



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,

By the time of the next newsletter (April-May), a full year will have passed since our lives changed dramatically due to COVID-19. The past year reminds me of verse 3 of Charles Wesley's hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive," in which he wrote, "What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!" What a year it has been without being able to all gather, sing, and eat together! And yet, as Wesley wrote in verse 4, "Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love; and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above." God has brought us through nearly a year of a pandemic and promises to continue with us as we journey together. What a faithful and amazing God we have!

There now appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel. Some of you have received or scheduled your first COVID-19 vaccine dose. Although it will be a while before it is my "turn," I celebrate for those of you who have been able to take this step! Per [DHEC's guidelines](#), along with Dr. Linda Bell's advice during a conference call with clergy last month, it might still be possible for someone who has been vaccinated to spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others who have not been vaccinated. Therefore, anyone who has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will need to continue following our masking and distancing protocols during worship until enough people are vaccinated.

Again, I am happy for those who have been able to be vaccinated so far, and I look forward to when my opportunity comes. In the meantime, I am grateful to the God who continues to journey with us, and for the persistence and faithfulness you have demonstrated during this part of our journey together!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

New members!



On December 6, 2020 **the Boggs family** (from left to right: Andrew, Cris, and David) joined Mt. Zion. They are the church's next door neighbors and join us by transfer from another church. David works for Duke Energy, and Cris works for Clemson University. Andrew is a graduate of Clemson and worked for the Tampa Bay Lightning (NHL hockey team) when they won the Stanley Cup this past season. He also has a number of former schoolteachers at Mt. Zion. Welcome, David, Cris, and Andrew!

On January 17, **Alex and Luci Parrish** joined Mt. Zion. They moved to Central from Illinois during the pandemic and began participating at Mt. Zion through the combined services with Bethel and Central UMCs and online worship. Alex and Luci are both graduates of Moody Bible Institute. Alex is a Research and Instruction Librarian at Southern Wesleyan University and is working on a doctorate. Welcome, Alex and Luci!



The Church Calendar at a glance

- February 2** - Zoom Bible Study, “The Creeds,” 6:30 p.m.
- February 3** - United Methodist Women’s Zoom meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- February 3** - Missions and Evangelism Team Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- February 7** - Lenten Devotional Submissions due
- February 9** - Zoom Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- February 14** - Valentine’s Zoom gathering for Children and Youth, 2 p.m.
- February 16** - Zoom Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
- February 17** - Ash Wednesday (more details on page 5)
- February 22** - Worship Committee Zoom Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- February 23** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.
- March 2** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.
- March 3** - United Methodist Women’s Zoom meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- March 9** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.
- March 14** - Daylight Savings Time Resumes. Move your clocks ahead!
- March 16** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.
- March 23** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.
- March 24** - Children’s ministry Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- March 28** - At-home Egg Hunt for children and youth, 9:30 a.m.
- March 29-April 3** - Stations of the Cross (more details on page 5)
- March 30** - Zoom Lenten Bible Study, “Come, Follow Me,” 6:30 p.m.



Clemson Community Care needs: juice, tomato sauce, pasta, grits, canned vegetables, crackers, soup, Jello, cereal, toilet paper, shampoo, and toothpaste. Please drop off items Monday-Thursday from 9 to 1 at 105 Anderson Highway in Clemson.

Worship

Spittoono Community Christmas



Thanks to all who helped and participated in the Spittoono Community Christmas on December 23! We partnered with Lawrence Chapel and Clemson UMCs to celebrate the birth of Jesus and raise money for Safe Harbor.

Christmas Eve Online Worship



Because of COVID-19 protocols, our Christmas Eve service was online this year. Thank you to everyone who helped lead the service this year to make it special!

Sanctuary Flowers



Please consider placing flowers in the sanctuary to make our worship even more beautiful! You can sign up on the flower calendar or email mtzion@nctv.com to request a date.

Coming up in Worship!



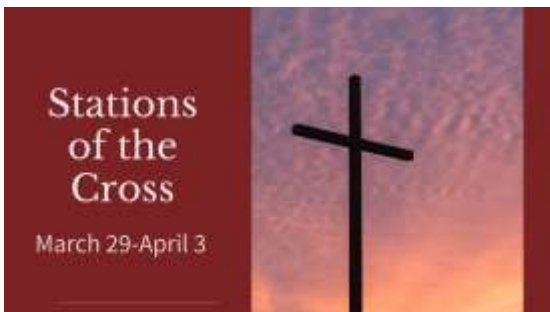
Current Worship Series:

Participate each week in worship and children's Sunday school as we follow Jesus's life from the first whispers of his coming through his Easter resurrection!

