



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

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead....’” (Matthew 28:5-7)

Last month, John MacArthur made national news by saying that Beth Moore should “go home” and that women should not be allowed to preach. His stance is based on 1 Corinthians 14:34, which reads, “[W]omen should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak....” While MacArthur is from a very different theological camp (Southern Baptist, not United Methodist), his words provide a unique opportunity to share why United Methodists affirm the preaching and ministry of women.

Methodists began ordaining women to preach in 1956, the culmination of 172 years of debate as Methodists wrestled with the tension they perceived between Scripture and their experiences of the Holy Spirit working through the gifts of women who preached. The experience of the gifts and work of women such as Jarena Lee, Sally Thompson, Anna Howard Shaw, Frances Willard, Madeline Southard, Georgia Harkness, and so many others led Methodists to re-visit the Scriptures and see that the first people ever commissioned to preach the good news of Jesus’ resurrection were... women!

If you are blessed at all by my ministry here, then you are indebted to several women who have helped me understand what it means to be a pastor. Patty Griffith Fallaw was my pastor for 10 years, and I believe her way of storytelling comes out in how I now preach. Narcie Jeter was the campus minister who not only helped me discern God’s call to ordained ministry, but she also married me and Marissa. Donn Ann Weber gave me invaluable opportunities to preach and experiment with ministry ideas when I was a seminary intern at the church she pastored, and she also baptized Isaac. And I am indebted to my many female clergy colleagues who help me continue to grow by encouraging and challenging me today. If you would like to know more about the history that led us to where we are today, I would be glad to share more!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

The Church Calendar at a glance

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.

December 1st - Men's breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

December 1st - Hanging of the Greens, 11 a.m.

December 3rd - Family Promise Meal at Clemson UMC, 5:30 p.m.

December 3rd - Advent Study at parsonage, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 4th - United Methodist Women's luncheon, Mi Fiesta Grille, 11 a.m.

December 10th - Advent Study at parsonage, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 14th - Christmas Caroling to shut-ins, 10 a.m.

December 14th - Children's Christmas party at Central-Clemson Library, noon

December 15th - Quarterly meal and children's Christmas play, noon

December 16th - Alzheimer's support group, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 17th - Advent Study at parsonage, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 17th - RAPpers lunch, noon

December 18th - Service of the Longest Night, 6:30 p.m.

December 22nd - Christmas cantata, 11 a.m.

December 24th - Christmas Eve service, 5:30 p.m.

December 24th-January 1st - Church office closed for Christmas/New Years

January 5th - Men's breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

January 5th - Children and Youth Ice Skating, after church

January 8th - United Methodist Women's joint circle meeting, 2:30 p.m.

January 20th - Alzheimer's support group, 6:30-7:30 p.m.



December

2nd Susan Drexler - **3rd** Golda Noblitt - **7th** Isaac Harris
9th Kathy O'Dell - **19th** Allan Bomar - **26th** Kris Bowman
27th Blake Jones

January

3rd Irene Buchanan - **13th** Buddy Evatt - **17th** Ava Rae Six
18th Bobby Garrett - **19th** Charles Baker - **23rd** Quint Cumbie
23rd Heather Cumbie - **29th** Ashley Malmgren



December

1st Danny and Susan Pressley
20th Jerry and Sharon Chandler
29th Lane and Jan Miller
31st Terry and Mary Handegan

January

10th Les and Jane Jones
16th David and Allison Miller Wingard

Children's Ministry

Sundown Hoedown



A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Sundown Hoedown a huge success! What a great turn-out of families in our community having some Fall FUN! There were so many helpful hearts and hands that made this possible, so thank you, truly from the bottom of our hearts, for joining us so enthusiastically.

Sincerely, the Children's Ministry Team



Supper and a Show!

The children and youth will put on a Christmas play after worship on Dec. 15 in the fellowship hall. Join us for a pot-luck meal brought to you by the hospitality committee, and then stay for the show from the kiddos! This year's production is titled, "Get Back in Your Box!"

Children's Ministry, continued

Christmas Caroling

In lieu of the traditional Children's Christmas party at Mt. Zion, the children are invited to go caroling on December 14th. Anyone else who would like to sing is invited to join us! We plan to visit some of our dear friends in town, including a stop by Clemson Downs and Brookdale. All Christmas carolers will meet at the church and be ready to leave, caravan-style, at 10:00 am. We'll follow each other to each location.

