



# The Grapevine

## Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

*"I am the vine, you are the branches*

*Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."*

*John 15:5*

As I sit down to write this article to you I have just finished presiding over the 5<sup>th</sup> funeral since the beginning of the year. Four of those funerals have been church members or those closely affiliated with the church, and the last one for a family who lives at Clemson Downs. It has been a tough start to the year for the church, losing this many loved ones in this short amount of time. It has asked a lot of the congregation to step up and provide all the needed love, comfort, and support for these families. The church has, like always, provided all of these needs. In the midst of all these deaths, we are spending 7 weeks looking at the death of Christ and what that means for us.

I have been reminded as we have studied the last 24 hours of Jesus' life that life is precious and that it is valuable. I can imagine that the disciples wished they had just a little more time with Jesus, just like we wish that we would have had just a little more time with our loved ones we have lost. I am reminded how Jesus was very intentional after the Garden of Gethsemane to move towards the cross out of love for us. It is the love of Christ that has led us to the point of hope.

Hope is really what I have to offer you and what the Gospel has to offer you in this precious time called life. Hope is the belief that something that has not yet happened can and will happen. We have not been resurrected, but we believe that those that go before us have and that we will be one day as well. We hope that in the end Christ is faithful, and as we read through the last 24 hours of his life we are assured that he is. We hope that the pain of a loss will grow to be not as painful through time and it does. We hope that those we have loss will stay with us, and in many ways, they do. We hope that tomorrow will be better than today, and it can be. So, during this season may you find hope for what life can be.

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# Easter Egg Hunt

We will be having our Easter Egg Hunt for the Children on Sunday, April 2nd. We have collected a great number of empty Easter eggs from the congregation that we will use on that day. We want to thank the congregation for their continued support of our Children's ministry.



## Disney Movie Series



We will begin a Disney Movie Series where we will show a different Disney movie on four consecutive Friday nights. These movies are for the entire congregation to enjoy, as these will be the basis for the sermon on the following Sunday. The dates for these movies are: April 28, May 5, May 12, and May 19. You are invited to bring a meal to eat as we watch the movie. Popcorn and drinks will be provided each week. The final Friday night, May 19, the church will provide a meal during the movie.

**Want to get involved in some hands-on, local mission action?** Let's get a group of volunteers together with Rebuild Upstate on Saturday, May 6th. It's a full day of outdoor work, no special skills needed beyond the ability of lifting a piece of lumber one at a time. We need 8-10 volunteers. Let Gene or Ashley Gelder know if you have a willing spirit! For more information about Rebuild Upstate, visit their website at [rebuildupstate.org](http://rebuildupstate.org).



# Let's serve Together

## Nursery

### April

2nd - Ashley/Drew Gelder

9th - Jane Jones/Janet  
Crenshaw

16th - Ginger/ Isaiah Mullinax

23rd - Libba Carson/Randy  
Martin

30th - Karen Smith/ Cindy Owens



### May

7th - Heather/Benji Cumbie

14th - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

21st - Ashley/Drew Gelder

28th - Sharon Chandler/Terri Lee

## Children's Sunday School Teachers

### April

Karen Smith, Cindy Owens and Ginger and Trent Allen

### May

Katie Aiken and Paige Evatt, Ginger Mullinax and Elizabeth Finley

The Beverly Smith Guild will be meeting for the annual spring salad supper on Wednesday April 5th at the home of Vicki Miesbauer (105 Santee Trail Clemson) at 6:30. Bring a salad to share. Drinks, bread and dessert will be provided.



During May we hope to have a tour of The Dream Center in Easley. The date will be determined by the availability of the Dream Center to provide the tour. Following our tour we will go out for dinner together. We will continue our support of Family Promise by providing a meal for the families during the time they are being hosted by Clemson UMC.

Vicki Miesbauer will be representing our church and our group on the Planning Committee for The Ministers Cook Off. This event provides funds for Safe Harbor which provides shelter and services for Abused Women and their children in our local area.



