



*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*

Have you heard about ReShape?

We're beginning to come back to church. It's comforting, it's familiar, it's different. As we walk through this next stage of being the church through the pandemic, we've had conversation on *How*:

How do we pick back up? Continue our ministry? Connect in our community? Join in with one another in fellowship? Worship? Share the good news?

Through a shared desire to get started on the right foot, the Church Council discussed different opportunities to develop clarity for Mt. Zion moving forward. We learned about ReShape, a process designed to help churches make decisions following volatile events, which was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and involves the entire congregation in developing the goals and mission of the church. It also connects several churches going through the ReShape process at the same time via Zoom conferences, allowing for shared learning experiences. ReShape provides each church with a coach for personalized leadership through the process. Another appealing part of ReShape is the timeline - no dragging our feet; we hit the ground running and will be done before you know it.

The bulk of ReShape happens through small groups. This is how the entire congregation will have the opportunity to be heard. Small group sessions are structured & guided. A leader in each group will gather input from small group conversation. All of your concerns, ideas, and prayers will come together. Resulting goals and plans will reflect where we truly want to go as a church. How amazing is that?!

The Nominations Committee suggested members for the ReShape Coordination Team. Our team members are: Ginger Allen, Peggy Bodie, **(continued on p. 2)**

## ReShape, continued from page 1

David Boggs, Phil Davis, Ashley Gelder, Jonathan Harris, Beth McWilliams, Sharon Miller, and Mason Sims. Soon we will begin recruiting small group leaders! We are beginning to plan Mt. Zion's ReShape Launch event for August 29th to get everyone excited and involved! We'll begin small groups in September and finish by November, with the goal being for groups to gather 8 times. The ReShape Coordination Team will compile all of our input, and in the new year we will be ready to share the resulting guide!

My hope is that through ReShape, each individual member of Mt. Zion will see that we are all valued and loved, we have a shared vision, and we can do great things through God who gives us strength!!

Ashley Gelder, ReShape Coordination Team Leader

### Around the grounds...



A huge thank you goes out to **Lon Martin** and the **Parsonage and Grounds Committee** for getting the parsonage roof replaced during the last two weeks of July. Mt. Zion's insurance company had identified this as a needed upgrade that will help keep the parsonage in good shape for years to come. Thank you again to this committee and to everyone for their faithful support of the church that made this roof replacement possible!

At its meeting on April 22, Mt. Zion's Church Council, at the recommendation of the Trustees and Finance Committee, voted to have the top of the church chimney removed and the roof sealed due to cracks and leaks in the chimney that have caused water damage downstairs in the kitchen. Chim Cheree is scheduled to begin this work the week of September 20. Thank you to **Susan Davis** and the **Trustee Committee** for their patient, prayerful, and dedicated work finding a solution to this issue!



# The Church Calendar at a glance

**August 1** - New worship series, “Courageous Women,” begins (see p. 5)

**August 1** - School supplies due for Central Academy of the Arts (see p. 10)

**August 1** - Blessing of the Backpacks, during worship (see page 7)

**August 8** - Aldersgate Special Needs offering (see p. 10)

**August 11** - No Bible study

**August 22** - Dinner and Swimming at the Reeves’ pool, 3-6 p.m. (see p. 7)

**August 29** - ReShape launch at the Martins’ barn, noon-until (see p.12)

**August 31** - Community garden meeting, 6:30 p.m. (see p. 10)

**September 5** - New worship series, “ReShape,” begins (see p. 5)

**September 6** - Church office closed for Labor Day

**September 8** - United Methodist Women Fall Kickoff, 2:30 p.m. (see p. 9)

**September 12** - ReShape small groups begin this week (more info to come!)

**September 17** - Children and Youth Movie Night, Dinner at 5:30 and Movie at 6

**September 23** - Children and Youth Ministry Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**October 3** - Lunch and Putt Putt at Oasis Ranch in Seneca, after worship



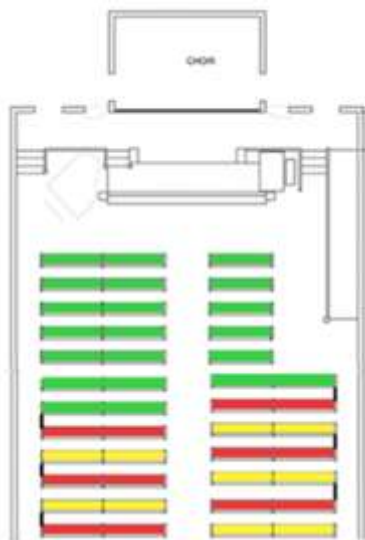
Beginning Sunday, August 1, the **nursery will be available again during the worship hour (11-noon) for children three years old and under.** If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Elizabeth Bowman. In order to protect our children and workers during the pandemic, please follow the following protocols:

- Nursery volunteers must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.
- If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, including a cough, fever, or runny nose, please do not drop them off at the nursery.

