



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,

As we approach our first in-person worship services on Mt. Zion's campus in more than six months, you and I feel many different emotions. Some of you are excited to see people you have missed, others are relieved to be in a place that feels more normal and familiar, and others are not excited at all, knowing that you will continue to stay home until it is safer for you to be around others.

I think it is important for us to acknowledge one more emotion: grief. As excited as I am about something that feels more "normal" to me, I am aware that what we are returning to is not exactly the same as what we left in March. At least some of the people who were present then will not be there. There will be no choir, congregational singing, or passing of the peace. As much as my heart leaps to think of seeing people I have missed in a place I have missed, I grieve those other people and elements of worship that mean so much to me, too.

I share that, not to be a downer, but as a reminder that what we will soon be walking into will be different. But just because it is different, that does not mean that God is not present and at work! Just as God has been with us through experiments with online and outdoor worship and online small group fellowship, God will continue to be with us through this new season, too.

If you have any questions about what our upcoming worship services will be like, there is an overview on page 3. If you are reading this newsletter digitally, you can also find more in-depth details [here](#).

No matter how you plan to participate—in-person or online, through worship or small group community, or all of the above—I am grateful to continue *being* the church with you in all the ways Christ has called us to be!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

The Church Calendar at a glance

- October 2nd** - Outdoor movie: "Frozen 2," 7 p.m.
- October 4th** - First outdoor worship service at Mt. Zion, 11 a.m.
- October 4th** - Blessing of the Animals at Nettles Dog Park, 4:30 p.m.
- October 7th** - United Methodist Women Virtual Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- October 14th** - Finance committee Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- October 17th** - SC United Methodist Virtual Annual Conference, 2 p.m.
- October 18th** - First indoor worship service at Mt. Zion, 11 a.m.
- October 18th** - Event for children/youth and prayer partners, noon and 4 p.m.
- October 28th** - Charge Conference (location TBD), 6 p.m.
- October 30th** - Community Halloween event, time TBD
- November 1st** - Daylight savings time ends; turn back your clocks
- November 3rd** - Election Day: Remember to vote!
- November 4th** - United Methodist Women Virtual Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- November 11th** - Veterans Day; thank you for your service!
- November 14th** - Children's/Youth/Family trip to fish hatchery, details TBD
- November 15th** - Blessing of Operation Christmas Child boxes in worship
- November 25th-26th** - Church office closed for Thanksgiving



Clemson Community Care needs the following items: jelly, cereal, dried beans, fruit, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, salad dressing, Jello, soup, pudding, diapers (size 4), deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, dish detergent, and paper towels. Items may be delivered to 105 Anderson Highway in Clemson Monday-Thursday from 9-1.

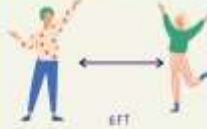
OUTDOOR WORSHIP

(OCTOBER 4 AND 11 AT 11 A.M.)



PARKING

You may park in any available parking space at church or along the street.



MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.



WEAR A MASK

Masks are required if you get out of your car. If you do not have a mask, cloth masks are provided for you. There will be no congregational singing.

Stay home if you feel unwell or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.



SOMETHING TO SIT ON

You are encouraged to bring a chair or picnic blanket to sit on. We will have a few chairs set up in advance for anyone who does not have a seat to bring.

RESTROOMS

Located through the back door (downstairs). Our "potty patrol" will clean the restroom between users.

CHILDREN

Children will remain with their families in the parking lot. No nursery at this time.

INDOOR WORSHIP

(BEGINNING OCTOBER 18 AT 11 A.M.)



UPON ARRIVAL

Disinfect hands with provided hand sanitizer

SIGN IN

Give your contact information if you have not signed up prior to Sunday



MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.

ENTRANCE AND EXIT

Enter through the sanctuary front doors. We will fill the sanctuary from front to back. At the end of the service, worshippers will be dismissed from back to front.



WEAR A MASK

Masks are required in all church facilities. If you do not have a mask, cloth masks are provided for you. There will be no congregational singing.

Stay home if you feel unwell or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.



USHERS WILL ESCORT YOU TO A PEW

Families living in the same household will be allowed to sit together.

IF THE SANCTUARY IS FULL WHEN YOU ARRIVE, AN USHER WILL SHOW YOU TO OVERFLOW SEATING DOWNSTAIRS.

RESTROOMS

Located through the door at the top of the sanctuary ramp. Our "potty patrol" will clean the restroom between users.

CHILDREN

Children will remain with their families in the sanctuary. No nursery at this time.

Worship

Prayer Walk and Combined Worship Services



Thank you to all who were part of the Prayer Walk with Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs on August 30th! And thank you to Bethel and Central UMCs for graciously hosting Mt. Zion each Sunday in September. Finally, thank you to all who helped provide music, set up and run sound equipment, and transport chairs and other equipment to and from Central UMC. What a meaningful opportunity to see and to be the fullness of the Body of Christ!

Current Worship Series:



Worship, continued...

