



The Grapevine



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 here, I have been looking at pictures of the flooding in Houston, damage in Florida, destruction in Puerto Rico, the earthquake in Mexico, and it is painful. I can't even begin to imagine what the people in these areas are going through. It reminds me of Katrina and the flooding in New Orleans. I bring up Katrina because I had the opportunity to help just a little in rebuilding some homes after the flooding. My heart breaks to see natural disasters. I struggle to answer reasons why they happen. I hurt when people say why would God let this happen to people? I struggle even more when I see people saying that the floods are some sort of judgement by God on people.

I got the grand opportunity to watch a total solar eclipse here in Central. It was amazing to see day turn to night. To hear animals that you would only hear at night was surreal. It was unbelievable to see Venus in the sky during the day. It was an experience that I will never forget. I was troubled a little though when some people began to say the eclipse was a sign from God that the judgement is near. My question is why this eclipse? It is not the first one. Why not the one that is coming in 2024 or 2045? Did you know that since 2000 there have been 11 total solar eclipses somewhere in the world? Was that God showing judgement on those areas that were in the path of totality? I keep seeing a post on Facebook that is associated with Anne Graham Lotz. I have no idea if it was originally hers, but it makes the case that because America had turned it's back on God then we are seeing all of this destruction. It hurts that people believe that God works that way.

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Water Day/Tail Gate



Trip to Denver Downs

We will be taking the children to Denver Downs on **Sunday, October 22nd**. Following our morning worship, lunch will be provided for the children and adults going on this trip. After lunch, all will be leaving for the fun. At Denver downs, the church will only be paying for all the children attending. Adults admission is \$15 per person. This is always a great event for the children and their families.

Fall Bonfire and Hayride

Karen and Scott Smith will again host our annual Bonfire and Hayride at their house on **Sunday, November 19th**. Pizza and drinks will be provided. This begins at 5p.m. and please remember to bring a chair. We always have so much fun at their house. We hope to see you there.



Early Response Team (ERT) training opportunities

Join ERT and help people recover from disaster in SC. We are United Methodist Volunteers in South Carolina who are dedicated to showing the love of Jesus to others in the aftermath of a disaster.

We have teams and regional coordinators who cover our state from border to border. Our teams consist of 6-12 people. All members receive 8 hours of training in basic disaster response, first aid and CPR. Additionally, trained personnel in chainsaw safety, CISM and EMS accompany each team.

Personnel are rotated in and out every 3 to 4 days due to the intense physical and mental stress associated with true disaster response.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the relief efforts around South Carolina, **you must be trained**. Training in the Upstate will be:



October 7, 2017- Saturday (The other Upstate site this fall is Covenant UMC, Greer on Oct.21st)

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Zion United Methodist Church
5708 S.C. 187 North
Anderson, South Carolina

ERT Basic Class. Cost: \$35, which includes a manual, shirt, cap and badge.
Renewals (needed every 3 years): \$10.

Please make sure your background check is current through Trak-1. Please complete this process before you take the ERT Training Class: Pastor Gene can help you with this or see www.smart-trak.com/umcsc. Local church ERT member: Sharon Miller.

To register or for more information, contact Mark Springer at masprin@bellsouth.net or **864-367-8047**.

Although South Carolina ERT does some out-of-state trips, Samaritans Purse has opportunities for teams and individuals who are able to travel to the area of need. Currently they are in Naples, Florida and five towns in Texas. For more information contact Sharon Miller at Mt. Zion or

<https://spvolunteernetwork.samaritanspurse.org/hurricane-irma-response/>



October

Lane Miller - 4th
Jeremy Lane - 8th
Jane Jones - 19th
Haley Lee - 28th
Frances Reid - 31st

November

Elaine Bullock - 2nd
Katie Aiken - 2nd
Joe Dyar - 4th
Dean Finley - 7th
Chris O'dell - 13th
Kristen Reeves - 14th
Mary Handegan - 15th
Carlisle Jones - 16th
Pam Baker - 23rd
Charlie Six - 29th
Frances Snipes - 30th



October None

November

Terri & Stephen Lee - 10th
Wes & Shirley Witcher - 19th
Ed & Karen Martin - 27th

The Church Calendar

The following take place at the Church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in a church bulletin. Events take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.



October 4th - Trustees will be meet at 7:00p.m. here at the Church.

October 4th - The Beverly Smith Guide will meet at 7:00p.m. at the home of Pam Baker

October 7th - ERT Classes 9:00 - 5:00p.m at Mt. UMC in Anderson, SC

October 14th - UMW Annual meeting 10:00a.m. Anderson Bethesda UMC

October 15th - Fall Meal for Breast Cancer Awareness following Sun Service.

October 18th - Finance committee will meet at 7:00p.m. here at the Church.

October 22nd - The Church Council meeting at 4:00p.m. here at the Church.

October 22nd - Trip to Denver Downs



November 2nd - Minister's Cook Off located at Clemson Methodist Church
5:30 - 7:00pm

November 5th - All Saints Sunday Bring a Picture of your loved ones to be placed on the table in front of the church. To remember our loved ones that are dear to us all.

November 12th - Samaritan's Blessing of the Boxes at Mt. Zion Church.