# Worship

## Current COVID-19 Protocols

In order to promote the health and safety of all worship participants and to make our worship as accessible as possible to children who are not yet eligible for vaccination, please continue observing the following seating guidelines.



### Seating Diagram Key:

- **Green pews** - Social distancing and masking not required in this section once you are seated.
- **Yellow pews** - Please practice social distancing (6 feet between you and other individuals or families), and wear a mask over your mouth and nose)
- **Red pews** - Please leave these pews empty to allow for social distancing.

**Please note:** Please wear a mask over your mouth and nose while finding your seat and exiting, regardless of where you choose to sit.



### 4th of July Choir Program

Thanks to Barbara Anderson and our choir for such a special worship service on the 4th of July! A special thank you also goes out to John Malmgren for leading the responsive readings. If you missed the choir's beautiful music or would like to go back and listen again, the service is still available online at [https://fb.watch/v/e\\_29qKH4O/](https://fb.watch/v/e_29qKH4O/). Way to go!

# Worship, continued



Aren't these flowers from our 4th of July worship service beautiful? **Please sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary** to enhance the beauty of our worship. You can sign up on the flower calendar by the water fountains or by emailing [mtzion@nctv.com](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com).

## August worship series

**Courageous Women**

courage ↑

fear

Rahab

Ruth

Esther

Mary

Lydia

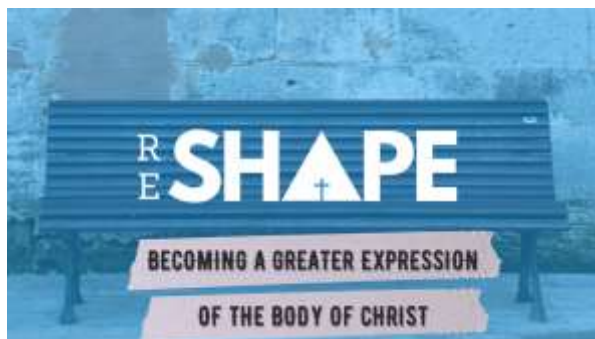
Sundays at 11  
August 1-29

Facebook.com/MtZionCentral

One reason we have faith today is the courage of those faithful ones who came before us who told others the truth about God, served God, and spoke up for God's people, even when it wasn't safe or convenient. Join in worship each Sunday in August as we learn from some of the courageous women of our faith!

## September and October worship series

As Ashley Gelder shared on page 1, we have an exciting opportunity to use the pandemic to grow into an even greater expression of the body of Christ through the ReShape process. In addition to the small groups that everyone is invited to participate in, our worship each week during September and October will build on the theme and Scripture reading(s) from that week's small group discussions. Join in worship each Sunday in September and October as we prayerfully walk through this process and seek to grow more fully into the church and people God calls us to be!



## Discipleship for Children and Youth!



### Youth Mission Week,

**June 21-23, 2021**

During worship on Sunday, June 20 we commissioned Grayson Bowman, Quint Cumbie, Sharon Miller, and Pastor Jonathan for service in our local community. A total of about 25 youth and adult volunteers from Mt. Zion, Clemson, St. Mark, and Salem UMCs did roof repair, painting, and cleaning for an older couple in Walhalla. Thank you for your prayers for safety as this group served in God's name!

### New Sunday school schedule for children and youth!

August	September
 <p>On Zoom 9:30 a.m. Zoom ID: 871 6710 1740 Pass code: 650438</p>	 <p>In-person at 9:45 a.m. Please wear a mask (but not like this one)</p>

Through the end of August, we will continue having Sunday school online for children and youth at 9:30 a.m. Beginning in September, Sunday school for children and youth will move to the fellowship hall at 9:45! All students and teachers are asked to please wear a mask. We look forward to seeing you as we resume a more "normal" Sunday school format!

# More Discipleship for Children and Youth

## Pictures for shut-ins

All children and youth are invited to place pictures they have drawn or colored in the offering box each Sunday. Pastor Jonathan will share these with homebound members of the church and community!



## Blessing of the Backpacks

We will celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Bring your backpack to worship as we celebrate and pray for God to bless the students, teachers, and school staff who are returning to school!



