



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

Over the past 2+ years, Mt. Zion has been blessed by the presence of Zechariah Copeland as a student intern from Southern Wesleyan University. Next school year, he will conclude his degree requirements by completing a year of full-time ministry in other ministry settings, which means his time as an intern at Mt. Zion will come to an end at the conclusion of this semester. On his next-to-last Sunday, April 24, we will have a meal after worship to celebrate all that he has meant to this community. Please plan to stay after worship to celebrate Zechariah! Since this is the last newsletter before Zechariah leaves, he wrote the following reflections to share with the congregation.

Hello everyone,

I want to thank you all for giving me the great opportunity to be the Student Ministries Intern at Mt. Zion over the past two years. A few of the many opportunities I have had to grow in my leadership and relational skills during this time have included: getting to write lessons for and lead the children's and youth Sunday School classes, teaching alongside and helping schedule some amazing volunteers, helping plan and lead online VBS, working with the Children's Ministry Committee to plan and lead many great events, preaching to the congregation four times, and helping students fundraise for Operation Christmas Child and Clemson Community Care.

I have also greatly enjoyed fellowshiping with the people of Mt. Zion at men's breakfasts, over a meal at the Central Station Café or at Rails, in Bible study groups, and at special events. I have felt like part of your family since the first day I attended Mt. Zion and that has truly become a reality over the past two years. Now, as I enter into the next stage in my life, I am very blessed to know that this family will continue to support and pray for me as I continue to follow God's call. God bless to each of you and I look forward to finishing my internship with you strong during the coming month.

Zechariah Copeland

The Church Calendar at a glance

April 3 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. & Kids' Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.

April 4 - Trustee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

April 6 - United Women in Faith meeting, 2:30 p.m.

April 14 - Maundy Thursday service at Lawrence Chapel, 6 p.m. (see p. 5)

April 15 - Good Friday service at Mt. Zion, 6 p.m. (see p. 5)

April 17 - Happy Easter!

April 24 - Churchwide meal celebrating Zechariah Copeland, following worship (see p. 10)

April 30 - Soccer clinic for children (see p. 11)

May 1 - Men's Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

May 2 - Worship Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

May 8 - Epworth Mother's Day offering (see below)

May 9 - Church Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

May 16 - Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

May 29 - Confirmation Sunday, followed by meal in fellowship hall (see p. 11)

May 30 - Memorial Day, church office closed

Epworth Mother's Day offering, May 8

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Did you know that in the last year Epworth Children's Home served over 1,000 children and families? Each of these children had this opportunity because of United Methodist churches in South Carolina who embrace and provide for this ministry in support of the



children and families in our state. Please give generously to our Epworth Mother's Day offering on Sunday, May 8. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



April Birthdays



1 Ron Nonnenberg
 1 Nate Six
 7 Ford Todd
 21 Miriam Coffman

23 Aubrey Mullinax
 25 Wayne Coffman
 29 Myra Armistead
 30 Jan Miller



May Birthdays



1 Martha Rowland
 5 Catherine Ferguson
 6 Jonathan Harris
 7 Eileen Nonnenberg
 8 Benji Cumbie
 12 Terry Handegan
 14 David Amidon
 15 Robert Allen
 16 Michael Ferraro

18 Jill Sims
 19 Lu Anne Martin
 22 Jason Lee
 23 Lucy Gelder
 24 Cindy Owens
 25 Cooper Koinskie
 27 Stan Owens
 30 Mary Evatt

April & May Anniversaries



April 7 - Al and Susan Cumbie
 April 9 - Ed and Mary Ann Prater
 May 11 - Ansel and Sharon Miller
 May 13 - Lon and Lu Anne Martin
 May 26 - Drew and Ashley Gelder

Worship

Ash Wednesday

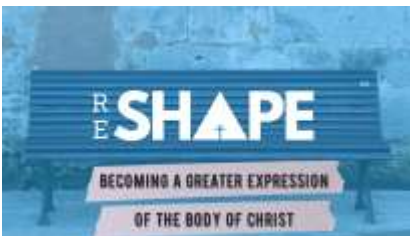
Thanks to everyone who participated in the Ash Wednesday service hosted by Lawrence Chapel UMC! It was a joy to resume a familiar shared tradition in partnership with Bethel, Central, and Lawrence Chapel UMCs. A special thank you to Ed and Karen Martin for preparing pancakes for the Ash Wednesday dinner, to Loretta Hayes for preparing one of the breakfast casseroles, to Zechariah Copeland for preaching, and to Grayson Bowman for acolyting!



