



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

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (Mark 16:8)

Friends,

As I have come to terms with the fact that we will not be able to gather together in person for worship this Easter (or the rest of April, for that matter), I have spent a lot of time thinking about the original Easter story. While our contemporary Easter celebrations are often commemorated with white clothing, festive egg hunts, beautiful flowers, joyful hallelujahs, and proclamations of “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed,” the earliest gospel account of the first Easter paints a very different picture.

The earliest version of the earliest gospel (Mark) originally concluded with verse 8 of the 16th chapter. Three women had come to the tomb to care for Jesus’ body. When they noticed that the stone had been rolled away, they saw a young man in a white robe, who told them not to be alarmed. Jesus had been raised, the man told them, and he instructed them to go tell Peter and Jesus’s other disciples.

So what did the women do? Tell the other disciples as they had been instructed? Celebrate with joy that Jesus was alive again? Praise God?

No. They ran away and didn’t tell anyone, because they were afraid. And that, for Mark, is how the story originally ended.

I share this story, because I believe this year provides a unique opportunity for us to experience Easter in a way that is similar to how people nearly 2000 years ago experienced the very first Easter. On that first Easter, Jesus’s followers were afraid. So are many of Jesus’s followers today. On that first Easter, his followers had closed themselves up in a room for their safety (John 20:19). Most of us will be spending this Easter closed up in our homes in quarantine. On that first Easter, the problems and troubles that had been there the day before were still there on Easter morning. The coronavirus that has impacted our daily rhythms for several **(continued on page 2)**

Pastor's note, continued from page 1

weeks now will still be with us on the morning of April 12. On the first Easter, Jesus's followers were uncertain of what the future would hold. The same is true for us today.

On April 12, we will observe Easter together online with a worship service at 11 a.m. While I'm sure this isn't what you were hoping for, I pray that the experience of this Easter would help you identify with the fears, uncertainties, and isolation that the first witnesses of the Easter story experienced.

However, just as the Easter story did not stay one of fear, uncertainty, and isolation, April 12 will not be our only observance of Easter this year. On one of the first Sundays that it is deemed safe for us to worship together in-person again, we will celebrate Easter once more as we arise together from this season of quarantine. We will wear our Easter clothes and bring flowers for decorating the cross as we celebrate new life in Christ and reunion with one another. As one of the great hymns of our faith says, "Every day to us is Easter..." No matter what date the calendar says it is, it is Easter, a day to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

I look forward to seeing you (virtually) on April 12 as we observe Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. And I look forward to seeing you in person on a day yet to be determined as we celebrate Christ's resurrection from death to life, and our resurrection from physical separation to the embodied people of God!

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan



The Church Calendar at a glance

The following take place at church unless otherwise indicated. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter or will be in an upcoming church bulletin.

April 7 - Disciple's Path Bible Study Online, 6:30 p.m. ([link here](#))

April 9 - Maundy Thursday Guided Love Feast, available at 5 p.m. ([Facebook](#))

April 10 - Good Friday Worship Online, noon ([Mt. Zion's Facebook page](#))

April 12 - Easter Worship Online, 11 a.m. ([Mt. Zion's Facebook page](#))

April 14 - Disciple's Path Bible Study Online, 6:30 p.m. ([link here](#))

April 21 - Start of "Come, Follow Me" Online Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. ([link here](#))

April 23 - Church Council Virtual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. ([link here](#))

May 6 - United Methodist Women meeting, 11:30 a.m.

May 10 - Happy Mother's Day!

May 18 - Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 6:30 p.m.

May 25 - Memorial Day (church office closed)

May 31 - Pentecost Sunday

Nursery Workers

April - Worship online only

May (if we are able to worship in-person)

3rd - Heather / Benji Cumbie

10th - Jan Miller / Vicki Miesbauer

17th - Ashley / Drew Gelder

24th - Haley Lee / Elizabeth Bowman

31st - Karen Smith / Cindy Owens

Ministry Opportunities during Quarantine!



