



*I am the vine, you are the branches  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much  
fruit." John 15:5*

I wanted to open this newsletter by sharing two things. First, I want you to know how proud I am of this church and the ways you continue to be in ministry through this season. Having read the newsletter and looked at all that has happened or is coming up, I am amazed at what you have accomplished and are accomplishing. Through your dedicated service and support, the church has done a major repair to the chimney, given special offerings to two important ministries of our conference, provided much needed school supplies to Central Academy of the Arts, and celebrated a high school graduate. As you will read in these pages, there are numerous opportunities for ongoing growth and service in the coming months, not the least of which is our annual Operation Christmas Child collection. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

Second, I want to update you on the ReShape process. Several speakers shared during worship in August that "Mt. Zion is reconnecting through the ReShape process so that we would discern and follow where God is leading us as we emerge from the pandemic." As people from 5 households tested positive for COVID and positive cases spiked locally just over a month ago, our ReShape coordination team realized we were not yet emerging from the pandemic. Because the coordination team felt this was such an important opportunity to reconnect, pray, and discern the next faithful steps God would have us take together, the team did not want to move forward until more people feel safe enough to participate. We now anticipate kicking off this process in the beginning of 2022. In the meantime, your ReShape coordination team continues to prepare through monthly webinars with other churches and by going through the ReShape small group curriculum together with our small group leaders.

I am proud to be your pastor and am grateful for all you do!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

# The Church Calendar at a glance

**October 3** - Men's breakfast outside behind the church building, 8:30 a.m.

**October 3** - Mini Golf at Oasis Ranch in Seneca, 1:30 p.m. (see p. 11)

**October 4** - Trustee Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**October 6** - United Methodist Women meeting, 2:30 p.m. (see p. 7)

**October 10** - Start picking up shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!

**October 10** - Camp Providence Shelter dedication, 1-5 p.m. (see p. 5)

**October 11** - Church Council Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited!

**October 18** - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**October 24** - Lunch and Disc golf fellowship, after worship (see p. 9)

**October 25** - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**October 27** - Charge Conference in the sanctuary, 6 p.m. Everyone is invited!

**October 31** - Bible Book Memory Fundraiser after worship (see p. 11)

**November 3** - United Methodist Women meeting to pack boxes, 2:30 p.m.

**November 7** - Men's breakfast at 8:30 (p. 9) & OCC packing party at 10 (p. 11)

**November 13** - Burdine Cabin Open House, 1 p.m. (see p. 5)

**November 14** - Blessing of the Shoeboxes during worship

**November 28** - Hanging of the Greens during worship (see p. 4)

## Welcome to Jason Lee and Angie Sullivan!



On Sunday, September 26, Jason and Angie joined Mt. Zion UMC. They have been worshipping and participating at Mt. Zion since before the start of the pandemic. Jason owns and operates Southpaw Auto Glass, and Angie owns and operates Sullivan Stitchery in Clemson. Jason has two daughters named Hannah and Teah, and Angie has a son named Zach and a daughter named Sammy. Welcome to Mt. Zion!

## Birthdays

### October

4 Lane Miller  
12 Caydenn Rowland  
19 Jane Jones  
22 Micah Harris  
25 Heather Drexler  
28 Haley Todd  
31 Frances Reid

### November

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

## October & November Anniversaries



October 13 - Albert & Heather Drexler  
November 19 - Wes & Shirley Witcher  
November 27 - Ed & Karen Martin



## Veteran Recognition

Are you a veteran? Please send your name, branch of the military, and a picture of you in uniform to [mtzion@nctv.com](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com) or bring it by the office so we can include that in the bulletin and recognize you on Sunday, November 7. Thank you for your service on behalf of others!

# Worship

## Blessing of the Backpacks



On August 1, we prayed for our children, youth, teachers, school staff members, and parents as they prepared to begin a new school year. We also blessed their backpacks, school supplies, and the school supplies we collected for Central Academy of the Arts. May God bless everyone as the school year continues!

## Upcoming worship series!



## All Saints Sunday, November 7

On November 7, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. You are invited to bring pictures of loved ones who have passed away and place the pictures on a table in our worship space. We will also read aloud the names of those from Mt. Zion who have passed away over the past year. Make sure to be part of this meaningful worship experience!

