End Of Year Giving’s Statements will be sent out in the mail
- February 9th - Soup-er Bowl Sunday Fellowship: Becky Knop
We’re looking for volunteers to bring soups and desserts. Please see Becky Knop.
- April 20th - Easter Sunday

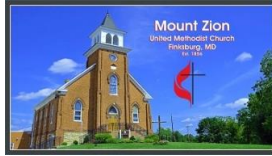
I’m **Collecting All Cards** (Christmas, Birthday and any other kind) that you receive and don't know what to do with. I have Students from the Arc and their care givers come to my shop and they will take the cards and remake them and put in groups to sell. I will bring some to church and you can see what they do and purchase some if you wish. Barb Hayes

Do you have a problem hearing the Pastor during service? We now have a system in place within the sanctuary to help with that. See Mark at the sound cabinet for details.

EOY Statements will be sent out in January reflecting your donations during the 2024 year to Mt Zion UMC.

If you have any questions, contact Mark at mark.hemler428@gmail.com or 410-299-7517

In & Around the Mount Zion Congregation



Since 1856

Question: Where does my money go (when I give to my church?)

A financial inter-church study last year shared an interesting comment: *“We have found that those who say “money, money, money, all my church wants is money” are generally found to be well meaning folks who are very sporadic in their attendance or have never taken an interest in the mission & ministry of the congregation or its day-by-day service to members & friends and to the community.”* The Mount Zion church budget for 2025 (approved by the Church Council) is a very conservative document. Thanks for many committed folks who volunteer their service in so many ways - it has greatly cut expenditures.

The recent audit report for last year contained these words: *“I want to thank Bob Hayes, Church Treasurer, for his continued fine effort in maintaining the detailed documentation needed for this audit and Jim Mirfin/Bill Tighe, Finance Chair for his leadership with the Finance Committee, in over-seeing and monitoring the finances of the Church and Mark Hemler, Financial Secretary, for assisting both Bob and Jim and Bill in handling and processing the necessary financial documentation from the Breeze System to support their duties.”*

It may come as a surprise to some but our church does not have a secret financial fund that we can draw from. We depend on the faithful ness of our friends and members. This is why our Committee on Finance urges all of our people to use (free) church offering envelopes. This means even if you miss a Sunday the church still receives your financial support of its ministry, mission and outreach.

Mount Zion has never told people how much to give. We only ask that as committed followers of Jesus the Christ and his ministry & teachings we do the very best that we can do led by the Holy Spirit.



I love this church!

I love its history and heritage! I love its vision and future!

I love the spirit of Jesus which is in the hearts and lives of our members and friends! We aren't perfect but we are pressing on to be more “Christ-like” every day!

I love this church!