



The Grapevine

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

John 15:5

The beginning of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 reminds us that there are many seasons in our life, "a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..." Many of us go through these seasons in our lives. Since I have been here at Mt. Zion I have had the joy of helping welcome the life of a new child, I have celebrated with those who have gotten married, and I have grieved with the families of those who have passed away. In the midst of all of this, we have found God together.

Our community goes through these seasons as well. I have enjoyed the last couple of months of being able to drive around Central and Clemson with not nearly as much traffic. I have enjoyed being able to eat in less crowded restaurants. That season is coming to an end with the students coming back on campus in just a few short weeks. Before we know it, there will be home Saturday football games that will clog the streets and hopefully cause shouts of joy for days.

Our church goes through seasons as well. When I came here this church was in a season of pain and a season of transition. We have come through all of that together and now we are looking forward to what God has in store for us. We have new leadership in our music ministry with Malek and Jack. We have hired Jennie to help us with our administrative needs.

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LOVE & SERVE

August

6th Elizabeth Bowman/ Catherine Ferguson

13th Jane Jones/ Janet Crenshaw

20th Help Needed

27th Libba Carson/ Randy Martin

September

3rd Heather/ Benji Cumbie

10th Jan Miller/ Vickie Miesbauer

17th Ashley/ Drew Gelder

24th Sharon Chandler/ Terri Lee



Children's Sunday School Teachers

August

Drew & Ashley Gelder

Gene Aiken & Randy Martin

September

Karen Smith & Cindy Owens

Ginger & Trent Allen

South Carolina Conference 2017

It was an honor and privilege to be selected to attend the United Methodist Church South Carolina Annual Conference June 4-7. It was held at the T.D. Convention Center in Greenville. Registration and orientation were held on Sunday afternoon and evening. Each morning (Monday thru Wednesday), we had a Bible study which was presented by Rev. Albert Mosley. He is the Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary. I found this to be very inspirational.



Monday morning mainly consisted of conference organization and several

committee reports. These reports continued until Monday evening. The conference voted to change the way that they offer health insurance to clergy and their families.

For me, the highlight of the entire convention occurred Monday evening. The service was the Commissioning and Ordination service. Of course our Pastor Gene was ordained at this service. There were approximately 20 of our church members and 15 members of Gene's family and friends in attendance. This was a very proud moment for all.

Tuesday consisted mainly of voting on Constitutional Amendments that had been passed at the last General Conference in 2016. There were several more committee reports.

Wednesday, several more committees reported and several resolutions were debated and voted on. The conference passed the budget for next year with only a slight increase. There was also the recognition of those church that are closing and well as other changes to church line charges.

Should anyone be interested in the wording of the Constitutional Amendments or the resolutions, I have presented a copy of them to be filed with our historical documents. The Annual Conference will be in Greenville the next two years.

**Sincerely,
John Malmgren**



August

Joey Parsons **6th**, Sherrie Youndblood **6th**, Kyle Owens **7th**, Amy Parsons **10th**, Elizabeth Bowman **12th**, Stephen Lee **13th**, Kathy O'Brien **15th**, Helen Singleton **16th**, Ginger Allen **21st**, Chandler Coffman **31st**.

September

Drew Gelder **3rd**, Sam Miles **5th**, Dick Singleton **10th**, Sharon Miller **14th**, Terri Lee **15th**, Bonnie Littrell **20th**, Kathy Still **20th**, Ginger Mullinax **23**, Allison Mullinax **24th**, Lynn Martin **25th**.



August

Robert & Shannon Musgrave **2nd**
John & Lynn Wisham **2nd**
Bill & Libba Carson **2nd**
Wayne & Miriam Coffman **3rd**
Mike & Catherine Ferguson **5th**
Dean & Elizabeth Finley **5th**
Chris & Kathy O'dell **28th**
Doug & Johnnie Walker **29th**

September

None



The Church Calendar

The following take place at the Church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in a church bulletin. Events take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.