## Hanging of the Greens, November 28

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

## Around The United Methodist Church

### Burdine Cabin Open House November 13th at 1p.m.

#### Hagood Mill Historic Site (138 Hagood Mill Rd Pickens, SC 29671)

English-born Francis Asbury (1745-1816), famed bishop of the American Methodist movement, traveled over a quarter million miles, mostly on horseback, while spreading Methodism. Frequently covering 5,000-6,000 miles each year, he rarely stayed more than a few days in one town and each year visited most states in the union. According to his own journals, he visited what is now the Pickens County area in 1800 and 1802. The two-story log cabin of Samuel Burdine where Asbury stayed and preached has been reconstructed and restored at the Hagood Mill Historic site to celebrate the pioneering influence of Methodism in early South Carolina religious life. The South Carolina Conference UMC Historical Society led the way in raising funds to assist in the reconstruction and restoration of the "Burdine Lodge," a rare log structure in Pickens County dating to the 1790s. For more information closer to the date see:

<https://www.facebook.com/PickensHistoricalSociety/>

<https://www.hagoodmillhistoricsite.com/>

**CAMP PROVIDENCE  
LAKESIDE SHELTER  
DEDICATION**

**Sunday, October 10 | 1-5PM**  
1462 Providence Church Road

Hotdog lunch with drinks & s'mores starting at 1pm  
Dedication of all the new facilities at 3pm

*Join us for lunch, fellowship, boat rides and a great day on Lake Hartwell!*

**RSVP by October 8**  
Visit [sccarm.org/get-involved](http://sccarm.org/get-involved) for details & to RSVP.

## United Methodist Women – Determined to Keep Going!



Keeping a church group together has been a challenge during this Covid pandemic. We in the United Methodist Women's group here at Mount Zion have been determined to keep our group going. We have used the telephone to check on each other, sent emails with our announcements, used social media on Facebook and Instagram to promote activities. None of us had ever heard of Zoom before we shut down and could not meet in person but we learned how to zoom our monthly meetings. Several of our members were unable to participate because of technology issues. Even though it has been a major learning curve for us older non-tech savvy women, we have prevailed! We have missed our personal interaction with the congregation, as you are our biggest supporters.

The 49th Annual Anderson District United Methodist Women took place on September 25th at 10 in the morning on Zoom. The meeting was attended by several of our Mt. Zion UMW members: Kristine Reeves, Cherylene Amidon, Sharon Chandler, and Sharon Miller. Elizabeth Finley shared in the program as she is the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Anderson District United Methodist Women. Pastor Hal Johnson from Thompson Centennial UMC gave the Welcome. Dolores Watkins, UMW President of Thompson Centennial UMC, opened with Greetings. Schrendria Robinson, Executive Director of Killingsworth Home, was the guest speaker.

It came as no surprise that the Mt. Zion United Methodist Women received the **Five Star Unit with Gold Seal Certificate** for their mission giving. They also received the **Mission Today** certificate for meeting the study requirements in their monthly lessons and **The Charter for Racial Justice Diamond Unit** certificate for their participation in activities that promote racial justice. This recognition was well deserved because we had to overcome all of the Covid restrictions by adapting our lines of communication so that we could stay together.

The meeting ended with the installation of officers for the (continued on p. 7)

upcoming year. The new and continuing officers are pictured to the right holding their candles as part of the installation ceremony. This is usually quite a beautiful and moving ceremony in “normal” times. We wish to thank all of the UMW members and the congregation of Mount Zion UMC for your support. It is with your help and participation in our church activities that the United Methodist Women can meet these goals set in our Anderson District UMW organization. THANK YOU!



## **Our Mission Project “Operation Christmas Child” Is Back!**

The Operation Christmas Child mission project, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, has been an annual event at Mount Zion - Central. It did not “happen” in 2020 due to Covid, but we are ready to begin this year with the following plan: For our meeting on **October 6 at 2:30 p.m.** we will meet in the



large room where the stage is located and sit at the long tables spaced 6 feet apart. Masks are not mandatory, but are recommended to prevent break through infections. We are looking forward to the day when our members will be able to receive their booster vaccines.

Immediately after a short lesson and business meeting, the ladies from the **joint circles** will begin assembling the shoeboxes. By “joint circles” we are proud to include our sisters from UMW at Central and Bethel UMCs who so graciously assisted us in 2019. We will assemble 50 shoeboxes for the UMW to use and another 70 shoeboxes for the members of the church to use. One hundred twenty shoeboxes seems like an insurmountable goal, but if we have some “extra” hands, it won’t take us long at all!

Please consider helping us on October 6 and again on **November 3 at 2:30 p.m.** when we pack the boxes with school supplies, toiletry items, and small toys. We promise it won’t be boring!

The **deadline** for all Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes is **Sunday, November 14**, when they will be blessed during our 11 a.m. worship service.

