



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

Mt. Zion family,

Throughout this season that has been impacted by COVID-19, I have continued to meet periodically online and through phone calls with our worship committee, lay leader (Benji Cumbie), church council chair (Ed Martin), and Staff-Parish chair (Kathy O'Brien). We have consistently reaffirmed our commitment to take each step toward in-person activities only once the virus has shown a decline in new cases in our area for a minimum of two weeks. Based on the latest local and statewide trends that we are monitoring, we anticipate taking that first step on August 30. We have been invited to participate in a prayer walk and outdoor service with Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs that day, which you can read more about on page 4. Then, on September 6, we will try out an outdoor service in our parking lot at 9:30. Below are some helpful questions and answers as you prepare for those upcoming services:

Where do I park on September 6? Please enter the church parking lot from Church St. Hospitality team members will direct you where to park your car.

Can I get out of my car during the service? Yes! If you plan to get out of your car, please bring a chair so you can sit beside your car, more than 6 feet from other families. And if you get out of your car, you will also need to wear a mask.

What if I don't have a mask? A hospitality team member can give you one.

Do we get to sing together? Unfortunately, no. Even outdoors, [group singing increases the chance of spreading the virus](#). We'll still have keyboard and solos.

How will we give our offering? You may continue [giving online](#) or by mailing a check to PO Box 186, Central, SC 29630. There will also be an offering box where you may place your offering as you exit the parking lot.

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Pastor's note, continued from page 1

What if I have to go to the bathroom? The downstairs door will be unlocked so that you can use the restroom. Our “Potty Patrol” volunteers will make sure the bathroom gets cleaned between each user.

Is there a nursery? No. We encourage families to worship together!

When will we be able to receive Communion again? On September 6! You are invited to BYOB (bring your own bread) and grape juice. We will offer a blessing and share in the sacrament together that way.

What if I don't yet feel comfortable being around other people? It is perfectly okay to continue worshiping from home! We will continue posting the service online. The only difference is that it will be available at 9:30 beginning September 6, instead of 11. The same is true for those whose health makes it unsafe to be in a parking lot in the heat for an extended period of time.

What if it rains? In the event of rain, a message will be sent out on the One Call Now app, emailed, and posted to Facebook. In the event of bad weather, the service will be available online only. The time will still be 9:30.

What about Sunday school? Starting on September 6, and for the duration of our outdoor worship services, children's and youth Sunday school will meet virtually at 11.

Is this what worship will look like from now on? We don't know for sure. As we've all learned, new developments with the virus require new responses and plans. As we've shared repeatedly, this is a “holy experiment.” You can find the most recent guidance from the SC UMC conference [here](#). Thank you for the understanding and willingness to adapt that you have shown so far as we continue to make our way through this unprecedented season!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

The Church Calendar at a glance

August 9 - Virtual Vacation Bible School, 4-5 p.m.

August 16 - Virtual Vacation Bible School, 4-5 p.m.

August 18 - Begin online study of *So You Want to Talk About Race?*, 10 a.m.

August 18 - Resume regular online Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

August 23 - Virtual Vacation Bible School, 4-5 p.m.

August 30 - Prayer walk and outdoor worship service with Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs (more details on p. 4)

August 30 - Virtual Vacation Bible School, 4-5 p.m.

September 6 - First outdoor worship service, Mt. Zion parking lot, 9:30 a.m.

September 7 - Labor Day, Church office closed

September 25 - Family outdoor movie night in church parking lot, 7 p.m.

*Please note that the District United Methodist Women's meeting originally scheduled to meet at Mt. Zion on September 26 has been cancelled.

School supplies for Central Academy of the Arts!



Below is a list of school supplies requested by CAA. Starting August 3, you can drop supplies off at the bin outside of the school's office Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Since we won't be able to bless the supplies in-person during worship this year, please take a picture of the supplies you've bought and send it to mtzion@nctv.com by August 21. We will celebrate the supplies we've collected and pray for all of the students and educators as part of our online service on August 23!

Supplies needed: crayons, colored pencils, pencils, scissors, glue sticks, markers, Sharpies, dry erase markers, Clorox wipes, Kleenex

Worship

A Different *Kind* of Community



Join us on August 2 as we conclude our summer worship series, “A Different Kind of Community!”

August 30: Prayer walk and combined service!



For our worship service on August 30, we have been invited to join Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs for a prayer walk and outdoor service. All who are physically able to participate in the walk should meet at Mt. Zion’s parking lot. We will leave at 9:30 a.m. and walk the half mile to Central UMC together, praying for our town as we go. The outdoor service at Central UMC will start at 10. Please wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance from others throughout. If you are not comfortable attending this in-person service, it will

be live streamed at [facebook.com/mtzioncentral](https://www.facebook.com/mtzioncentral). If you are unable to walk the half mile to Central UMC, you can park at Central UMC for the 10 a.m. worship service. This is a great opportunity to come together with our neighbors!

Coming Soon in Worship!



We pray the Lord's Prayer in worship every week. But have you ever listened to what you're saying about God and asking God to do in that prayer? Join in our worship services during the series, "Church 101: A Prayer to Change the World," and discover how this prayer could change our lives and the world!