August

August 6th - Men's Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

August 13th - Blessing of the Backpacks

August 13th - 19th Family Promise (see page 6)

August 11th - Children's Water Day 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. We will be hosting our Children's Water Day. Everything will involve water so bring your swimsuit and a towel. All are invited and encouraged to bring friends. We will serve pizza for dinner that night.

August 27th - Tailgate at the Parsonage at 5p.m. We will be cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. The church will provide the drinks. We encourage you to bring your favorite tailgate food, side, dessert to share with everyone. You may also want to bring a chair to sit in. We look forward to sharing this time together.

September

September 3rd - Men's Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

September 15th - We will have movie night dinner will be provided. Movie Title will be announced in the bulletin.

September 28th - Rappers pot luck lunch at 12:00 noon at the church

Family Promise

Family Promise is a non-profit organization committed to helping low-income families achieve independence. They strive to educate, counsel, and guide families in an effort to stop the cycle of poverty. The phrase "giving a hand-up, not a hand-out" rings true to their Creed.

Mt. Zion UMC is a support church to this organization. Whenever Clemson UMC has a turn hosting Family Promise for a week, our members can volunteer in a variety of ways. Weekdays, volunteers can bring dinner and stay to keep the guests company until the night volunteers arrive. Night volunteers stay from about 9pm to 6am and sleep in a private room. On Saturdays volunteers are needed to bring breakfast, lunch, dinner, hang out, play with the children on the playground, play games, etc. Shifts on Saturday can be flexible and be for as little as 2 hours if that's how much time you have available.

When the families move in on a Sunday, volunteers are needed to unload a truck and set up beds, and when they leave the following Sunday, they need a breakdown crew to load the truck back up. They also need help with laundry when the families leave for sheets and towels. Ready to grab and go breakfast items and drinks are needed for each day. Those can easily be dropped off at the church at the start of the week.

If you're looking for local mission work to get involved with, Family Promise might be just what you're looking for. Announcements are made in the bulletin when Clemson UMC host weeks are approaching next one Aug 13th - 19th.

There are even more opportunities to help this organization at their home base in Easley. For more information please feel free to visit their website, familypromisepickens.org.

Submitted by: Ashley Gelder





Rappers

The Rappers will resume on **September 28th** with a pot-luck lunch. Please provide a dish and come at **12:00 noon** at the church. Thanks! Kristine Reeves.

Children Ministry

On **August 11th at 5:30p.m.** We will be having Water Day! A pizza dinner will be served. We'll have a water slide and slip slide! Invite your friends.



On **Sunday August 27** we will have our annual **Tailgate at the Parsonage at 5pm.** We will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. The church will provide the drinks. We encourage you to bring your favorite tailgate food, side, or dessert to share with everyone. You may also want to bring a chair to sit in. We look forward to sharing this time together.

BEST UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA LOCATION FOR THE 2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE

On Monday, August 21, 2017, all of North America will be treated to an eclipse of the sun, but only those within a narrow path from Oregon to South Carolina will see one of nature's most awe inspiring sights — a total solar eclipse. It just so happens that the main campus of **Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) in Central is right along the center of the path of totality, giving one of the longest viewing times in the nation for the total solar eclipse—a full 2 minutes and 37 seconds.**

The public is invited to view this once in a lifetime event at Gilbert Track and Field Complex and experience and celebrate God's design on display before our very eyes in the heavens, said SWU President, Dr. Todd Voss. There is no admission fee and parking is available on a first-come, first-come basis. Visitors are invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket and the first 3,000 visitors will be provided with protective glasses. In addition, there will be a live feed on the large video scoreboard at the track for safe viewing by small children. For more information visit www.swu.edu/eclipse



Psalm 19:1 (NIV) *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.*

I point to all of these seasons to say this, life changes. Let me say that again, LIFE CHANGES. I know that there are many people out there who don't like change and want everything to remain the same. I am a creature of habit and understand that desire. I have had to come to realize though that the only thing that life does on a constant basis though is change. As I am writing this, it is a Monday, but tomorrow will be a change because it will be Tuesday. Last hour is different from this hour. We are never the same people today that we were yesterday. We are always changing and being shaped by God and our experiences with God. So, I want to encourage you to embrace the idea of change. I want to encourage you to confront change with a positive mind frame because you know the one constant in life that does not change is the love of God. We are reminded in Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God. No change can take away what God has given to us. May we know that as life around us and in us changes that we can cling to the one rock to build upon, Christ.

