

Mount Zion
A United Methodist Congregation
+ Since 1856 +

3006 Old Westminster Pike
P.O. Box 511
Finksburg, MD 21048

Pastor Shawn Vollmerhausen
Pastor Emeritus Wm. Louis Piel
Office Phone: 410-517-2300
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Mount Zion Weekly

Sunday December 1, 2024



Advent One - The Journey Begins

Our Journey to Bethlehem begins today (Advent One) and all are invited to journey with us: visitors, those seeking a church home & those in the Mount Zion family. Journey with Mary & Joseph every Sunday morning in congregational worship. Journey with us on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Shawn and our special Bible Advent study. All are welcome!

The Advent season helps us prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

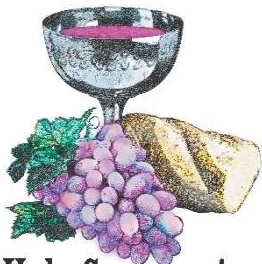


First Sunday of Advent

Today, is the first Sunday in the preparatory season leading us to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus. Today we light the candle of "Hope." For four Sundays on our journey, we will light a special candle every week until we reach Christmas Eve/Day when we light the "Christ Candle". The Christmas season lasts for twelve days. Candles: (1) Hope (2) Peace (3) Joy and (4) Love. We have a special Advent daily devotional booklet available free of charge this morning and we hope you will read it every day during this special season. If you are not able to get to the church building, please call 301-351-6689 and we will deliver one to you. Our Pastor wants everyone to have a copy.

The word "Hope" is our worship theme this week. Pastor Shawn wrote: *"We all need hope. We all experience hurt in some area of our lives. We've made mistakes. We feel shame or regret over something in our past. We've tried to fix things in our lives and failed. And for many of us, we lose hope over time. The problem is we're looking in the wrong direction. There's a sure hope for all of us, and that hope comes from God."*





Holy Communion

On the first Sunday of every month, we "break-bread" in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Mount Zion is an "open communion" congregation meaning that everyone is invited to the "Table of the Lord". If you are not able to get to the church building and would to receive the Holy Communion, please call 301-351-6689 and Pastors Shawn or Lou will come directly to you. It is part of the ministry of our church. Your monthly support of our "Community Service Fund" is very important. It is outreach for those in and in our church and in our community with emergency needs. Thank you for your support.

NEXT SUNDAY December 8th is our church-wide **HOLIDAY BRUNCH**.

Fellowship is on the "Second Sunday" of every month. Let's have a great turnout for this special day! We are asking for people to bring desserts.

Everything else has been accounted for. See or call Becky Knop 410-979-3509 if you have any questions. Plan now to attend!



Thank You for arranging your personal schedule to attend our Thanksgiving Eve worship service. We have a lot to be thankful for but too often we take it for granted. Thank you for your generous financial gifts for our Disaster Relief program so far this year. We raised \$3,631 to help those in need in Western North Carolina. Thank you to Joyce Lowe who made a “love offering” basket full of homemade pumpkin/cranberry breads given out to every worshipper at our Thanksgiving worship services. We may have some left. Let us know.



**Did you know more people come by invitation than any other way?
When was the last time you invited someone?**

The NEW “Upper Room” for November/December is available this morning. Or we can get a copy for you simply by calling 301-351-6689. It is given free of charge (regular or large print) by Charles & Inez Beckhardt in memory of our parents Louis & Theresa McClelland and Charles & Naomi Beckhardt and Lillie Daugherty. Also, LaDonna Schemm in memory of her husband George and in honor of her children George W. Schemm, and Michael & Lisa Schemm and her grandchildren Aubrey & Colson.



You are invited to get two items “free” from our church. You can get an “official” church pen. Second, you can be the first to get your “official” 2025 church calendar. Thanks to LaDonna Schemm.

See one of the ushers or call 301-351-6689 and we will get it to you.

We need **USHERS** for the months of Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June.
We also need **FELLOWSHIP COORDINATORS** for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June.
Can you help with one of these months? See Melanie Stranix.





SUNDAY FUNNIES

Someone once asked Billy Graham “If Christianity is valid, why is there so much evil in the world?” To this he replied, “With so much soap, why are there so many dirty people in the world?” Christianity, like soap, must be personally applied if it is to make a difference in our lives”. ☺

Finance & Attendance

In the “Year 2024” we need \$2136 each week for our Operating Budget
Last Sunday we received \$ 2177 ABOVE our Operating Expense
2024 average Sunday attendance: 36.8 / Last Sunday’s attendance: 42



**Did you know that most people attend because they were personally invited?
Plan now to invite someone to Christmas Eve service Dec 24th 3pm or 9pm.**



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

Calling All Men. Next Sunday morning. Men's Community Prayer & Communion Breakfast. The men (of all ages) of Mount Zion have been invited to attend the annual men's breakfast hosted by the Glyndon UM Church and the Reisterstown Kiwanis Club. Next Sunday morning, December 8th 7:00am to 8:40 a.m. Let's have a good turnout from our church. Reservations are requested to Gary Beck 443-250-1243 or garybeck@glbconcrete.com. See Pastor Lou for more information or if you



need a ride.