Children's Christmas Celebration

Following Christmas caroling, all children and their families are invited to a special Christmas lunch and children's craft at the Central/Clemson Library. In case you don't come caroling, we expect to get to the library around noon. Please let Elizabeth Bowman or Ashley Gelder know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough food for all and craft supplies for the children.

Nursery Workers

December 2019

- 1st** - Elizabeth Bowman / TBD
- 8th** - Jane Jones / Janet Crenshaw
- 15th** - Libba Carson / Randy Martin
- 22nd** - Martha Rowland / Ansley Green
- 29th** - Cindy Owens / Karen Smith

January 2020

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

Celebrating what's behind us...

At Charge Conference on November 11, our District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Patterson, led us in our annual celebration of where God has taken us, and where God is taking us. Here are a few things behind us and that lie ahead:



On October 26, a team of 11 people ran a combined 41 miles in the Spinx Run Fest, in memory of John Wisham, to raise money for Clemson Community Care and our ongoing landscaping project. Through your generosity, we were able to raise \$6,490.92, which will provide roughly 1,900 pounds of food to people in need and get us on our way with the landscaping project. Way to go Mt. Zion!

From November 4-7, Pastor Jonathan (pictured third from the right) attended the Mosaix Multi-ethnic Church Conference in Dallas with about 20 other leaders from the UMC in South Carolina. Please be in prayer for how we might better partner in ministry across racial and ethnic lines. And thank you to all who participated in the joint Thanksgiving service with Central and Bethel UMCs!



...and looking ahead with expectation



Pastor Jonathan will be leading an Advent Bible Study he wrote himself, called “**What Child Is This?**” each Tuesday evening during Advent (December 3, 10, and 17) at 6:30 at the parsonage. Come learn about our Savior in this eye-opening study of Matthew’s gospel. Since most people are more open to church-related activities this time of year, this would be a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to Bible study!

RAPpers

The RAPpers (Really Adult People) group was started to give those who are 55+ fellowship and activities once a quarter. The group went to the Soapstone Church in Pickens to eat at that church’s kitchen. Meals purchased raised money for that church’s operation expenses. Also the Chattooga Belle Farm to tour its facilities. This is your invitation to come be a part of this group. Next meeting will be **December 17 at noon**. The main part of the meal will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

College Ministry Interns

Beginning January 12, we hope to have one or two college student interns to assist with our children and youth ministries. As we complete the selection process, please be in prayer for those who intern here, that Mt. Zion will help them in their ongoing growth! And look out for introductions to these students in the next newsletter.

Beverly Smith Guild



The Beverly Smith Guild is selling glass ornaments featuring the stained glass window on the east wall of our church. The cost is \$25 and order forms are found in the bulletin. When writing a check, please denote that it is for the stained glass ornament. Our deadline for ordering is December 1. Monies received from this sale will benefit our church and programs in the community.



Thank you, and congratulations to our women who took home 1st Runner-Up for the “Sweet Tooth Award” at the Minister’s Cook-off on November 8. This annual event raises money for Safe Harbor, an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence who live in Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson counties. Way to go, ladies!

United Methodist Women News

On Saturday, September 28, 2019, the Anderson District UMW held its 74th Annual Meeting at St. Mark's UMC in Seneca. In attendance from our UMW unit at Mount Zion UMC were: Elizabeth Finley, Sharon Chandler, and Irene Buchanan. Our unit president, Elizabeth Finley, was inducted as an officer of the Anderson District. Elizabeth will be the chairman of the Spiritual Growth committee at the district level.

In October and November we were busy assembling shoeboxes and filling them with school supplies, hygiene items, and toys. Thanks to some new "helping hands" we were able to assemble 100 shoeboxes. Those "helpers" were Connie Norwood, Kathy O'Brien, Ginger Allen, Connie Hopkins, Logan Rice, Aubrey Coffee (Central UMC) and Bertha King (Central UMC). We know that there will be some very happy children around the world when they receive the good news of Jesus Christ.



