

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 August 4, 2024



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors! – We welcome you!

Mount Zion is part of the United Methodist (Protestant) denomination. One of our themes is that we are an “open” congregation. This simply means “all are welcome”. Since 1856 we have been sharing the “good news” (gospel) of our Lord Jesus. If you are a visitor or looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of our church family. Please see Pastor Shawn for more information.

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On the first Sunday of every month (today)

We celebrate the “Holy Meal” or Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. We celebrate an “Open Table” meaning that “all are welcome”. In the Gospel according to Luke it reads: *Jesus said “This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”*. Every time we come to “Our Lord’s

Table” and experience the consecrated elements of bread and wine we also experience the presence of our Lord. If you are not able to get to the church building, we would like to bring the Communion to you. Please call one of our Pastors. May God richly bless you.

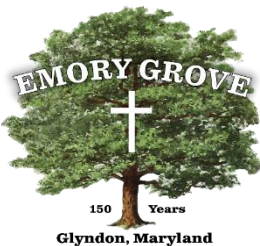
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Love on another! “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4. 19).

Loving one another is a commandment from our Lord. We love not only in words but also in our actions. For the past 17 years our Community Service Fund has helped those in our congregation and in our community with emergency needs: Food, transportation, housing, clothing, medicine and the list goes on. When you give to our

Community Service Fund you know where your money is going. Please use the special envelope. If you are not able to get to the church building you can make a donation by mail. Simply mark your check “Community Service Fund” and mail it to Mount Zion UM Church, P.O. Box 511, Finksburg, Md. 21048.

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15 Days and Counting

Please make sure you have the date on your calendar and plan not only to attend but bring a family member or guest!

The Mount Zion Night and Finksburg Community Night
Sunday Evening, August 18, 2024 + 7:00 p.m.

The Historic Emory Grove Camp Grounds in the Tabernacle
Plan now to attend

Local – in Glyndon – a couple of miles down the road from our church
Off Butler Road

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MT ZION SUMMER SINGERS

All Voices are Welcome! Be part of our summer choir simply by coming by 9:15 a.m. Our Director of Music Leslie has picked songs that we can learn on one try (maybe two). Our Holy Scriptures do not say we have to sing well but rather sing joyfully and praise our God. Why not come today or early next Sunday.



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Meet Our Staff...

+ Our Pastor: Shawn Vollmerhausen +

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

Director of Music: Leslie Gabler August Ushers Shirley Loveless & Barbara Hayes

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

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

Lay Leader: Jerry Knop

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When was the last time you invited someone to worship with you?

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

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

For more information, please contact one of our Pastors.

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**“Try to be a rainbow
in some else’s life”**



Our Financial Status

In the "Year 2024" we need \$2136.49 each week for our Operating Budget
Last Sunday we received \$766.37 BELOW our Current/Operating Expense
We need \$2,136.49 each week to meet our Operating Expenses
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2024 average Sunday attendance: 38.3 / Last Sunday's attendance: 35

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

Mount Zion Cares



Please help us keep our list up to date!

We remove names after 30 days unless told otherwise.

Report any needs or concerns to Pastor Shawn 410-790-5214 or Leslie Gabler 443-793-6516,
Barb Hayes 410-596-1483, bbhayes@verizon.net or Pastor Emeritus Lou.

Daisy Atkinson-Levy	Marty Brown (at home)	Aubrey Ball	Sandy Bicksler
Peggy Bosley	Martha Carter	Renee Clifford	
Rev. Joel Cocklin	Tracey Lynn Davidson	Olivia Davis	Mathew Davis
Barb Diaz	Marilyn Estep	Kathy Giroux	Sandra Hawkins
Bob Hayes	Don Hennessee	Wanda Law	Mark Lesky
Val McNeal	Rev. Laura Lee Morgan	Dan Pickard	Gerri Rhodes
Allen Rhodes	Joan Tighe	Robert Tighe	Richard
Carol	Fran	MariLynne	Jan

Home Bound

Pat Murphy, 138 Lassiter Circle, Finksburg, 21048

Virginia "Ginny" Hoy, 5060 Harney Road, Taneytown 21787

Tommy DeMoss, Westminster Health Care, #221 1234 Westminster Rd., West. 21157

SUNDAY FUNNIES...



Did you know... in Las Vegas there are more Churches than casinos. Not surprisingly some worshipers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the offering plate is passed. Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to collect the offerings. The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in.

This is done by the *CHIP MONKS*.



**“An act of kindness no matter how small
is never wasted”**



**We remember someone once saying,
“if you really want to find out what you worship (*what is important in your life*)
then take a look at your check book.”**

**We remember someone once saying “ I spend more money on getting
my car washed than what I put in the church offering”.**

**We remember someone once saying “I give more of my time looking at my
computer screen (or playing with my new phone) than I do sharing
God’s love with others in need”.**

**We remember a few weeks ago the Rt, 140 church bulletin board said
“Mount Zion welcomes you – Worship with us!”**


**What does it mean to “Worship God?
You will hear people say “God is very important in my life,
I worship God”.
But do we really?**

Are these just nice sounding words **Or do they reflect the important things
in your life?**



**Please take a moment and reflect on your own life
What are the most important things in your life?
How does the worship of God fit in my life?**

See Barb Hayes 410-596-1483 for details or questions...