The Shepherd's Staff

Mt. Zion has always been diligent in providing donations for Shepherd's Staff & feeding our Goat. Currently they need School Supplies and items for the Festival of Trees.

Please continue to support them.

Just a note – we will collect School Supplies all the time. When the students run out of what they are given at the beginning of the year they come back asking for more.

If you have questions about either School donations or Festival of Trees, see Barb Hayes

Did you call or send a card to a homebound or shut-in this week?

For more information, please contact one of our Pastors.



CHRISTMAS CARDS may be deposited in the designated box for distribution within the congregation beginning today. The box is located in the Social Hall.

Do you need a church directory to mail out cards directly yourself?

See Peggy James 410-259-4881, peggyjames47@gmail.com

Did you know more people come by invitation than any other way?

NEW! Need an extra boost to help hear the Pastor during service?



We now have a new hearing assist system that we are implementing in our sanctuary. If this would be of help to you, see Pastor Shawn or Mark Hemler for details.

Give it a try and see what you think about it!

WE NEED YOU TO DO THIS TODAY!

******* CHURCH TEXT FROM MT ZION *******

In order to help reduce SPAM texts from unknown persons, NEW safeguards are being rolled out in order to receive a TEXT from organizations these days.

This is beyond our control.

You may receive a TEXT from Mt Zion someday. It is a request for a double opt-in by confirming you wish to allow TEXT from us. Simply reply with YES in caps.

If you have not received this message just text START to 87447.

Then reply YES again to the confirmation message.

This will tell our TEXT system to include you for any TEXT that we send out.

PLEASE DO SO ASAP!

We are collecting NEW children's pajamas for kids hospitalized with cancer!

Infant to Teens

Please give NEW children's pajamas to Barb Hayes by Monday, November 25, 2024.



Pajamas will be donated to Josh's Jammies, a non-profit organization that collects new pajamas for children with cancer. Pajamas are donated to children hospitalized at Sinai Hospital, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, and University of Maryland Hospital's NICU and PICU units.



Sharing Your Love at Christmas



Our “Poinsettia” Love List 2024

Poinsettia “love” has always been important to the people of Mount Zion

This year we will do it similar to last year.

Instead of purchasing individual Poinsettias as we have done in the past the Altar Team will purchase them to decorate the altar of our church.

You can share names “free of charge” names of those you would like to honor or those you would like to remember at this special time of the year. We will publish those names in the Christmas Eve worship service hand-out!

The “ABSOLUTE” dead line is Wednesday December 18^h. Please use the “official” form at the bottom of this sheet or call Mark 410-299-7517 (Leave voice mail for a call back if no answer)
If turning in form in person, give to Mark Hemler

See your email that includes an online form to instantly submit your information

Official Form for our Poinsettia Love List Christmas 2024



+ Please PRINT!

Name of the Person(s) you wish to Honor

Name of the Person(s) you wish to remember

Your Name:

Your Phone Number:

Your Email address:

If you would like to support our Mission Fund, make your check out to **Mount Zion UMC** and clearly mark it “**Mission Fund**”. Do not send cash in the mail.

Mail to: Mt Zion UMC
Poinsettia List 2024 ... Post Office Box 511 ... Finksburg, Maryland 21048

**MEN'S BREAKFAST: If you wish to carpool from Mt Zion UMC To Glyndon and back
Contact Lou Piel 301-351-6689 or julo1@verizon.net**



Glyndon United Methodist Church
In Conjunction with
Reisterstown Kiwanis Club

Invite your male members to a
Community Men's Communion Breakfast
Sunday December 8, 2024
7:00 AM until 8:30 AM

Pastor Gary Sheffield-James
of Glyndon United Methodist Church
will speak at the breakfast & give the communion
Freewill offering

Please RSVP for a headcount
Gary Beck garybeck@glbconcrete.com or 443-250-1243

Glyndon United Methodist Church
4713 Butler Road Glyndon, MD. 21071

The Historic Strawbridge Shrine ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS



+ A Unique Worship Opportunity+

In the HISTORIC LOG MEETING HOUSE

2650 Strawbridge Lane New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Imagine what it was like to worship in the '760's in the first Wesleyan Methodist Meeting House.

NEW! Two Services to Choose From

TODAY!!! SUNDAY, DEC. 1st or Dec. 8th, 2024 at 4 P.M.



The Historic Log Meeting House originally constructed about 1760 + Replica built 1982
Cookies & Hot Punch in the Visitor Center following the service.

Limited seating - Please scan QR Code

Or

Call the curator at 443-389-0191

To reserve your seat!

www.StrawbridgeShrine.org

Dress warmly - it was cold in 1760