In Christ,

Gene



From The Pastor's Pen

Blessing of the Backpacks and Collecting School Supplies

We will have a **Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 13**. This will take place during our morning worship service. Students in Pickens County begin school on **August 17** and we are **collecting school supplies for Central Elementary**. Please place the school supplies at the back of the sanctuary as you bring them. A detailed school supply list for Central Elementary is available at: http://ces.pickens.k12.sc.us/parents_community/school_supply_lists

The items listed below are supplies that were mentioned on many of the lists and are always needed. **Items with an ** are supplies that run out very quickly.**

- **glue sticks (regular or large size)****
- **composition notebooks****
- crayons (twistable or regular) 24 count
- student scissors (they like Fiskars)
- notebook paper (wide or college rule)
- large pink rectangular erasers
- dry erase markers
- tissues & hand sanitizer
- Clorox or Lysol wipes (no baby wipes)
- yellow #2 pencils
- zipper pencil pouch



Blessing of the Backpacks



Making Disciples for Jesus Christ The United Methodist Women of Mount Zion a.k.a. (Mt. Zion UMW – Central)

Did you know that we are **not** the only United Methodist Church in South Carolina named Mount Zion? We are just **ONE** of **TEN** United Methodist Churches named Mount Zion. The others are in Bamberg, Bishopville, Cheraw, Florence, Jamestown, Kingstree, Sandy Run, Sumter, and Timmonsville. **These ten Mount Zion churches, along with all the other United Methodist Churches in this state and worldwide, share one common goal.**



"The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Did you know that there are women's groups at our Mount Zion that whole heartedly support this common mission? They may have different names: the **Dolly Brock Circle**, the **Eloise Gaines Circle**, and the **Beverly Smith Guild**. They may meet jointly or separately, but they all have **ONE** purpose. They support the United Methodist Church by making disciples of Jesus Christ. **They want to transform the world.**

As a woman, there may be a desire in your heart to become a missionary for Jesus Christ but you may feel you are too busy, too weak physically or financially, or just too old to go to a country where you might be needed. Whatever the reason may be, you still have an opportunity to serve. You may be able to fulfill that desire by becoming an integral part of our church's mission through one, or all, of our women's groups.

Never doubt that what you do in life has an effect upon others. The friendships you build; the kind words you speak; the neighborly acts you do; the school supplies you purchase; the emergency and health care kits you prepare; the shoeboxes you fill; the food you purchase for CCC; the money and supplies you contribute for flood relief; the blankets and gifts you buy for the Helping Hands children at Christmas; the meetings you attend where you learn about human trafficking and the books you need to read; the money you give to orphanages like Epworth; the money you give to the at-risk programs at Bethlehem-Columbia, Bethlehem-Spartanburg, Killingsworth, and the Wallace Family Life Center; the labor you supply for building of handicapped ramps; the work you do for the Family Promise project; the cooking and setup for the Ministers' Cook-Off for Safe Harbor; and even the greeting cards you write and send to shut-ins are all a part of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world. **Each and every one of the good things you do has an effect upon another human being.**

As we start our fall programs, I encourage you to attend a meeting of one of our women's groups. Look in the Sunday bulletin for announcements. Attend one, or all, and find out what they are all about and how you can become a vital part of God's mission. **Accept their love and friendship! You won't be disappointed and you will be fulfilling that desire in your heart to become a missionary for Jesus Christ.**

Submitted by Sharon Chandler

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Address Correction Requested