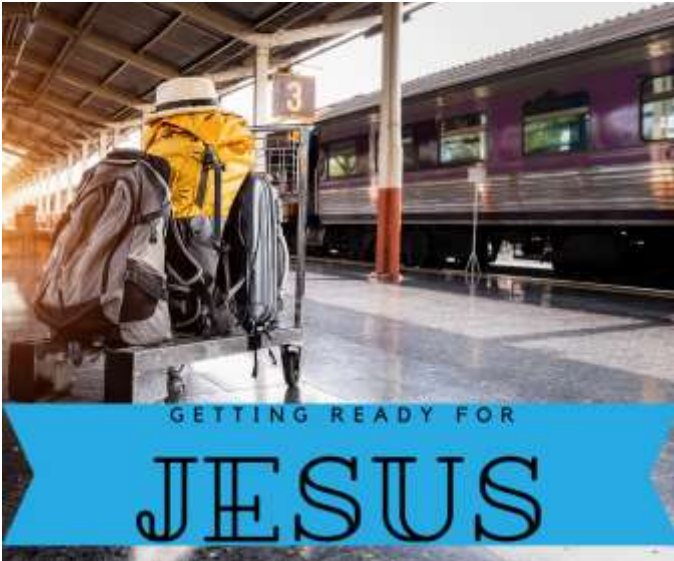
In December we will be having our Christmas Luncheon at the Fiesta Grille on Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 a.m. located in the Central Walmart shopping center. Please bring a small fleece blanket for the children at Helping Hands. All women of the church are invited to attend!

For the months of January-February 2020, we will be discussing our first book club selection *Which Way Lord?* by Robert Fuguay. This book invites the reader to discern and follow God's leading and respond to His signals, explore ways God can use you and your experiences, and endure hardships and doubts and persevere with hope and faith. All women of the church are welcome to join us on January 8 and February 5, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

Worship during Advent:

Hanging of the Greens, December 1

You are invited to this special annual service, where we will celebrate the beginning of Advent by putting up the Advent wreath, decorating the Christmas tree, and hearing stories that help us ready ourselves for Christ's coming.



The season of Advent is not only about getting ready to celebrate Christ's first coming; it is about preparing our hearts to receive Christ and the fulfillment of his kingdom. Each Sunday in worship during Advent we will learn how to wait and prepare for Christ's second Advent in our series, "**Getting Ready for Jesus.**"

Service of the Longest Night, December 18 at 6:30

In the midst of bright Christmas lights and the expectation that everyone must be joyful, this service will provide a much-needed space for anyone who is grieving, hurting, or just depressed in the season leading up to Christmas. Rev. Alfred Wright from Central UMC will come share words of hope with us.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24 at 5:30

Come celebrate the birth of Christ by singing hymns and hearing words that tell the wonderful story! And invite friends, family, and neighbors to come be part of the celebration.

Worship after Advent:

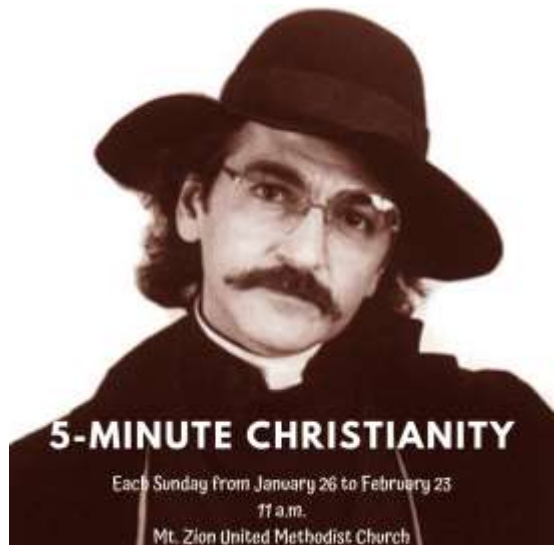
Christmas Carol Hymn Service, December 29

Similar to our annual Labor Day hymn service, this service will consist of singing the Mt. Zion family's favorite Christmas hymns. In December, list your favorite Christmas hymns on the bulletin insert so we can include as many of your favorites as possible!



During the first three Sundays in January, we will explore what it means to be **"Part of God's Family."** We will see how God has gifted us and called us as beloved children, and consider what God might have us do as a response.

In the late 1970s-early 1980s the Saturday Night Live character, Father Sarducci, pitched what he called the "Five Minute University," a place where people could learn in five minutes the most important things a college graduate should still remember five years after graduating. From January 26-February 23, we will explore **"Five-Minute Christianity,"** some of the most important things a Christian should still be able to remember, articulate, and practice five years later. Come find out what some of those things are!



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Address Correction Requested



Together we filled 120 shoeboxes. Way to go, Mt. Zion!