



*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,

I had originally planned to use this space to share information about the upcoming ReShape launch and small groups, which you can find more information about on several pages of this newsletter. However, given that Marissa and I were recently approved for licensing as foster parents, I wanted to use this space to share a little bit about that.

For more than six years, my sister and her spouse have been fostering two brothers who were only four weeks and a year old when they were placed in their home. Our family, including Isaac and Micah, has enjoyed being part of the support system around those two boys. We have seen firsthand the positive impact a stable, loving home can have on children who are going through volatile circumstances.

Early last year, Marissa and I began praying and discerning the possibility of becoming foster parents. In April we began the licensing process through Epworth Children's Home, a United Methodist ministry in South Carolina that Mt. Zion has long supported. Aside from countless pages of paperwork, we have had a home study, two fire inspections, and dozens of hours of trainings on first aid, CPR, conflict management, and more. Just a few days before Christmas, we were officially licensed.

I want you to know that we would not have considered moving forward with this big step if we did not believe that we have a supportive "village" around us. You are part of that village. As we anticipate receiving our first placement soon, I ask for your support in the following ways:

1. Pray - Pray for our family and for the children who will find love and safety in our home and in this church. (continued on p. 2)

Pastor's Note, continued from page 1

2. Be patient - Children who are part of the foster care system have likely missed out on some of the love and positive attention that is necessary for “typical” child development. Overcoming the things they have experienced takes time. Be patient with them.

3. Love them - Again, a huge factor in our decision to move forward with foster care at this time is our experience of Mt. Zion as a loving congregation. You have a huge opportunity to impact children's lives by being part of this safe, loving environment.

Thank you again for your prayers and support! Our family is grateful to be in ministry together.

In Christ,

Pastor Jonathan

The Church Calendar at a glance

February 6 - Men's breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

February 20 - ReShape lunch and launch, at the Martins' barn immediately following worship (more information on page 4)

March 2 - Ash Wednesday pancake supper (5:30 p.m.) and worship service (7 p.m.), Lawrence Chapel UMC, 2101 Six Mile Hwy (see page 11)

March 6 - Men's breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

March 7 - Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.

March 14 - Church Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. Everyone invited to participate!

March 28 - Worship Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.



February Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Grayson Bowman | 14 Connie Norwood |
| 2 Peggy Bodie | 15 Taylor Ray |
| 3 Bill Carson | 16 Logan Rice |
| 3 Katie Ferguson | 20 Trent Allen |
| 3 Will Mullinax | 22 Virginia Norwood |
| 5 Lon Martin | 24 Mac McWilliams |
| 9 Larry Wisham | 28 David Wingard |
| 10 Chery Amidon | 29 Rae Romesburg |

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Karen Martin | 24 Cris Boggs |
| 9 Abigail Wingard | 24 Kaitlyn West |
| 11 John Reeves | 25 Allison Wingard |
| 18 Mike Ferguson | 28 Scott Smith |
| 19 Judy Cone | 28 Elizabeth Finley |
| 24 Dot Johnston | 30 Ruth Wolinski |



March Anniversaries



- March 8 - John and Kristine Reeves
- March 13 - Trent and Ginger Allen
- March 21 - Ron and Eileen Nonnenberg
- March 27 - David and Chery Amidon
- March 30 - Scott and Karen Smith

ReShape



ReShape Launch Event and Lunch

187 Arabian Lane, Central

Sunday after church, February 20th

Featuring:

Scott Smith's BBQ!

Learn about ReShape

Games and other fun activities

Meet Mt. Zion's ReShape Coordination Team!



Ginger Allen



Peggy Bodie



David Boggs



Phil Davis



Ashley Gelder



Jonathan Harris



Beth McWilliams



Sharon Miller

Last summer, Mt. Zion's Church Council approved using a visioning process called ReShape that would help us discern the next steps God would have us take in ministry together in light of the ongoing pandemic. For the past seven months, Mt. Zion's ReShape coordination team has been preparing to lead the church through this exciting process that involves input from the entire congregation. Please plan to attend the lunch and launch on February 20 following worship to learn more about this process and how to participate!

Serving in Worship!

Upcoming Acolyte schedule:

2/6 - Taylor Ray
2/13 - Braelin Cumbie
2/20 - Caydenn Rowland
2/27 - Kaitlyn West
3/6 - Anna Ray
3/13 - Ethan Green
3/20 - Grayson Bowman
3/27 - Quint Cumbie



Upcoming Lay Reader schedule:

2/6 - Mason Sims	3/6 - Isaac Harris
2/13 - Serena Miles	3/13 - Zechariah Copeland
2/20 - Benji Cumbie	3/20 - Angie Sullivan
2/27 - Bonnie Littrell	3/27 - Peggy Bodie

Church Council Recap from January 10, 2022

The following are highlights from the work of Mt. Zion's Church Council from the most recent meeting on January 12:

- Approved a \$211,599 budget for 2022
- Plan to launch the ReShape process on February 20 and small groups the week of March 6
- We are seeking individuals interested in serving on and leading Mt. Zion's Missions & Evangelism team. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Jonathan.
- 2022 marks 100 years worshipping in Mt. Zion's current sanctuary. If you would like to be part of a planning team for this centennial celebration, please contact Pastor Jonathan.

