



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

We are about to start a new year. No, not starting January 1. The start of Advent is the start of the Christian liturgical year. It is a year that starts where the story of Jesus is starts, at his birth. We come each year during this time and we talk about the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. That is hard to understand sometimes. We are anticipating something that has already happened. I am not so sure it is the birth that we should say we are anticipating, but what we anticipate what the birth brings about. We anticipate a season of hope, love, joy and peace.

We anticipate hope. When we hope for something we long for it, we even expect that it will happen. Our hope is Christ. We long for Christ, and we expect that Christ will work in this world. We go through life every day and we experience ups and downs. Our hope is that the ups will be better than the downs. We hope that we will turn on the TV and not see stories of despair and destruction. Our hope is found in Christ. It is only through Christ that we find hope for a better tomorrow. It is only through Christ that we hope that our lives will be sanctified.

We anticipate love. We are told that Christ is love. We sing, "they will know we are Christians by our love." Love is maybe the biggest defining characteristic of a Christian. It is a deep love that we talk about, not some passing feeling or fleeting moment. The love that we talk about is a committed kind of love. A love that conquers all hills and valleys. A love that can move mountains. A love that is steadfast. We anticipate this kind of love from Christ and we anticipate this kind of love with others.

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WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY

We will have a short service on Sunday, December 25th. We will not have Sunday School and will meet a little early for worship. **On that Sunday only, we will meet at 10AM!** This service will be a shorter service than most Sunday mornings. We invite everyone to come casual that morning, children can even come in their pajamas! We encourage parents to allow the children to bring their favorite new or old toy that does not make noise as we will have a Blessing of the Toys that morning. This service is designed for families and we encourage you to bring any family you have in town with you that morning.



Those who serve

Nursery

December

4th– Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

11th– Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw

18th– Ginger/Isiah Mullinax

25th– Libba Carson/Randy Martin

January

1st - Heather/Benji Cumbie

8th - Jan Miller/Vickie Miesbauer

15th - Ashley/ Drew Gelder

22th - Sharon Chandler/ Terri Lee

29th - Karen Smith/ Cindy Owens



Children's Sunday School Teachers

December - Sharon Chandler and Beth McWilliams & Terry Lee and Heather Cumbie

January - Katie Aiken and Page Evatt and Ginger Mullinax and Elizabeth Finley

Scripture Readers

December - BJ 4th, Sharon Chandler 11th, John Reeves 18th, Elizabeth Finley 25th.

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 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.



December 4th - Men's Breakfast located here at the Church at 8:30am.

December 7th - The United Methodist Women will have their Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, beginning at 11:30 am. The Luncheon will be held at the Little Bistro restaurant on Commerce Street in Liberty.

December 11th - Sunday, December 11, Christmas Cantata with Lawrence Chapel UMC.

December 18th - Christmas Drop-In at the Parsonage 2-4pm

December 24th - Christmas Eve Service at 5:30

December 25th - Christmas Day Service



January 4th - UMW Meeting at 2:30pm

January 8th - Epiphany Service and Men's Breakfast

January 15th - Remember your Baptism Service

January 16th - Office Closed

January 21st - Bishop's Forward Focus Tour 9am - 12pm located at Clemson United Methodist Church

The 14th Annual Ministers' Cook - Off

Congratulations to Pastor Gene and with the help of the Beverly Smith Guide the team scored a second place win in the dessert category. All proceeds went to support safe harbor. We are so proud of Pastor Gene and the Beverly Smith and team for the award winning dessert "Cinnamon Ice Cream"



Birthdays

December– 2nd Susan Drexler, 3rd Golda Noblitt, 9th Kathy O’Dell, 15th Smith-Ray, 19th Allan Bomar, 22nd Robert Musgrave, 23rd Debbie Cumbie-

Cooler, 26th Kris Bowman, 27th Blake Jones, 30th Mason Sims, 31st Gregg Miller.

January– 2nd Susan Pressley, 2nd Lily Aiken, 3rd Buchannan Irene, 7th John Reeves, 13th Buddy Evatt, 17th Julie Sarasua, 17th Ava Rae Six, 18th Bobby Garrett, 19th Charles Baker, 21st Rice Nancy Katherine, 23rd Heather Cumbie, 23rd Quint Cumbie, 26th Amanda Mullinax, 29th Ashley Malmgren.



Anniversaries

December - 1st Pressley, Dannie and Susan, 20th Chandler, Jerry and Sharon 29th Miller, Lane and Jan, 31st Handegan, Terry and Mary.

January - 10th Jones, Les, and Jane, 16th Wingard, David and Allison, 26th Wingard, Larry and Gale.

We anticipate joy. Often times, we associate joy with a feeling. Joy like love is more than a feeling. Feelings only last for so long, but joy should be persistent. Our hope and love should bring around joy. I am not saying that we should walk around life saying everything is sunshine and rainbows. I am saying that there are more sunshine and rainbows that we see sometimes. How often do we stop and celebrate the victories, even small ones. We need to do that more often. We need to look for the joy in life and seek it out when we don't see it.

