



## 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 write this article, I am finishing up the sermon for Easter Sunday and beginning to look ahead to what is coming after Easter. I am excited for some of the things that we have coming at Mt. Zion. We are going to celebrate a Homecoming on May 20<sup>th</sup>, hopefully with many old friends joining us. We are going to start our first Confirmation class since I have been here next week with Confirmation Sunday being Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>. As I look at the events that we have coming up, I also begin to think about where God is calling Mt. Zion to go.

Not long after I got here we set some goals. The first, was to continue to build the children's program and to double the participation in 5 years. We have started doing monthly events for the children, started a second children's Sunday School class, and this past Sunday we had 17 children participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Our second goal, was to get more involved in missions. The UMM have begun buying food for Clemson Community Care, we built a ramp through Rebuild Upstate, our UMW continues with the many missions projects they lead us in including Operation Christmas Child, we continue to collect more and more school supplies for Blessing of the Backpacks, and we have partnered with Family Promise to be a support church. Our third goal, was for members to get more involved in the life of the church. Many of you are helping with teaching children's Sunday School, our Tuesday night Bible study has grown to almost 10 people, attendance in the Adult Sunday School has risen, and we are doing some cleaning days in the near future. I wanted to mention all of this, to point out that we are on our way.

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## Children's Ministry

Join us on **April 20th 6-7:30 pm** for a father/daughter dance in the fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be served.

## Easter Egg Hunt

We had our annual egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Thank you to all our committee members for providing breakfast, decorating, filling and hiding eggs. It was a huge success! A special thank you to the Beverly Smith Guild for providing the dollar bills.



## Nursery Workers

### April

1st - Elizabeth Bowman/ Catherine Ferguson

8th - Jane Jones/ Janet Crenshaw

15th - Help Needed

22nd - Libba Carson/ Randy Martin

29th - Karen Smith/ Cindy Owens



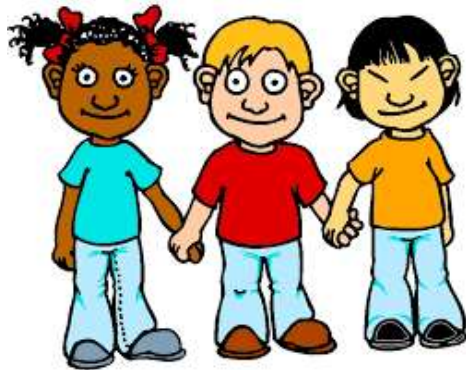
### May

6th - Heather/ Benji Cumbie

13th - Jan Miller/ Vicki Miesbauer

20th - Ashley/ Drew Gelder

27th - Haley Lee/ Terri Lee



## Children's Sunday School Teachers

### Children's Sunday School Schedule 2018

#### April

Drew and Ashley Gelder

#### May

Karen Smith and Cindy Owens

**Older Children's Sunday School class will meet as Confirmation class for April and May and be taught by Pastor Gene and Ed Martin**



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## April

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

## May

**1st** - Martha Rowland, **5th** - Catherine Ferguson, **7th** - Eileen Nonnenberg, **8th** - Benji Cumbie, **12th** - Terry Handegan, **14th** - Dave Amidon, **15th** - Robert Allen, **18th** - Jill Sims, **23rd** - Lucy Gelder, **24th** - Cindy Owens, **25th** - Cooper Koinskie, **27th** - Stan Owens, **30th** - Mary Nichols.

## April Anniversaries

Al & Susan Cumbie - **7th**

## May Anniversaries

Ansel & Sharon Miller - **11th**

Drew & Ashley Gelder - **26th**

# 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](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com) with "bulletin" on the subject line.



**April 1st** - Easter Sunday

**April 7th** - Church Clean - Up

**April 8th** - Men's Club Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

**April 15th** - Meal for Clemson Wesley

**April 20th** - Father/Daughter Dance in Fellowship Hall 6p.m - 7:30p.m.

**April 25th** - Finance Committee Meeting

**April 28th** - Railroad Festival in Central Men's Club will have Bar-B-Q

**April 22 - 29th** - Family Promise

**April 30th** - Church Council meeting 6:30 p.p.m.



**May 5th** - Church Clean - Up

**May 13th** - Mother's Day

**May 20th** - Homecoming Day

**May 27th** - Confirmation Sunday

## Annual Conference

The [2018 South Carolina Annual Conference](#) Meeting is fast approaching, and volunteers are needed to help make the experience a welcoming, smooth and productive experience for all of the delegates.



Pulling off the annual miracle that is the Annual Conference Meeting – scheduled this year for **June 3-6 at the TD Convention Center in Greenville** – takes a lot of planning and a lot of cheerful faces and helpful volunteers.

Volunteers can pretty much set their own schedule by signing up for morning, afternoon or evening shifts on any or all of the four days of the meeting. Go to [www.scumc.org](http://www.scumc.org) to sign up,

**You also can choose in what way you'd like to help out. Volunteers are needed as:**

- Hotel greeters
- Parking lot greeters and traffic control
- Greeters inside the TD Convention Center
- Information booth helpers
- Registration assistants
- Bus drivers (buses will be provided)
- Handicapped parking greeters
- Ushers for conference business sessions
- Ushers for evening worship services

**The United Methodist Women of Mount Zion  
a.k.a. (Mt. Zion UMW – Central)**

In the spirit of Christian love, **the women and men of Mount Zion came together to help us** sponsor a **Valentine's Luncheon on Sunday, February 11, 2018**. We had put out a call for "hearty" casseroles so that no one would go hungry, and my goodness, what we acquired from the members of the church was so bountiful that we could have fed twice as many people as we had attend!