The **United Methodist Women** will have their monthly meeting at the church on Wednesday afternoon, April 5, at 2:30. During this meeting we will be assembling **UMCOR HEALTH KITS**. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of

human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes.

# The Church Calendar



**April 5th**– Beverly Smith Guild

**April 5th**– UMW

**April 9th** - Men's Club Open House 1-5 p.m. at the Methodist Camp (Ashbury Hills), Cleveland, SC [www.ashburyhills.com](http://www.ashburyhills.com)

**April 9th**– Men's Breakfast at 8:30a.m.

**April 5th** - UMC meeting at 2:30 p.m. located at the Church.

**April 17th** - Alzheimer's Support first meeting will be Monday at 6p.m.

**April 28th**– Movie Night



**May 4th** - National Day of Prayer

**May 5h**– Movie Night

**May 6th**– Work Day with Rebuild Upstate

**May 7th**– Men's Breakfast

**May 12th**– Movie Night

**May 15th**– Alzheimer's Support Group

**May 19th**– Movie Night

**June 4-7** - S.C. Annual Conference UMC, TD Center, 1 Exposition Dr., Greenville, SC

## *Happy Birthday*

**April - 1st** Ronald Nonnenberg, **1st** Nate Six, **11th** Jennie Pea Brown, **19th** Robert Arrowood, **21st** Miriam Coffman, **23rd** Aubrey Mullinax, **25th** Wayne Coffman, **29th** Myra Armistead, **29th** Lance Daum, **30th** Jan Miller.

**May - 5th** Catherine Ferguson, **7th** Eileen Nonnenberg, **8th** Benji Cumbie, **12th** Terry Handegan, **13th** David Bullock, **14th** Dave Amidon, **15th** Robert Allen, **18th** Jill Sims, **23rd** Lucy Gelder, **24th** Cindy Owens, **25th** Cooper Koiniskie, **27th** Stan Owens, **30th** Mary Nichols.



## *Happy Anniversary*

**April - 7th** AL and Susan Cumbie

**May - 11th** Ansel and Sharon Miller, **26th** Drew and Ashley Gelder.



## Welcome

Jack Russell has been hired as Mt. Zion's new pianist and will start in his new duties 4/2/2017. Jack was our pianist last summer and has filled in numerous times. Mt. Zion looks forward to welcoming Jack and keeping our tradition of having the best "little" choir going.



**Katie Ferguson** will graduate from Clemson this May with a degree in English. She is currently exploring options for after graduation. She has been a member of Clemson's Tiger Band all four years and has really enjoyed the experience! She sure picked a great time to be in the band! She has also participated in Clemson's radio station WSBF. Katie grew up in Mt. Zion and is the daughter of Mike and Catherine Ferguson.

The church is invited to attend the ordination of Rev. Gene Aiken on Monday night June 5th at 7:30pm at the TD Convention Center in Greenville. The service is part of Annual Conference, which is being held in Greenville this year. There is a reception following the Ordination Service that you are invited to attend as well.





## Long Range Planning Team

Our Long Range Planning Team met for the first time on Monday March 13th. We are being led in this discernment time by Cathy Joens, who is the Anderson District Congregational Specialist. During the meeting, we reviewed some of the outcomes and goals that came from our visioning process that we completed towards the end of 2015. We discussed where we are now in comparison to where we were then. We discussed some of the things that have come out of that process. We began to talk about our future and some of the plans or dreams we have about where Mt. Zion is going and could go. We walked Cathy around the church building and described to her how each space that we have is currently being used. Our homework for our next meeting is to think about the goals that we have set out and how the space we have can help us to achieve those goals. One thing that was interesting in our conversations is how we see ourselves as a family. There are some great positives to being a family and at times that can present some challenges. The next meeting is Monday April 3rd at 6pm. We will continue to keep you up to date on the progress of this team as we move along in our process.