Ash Wednesday begins a season called Lent, a time of reflection and repentance that leads to Easter. In the coming weeks, volunteers will be assembling and distributing Ash Wednesday bags including ashes, communion cups, and an order of worship. Everyone will be invited to use that bag to follow along with a pre-recorded Ash Wednesday service. Anyone without an internet connection can also do the service on their own using the order of worship in the bag. More details to come!



Holy Week



In lieu of a combined in-person service with other local United Methodist churches, we are partnering this year with Lawrence Chapel UMC to provide an experience of Jesus's last day that families and individuals can do at their own pace at any time during Holy Week. As we near March 29, look out for a map of stations around Central and Clemson

and information about how to access a recording of a guided narration of the events of Jesus's last day and the stations you will be visiting. Please invite other members of the community to participate!

Do You Read *the Advocate*?



The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate is the monthly print newspaper focusing on the United Methodist Church and its people throughout South Carolina. Delivered to your mailbox as a hard copy, and also available online, the award-winning *Advocate* was founded in

1837 and is the oldest newspaper in Methodism. It is a newspaper ministry with a prayer-driven mission to inform and connect South Carolina Methodists by reporting news, engaging readers, providing a forum for dialogue and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is independent but receives funding from the South Carolina Conference of the UMC and other sources, including subscriptions, ads and donations. It also operates a successful Christian book publishing arm.

You can subscribe at www.advocatesc.org/subscribe, by calling 803-786-9486 ext. 335, or by mailing a check to Advocate, 4908 Colonial Dr., Columbia, SC 29203. Cost is \$15/year print and \$8/year online only.

Lenten Devotional Submissions Needed!

In partnership with Lawrence Chapel UMC, everyone is invited to contribute to an *Upper Room*-style daily Lenten devotional book that will be shared with the Mt. Zion family daily throughout Lent and mailed to our homebound members. If you would like to contribute a submission to this devotional book, call or email Pastor Jonathan so you can receive a Scripture reading prompt and instructions. **Submissions are needed by February 7.**



Discipleship for Children and Youth!



Children's and Youth Sunday school!

Stay connected with other children and youth through these weekly Bible lessons led by caring adult leaders!

Zoom ID: 871 6710 1740

Passcode: 650438

The children's ministry team will deliver a Valentine's treat and craft to the children and youth at home, along with a Lenten Activities Calendar. All children and youth will be invited to attend a Zoom meeting on **Sunday, February 14 at 2 p.m.** to make the craft and treat together!



At-home Egg Hunt



**SUNDAY, MARCH 28
9:30 A.M.
ON ZOOM**

**ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE
DELIVERED TO YOU**

The children's ministry team will be leading an at-home Easter egg hunt during the Sunday school hour on **March 28**. Eggs will be delivered ahead of time. All children and youth are invited to participate!

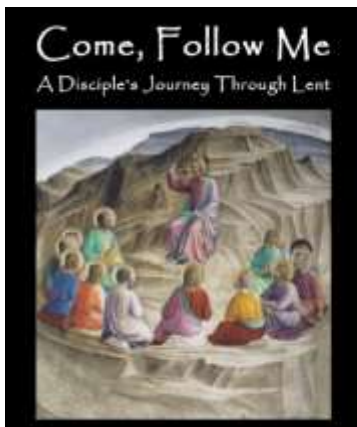
Discipleship for Adults!



Have you ever wondered where the words we recite together in worship each week came from? What do they mean? Are they still important today? Peggy Bodie and Pastor Jonathan will co-lead the final session of our study on the creeds of the Christian faith **Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30**.

Zoom ID: 733 349 126; Pass code: 456030

Lenten Study!



LENTEN STUDY

Each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
February 23 to March 30
Zoom ID: 733 349 126
Passcode: 456030

Many people observe Lent by giving something up or taking something on in order to walk more closely with Jesus. You are invited to take on the practice of small group fellowship and Scripture study this Lent as we consider what it means to not merely be church

members, but active disciples of Jesus Christ! This Zoom study begins on **February 23** during the regular Bible study time. Don't miss this great opportunity to grow as a follower of Jesus!