Our **LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER** produced five hams, countless casseroles of mac and cheese, scalloped potatoes, baked spaghetti, deviled eggs, homemade bread, pound cakes, and congealed salads. We can't list them all because our memories have faded in time; but the essence or truth is that there was a **bountiful** feast!

The members of the church who attended also came across financially. We collected ~\$320 (with a little more promised) that will go directly to **missions**. When we say "**missions**" it is a general term that **covers so very much**.

"Missions" covers: the boxes that we purchase and assemble for Operation Christmas Child; the school supplies, notepads, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, pencils, small toys, and stuffed animals that we pack into 50 boxes; the emergency/health care kits we prepare for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief); the money we send to UMCOR; the money we send to Meals on Wheels; the supplies we contribute to local flood relief; the gifts and clothing we buy for two Helping Hands children at Christmas; the money we give to orphanages like Epworth; and the money we give to the at-risk programs at Bethlehem-Columbia, Bethlehem-Spartanburg, Killingsworth, and the Wallace Family Life Center. The word "**missions**" covers so many things that it is hard to recall them all, but the **effect** of the money produces such joy and so much good!

**The good things that you do have a positive effect upon other human beings. We thank you for all the love and gifts that you have bestowed upon so many!**

**Submitted by Sharon Chandler, Secretary**  
United Methodist Women of Mount Zion - Central



# volunteer

*do good, feel good*

We will be feeding the Wesley Foundation again on **Sunday April 15th**. Sign ups will be available soon. We are thinking about a taco night.

Our next opportunity to support Clemson United Methodist Church in hosting Family Promise Families will be during the week of **April 22-29**. Sign ups will be available for us to sign up for ways we can help.

The Dream Center is having an interesting fundraiser to benefit the Homeless in Pickens County. On **May 19th** church youth groups are being encouraged to spend the night in a Cardboard Box City. It will be in Gateway Park in Clemson. Each youth will be provided with a box to sleep in. They are to get sponsors for the evening.



Although we don't have a group, if you would like to donate to this cause please see me or Gene or designate a gift in the offering. Family Promise is managed by the Dream Center. They offer other services for homeless as well.

We hope to schedule another event with Rebuild Upstate in the near future. Get your tool belts ready.

Clemson Community Care continues to appreciate the shopping trips and donations we give monthly. As summer approaches and the time that kids are no longer eating free lunch and breakfasts at school coincide with less food drives in the summer and summer layoffs for hospitality workers, donations will be very much needed.



I also say this to remind us that we are not there yet. We always have work to do. I was talking with a church member recently and mentioned that Clemson had done well in an ACC Championship. They told me that in sports the goal is not just to do well but to win championships. They then told me that they don't come to church to be part of a service that does well, but they come to be part of a championship service every week. This has stuck with me and has encouraged me in the last month or two to strive to do better. My hope is that we strive to do our best each and every week for God. My hope is that we are the kind of church where you want to invite others to come and be a part of the good that is going on here. It is my hope that we invite others into this relationship that we are building with Christ and with one another. It is my hope that we are church that is never satisfied with where we are but are always striving to reach for where God is leading us. May we always seek God in our journey together.

**In Christ,  
Gene**





Save the Date!  
May 20, 2018

# Homecoming

Don't miss it! Over 30 years later, we're opening our Time Capsule! Help us unveil what's inside!

310 CHURCH STREET CENTRAL, SC 29630



## Homecoming Sunday May 20th

Please come and join us **Sunday May 20th** for our Homecoming celebration. Rev. Kurt McPherson will be here to share the message with us that day. We will have a meal after the service. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail soon. If there are others that you would like to make sure are invited to come back and join us (i.e. former members, adult children, friends in the community) please be sure to get their contact information to the church office. We are looking forward to sharing in this time together.

Don't forget also on that day we will be opening the time capsule that was buried in the 1980's. We are also having two major clean up days at the church to make sure our church can be proud that day. Please plan on joining us.

## Clemson Wesley Golf Tournament

The Clemson Wesley Foundation is holding their annual golf tournament on **Saturday April 21 at 1 pm** at Boscobel. The cost to enter the tournament is \$65 per person. In the past we have had at least two teams from Mt. Zion



to participate so we would love to add another one this year. If you are unable to or can't play you can always sponsor a hole for \$50. If you would like to sign up or sponsor a hole you can go to the Clemson Wesley website: [www.clemsonwesley.org/golf](http://www.clemsonwesley.org/golf).

## Leadership Needed



Do you have leadership abilities? Would you like to be more involved in the United Methodist Church on the District or Conference Level? If you can answer yes to either of these questions, please contact Pastor Gene. The Anderson District and the South Carolina Annual Conference are always looking for new leaders and people willing to serve on various committees. The deadline for getting your name to the district or conference for nominations is **April 15th**. Pastor

Gene would be willing to help in this process if you are interested. Who knows, you could end up on the committee for the Anderson District that Pastor Gene is going to chair.



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*Address Correction Requested*

