



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

Mt. Zion family,

One of the things I have learned as a pastor and leader over the past eight years is the importance of having a clear vision of where God is calling us. When God's people share a common goal of where we are trying to go together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. When we lack that vision, as Scripture says, "the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

As we begin emerging from this pandemic, I invite you to participate as we discern a vision together of what God is ultimately calling and equipping us to accomplish as a church family, along with the next faithful steps we can take toward that goal. At our next Church Council meeting on April 22, we will have an opportunity to learn about two processes for visioning together as a congregation. In order to help people prepare for that meeting, I would like to share brief descriptions.

The first process, called **Re-Shape**, was developed by a mentor of mine, the Rev. Mark Tidsworth. This process guides congregations through the following seven actions in order to discern our next faithful steps:

1. **Reconnecting Church** - Following a pandemic, this process begins with reconnecting us to one another and with those things about Mt. Zion that make up the core of our congregational identity.
2. **Debriefing Our Experience** - We reflect on and describe our experience of the past year's volatility.
3. **Sorting Our Progress** - We answer three questions: What did we **start** doing which may need continuing or expanding? What did we **stop** doing which may not need restarting? **What else** might the Holy Spirit be nudging us to do as a result of our experience? (continued on page 2)

## Pastor Jonathan's Letter, continued from Page 1

4. **Choose a Growth Mindset** - We examine the ways we adapted as individual Christians and collectively as a church and articulate, "We are a church who...."

5. **Plotting Our Course** - We plan specific next steps for working toward the goal God is calling us to accomplish together.

6. **Aligning Our Structure** - We tailor our committees, budget, and other structures to our mission and eliminate what does not serve our mission.

7. **Launching Reshaped Church** - We begin the next faithful steps we have discerned through this process toward what God has called and equipped us to accomplish together.

You can learn more about the Re-Shape process in the digital newsletter [here](#).

The second process we will have the chance to learn about is the South Carolina UMC Annual Conference's **Forward Focus**. This process is designed to:

1. Encourage churches to regularly study themselves and their communities;
2. Lead to reflection on the ministry potential and vitality of the local church;
3. Create an ongoing conversation with the congregation to ensure their input;
4. Increase the ministry capacity of the local church for years to come.

You can read more about the process and view testimonials from clergy and laity whose churches have completed the process by viewing [this link](#) in the digital newsletter.

I continue to be excited and energized by being in ministry with you. I look forward to our Easter celebration, when we remember what God accomplished out of the volatility of Good Friday. And then I look forward to discerning with you what God intends to accomplish through us out of the volatility of this pandemic. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your pastor!

In Christ, Pastor Jonathan

# The Church Calendar at a glance

**March 29-April 3** - Stations of the Cross (more details on page 6)

**April 4** - Easter outdoor worship with Bethel and Central UMCs, 11 a.m.

**April 6** - No Tuesday night Bible study. Happy Easter week!

**April 7** - United Methodist Women's Zoom meeting, 2:30 p.m.

**April 11** - Blood drive before, during, and following worship

**April 12** - Zoom Finance meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**April 13** - Bible study resumes online and on the parsonage porch, 6:30 p.m.

**April 15** - Deposit due for Seneca Service Week (more details on page 4)

**April 17** - Emergency Response Team Training at Clemson UMC, 9-5

**April 19** - Missions and Evangelism Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**April 22** - Church Council Zoom meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**April 24** - (Tentative) Soccer camp for grades K-6, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**May 5** - United Methodist Women's Zoom meeting, 2:30 p.m.

**May 9** - Happy Mother's Day! Epworth Children's Home Mother's Day Offering

**May 16** - Children and Youth trip to the Botanical Garden, 1 p.m.

**May 23** - Pentecost Sunday

**May 31** - Memorial Day (church office closed)

## Church Council meeting

**April 22, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**



Meeting ID: 890 8976 4213

Pass code: 221164

There will be a **Church Council meeting April 22 at 6:30 p.m.** on Zoom. In addition to regular business, we will be hearing about a few processes for discerning God's vision and developing a ministry plan for this church family to guide us over the next few years together. Whether you are a member of the Church Council or not, you are invited to participate as we do this exciting work together!

## Serving the Community



**The Paw Pantry** is an on-campus food pantry and resource center available to Clemson University students free of charge, no questions asked. Thanks to everyone who donated food items, toiletries, and school supplies!

### Blood drive!

The Blood Connection is once more going to hold a blood drive at Mt Zion. They will be in our parking lot on **Sunday, April 11 from 9:00-2:00**. They are in serious need of blood donations. Ten dollar gift cards will be given to all who give. Remember, the Blood Connection will let you know if you have COVID-19 antibodies present in your donated blood.



### Seneca Service Week

Due to the cancellation of Salkehatchie for a second straight summer, local churches in the Anderson District are organizing a service week for youth and adults in Seneca. All youth 13 and older and adults are invited to participate. Meals will be provided each day at Clemson UMC. A **\$75 deposit is due on April 15** to reserve your spot. If you wish to participate in the service week from June 20-26 and/or you need help covering the cost, please let Pastor Jonathan know as soon as possible.

## More Service Opportunities!

### Emergency Response Team Training, April 17

#### Basic training

Clemson UMC  
April 17  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Cost: \$35

The logo for the South Carolina Emergency Response Team (SC ERT) Disaster Response. It features the text "SC ERT" in a large, bold, red font with a white outline, followed by "DISASTER RESPONSE" in a smaller, bold, red font with a white outline. The background is white.

Want to have the skills and credentials to respond to disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods? On Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 9-5 the Anderson District of The United Methodist Church is offering an ERT Basic / Renewal Class held at Clemson UMC.