February Birthdays

1st Grayson Bowman - 2nd Peggy Bodie - 3rd Bill Carson

3rd Katie Ferguson - 3rd Will Mullinax - 5th Lon Martin

9th Larry Wisham - 10th Chery Amidon - 14th Connie Norwood

15th Taylor Ray - 16th Logan Rice - 20th Trent Allen

22nd Virginia Norwood - 24th Mac McWilliams - 28th David Wingard

29th Rae Romesburg

March Birthdays

5th Karen Martin - 9th Abby Wingard - 11th John Reeves

18th Mike Ferguson - 19th Judy Cone - 24th Dot Johnston

24th Kaitlyn West - 25th Allison Wingard - 28th Scott Smith

28th Elizabeth Finley - 29th Johnnie Walker - 30th Ruth Wolinski

March Anniversaries

8th John and Kristine Reeves

13th Trent and Ginger Allen

21st Ron and Eileen Nonnenberg

27th David and Chery Amidon

30th Scott and Karen Smith

Did you know Mt. Zion has an online directory?

If you are not connected to Mt. Zion's online directory, follow the instructions on pages 10 and 11 to add the app to your phone, tablet, or other device. This is a great way to keep in contact with others and to remember and learn names and faces. If you cannot access the app, contact mtzion@nctv.com.



Mobile App Login Instructions for Android™ & Kindle® Devices



NEW MEMBER - Android & Kindle Devices (Version 2.0 or Newer)

The instructions below are for members who have downloaded the App and are creating a login for the very first time. If you have previously logged into your church's directory and upgraded your app, please follow the ALREADY HAVE A PASSWORD instructions below.

1. Download the App from the Google Play (android devices) or Amazon's Appstore (Kindle devices). Search for "Instant Church Directory" and look for this icon:



2. Open the app and click on "Create Login".
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a secure password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols. Retype your password to confirm.
5. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
6. To complete the login process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
7. Once you confirm your email, close the browser window – do not log in on the browser. Open the app and click on "Sign In" to sign into your church's directory.

UPGRADED to Version 2.0 or Newer - or - ALREADY HAVE A PASSWORD

1. Open the app and click on "Sign In".
 2. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
 3. Enter your password and click the sign in button.
- If you do not remember your password or the password we supplied you in the past, please select "Forgot Password" and follow the instructions to reset your password.



Android & Kindle App (version 1.6 or Older)

1. Download the App from the Google Play (android devices) or Amazon's Appstore (Kindle devices). Search for "Instant Church Directory" and look for this icon:



2. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
3. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com. We will send you a password to log into the App.
4. Go back to the App. Enter the password from the email and the directory will upload to your phone.


THINGS TO CHECK: Anything that looks like a 0 should be entered as a zero and check that anything that is a capital letter is being entered as a capital letter.

Mobile App Login Instructions for iPhone®, iPad® and any iOS Device



NEW MEMBERS - iOS App (Version 2.0 or newer)

The instructions below are for members who have downloaded the App and are creating a login for the very first time. If you have previously logged into your church's directory and upgraded your app, please follow the **ALREADY HAVE A PASSWORD** instructions below.

1. Download the App from the App Store. Search for "Instant Church Directory" and look for this icon:
 
2. Open the app >> Click on "Create Login".
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a secure password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols. Retype your password to confirm.
5. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com
6. To complete the login process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
7. Once you confirm your email, close the browser window go back to the App >> Click on "Sign In" to sign into your church's directory using your email and password.

UPGRADED to Version 2.0 or Newer - or - **ALREADY HAVE A PASSWORD**

1. Open the app and click on "Sign In".
2. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
3. Enter your password and click the sign in button.
If you do not remember your password or the password we supplied you in the past, select "Forgot Password?" and follow the instructions to reset your password.



iOS App (Version 1.2)

1. Open the app and enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
2. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long, and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
3. Retype the password to confirm it.
4. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
5. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
6. Once you confirm your email, you may open the app and sign into your church's directory. The directory will upload to your device.
7. If you already have created a password, click on "Sign In" on the bottom of the screen to log in.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 186
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Address Correction Requested



As United Methodists, part of our offerings go to apportionments, our shared mission and ministry with other United Methodists across the world. We provide a college education to students from Spartanburg to

Zimbabwe, campus ministries like the Clemson Wesley Foundation, and seminary scholarships. Even with all the challenges we faced in 2020, Mt. Zion paid 100 percent of its apportioned giving, helping the South Carolina Conference reach more than 87 percent of its goal. Way to go, Mt. Zion!