To help neighbors in need, please place on-line grocery delivery orders to area grocery stores for delivery to [Clemson Community Care](#)! CCC's current needs are: juice, tomato sauce/pasta, dry pasta, oatmeal/grits, canned meat/fish, pork and beans, mac and cheese, mixed vegetables, green beans, corn, cereal, crackers, jello/pudding, canned tomatoes, potatoes, canned or dry milk, 2 lb flour/cornmeal, rice, peanut butter, canned pasta, and canned fruit.

Please request delivery to Clemson Community Care at **105 Anderson Highway** in Clemson **Monday-Thursday** from **9 a.m. to noon**.

Online deliveries can be scheduled and paid for at the following local stores:

Aldi: <https://www.aldi.us/en/shop-now/grocery-delivery>

Publix: <https://delivery.publix.com>

Wal-Mart:: <https://grocery.walmart.com>

Caring for one another: It is wonderful to see so many church members calling and checking on one another. If you volunteered to check on someone during the coronavirus quarantine, please continue calling them at least once or twice a week. To sign up to regularly check in on another church member, use the form found [here](#).

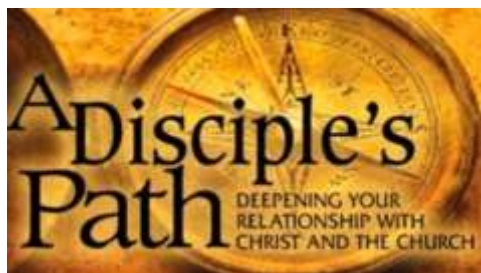


“Do Good” Friday—eventually!

Continue collecting change at home, and bring it to church whenever we are able to worship together in-person again. We will use the change to pay for people's laundry at area laundromats on a date yet to be determined. Help us share the love of God with others!

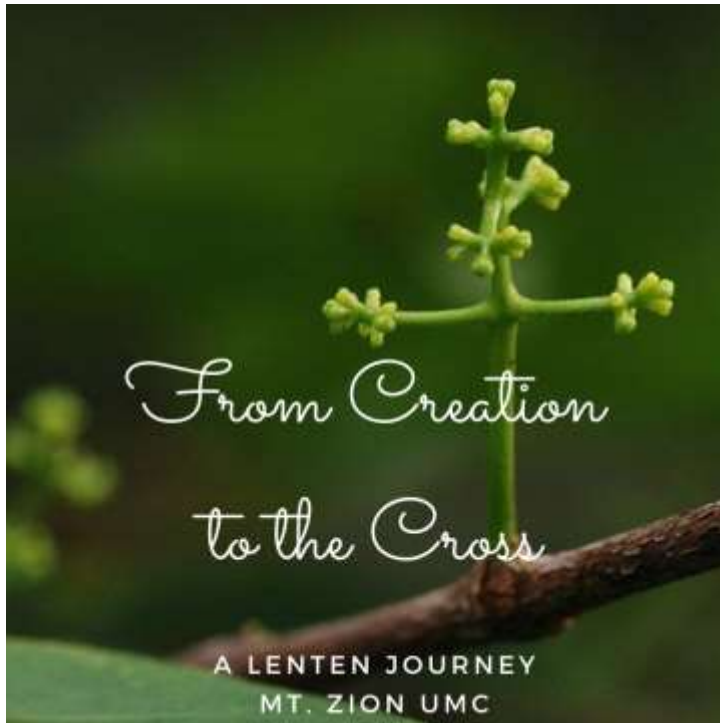
Virtual Bible Study Opportunities

Each Tuesday evening at 6:30 you are invited to Bible Study via Zoom. On **April 7 and 14**, we will conclude our current Disciple's Path study. Each Tuesday from **April 21 to June 2**, we will do a Bible study called “Come, Follow Me” that goes along with our sermon series of the same name. All are welcome!



Worshiping Apart Together

Check out these upcoming opportunities to worship together. Unless otherwise indicated, the worship services can be accessed online at [facebook.com/mtzioncentral](https://www.facebook.com/mtzioncentral).



Palm Sunday, April 5 will be the conclusion of our Lenten worship journey following the story of God's people from the creation story in Genesis through the death of Jesus on the cross. Join in online at 11 a.m.!