Updated COVID-19 Protocols for Worship

At its meeting on March 14, Mt. Zion's Church Council approved plans for relaxing the church's COVID-19 protocols for worship. This move coincides with a dramatic decrease in the spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks. Masks continue to be welcome for anyone who feels the need to wear one as a precaution. However, all **worshippers will no longer be asked to please wear a mask when entering and exiting, and there will be no designated seating sections.** As we have throughout the pandemic, Mt. Zion's leaders will continue monitoring statistics from DHEC, guidance from the CDC, and protocols from the South Carolina United Methodist Conference. We celebrate the current circumstances that have allowed us to take this step!

Current Worship Series: ReShape



In addition to the ReShape small groups that everyone is invited to participate in, our worship each week through May 8 will build on the theme and Scripture readings from that week's ReShape small group discussions. Join in worship each Sunday as we prayerfully walk through this

ReShape process and seek to grow more fully into the church and people God calls us to be!

Worship, continued

Communion: The Return of Vicki's Bread!

Beginning Sunday, April 3, worshippers will have the option of coming forward to the altar to receive Communion. Vicki Miesbauer will once again be making her famous bread, which so many have missed over these past two years. For any who are not comfortable coming forward to receive Communion at the altar, we will continue making available the pre-packaged Communion cups that we have used for the past two months.



Holy Week and Easter



Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper and Jesus's new commandment to love one another. Join in this communion service, which will take place at Lawrence Chapel UMC (2101 Six Mile Highway).

Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus on the cross. Join in this service that will take place in Mt. Zion's fellowship hall as we hear the story of Christ's Passion proclaimed.

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus! Help celebrate Easter by having an Easter lily placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone. Please also bring flowers on Easter morning to decorate our living cross!

United Methodist Women is Now United Women in Faith

The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth. New web site: <https://uwfaith.org>

Mt. Zion United Methodist Women will now be Mt. Zion United Women of Faith. Our groups remain the same. All women are welcome as members. There will be more information concerning this development as we receive it.

Elizabeth Finley, President

General Conference Postponed Again until 2024

The United Methodist General Conference that was originally scheduled for 2020 and postponed until August, 2022 has now been postponed again until

POSTPONED



2024. This global gathering of United Methodists is the decision-making body of our denomination. This means that any denominational decisions over the ordination and marriage of people who are gay will now be made in 2024 at the earliest. Because General Conference is once again so far off, and because it is not clear what decisions (if any) Mt. Zion would potentially need to make, we will wait until closer to the 2024 conference to begin having intentional conversations about how to navigate those decisions in the most loving, faithful way we can. In the meantime, here are three things you can do:

- Please continue to pray for our global church and for the decisions that are ahead for The United Methodist Church.
- Please pray for our brothers and sisters in parts of the world where the COVID-19 pandemic impacts their ability to secure visas for the conference.
- Please remember that, no matter what comes of the 2024 General Conference, our mission until that time and after that time is the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Serving in Worship!

Upcoming Acolyte schedule:

4/3 - Holly Gelder

5/1 - Kaitlyn West

4/10 - Isaac Harris

5/8 - Anna Ray

4/17 - Braelin Cumbie

5/15 - Ethan Green

4/24 - Caydenn Rowland

5/22 - Grayson Bowman

5/29 - Quint Cumbie

Upcoming Lay Reader schedule:

4/3 - Mason Sims

5/1 Isaac Harris

4/10 - Serena Miles

5/8 Angie Sullivan

4/17 - Benji Cumbie

5/15 Peggy Bodie

4/24 - Bonnie Littrell

5/22 Mason Sims

5/29 Serena Miles

Church Council Recap from March 14, 2022

The following are highlights from the work of Mt. Zion's Church Council from the most recent meeting on March 14:

- ReShape has gotten off to a great start, with nearly 50 participants among 6 small groups, including children, youth and adults!
- United Methodist Women is now "United Women in Faith" after a name change at the general church level.
- Worship changes include the relaxing of COVID protocols, the option to receive Communion at the altar, and more congregational singing!
- A Centennial Celebration is being planned for the weekend of October 29-30. Please save the date as we celebrate 100 years in this building!

Adult Discipleship!