“Blessing of the Pets” Service

Sunday, October 4 at 4:30pm at
The Dog Park at Nettles Park



Charge Conference: October 28 at 6 p.m.

Celebrate the ministry God has done through Mt. Zion over the past year, and look ahead to what God has in store for the coming year! This event will likely be offered both in-person and virtually, with more details to come.

November worship series:



During November, we will learn from the heroes and heroines of our faith! Our student intern Zechariah has written a Sunday school curriculum for our children that goes along with the themes from each Sunday’s sermon to help families have faith conversations at home. And please mark November 1 on your calendar: aside from being All Saints Sunday, we will hear Zechariah preach his first sermon!



October Birthdays

4th Lane Miller - 12th Caydenn Rowland - 19th Jane Jones
22nd Micah Harris - 25th Heather Drexler - 28th Haley Lee
31st Frances Reid

November Birthdays

4th Joe Dyar - 7th Dean Finley - 13th Chris O'Dell
14th Kristine Reeves - 15th Mary Handegan - 20th Connie Hopkins
23rd Pam Baker - 29th Charlie Six



October Anniversaries

13th Albert & Heather Drexler

November Anniversaries

19th Wes & Shirley Witcher

27th Ed & Karen Martin

United Methodist Women



Virtual UMW meeting

Wednesday, October 7

2:30 p.m.

Zoom ID: 869 3249 6926

Passcode: 591815

Operation Christmas Child



It's that time of year again! Please pick up a shoebox (or two) at worship, along with a packing guide. Fill the box up with toys and goodies from the packing list, and return the box to church **by Sunday, November 15**. We will bless the boxes and then send them out all over the world to bring Christmas joy to others. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

Messages of Thanks to Mt. Zion!

Mount Zion vmc,
We would like to thank
the church as a whole for
EVERYTHING that EVERYONE
has done for our family.
We truly appreciate everyone
and are extremely grateful
to have all of you as our
church family! Many thanks,
Steve, Haley & Family

Reverend Harris,
Our family would like
to thank you for your
support and ministry
during Robert's passing.
We are truly grateful for
the expression of friendships
and kindness the
congregation at Mount Zion
showed Robert. He always
looked forward to Sunday
when he could put on his
suit and go to his church
for worship and fellowship
with his friends.

Our family wishes to
convey our sincerest
appreciation to all at
Mount Zion.

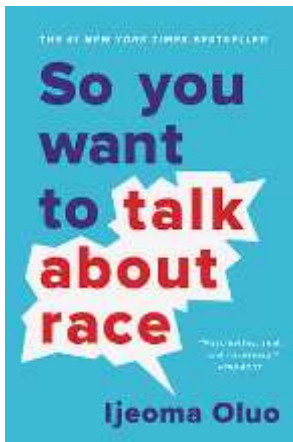
Please accept this check
in memory of Robert
as an expression of
gratitude to the Mount
Zion family.

Blessings,
The family of Robert
Arrowood

Discipleship for Adults!



So You Want to Talk About Race?



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 ongoing study of Ijeoma Oluo's book, *So You Want to Talk About Race?* This group meets each Tuesday morning at 10 on Zoom and is led by Beth McWilliams. 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!

Virtual VBS!

Did you know the health pandemic has not been just a challenge? It has also been an opportunity! Each Sunday in August, children from Mt. Zion UMC in Central, from Red Valley UMC in Boones Mill, Virginia, and other children from our community and other states participated in a virtual Vacation Bible School!



We had as many as 25 children one week as we built new friendships and learned about how our faith can equip us to love across lines of racial difference. Thanks to all who participated and made this possible!

Free Outdoor Movie Night!



When: Friday, October 2

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Mt. Zion UMC

What: Join other families for free, socially-distanced fun as we watch Frozen II outside. Invite friends and neighbors! Bring your own mask, snacks, and a blanket or chair.

More Discipleship for Children and Youth...



From our children's ministry intern, Zechariah Copeland:

Hello Mt. Zion Church family,
You may remember that, back in the spring, Pastor Jonathan, Kyle (former Youth Ministry Intern) and I began pairing some of Mt. Zion's adults with the families of children/youth for a new mentoring/fellowship program. We will likely not be able to officially launch a full version of this program until COVID restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, however, we will be holding two short gatherings for the program on Sunday October 18. The first will be in person, outside and socially distanced, at Mt. Zion UMC after the worship service, and the second will be on Zoom at 4pm that afternoon. This will not be an official start to the program, but we are encouraging each pairing of mentor(s) and family of mentee(s) to consider and discuss attending one of the meetings together (if possible). Please contact Zechariah Copeland if you do not remember which mentor or mentee you were paired with. Once you have decided which meeting you will attend, you can [use this Google Form](#) to RSVP. Also, please know that if you are unable to coordinate with your mentor/mentee family, you are still encouraged to join a meeting for fellowship and fun with other church members.

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

Address Correction Requested



Thanks to all who gave blood or helped with the blood drive on September 12!
We received enough blood to save up to 36 lives!