If you plan to attend the pool party at the Reeves' house, please sign up to bring side dishes at [bit.ly/PoolPartyFood](https://bit.ly/PoolPartyFood).

# Annual Conference Report

Submitted by Peggy Bodie, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, June 7, 2021

The theme of this year's Annual Conference was "Seeking a More Excellent Way," words to live by in all we do, but especially as followers of Christ. Video reports from all standing committees can be found at <https://www.umcsc.org/ac2021/>. Here are highlights from the conference:

Most important for us was continuing the assignment of our own Pastor Jonathan to Mt. Zion.

- Established priorities of the church: "Taking the next faithful step;" developing leaders, both clergy and lay; engaging our communities (Serving); growing disciples; measuring and evaluating realities and missional possibilities
- From **Standing Rules**: Tenure of Conference Trustees changed from 2 to 8 years; created procedures for virtual conferences; changed voting procedures so that items can be passed at the end of one day rather than at the end of a multi-day conference; improved nomination procedures
- From **Connectional Ministries Committee**: Developed "Our Response to Racism" ([www.umcsc.org/endoracism](http://www.umcsc.org/endoracism)); added information to Forward Focus re: Covid 19; created a video in response to General Assembly not passing predatory lending proposal last year; began working with other non-profits to encourage passage of this law.
- From **Board of Ordained Ministry**: Donations requested for scholarships for ministerial students. Any donations should be sent to: Office of the Treasurer, 4980 Colonial Dr., Columbia, SC 29203
- From the **Council of Finance and Administration Budget Committee**: 87% of the Conference's apportionments were given last year, an exceptional feat in light of COVID-19
- From **Conference Lay Leadership**: Churches were encouraged to contact their district lay leader for help and advice. Jeff Fogle, Anderson District Lay leader, [www.umcsc.org/layleadership](http://www.umcsc.org/layleadership)



## Adult Discipleship!



The **United Methodist Women** (UMW) will have their first meeting of the 2021-22 year on Wednesday, **September 8 at 2:30 p.m.** downstairs at church. If you are a woman who wants to be in mission, please put this in-person gathering on your calendar!

## United Methodist Men



## Small group study and fellowship

<p><b>Sunday School</b></p> <p>In the downstairs meeting room</p> <p>10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Bible Study</b></p> <p>Wednesday evenings</p> <p>At parsonage porch and on Zoom</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zoom ID: 733 349 126</p> <p>Pass code: 456030</p>
--	---

# Serving in the name of Christ

## School Supplies for Central Academy of the Arts



Please bring the following items with you to worship and leave them along the altar rail by August 1. These items will be delivered to Central Academy of the Arts on August 2. If you are accessing the newsletter online, you can find a more complete list of requested supplies [here](#).

**Supplies needed:** Clorox wipes, boxes of Kleenex, Gallon Ziploc bags, Quart Ziploc bags, white copy paper, dry erase markers, pencils, highlighters, regular sized glue sticks, durable headphones (not earbuds), Crayola crayons, rectangular erasers, backpack, wide-ruled notebook paper, 1-inch binder, composition notebook, Elmer's glue.

## Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry offering August 8th!



Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is a ministry of the South Carolina UMC that provides homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Aldersgate operates three homes for adults with special needs. The homes provide life skills training, recreational experiences and connections to

worshipping communities. Adults with special needs are among the most underserved people in South Carolina and the nation. The need for their care continues to grow. The South Carolina Annual Conference has designated August 8th as Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday. Make checks payable to Mt. Zion UMC, with "Aldersgate" in the memo line. Please give generously as we support this important ministry on August 8th!



## Community garden meeting

There will be a meeting on August 31 for anyone in the church or community who is interested in finalizing a proposal for a community garden. We will meet outside behind the back of the church building.

## August birthdays

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

## September birthdays

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

## August Anniversaries



2 - Bill & Libba Carson  
3 - Wayne & Miriam Coffman  
5 - Mike & Catherine Ferguson  
5 - Dean & Elizabeth Finley  
17 - Sonny & Jill Sims  
19 - Larry & Pam Wisham  
29 - Chris & Kathy O'Dell  
29 - Doug & Johnnie Walker

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

*Address Correction Requested*

---

**Save the date! More details to come.**

A poster for a 'ReShape Launch Event' set against a black background with white stars. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a rocket with a cow on top. The rocket is orange and white with a green stripe. The cow is black and white. The text reads: 'ReShape Launch Event at the Martins' barn August 29 from noon until...' followed by a bulleted list: '• Lunch!', '• Fun and games!', '• Learn about ReShape!'. At the bottom, it says '187 Arabian Lane in Central'.