ReShape Small Groups:



Group 2

Leaders: Phil & Susan Davis
Day/Time: Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom and Davis Home

Zoom ID: 834 9084 4330

Pass code: 556977



Group 5

Leader: Drew Gelder
Day/Time: Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom

Zoom ID: 895 3964 6892

Pass code: 803913



Group 6

Leader: Jonathan Harris
Day/Time: Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.
Location Zoom

Zoom ID: 821 2113 7476

Pass code: 409743



Group 7

Leader: Mary Ann Prater
Day/Time: Sunday @10:00 a.m
Location: Church



ReShape Update

Y'all - ReShape is the best. I'm so excited that this is happening to our church right now. Are you guys starting to feel it? The shift? The positivity? The fellowship and bond that is being created through these meaningful conversations? My heart is overflowing after small group session three last night. There were tears and laughs, and it was like a big virtual hug could be felt through our zoom! Yes, we have walked through very difficult times. And we were isolated... and yet... through these conversations, we are discovering so many ways in which we have overcome the hard. We are seeking hope. We remember what we are thankful for. Being brave enough to share our experiences is going to help us so much, moving forward in confidence. Voices are being heard. God is with us. And we are here for one another.

Here are some of the take-aways across the small groups that we are already seeing take shape:

- Mt. Zion has experienced volatile events outside of covid-19 in its history, including recent years when pastors transitioned in and out.
- Having worship service online helped sustain many of our members during a scary, uncertain time.
- Mt. Zion connects many people, and we enjoy the fellowship.
- Many of us have been sustained through prayer during this season.
- Doing good things for other people helped sustain hope and restore us.
- Members of Mt. Zion have taken note there is a recent increase in attendance, and this makes us all very glad!

Through it all, some things never change:

- God is always with us, and nothing can separate us from His love.
- We all want what is best for everyone.
- We strive to be like God, following the example of Jesus, and remembering the Holy Spirit is within each of us.

Thank you, Mt. Zion. You are a rock. Through this ReShape process, we truly are giving our church a workout so that we can become more like the body of Christ.

Ashley Gelder, ReShape Coordination Team Chairperson

Mt. Zion's ReShape Coordination Team Is:



Ginger Allen



Peggy Bodie



David Boggs



Phil Davis



Ashley Gelder



Jonathan Harris



Beth McWilliams



Sharon Miller

Celebrations!

New member! On February 20, Terri Spinks joined Mt. Zion. She is pictured to the right with Randy Martin, whom she will be marrying in April! It is such a joy to see Terri's bright smile every Sunday. Please make sure to extend to Terri a warm Mt. Zion welcome!



ReShape Launch!



Thanks to the sixty people who attended the ReShape Launch on February 20! A special thank you to Ed and Karen Martin for hosting the event at their barn, Scott Smith for cooking the delicious barbecue, Loretta Hayes for making the sides, David Boggs for setting up and running the sound and video, and to the hospitality team for helping serve. The food and fellowship were wonderful!



Our **blood drive** on March 6 was a great success! We received 15 blood donations, which is enough to save up to 45 lives! Way to go! Thank you to Benji Cumbie for organizing the blood drive, to Ed Martin for providing and cooking pancakes, and to all who helped set up and serve!

Meal to celebrate Zechariah's ministry, April 24!

Stay after worship on April 24 for a church-wide meal of hamburgers and hot dogs in celebration of Zechariah's ministry at Mt. Zion over the past 2+ years. Thank you, Zechariah, for all you have done to help our children and youth learn about God!



Discipleship for Children and Youth!

Children's handbells - All children are invited to join Marissa Harris at 9:40 each Sunday morning to practice handbell music. Practice will be done in time for Sunday school at 10.



Sunday school

Sunday school for children and youth is downstairs **in the fellowship hall** each Sunday morning at **10 a.m.**

Clemson Baseball Game



Thanks to all the families who came out for the Clemson baseball game after worship on March 13! The Tigers didn't win, but we had a good time of fellowship and food and even got to run the bases after the game.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 3

Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade April 3 at 10:00 a.m. Bring your basket for the egg hunt. Rain date will be April 10.



Soccer Camp, April 30

All students K-5th grade are invited to participate in a basic skills soccer camp led by our Student Ministries Intern, Zechariah. Mark your calendars for 10-11:30am on Saturday, April 30th, when students will have the opportunity to fellowship with friends while learning and practicing the basics of soccer in a fun and encouraging environment. Youths (6th grade and up) are also invited to participate as volunteers. Please RSVP your students by contacting Zechariah at zcopela0@gmail.com for a link to a sign-up form, and please invite others in the community to sign up as well. The location will be shared once it is confirmed.



Confirmation Sunday, May 29!

In The United Methodist Church, youth who were baptized as infants have the opportunity to claim their faith for themselves through confirmation. Plan to be present for worship on May 29 as Braelin Cumbie is confirmed! We will have a church-wide meal afterwards to celebrate this next step in her growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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

Address Correction Requested

**SAVE THE
DATE!**
**Centennial
Celebration**
October 29-30, 2022

