



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

I must begin by saying a huge thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me, my wife Marissa, and our boys, Isaac and Micah. From the minute we arrived here (and even before then, really) you have gone above and beyond to make this a smooth transition. We are excited to be here, and we look forward to what God has in store for all of us during our time in ministry together.

I am grateful for the wonderful participation in the home gatherings over the past month. From these gatherings, I have learned that three things you value most are:

- An inviting, welcoming, accepting, energetic, and caring atmosphere in which people feel like family
- Connection with, and service to, the local community
- Traditional worship in a beautiful sanctuary with beautiful music, in which people's hearts and minds are engaged

Some of you have asked me, “What do we do now?” Here are some next steps that I invite you to participate in:

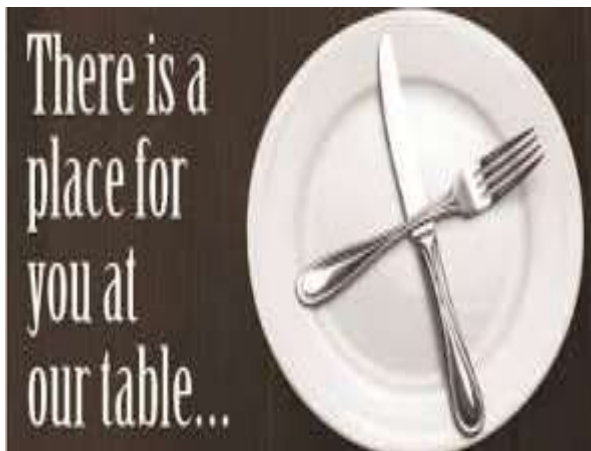
- On August 5 at 6:30 p.m., we will have a church council meeting to take what I've heard from you and develop 2 or 3 concrete next steps for us to commit to as a church family for the coming year. Everyone is invited to be part of this meeting and conversation, whether you are a member of church council or not.
- Beginning on Sunday, August 11, there will be copies available for you to pick up of my summary of what I learned from you at the home gatherings. I encourage every family to pick up a copy to see what you and your peers have shared about this church.

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Jonathan Harris is coming to us from First United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach, SC where he has served for six years as an associate minister. He is a native of Rock Hill, SC and a graduate of Winthrop University and Candler Seminary at Emory University. He and his wife, Marissa, have two sons; Isaac who is 6 years old and Micah who is 3. Jonathan is excited for a chance to have his own church and we are looking forward to the many blessings we hope to share together. **Welcome to the Harris family.**

Sunday, September 15 - We will celebrate our quarterly meal for the fall after worship. This is an important time, as we will hear from Pastor Jonathan at the meal about what he learned from the recent home gatherings and from church council about some dreams that have come from those gatherings. You will then have an opportunity to respond to the opportunities God is placing before us!





August

6th Sherri Youngblood - **7th** Kyle Owens - **12th** Elizabeth Bowman - **13th** Steve Lee - **15th** Kathy O'Brien - **16th** Helen Singleton - **21st** Ginger Allen - **31st** Chandler Coffman

September

1st Ed Martin - **3rd** Drew Gelder - **5th** Sam Miles - **10th** Dick Singleton - **14th** Sharon Miller - **15th** Terri Lee - **20th** Bonnie Littrell
20th Kathy Still - **25th** Lynn Martin - **28th** Cecil Rowland



August

Bill & Libba Carson **2nd** - Wayne & Miriam Coffman **3rd** - Mike & Catherine Ferguson **5th** - Dean & Elizabeth Finley **5th** - Cecil & Martha Rowland **24th** - Chris & Kathy O'Dell **29th** - Doug & Johnnie Walker **29th**



Edith Wisham and her son, Larry Wisham receiving the sacrament of baptism from Rev. Gene Aiken.

Sunday, August 18 - We will celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Bring your backpack to worship as we celebrate and pray God's blessings for the students and teachers in our midst!



The annual Labor Day weekend hymn service will be **September 1**. In the two weeks leading up to that service, please write the names of your favorite hymns on the bulletin insert and place in the offering plate so we can include as many of your favorites as possible in this special service!

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. 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.



August 5th - There will be a church council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room.

Aug 11-17 is Family Promise Week at Clemson UMC

August 18th - We will celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks.

August 24th - Water Day at the church at 5:00 –7:00p.m.



September 1st - The annual Labor Day weekend hymn service.

September 15th - We will celebrate our quarterly meal for the fall after worship



We will kick off Bible study at the parsonage (203 Joseph St. in Central) for the Fall on Tuesday, **September 3 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** This will be a great time of fellowship and learning as we explore together the very first piece of Christian writing, 1 Thessalonians. See you there!

Nursery Workers

August 2019

7th - Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

14th - Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw

21st - Libba Carson/Randy Martin

28th - Help Needed

September 2019

1st - Heather/Benji Cumbie

8th - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

15th - Ashley/Drew Gelder

22nd - Haley Lee/Terri Lee

29th - Karen Smith/Cindy Owens



Back to School: Discipleship 101, September 8-29

The time of year when students, parents, and teachers are returning to school routines, is a great time to remember that we are all students, or disciples, of Jesus. Each Sunday from **September 8-29**, we will re-discover, or discover for the first time, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and why that matters.