Donations Needed!



- Financial Contributions** for school supplies and shoe vouchers
- New Backpacks** character backpacks for younger students and standard size for older students
- Pocket Folders** with and without brads
- Canvas Pencil Pouches**
- 1-Inch Binders**
- Wide-ruled Composition Notebooks**
- Wide-ruled Filler Paper**
- Colored Pencils**
- Primary, (Fat) Pencils and Crayons**
- 3x3 Post-it Notes**
- Dividers**
- 3x5 Ruled Index Cards**
- Markers and Highlighters**
- 24 ct. Crayons**
- Pink Block Erasers**
- Rulers**



The Shepherd's Staff
Back to School Program



'Tis the Season!
Seeking Donations
for our Festival of
Trees Decorators

If you have any of the following items or materials to donate, please call 410-857-5944 to schedule a time to drop off:

- African, safari ornaments, animals
- Hummingbirds, butterflies, throat flowers
- Small canoe
- Mermaids (not cartoon or Disney) small
- Collection of matching children figures
- Small totem pole
- Carroll County historical items
- Needlework items - sewing, quilting, knitting
- Gardening - mini tools, pots, etc...
- Collection of elves
- Southwestern colorful items
- Teacher items
- Cardinals of good quality

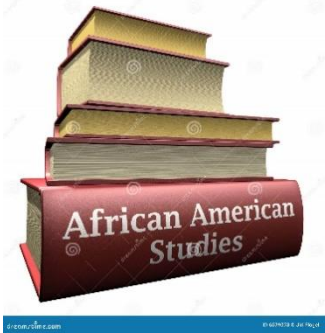
Please call or email info@shepstaff.org with any questions.

“Letter to the Editor”

Anna Orner - student at Hereford High School
The Baltimore Sun - Thursday, July 25, 2024

Note: We offer this letter without comment since Carroll County was mentioned.

If you would like to share your personal comment you are welcome to contact Pastor Lou



I am a white student at Hereford High School – statistically the whitest public high school in Baltimore County – and when I signed up for an Advanced Placement African American studies class, I was scared. First, because the class was new and I didn’t know what to expect, but second because I knew that in that class, I would have to grapple with my contribution to the racially disproportionate 85% white population of my school.

On the first day I walked into a class room with more Black students than I had ever shared a class with and my first black teacher. In a school with just 2.5 Black students for every 100, according to Maryland State Department of Education data, my AP African American Studies class was half black

On that first day, we were assigned the task of crafting ‘micro-lessons’ –five minute long lectures on any African American related topic: spades, Black sitcoms, Black billionaires, or the one I chose, a hip-hop song by a Black artist.

(Continued on next page)

Before we presented our micro-lessons to the class, our teacher vetted them. I started my presentation with a full AP-English style analysis of 'King Kunta' by Kendrick Lamar, praising his repetition metaphors and triple-sided analogies. I was halfway through explaining an allusion to Ralph Ellison's 'Invisible Man' when my teacher interrupted me. "The question you need to answer," he said, "is how does this relate to African American Studies? Why does this matter?"

I stopped, reddened, and started to stutter. I'd never thought of that. I was so certain my AP English skills would sustain me that I didn't pay much attention to the point of the project, the point of the class itself.

After enough ums and uhs to trigger my teacher's concern, I said, 'Because it shows how Lamar takes back the story of a slave and calls him a king.'

'Exactly', my teacher said. 'I'm not trying to make you uncomfortable, I'm just trying to connect you with your understanding of the class.'

And I did connect with it then, I had been learning at a distance, academically removed from the social-emotional thinking the content required and separated by a subconscious want to defer any responsibility or guilt for not being aware of Black history or culture – and fearing that my Black classmates could smell it on me. But as I began to relate to the lessons and understand where my place in them was I unlocked a deeper understanding of the class.

It was my appreciation for that understanding that made me so disturbed last month to hear that the Harford County school board initially blocked AP African American studies in its high schools. The board has since reversed its decision – and to say I'm glad is an understatement. Board members at first criticized the class as 'divisive,' 'political,' and 'questionable,' but critical thinking has fortunately seemed to soften the inflamed debate on this subject. If any anxieties over racial questions still linger on the school board let me avail them with this.

Herford High can more closely resemble the high schools of Carroll or Harford County in terms of demographics than other schools in Baltimore County. And one might think that an AP African American Studies class could never gain ground there and speak to the students at my school. But it has.

From the inaugural class with one section of 19 students at Herford High, enrollment has almost tripled to 54 students, my teacher tells me, and Herford will sport two sections of the class next year. In short – it worked.

And if it can work at Herford, then that gives me hope that it can work in Harford, too. African American studies is one of the most important AP classes a high schooler can take – especially in a county where the controversy over the curriculum may prove it's needed most. The class not only creates space for Black kids to see their culture represented – as hard as that is in white-dominated schools – but it makes room for allyship where it was never expected from class-room before.

As a white student of a successful AP African American Studies class in a nearly all-white school, I am hopeful the course will have the same success in Harford County. I'm relieved to see another county in Maryland to say to its students, of all races. We care.