

Mount Zion
A United Methodist Congregation
+ Since 1856 +

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Mount Zion Weekly

Sunday January 5, 2025



We welcome you as we continue to celebrate the 12 days of the Christmas season. The season of the Nativity of our Lord began on December 25th and continues until Epiphany Sunday/January 6th.

Mount Zion celebrates its 167th year of faithful witness to our Lord Jesus. If you are visiting this morning, we welcome you. If you are looking for a church home, we cordially invite you to join our church family. Please see Pastor Shawn about church membership. If you are an active friend or member of the congregation, we deeply appreciate your faithfulness. We hope all of our people especially those who cannot get to the church building will use our weekly worship video every Sunday.



On the first Sunday of the month, we “break bread” together as the “Body of Christ Jesus”. At our church, a United Methodist congregation, all are welcome to share in the Holy Communion! Please share in the Communion liturgy and come to the rail as directed by the ushers. The elements can be brought to your seat if you let the ushers know. If you are unable to get to the church building, we would gladly ring the Holy Communion to you. Simply see one of the pastors.

The Greek word “Epiphania” means “appearance” or “manifestation,” and it refers to the manifestation of Jesus to the world.

The Festival of Epiphany is always beginning on January 6th (*thirteen 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’*). Christmas is about Jesus as fully human—a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger. But Epiphany is about a Jesus who is fully divine—the Son of God. On the first Sunday after the Epiphany (January 12th) we always observe the baptism of our Lord and the renewal of our Baptismal vows. On the last Sunday of the season—before Ash Wednesday—we always read about Jesus’ transfiguration. These two occasions bracket the season of Epiphany because they most clearly reveal who Jesus is: the divine Son of God. At both occasions the voice of God the Father spoke from heaven, declaring what Jesus’ human flesh had hidden from the world: “This is my Son!”



Caring and sharing! For the past 18 years our Community Service fund has helped those in the congregation and in our growing community with emergency needs. If you have a need or know of someone who does please see one of our Pastors, Pastor Shawn or Pastor Lou. We keep all concerns confidential. Mount Zion cares. The funding of our Community Service fund is made possible by the generosity of faithful members & friends. There is a special offering envelope attached to the worship bulletin this morning.



Church Meetings @ 7:00pm

Finance/Trustees Tuesday, January 7th Bill Tighe Chair
Church Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21st Dan Armacost Chair



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 January Ushers: Bobby & Bonnie Graham

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

Last Sunday in our worship bulletin Barbara Hayes, Chairperson of our Mission/Outreach program shared several items of concern. (1) Appreciation of the generosity of the congregation in food supplies and school supplies through the Shepherd Staff. (2) We are still collecting PJ's and they can be brought in and placed in our goat (3) Thanks for financial donation to our important Community Service Fund. (4) We urge you to donate your used Christmas or birthday cards. Barb as students from Arc and their care givers come to her shop and remake the cards for sale. (5) A final word – "Thanks to all of you and God bless you in the new year."



In this new year we are urging all of our people to practice a "daily faith devotion." This will help us deepen our faith in God and in our Lord Jesus. Daily reading will also help us with our daily lived. The Upper Room for January/February is available free of charge. Large print or regular. Get your copy at the church or call 301-351-6689 and one will be brought directly to your home. The January/February edition is given by LaDonna Schemm in loving memory of her husband George and in honor or her son Mike & Lisa and grandchildren Audrey & Colson and her son George W. Schemm.

Finance & Attendance

In the "Year 2025" we need \$2183 each week for our Operating Budget.

Last Sunday we received \$365 ABOVE our Operating Expense

2024 average Sunday attendance: 37.0 / Last Sunday's attendance: 31



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. They will be responsible for our January Fellowship goodies.

Our **USHERS** for January are Bonnie & Bobby Graham.

If you would like to sign up to be an usher at any time, please see Melanie or Becky.



At Christmas we recognized several of our faithful volunteers.

Here a couple more.

Who changes the Rt. 140 bulletin board every week to keep it up to date, and who straightens the church sanctuary and changes the liturgical colors?

Teresa & Bill Tighe

Who provides the lovely music Sunday after Sunday in congregational worship and who faithfully attends weekly choir rehearsals and who is our Director of Music and church organist and who arranges the weeks worship service and prints the bulletin?

Music by our "The Faithful Few" and Director of Music, Leslie Gabler.

The Sunday after "The Epiphany," January 6th is celebrated by many Christian congregations called "The Baptism of our Lord".

(Matthew 3.1-17) "Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River and to John called the Baptizer to be baptism with a water baptism of the forgiveness of sins. Just as Jesus came up out of the water, suddenly the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove alighting on him. A voice from heaven said 'this is my Son the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'"



Biblical scholars have said that receiving the water through baptism for the forgives of sins, even though we believe he was sinless was because in doing this he identifies with me and you.

Renewal / Reaffirmation of the Baptism Covenant

Reaffirmation of **Baptism**



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". 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 on 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, (1) remember what 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.