Dearest Church Family,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for all of your prayers, love, support and kindness. What peace I feel knowing how very lucky I am to have you all in my life. Well quick update, things seem to be progressing with treatments including consult with transplant team for a dual liver kidney transplant. God's will be done. In closing, I pray for all of you daily. Love you all dearly.

With Love,

Terri Lee

*Thanks for
your prayers...*

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) would like to share that our part-time secretary, Jennie Pea Brown, has tendered her two weeks' notice. Her last day at Mt. Zion will be **August 5th**. We would like to thank Jennie for her three years of service and wish her much success in the future.



The SPRC would also like to share that Barbara Anderson has been hired for the dual role of music director and pianist. She has been so gracious to serve in an interim role, and we are delighted that she has agreed to continue serving our church in a more permanent role. We are grateful that Barbara will continue to share her talents with us!

Spreading the Word of God

The Easy Way

“The word “evangelism” sends a shiver down the spine of many Christians. I won’t know what to say. I want to get to know the person better. They seem like they wouldn’t be open to the gospel. Evangelism is not my spiritual gift.”

Does this sound familiar? If you feel that you are not equipped to spread the word of God, then I encourage you to think about some simple and easy ways that you might do so.

There are the traditional ways of encouraging someone to attend: a simple invitation to join us in worship or talking with your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about our worship service and how much you enjoyed the choir, the music, the message.

There are also **new** ways to share God’s word as well. If you are using social media, which many of you are, then an **easy** way to spread God’s word is through “**sharing**” on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. It is quite common to press the “like” button and a little more time consuming to post a comment, but the **brass ring** on Facebook is when you **share** a post. “**You are essentially saying “all my friends have to see this!”** This is huge in terms of exposure, word-of-mouth recommendation, and credibility.

As a church on Facebook we currently have 253 people who follow us. That’s up 57 people from a year ago. Imagine what would happen if each of those 253 people **shared** just one of our posts with their friends!

Talk about spreading the word about God in an exponential fashion! You could share a post about our activities: the men’s breakfast, the quarterly after-worship dinners, the UMW Valentine’s luncheon, the movie night, the tailgate and water day, the blessing of the backpacks, and the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. You could share one of the posted Bible verses or photos of volunteers, children, and behind-the-scene activities occurring at the church. If God can speak through donkeys like He did in Numbers 22:28 (NIV) then sharing His news through Facebook should be no problem!

In Philemon 1:6 the Apostle Paul says to Philemon, “**I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith**, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ” (NIV). The next time you are on social media and see one of our posts, hit **SHARE**. It only takes a second, it’s automatic, and you will be sharing your faith with all of your friends the easy way!

Spread the Word
change a heart 

Kevin Halloran, <https://unlockingthebible.org/2016/08/seven-reasons-to-not-fear-sharing-your-faith/>

John Haydon, <https://www.johnhaydon.com/whats-the-difference-between-likes-comments-and-shares/>

Bible Gateway, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=numbers+22%3A28&version=NIV>



Monday, August 5 - There will be a church council meeting at **6:30 p.m.** in the downstairs meeting room. The purpose of this meeting is to discern two or three next steps for the church to take in the coming year in response to the great conversations at our recent home gatherings. Whether or not you are a member of church council, **EVERYONE** is invited to attend as we prayerfully discern the next faithful steps God would have us take together. See you there!



2019 South Carolina Annual Conference Report

I have been honored and privileged to attend the SC UMC Annual Conference in Greenville, SC for 2017, 2018, and 2019. The conference will now be moved back to Florence, SC beginning in June 2020.

First of all, let me say that we are extremely blessed to be led by Rev. Jonathan Holston (Bishop) and secretary Rev. Ken Nelson. They keep the meeting on point and moving. The theme of this year's meeting was "A Future with Hope." Three petitions were to be voted on. However, all three were ruled out of order. Thus no petition or resolutions were passed this year. Two mission initiatives were worked on this year - 1) Native American older food baskets and 2) Harvest Food Bank of Greenville. Nineteen new men and women were commissioned and ordained as elders and deacons (clergy).

Perhaps the big highlight of this year's annual conference was the election of delegates to next year's General Conference (Minneapolis, Minnesota in May 2020) and the Jurisdictional (Southeast) Conference at Lake Junaluska. It will be a very important year at these conferences as the main topic will be LGBTQ issues.

Just a side note: I learned there are more than 230,000 United Methodists in South Carolina. We were blessed to have our beloved Malek McDuffie leading the singing on the opening night.

John Malmgren
Lay Delegate

- On **Sunday, September 15**, we will have our quarterly church-wide meal after worship. During this meal, I will share what I have learned and church council's recommendations for the 2 or 3 next steps we commit ourselves to for the coming year, and we will spend some time in conversation with one another about how we can best venture together on this path that God has set before us.



I am thrilled that more than 50 people participated in the home gatherings, which is a tremendous response from a church of Mt. Zion's size. I look forward to your continued engagement on August 5, September 15, and beyond. Your enthusiastic engagement in this process tells me that you have a lot of energy and passion for this church and that you are ready to take our next faithful step together!

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan



God often speaks through people we might not have chosen if it were up to us: the nameless, the homeless, the poor, and the outcast. Each Sunday from **August 11-25**, we will hear from the nameless author of Hebrews and consider what God might be saying to us through him and through the people in our community whose names we don't know... yet.

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Address Correction Requested