## United Methodist Men

This year our men's group has made a commitment to purchase food for Clemson Community Care on a monthly basis. Thanks to money donated by members of the church, we have successfully made three runs for food. Buying in bulk allows us to save more money and purchase what is currently needed by CCC. On the first run we purchased 351.60 pounds for \$324.83 and an average of 92 cents per pound. On the second run we purchased 290.2 pounds for \$226.86 and an average of 79 cents per pound. Our last trip we were able to purchase 417.15 pounds of food for \$310.32 and an average of 74 cents per pound. We plan to continue these monthly trips to help feed the hungry in our community. If you wish to donate to this mission, please note UMM CCC on your donation. April 22 will be our annual BBQ sale. Look for the new church tent the UMM purchased!





## Finance Committee

We have a new way to tithe to our church! Visit our website at [www.mtzioncentral.org](http://www.mtzioncentral.org), scroll down the page, and click on the flame and cross logo. Currently, you can make an offering to General Operating, United Methodist Men, or United Methodist Women. Other categories may be added later. You can also set a recurring payment for weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or semi-monthly. After you enter the amount and date, you will enter your payment information. There is a processing fee that the church will pay or, if you use a credit card, you can check a box to pay that fee. If you have any questions or need help setting this up, please contact Benji Cumbie ([benjicumbie@gmail.com](mailto:benjicumbie@gmail.com)) or Pastor Gene.



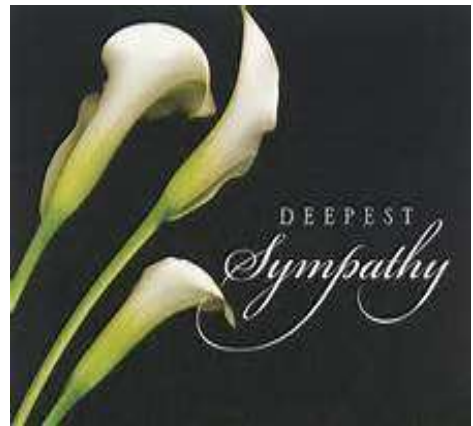
## Tithes

### Our Thoughts and Prayers

Catherine Shehan Carson, Mother of Bill Carson.

Janelle Gelder, Mother of Drew Gelder.

Clarence Wilbanks, Father of Ginger Allen, brother of Frances Reid, brother-in-law of Dot Wilbanks and Ann Wilbanks and uncle to John Reeves and Kathy O'Dell.



Wanda Miles, wife of Sam Miles, and mother of Serena Miles

# Trip to Glazed

The Children's Ministry Team sponsored a trip to Glazed in Clemson on March 12. Twelve children enjoyed picking out and painting their pieces. The Children enjoyed all the fun greatly.



May we all work together towards that hope. And may all our hope be grounded in the faithfulness of Christ.

In Christ,

Gene



Mt. Zion will begin hosting an Alzheimer's Support Group in April. Pastor Gene will be leading this group. The group is open to all in the church and community whose lives have been touched in some way by Alzheimer's or dementia. The group will bring in speakers who can share knowledge of the disease and how to help care for those who are suffering from the

disease. We will share with one another our moments of struggles and joys with one another. The first meeting will be on Monday April 17th at 6pm. The plan is to meet on the 3rd Monday of each month. If you are someone you know has been or is being affected by Alzheimer's please invite them to join us.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
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*Address Correction Requested*

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On Sunday April 16th we will be celebrating **Easter Sunday**. It is the most holy day of the year. Without the resurrection of Christ, our belief in grace and the power of Christ does not hold. I want to encourage you as we head towards that Sunday to think about the ways that the resurrection of Christ has changed your life. Invite someone to come to church with you that day. Whether it is someone who has never been here or used to come here. It is probably one of the easiest days to get someone to come to church. Invite them because you want them to be impacted as much as you have been by the power of resurrection.



Christ  
is  
Risen!