## Adult Discipleship!

### Bible study, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.



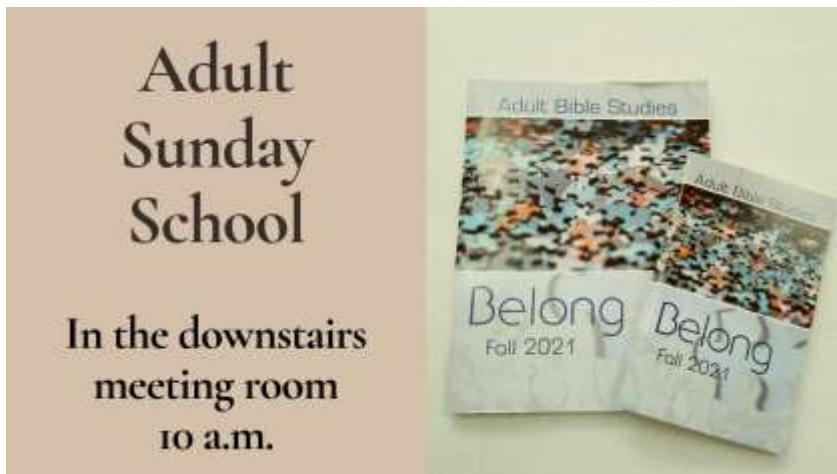
The most basic mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. It is so easy, though, to just leave our discipleship to chance. Like anything else, we usually grow more fully into the disciples Christ calls us to become when that growth is intentional rather than accidental. Join others on the parsonage porch or on Zoom as we spend each Wednesday night through the end of October assessing where we are in our growth as disciples, see how Jesus' first followers took each next faithful step in their growth, and encourage one another as we each discern and take that next faithful step in ours!

Address: 203 Joseph St. in Central

Zoom ID: 733 349 126

Zoom pass code: 456030

## Adult Sunday school





## Adult Discipleship, continued



## Advent Devotionals

Earlier this year, many of you wrote short reflections and prayers for a Lenten devotional book in partnership with others from Mt. Zion, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs. If you missed out, or if you would like to participate in something like that again, you are invited to write a short devotional reflection (200-250 words), along with a one or two sentence prayer. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Jonathan know so he can send you a group of Scripture readings to choose from. Devotionals are due via email ([mtzion@nctv.com](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com)) by November 14. All ages are invited to help us prepare for the coming of Christ by contributing a reflection!

## Serving in the name of Christ



### Central Academy School Supplies

On August 2, Scott Smith delivered this truckload of school supplies to Central Academy of the Arts. Thank you to the Mt. Zion family for your generous donation of school supplies and to Scott for delivering them!

### Thank you for your generosity!

On August 8, we collected a special offering for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. On September 12, we collected the annual work day offering for Epworth Children's Home. Through September 28, we had collected \$380 for Aldersgate and \$379 for Epworth. Thank you for your generous support of these important United Methodist ministries!

### In lieu of Minister's Cook-off...

For the 2nd straight year, the Minister's Cook-off has been cancelled due to COVID. However, Safe Harbor still needs our financial support! Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause in honor or memory of someone by visiting <https://www.safeharborsc.org/donation>.

### Chimney repair completed!



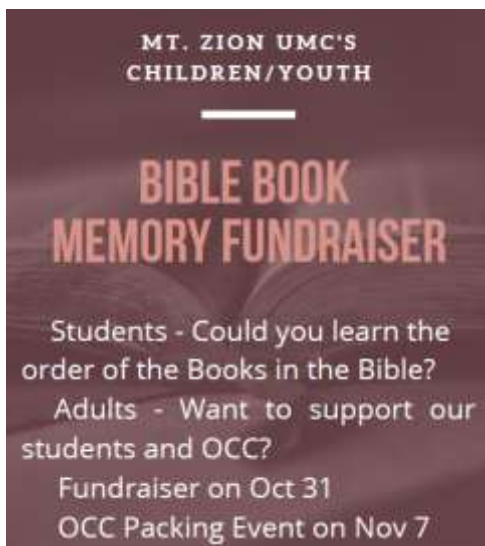
A HUGE thank you goes out to Mt. Zion's trustees and to David Kline from Chim Cheree, who recently completed repairs to Mt. Zion's chimney from September 20-28. Rain was getting into cracks in the chimney above the roof and leaking down into the kitchen. Chim Cheree removed stones down to the roof line and then sealed the top of the chimney by roofing over it. Praise God for David's expertise and hard work and for keeping him safe as he worked so high above the ground!

## Discipleship for Children and Youth!



### October Sunday school plans

Beginning Sunday, October 3, children and youth Sunday school will begin meeting outside behind the church building at 10. In the event of bad weather, Sunday school for children and youth will be online. Stay tuned for additional plans for November and beyond. All children and youth are welcome for this time of growing in faith!



### Fundraiser and OCC Packing Party!

Students are invited to see if they can memorize and recite, or write out, all or some of the books of the Bible in order. Adults are invited to sponsor these students to support an Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing event for our students and their families. Please use [this link](#) to pledge your sponsorship and please stay after the service on Sunday, October 31 to cheer on our students.

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

*Address Correction Requested*

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## **Congratulations, Ansley!**



On August 29, we celebrated Ansley Green's recent high school graduation from the K-12 online school. Ansley is the granddaughter of Cecil and Martha Rowland. To help us celebrate, the Rowlands provided doughnuts outside following worship. We wish Ansley the best as she begins classes at Tri-County Tech!