November 19th - Fall Bonfire and Hayride at Scott and Karen's begins 5:00p



October

Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson - 1st
Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw - 8th
Help Needed - 15th
Libba Carson/Randy Martin - 22nd
Karen Smith/ Cindy Owens - 29th

November

Heather/Benji Cumbie - 5th
Jan Miller/ Vicki Miesbauer - 12th
Ashley/Drew Gelder - 19th
Haley Lee/ Terri Lee - 26th



Children's Sunday School Teachers

October

Sharon Chandler and
Beth McWilliams
Terry Lee and Elizabeth Finley

November

Katie Aiken &
Heather Cumbie
Ginger Mullinax

The UMW Begins a New Year Of Missions

On September the 6th the United Methodist Woman met to begin a new year. Kate Hyder, the Anderson District President of UMW, was our guest. The group of ten women enjoyed the fellowship and a lesson on the benefits of a positive attitude.

The theme this year for the Anderson District is “We Walk by Faith...Not by Sight”, 2 Corinthians 5:7 The Annual Meeting of the Anderson District will be held at Bethesda, UMC, in the Powdersville community on Saturday, October 14th, at 10:00 am.

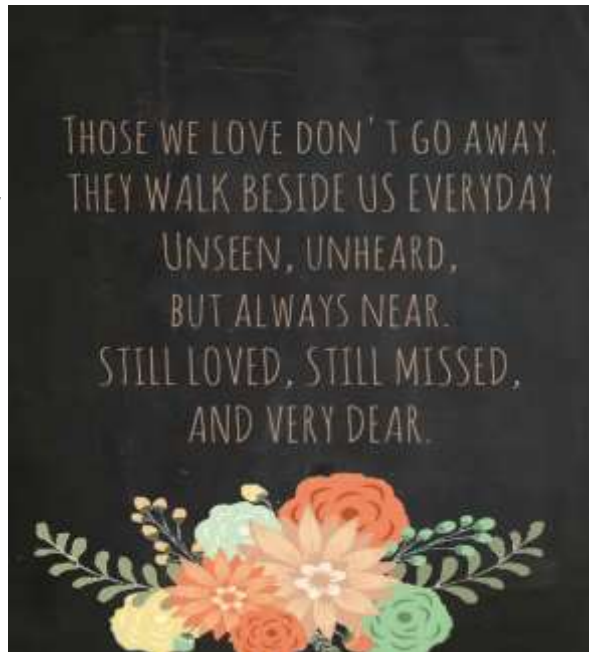


The Mt. Zion UMW group will have a kick off meeting in October to begin our Mission Project Operation Christmas Child. The church community will be asked to join us in this project as in years past.



All Saints Day

All Saints Day Sunday on **November 5th** we will be a serve in memory of loved ones. A table will be near the altar where pictures of your loved ones can be placed. For those who are interested please bring a framed picture to be placed on the saint's table.



Minister's Cook - Off

Mark your calendars for the annual Minister's Cook Off. It is scheduled for Thursday **November 2 at 5:30 - 7:00** at Clemson United Methodist Church. The proceeds for this event go to Safe Harbor. Safe Harbor is an organization that houses and provides assistance to families living with abuse. We are hoping to continue our winning record. Gene is featured on the brochure for this year's Cook Off. Please join us for this fun event.



I struggle with people trying to take something and make it about what they want to make it about. Total solar eclipses happen because of the path of planets and the moon. I believe in God's creation and God setting things in motion. There will always be total solar eclipses. There will always be hurricanes. There will always be tornadoes. There will always be tsunamis. I can't bring myself to think that these are the way that God shows judgement on people. These are natural disasters. Natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, and monsoons are part of how the earth works to support life. They are necessary for the planet to sustain its environment. We have learned this through science. I am always heartbroken at the loss of life that these disasters cause. I always want to do something to help. I never want to blame God for what has happened. I believe that God can work in the midst of disaster. I believe that God is there and the heart of God breaks when people die as a cause of these disasters. I never think that God is the cause or is bringing judgement to these people or places. I believe in a God who is in the business of redemption not destruction. A God who is in the business of hope not despair. A God who is in the business of love not anger.

**In Christ,
Gene**



Please join us on **October 15, 2017**, for our church wide Fall Meal. We will be honoring Breast Cancer Awareness month and ask that everyone wear pink to show our support. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert and the church will provide fried chicken and tea for a luncheon following the Sunday service.





THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A SIMPLE SHOEBOX GIFT BEGINS WITH YOU



New in 2017!

No toothpaste or candy
Toys that are too large
to fit in the shoebox
No cash or gift certificates
See all gift suggestions

PACKING, COLLECTING & SHIPPING

People pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups collect these boxes the third week of November. Then, thousands of volunteers inspect and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



Blessing of the Boxes @ Mt. Zion Nov. 12

Suggested Donation \$9

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel and bless children.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Churches around the world hand out shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is clearly presented. Christians also take gifts to orphanages, hospitals, and at-risk places to share the hope of Christ. Along with the gifts, we offer Gospel booklets called The Greatest Gift to help shoebox recipients learn about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.



DISCIPLESHIP & MULTIPLICATION

After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. As a result of what they learn, boys and girls grow in Christ and share Him with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.



November is National Family Caregiver Month – Don't forget to remember a caregiver this month



Hearts of Gold Caregivers

More than 65 million people in the United States provide care for chronically ill, disabled or aged family members or friends during any given year. That care is valued at \$375 billion a year, which is almost twice as much as is spent on homecare and nursing home services combined. (American Society on Aging)

“Family isn't always blood, it's the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are, the ones who would do anything to see you smile and who love you no matter what.” - Maya Angelou

Robert Arrowood has moved to Brookdale Senior Living, 1306 Pelham Rd., Greenville, SC 29615. He misses his church family.

The psalmist wrote, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:26 (NIV)



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 186
310 Church Street
Central, South Carolina 29630

Address Correction Requested