Discipleship for Children and Youth!



Thanks to all the children and volunteers who participated in the **Christmas party for children** on December 12! The kids had fun decorating gingerbread houses and making Christmas ornaments!



Children's handbells

The children did a great job playing handbells during worship on December 12! 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 for children and youth is downstairs **in the fellowship hall** each Sunday morning at **10 a.m.** All children, youth, and volunteers are asked to please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Per our recently revised [Safe Sanctuaries Policy](#), we ask that guardians of children and youth please complete and turn in a 2021-2022 Medical and Photo Release Form. You can find this form online at <http://mtzioncentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Medical-and-Photo-Release-Form-2021-22.pdf> or from Zechariah Copeland.





Christmas Caroling

Thanks to Barbara Anderson, the choir, and others who joined in Christmas caroling on December 12! What a way to spread Christmas joy!

Help us celebrate 100 years in this building! Mount Zion's current sanctuary has been used as place for worship from 1922 to 2022—an entire century! If you would like to help plan a celebration marking a century of God's people worshipping in this building, please contact Pastor Jonathan.

New email address for the church! You might have noticed that you have received emails in recent weeks from a new church email address. In order to cut down on the amount of time Pastor Jonathan and volunteers spend sifting through junk mail, the church has begun transitioning away from the old NCTV address. If you need to send an email to the church, please use **mtzionumc.central@gmail.com**.

Emergency Contact List

In any emergency situation, it is important to be able to have contact information readily available. Please keep the following names and numbers in a place where you can find them in the event that you witness or suspect abuse or misconduct on church property or at a church-sponsored activity. These numbers are also posted in each of the children/youth Sunday school classrooms and in the church office.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson - Phil Davis, 404-734-4678

Pastor in charge - Rev. Jonathan Harris, 864-639-2101, jdharris@umcsc.org

District superintendent - Rev. Steve Patterson, 864-226-6649, sapatterson@umcsc.org

Presiding bishop - Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, 803-786-9486, bishop@umcsc.org

SC Department Social Services Abuse & Neglect Hotline: 1-888-227-3487

Pickens County Sheriff's Office - 864-898-5500

Adult Discipleship!

Take advantage of the following opportunities for fellowship and growth:



Blood drive, date TBD

The Men's Club is organizing a blood drive at Mt. Zion in February or March. Please stay tuned for details about this opportunity to serve others in a much needed way!

ReShape small groups begin the week of March 6!



Group 1
Leader: Peggy Bodie
Day/Time: Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom and Church



Group 2
Leaders: Phil & Susan Davis
Day/Time: Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom and Davis Home



Group 3 (children & youth only)
Leader: Zechariah Copeland
Day/Time: Sunday @ 10 a.m.
Location: Church



Group 4
Leader: Sharon Chandler
Day/Time: Thursday @ 11 a.m.
Location: Zoom



Group 5
Leader: Drew Gelder
Day/Time: Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom



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



Group 7
Leader: Mary Ann Prater
Day/Time: Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.
Location: Church

Worship

Christmas Cantata

Thank you to Barbara Anderson and the choir for a wonderful Christmas cantata on December 19, 2021! And thank you to those who read during the service: Mary Ann Prater, Rev. Jonathan Harris, Wayne Coffman, and Angie Sullivan.



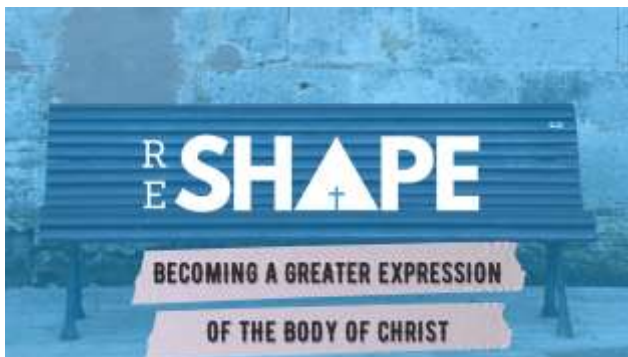
Each new year is a new beginning! No matter what is in the past, we get a fresh start. The gospel is full of new beginnings. Join in worship each week from January 9 to February 6 as we hear about the new beginnings that others experienced and celebrate God's grace that always offers us a fresh start!

Being a disciple of Jesus is like being a student of the greatest teacher there ever was. Just as his first followers got to sit at his feet and learn from him, we have the opportunity to learn from the teachings of Jesus, too! Each of the last three Sundays in February, we will get to sit at the feet of Jesus, learning from instruction he gave nearly 2000 years ago that still impacts our lives today!



Worship, continued

Ash Wednesday is March 2! Come join with others from area United Methodist churches for a pancake supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. Lawrence Chapel UMC will host the supper and service (2101 Six Mile Hwy). Come for a special time of fellowship and remembering our mortality and brokenness in this special beginning to the season of Lent that we did not get to have last year.



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

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

The 2022 Flower Calendar is up!

To place flowers in the sanctuary:

- Use the calendar by the water fountains
- Call 864-639-2101
- Email mtzionumc.central@gmail.com.



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

Address Correction Requested

Snow Fun on January 16, 2022!