**Register** at <https://www.umcsc.org/ertregistration/>

**Questions?** Contact Stephen Turner at [scturner04@yahoo.com](mailto:scturner04@yahoo.com) or 864-421-3986.

### Epworth Mother's Day Offering, May 9

**Epworth Children's Home** is a ministry of The United Methodist Church in South Carolina. In 2020, 196 children found a home at Epworth. 73 other children were served through Epworth's Foster Care Program. On **May 9**, you will have an opportunity to support this important ministry through a special offering!



Interested in  
a Community  
garden?  
Let us know!

The Missions/Evangelism Committee is exploring creating a community garden to provide healthy food for food insecure families, act as a bridge between us and our neighbors, and provide multi-generational fellowship. If you would like to participate as we explore this possibility, please contact Vicki Miesbauer at [mieshaus@nctv.com](mailto:mieshaus@nctv.com).

# Worship



During April and May, we will worship outdoors each Sunday at 11 a.m. Bring your mask and a blanket or chair. In the event of rain, worship will be moved into the sanctuary (except for Easter—see details on page 7).

## Holy Week



You are invited to remember Jesus's last day at your own pace and convenience at any time during daylight hours throughout Holy Week (March 29 to April 3). Beginning at the garden at the Central History Museum (416 Church St. in Central), you will drive to five other nearby locations as you remember the events of Jesus's last day. At the first station (located at the Central History Museum), you will receive a bag that includes the maps,

instructions, and supplies you will need for each station. This entire route, including Scripture readings and reflections, will take about one hour to complete.

## Worship Flowers

**Please consider placing flowers in our worship space to make our worship even more beautiful!** You can sign up on the flower calendar or email [mtzion@nctv.com](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com) to request a date.



# Coming up in Worship!

## Easter Sunday

Join others from Mt. Zion, Bethel, and Central UMCs for an outdoor Easter service at Mt. Zion on April 4 at 11. We will have a tent to ensure that we can all meet together, even if it rains. We will also live stream the service. Bring your mask, flowers to put on our living cross, and invite a friend as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together! The worship service will also be live streamed at [Facebook.com/MtZionCentral](https://www.facebook.com/MtZionCentral).



Did you know that Easter is not just a day, but an entire season of the church year? Each Sunday from April 11 to May 16, we will hear some of the stories of Jesus following his resurrection on Easter morning and consider how Jesus continues to meet us today.



Our ministry intern **Zechariah Copeland** will be preaching on **Sunday, April 11**. Please plan to participate in-person or online and support him as he preaches his second sermon. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to walk with Zechariah as he prepares for ministry!

# Discipleship for Children and Youth!



Thanks to everyone who helped plan, make, deliver, and lead the Virtual Valentine's Party for children and youth on February 14. A huge thank you also goes out for the Lenten calendars that helped children observe the season of Lent at home and for all who organized and led the At-home Easter Egg Hunt!

## Kairos Ministry Cards



Thanks to all the children, youth, and adult mentors who stayed after worship on March 21 to draw pictures and make cards for Kairos Prison Ministry. Your pictures and cards will go to prison inmates to encourage them during their time away from family and loved ones!

“I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:36)



# More Discipleship for Children and Youth!

Stay connected with God and with other children and youth through these weekly Bible lessons led by caring adult leaders!



Mt. Zion's student ministry intern Zechariah Copeland is working on putting together a soccer camp for children and youth in the church and community. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details about this exciting opportunity!

Following worship on **May 16**, all children, youth, and their families are invited to grab some lunch on their own (or bring a picnic lunch) and meet at the **Botanical Garden at 1:00 pm** to explore and walk the grounds. We will have a sign-up nearer the date.



Invite a friend, and enjoy a time of outdoor, socially-distanced fellowship!

## Discipleship for Adults!



Zoom ID: 733 349 126

**Bible Study**  
Resumes April 13  
At parsonage porch  
and on Zoom  
6:30 p.m.

Pass code: 456030

After taking the Tuesday after Easter off, we will resume our weekly Tuesday night Bible study on April 13. Our student intern Zechariah will be leading that evening's lesson. You are invited to join others (and even invite someone!) for a time of study and

fellowship on the porch at the parsonage or on Zoom, whichever is most comfortable for you.

## UMC General Conference Update

Due to the coronavirus, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has been postponed again. Originally scheduled for May 2020 and then delayed until August 2021, this gathering of United Methodists from all over the world has been re-scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022. Once we draw nearer to the re-scheduled General Conference in August 2022, we will provide opportunities for conversation with one

another about the big decisions facing our denomination regarding sexuality and potential restructuring. More information about the conference's postponement can be found in the digital version of the newsletter [here](#). As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please be in contact with Pastor Jonathan. Thank you for your prayers for The United Methodist Church!



## April birthdays

1 Ron Nonnenberg and 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     | 16 Michael Ferraro |
| 5 Catherine Ferguson | 18 Jill Sims       |
| 6 Jonathan Harris    | 19 Lu Anne Martin  |
| 7 Eileen Nonnenberg  | 23 Lucy Gelder     |
| 8 Benji Cumbie       | 24 Cindy Owens     |
| 12 Terry Handegan    | 25 Cooper Koinskie |
| 14 David Amidon      | 27 Stan Owens      |
| 15 Robert Allen      | 30 Mary Nichols    |

## April & May Anniversaries



April 7 - Al and Susan Cumbie  
April 9 - Ed and Mary Ann Prater

May 1 - Fred and Judy Cone  
May 11 - Ansel and Sharon Miller  
May 13 - Lon and Lu Anne Martin  
May 26 - Drew and Ashley Gelder

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

*Address Correction Requested*

---

## Ash Wednesday 2021



Thanks to all who helped lead and participated in the at-home Ash Wednesday service shared by Mt. Zion and Lawrence Chapel!