We anticipate peace. Christ is our peace. This is a peace that abides with us. One of my favorite Christian songs describes all the things that Christ is for us. In that song, there is a line that says Christ "brings peace to my madness." The peace that we seek can be found in so many ways. When a family is at peace with the passing of a loved one. When we are at peace with our lives and see the good that has been provided for us. When in the midst of chaos, we find a moment of quiet. Christ is our peace. May we find hope, joy, love, and peace this season and every season.

In Christ,
Gene





"Silver bells, silver bells it's Christmas time in the city." The Christmas season has finally come and what better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than through the sweet sound of music. The choirs at Mt. Zion United Methodist and Lawrence Chapel United Methodist are coming together to perform "Christmas Canticles" by Benjamin Harlan. Choir directors, Malek McDuffie and Susan Cumbie, are joining together to present this musical at both locations. The performance dates will be December 4 at 10:30 a.m. at Lawrence Chapel then on December 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion. This is going to be a joyous occasion as the choirs have joined together to make beautiful music. Hope to see you there.

From the Choir:

The Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Choir wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family during this holiday season.





Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

**THANK YOU FOR THE 91 SHOE BOXES PACKED FOR CHILDREN
AROUND THE WORLD DURING OUR SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT.**



Children's Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 11th will be a busy day for our children. We will have breakfast for the children and their parents and participate in a craft activity. Later, during that morning worship service, our children's choir will be singing for the congregation. Miriam Coffman directs our children's choir and we are most thankful for all her time spent with our children.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

Committees 2017

Lay Leader– Lynn Martin

Lay Delegate to (AC)- John Malmgren

Membership Secretary - Sharon Chandler

Alternate Lay Delegate to AC– Jane Jones

Epworth Coordinator - Elizabeth Finley

Boy Scout Coordinator– Ansel Miller

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)- Chair, Pastor, Gene Aiken

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2018
Chris O'Dell	Heather Cumbie	Scott Smith
Myra Armistead	Kristine Reeves	Pam Baker

On Lay Leadership by virtue of positions:

Lay Leader - Lynn Martin

Staff– Parish Relations Committee - Chair: Sonny Sims

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Sonny Sims	John Wisham	Ginger Allen
Myra Armistead	Kathy O'Dell	Doug Walker

On SPRC BY virtue of position:

Lay Leader - Lynn Martin Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - John Malmgren

Trustees– Chair; Vice– Chair: Secretary -

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class 2019
Steve Lee	John Wisham	Trent Allen	Cecil Rowland
Virginia Norwood	Kathy O'dell	Miriam Coffman	

.Children's Ministry Team - Co - Chairs: Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman

Jan Miller	Jane Jones	Randy Martin
Catherine Ferguson	Janet Crenshaw	Heather Cumbie
Ashley Gelder		

Mission & Evangelism Committee - Chair: Ashley Gelder

Randy Martin	Kris Bowman	Vicki Miesbauer
Elizabeth Bowman	Elizabeth Finley	

Hospitality Committee - Chair: Sherrie Youngblood

Myra Armistead	Cindy Owens	Elizabeth Bowman (Bereavement)
Karen Smith	Bonnie Littrell	

Parsonage And Grounds Committee - Chair: John Wisham

Scott Smith	John Wisham	Drew Gelder	Buddy Evatt
Elaine Bullock	Jill Sims	Ginger Allen	

Worship Committee - Chair: Kristine Reeves

Kristine Reeves (Flowers)	Katie Aiken	Chris O'Dell
Elizabeth Finley	Ginger Allen	Vicki Miesbauer (Communion/Alar)

On Worship by virtue of positions: Music Director - Malek McDuffie

Safe Sanctuary Committee - Chair: Ed Martin

Terry Lee (Trustee Rep.)

Finance Committee - Chair: Benji Cumbie

Treasurer— Chris O'Dell Member at Large -

On Finance Committee by virtue of their position:

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - John Malmgren	Church Council Chair - Ed Martin
SPRC Chair— Sonny Sims	Trustees Chair-
Lay Leader - Lynn Martin	

Church Council— Chair: Ed Martin

Recording Secretary- Sharon Chandler	Member at Large— Kris Bowman Dean Finley
Vice Chair - John Reeves	Youth Representative— Mason Sims

On Church Council by virtue of their position:

UMW President - Elizabeth Finley	Lay Delegate to (AC)- John Malmgren
SPRC Chair— Sonny Sims	Age Level/Family Ministries Co Chair - Libba Carson,
TrusteesChair-	Elizabeth Bowman
Lay Leader— Lynn Martin	Parsonage/Grounds Chair— John Wisham
Evangelism Chair— Ashley Gelder	Hospitality Chair— Sherrie Youngblood
Treasurer— Chris O'Dell	Finance Chair - Benji Cumbie
UMM President— Benji Cumbie	Worship Chair— Kristine Reeves

Note: The Pastor is an ex officio member of all committees, with full vote on all except Trustees.

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

*Happy
New Year &
Merry Christmas*