Football fans around here talk about being "all in." It means being committed to the team and giving all you have for everyone else and for a shared goal. This idea is not just helpful for a championship-winning football team; it's helpful for our faith, too. Join in worship each week during the worship series, "All In," as we discover how God is "all in" for us, and how we can live our lives "all in" for God!





August Birthdays

7th Kyle Owens - 10th Mary Ann Prater - 12th Elizabeth Bowman
13th Steve Lee - 15th Kathy O'Brien - 16th Helen Singleton
21st Ginger Allen - 24th Alli Mullinax

September Birthdays

1st Ed Martin - 3rd Drew Gelder - 10th Dick Singleton
12th Danny Pressley - 14th Sharon Miller - 18th Herb Sprouse
20th Bonnie Littrell - 20th Kathy Still - 23rd Ginger Mullinax
24th Pam Wisham - 25th Lynn Martin - 28th Cecil Rowland



August Anniversaries

2nd Bill & Libba Carson

3rd Wayne & Miriam Coffman

5th Mike & Catherine Ferguson

5th Dean & Elizabeth Finley

17th Sonny & Jill Sims

19th Larry and Pam Wisham

29th Chris & Kathy O'Dell

29th Doug & Johnnie Walker

Address update:

One of our home-bound members has had an address change. Please send notes and cards to Robert Arrowood, c/o Mary Ann Whitley, 400 N. Main St., Apt. 205, Greenville, SC 29601.

On the grounds...

While we've been away from the church building, a lot of people have been hard at work making it a safer, more beautiful place in preparation for our return. Check out some of the improvements from the past two months!



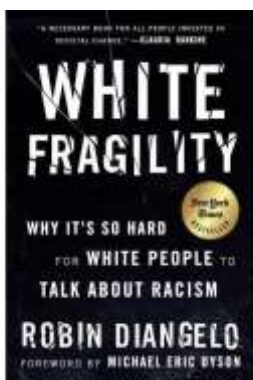
Thank you to the trustees for your work getting railings installed along the sides of the church building! They look great and will help keep our kids and neighbors from falling.



Thank you to Randy Hayes for pressure washing the front steps and sidewalks, and to our next door neighbors, David and Cris Boggs, for the fresh mulch alongside our parking lot. It looks great!

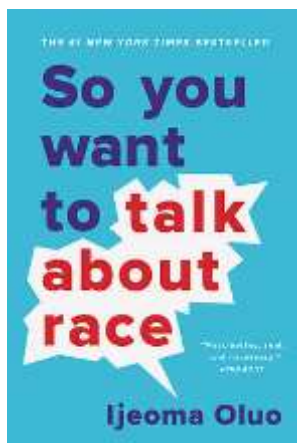
Discipleship for Adults!

Tuesday evening opportunities!



Each Tuesday evening at 6:30 you are invited to grow in our Zoom study. We will be continuing our weekly study of *White Fragility* through August 11. On August 18, we will shift back to a more traditional Bible study, studying the same Bible story that was used in the previous Sunday's worship service to go deeper and explore what God might be calling us to do through those stories and verses. The Zoom ID for our Tuesday evening studies is 733 349 126, and the Passcode is 456030.

***So You Want to Talk About Race?* study begins August 18 at 10 a.m.!**



If you missed out on *White Fragility*, or you want to continue exploring ways to confront racism as a follower of Christ, you are invited to our upcoming study on Ijeoma Oluo's book, *So You Want to Talk About Race?* This group will meet each Tuesday morning at 10 on Zoom. Oluo's book has been endorsed by United Methodist Women, which has even come out with a [study guide](#). All are encouraged to join in this study Tuesdays at 10. The Zoom ID is 840 5061 6530, and the Passcode is 832918.

Discipleship for Children and Youth!



Children and youth are invited to online Sunday school with Pastor Jonathan and our intern Zechariah Copeland on Sunday mornings at 9:30! ***Please note that virtual Sunday school will start meeting at 11 a.m. once our 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship service starts on September 6.**

Way to go!

Braelin Cumbie had people drop off food for Clemson Community Care to celebrate her 12th birthday. She collected more than 100 pounds of food for CCC. Thank you for thinking of others. What a great idea!



Virtual Vacation Bible School!

While COVID-19 has kept us from doing some things we used to do, it has also opened up new possibilities! All children are invited to a special virtual Vacation Bible School with Mt. Zion UMC and Red Valley UMC (in Boones Mill, Virginia)! We will meet online from 4-5 p.m. on the dates below for crafts, games, and lessons designed to help children understand what their faith teaches about race. The Zoom ID is 832 4423 7038, and the Passcode is 871974. You can register your child [here](#).



August 9 - Baking cookies and games!
August 16 - Prejudice and Stereotypes
August 23 - Curiosity and Empathy
August 30 - Colors and Cultures

Family Outdoor Movie Night!



When: Friday, September 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Mt. Zion parking lot

What: Join other Mt. Zion families for a fun, socially-distanced, family-friendly movie outside. Invite friends and neighbors. Bring your own snacks and a blanket or chair.

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

Address Correction Requested



COVID-19 can't stop God's people from connecting with each other!