Maundy Thursday At-Home Love Feast

In remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his commandment to love one another, you are invited to participate in a guided love feast at home. As you eat dinner that evening surrounded by family and/or pictures of friends and loved ones, Pastor Jonathan and Rev. Mollie Reddic from Lawrence Chapel UMC will lead you through readings, prayers, and reflections. The videos and guided liturgy will be available on Mt. Zion's Facebook page on Thursday, April 9 beginning at 5 p.m.

Worshipping Apart Together, continued



Good Friday, April 10

We will observe Good Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross, with a worship service at noon. This joint service with Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs will be live-streamed on Mt. Zion's Facebook page.

Sermon Series: Come, Follow Me

Each Sunday from April 19 to May 31 (Pentecost Sunday), we will look at what it means to not just be church members but disciples, or followers, of Jesus. As we hear stories about Jesus's friend Peter each week and see his failures and triumphs, we will learn a little more about what it means to follow Jesus.



April Birthdays

1st Ron Nonnenberg - **1st** Nate Six - **7th** Ford Todd

19th Robert Arrowood - **21st** Miriam Coffman

23rd Aubrey Mullinax - **25th** Wayne Coffman

29th Myra Armistead - **30th** Jan Miller

May Birthdays

1st Martha Rowland - **5th** Catherine Ferguson

6th Jonathan Harris - **7th** Eileen Nonnenberg - **8th** Benji Cumbie

12th Terry Handegan - **14th** David Amidon - **15th** Robert Allen

18th Jill Sims - **19th** LuAnn Martin - **23rd** Lucy Gelder

24th Cindy Owens - **25th** Cooper Koiniskie - **27th** Stan Owens

30th Mary Nichols

April Anniversaries

7th Al and Susan Cumbie

9th Mary Ann and Ed Prater

May Anniversaries

1st Judy and Fred Cone

11th Ansel and Sharon Miller

13th Lon and LuAnn Martin

26th Drew and Ashley Gelder



2020 General Conference

Update: Due to the coronavirus, the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church has been postponed. Once it is clearer when the conference will be re-scheduled, we will provide opportunities for conversation with one another about the big decisions facing our denomination regarding sexuality and potential restructuring. More information about the conference's

postponement can be found [here](#). As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please be in contact with Pastor Jonathan. Thank you for your prayers for The United Methodist Church!

There will be a Church Council meeting April 23 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. You will need to familiarize yourself with Zoom before the meeting starts. <https://support.zoom.us/.../201362033-Getting-Started-on-Wind...>

Use the fastest computer, iPad, cell phone that you have. You will need to give Zoom permission to use the camera and audio on your device. Please log in "early" using the link below. If you are having trouble connecting, this will allow us a few minutes to work out any problems you might be having. All church members are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/198650577...>
Meeting ID: 198 650 577



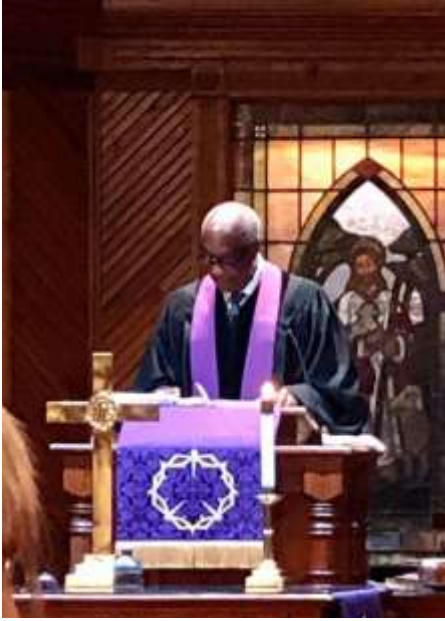
Ground Hog Day Breakfast

Thanks to everyone who cooked, served, and ate at our Ground Hog Day breakfast on March 2. It was a great time of food and fellowship!



Ash Wednesday

Thanks to everyone who came out for the meal and worship service hosted by Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church. It was good to be together with our brothers and sisters from Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs!



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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Address Correction Requested



Friends in Georgia participating in Mt. Zion's children's sermon from home!