Brothers and sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we move into Lent, it seems like overkill to talk about a season of sacrifice, grief, and repentance. It feels like we’ve been in Lent continuously since Ash Wednesday 2020! Last year, the prospect of celebrating Easter during the lockdown, without in-person worship, was a very bitter pill to swallow. I think we all assumed that life would return to normal before Easter 2021. I know I did. But here we are again.

Except... we’re not in exactly the same place we were last year. Life hasn’t returned to normal, but it’s certainly more normal. We are able to gather together if we’re careful. The stores are well-stocked with meat and toiletries. We’re able to see doctors and get our prescriptions filled. The kids will even be going back to school soon. In the meantime, online church is no longer the frustrating chore it used to be. I’m actually enjoying doing it now, and I know many of you are too. We have grown through this, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

We haven’t reached the end yet. We won’t find a true sense of normalcy until our nation achieves herd immunity. For that to happen, almost everyone needs to get the vaccine. So, get the vaccine! I know some people are concerned about its safety. The FDA was able to fast-track the vaccine because unprecedented numbers of people volunteered for the clinical trials. Because America rose to the challenge, we now know that the vaccine is safer than COVID. I know that the vaccine is hard to get. Keep trying. I plan to get it as soon as I can.

Be hopeful. My preaching professor, Rev. Dr. Bobby McClain, died back in November, at the age of 82. He was fond of the folk proverb, “Sunday always comes.” I will admit that I sometimes mutter that proverb in frustration when it feels like every other day is Sunday, and I never have enough time to prepare. But, of course, the saying is an expression of hope. The Resurrection is real. Jesus rose, the first fruits of those to be raised. As Adam Hamilton says, “The worst thing that happens is never the last thing that happens.”

Continued on pg. 3

March is Red Cross Month
Your donation is essential. In thanks, you’ll get an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt when you come to give between March 15-26, while supplies last.

Blood Drive
Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
March 15 from Noon-6pm
First time giving blood?
Contact Priscilla to make an appointment.
All others register on-line:
Help me egg someone’s house!! You heard right, this year’s Easter celebration will be brought to the homes of our churches children. For every child that is registered, 10 eggs will be delivered and hidden around the families’ yard along with a small gift basket. This will take place Saturday, April 3rd. Let’s share the true Easter story and invite them to join us for weekly Sunday school. We need many helping hands to make this event the best it can be!

How can I help?

Volunteer
- Set Up: Stuffing eggs, making baskets, and separating them by family.
- Delivery: This is the biggest need. Eggs will need to be delivered and hidden.

Donate
Please consider donating plastic eggs filled with candy or small prizes. All donations of egg stuffers are welcomed! Large labeled bins are in the office hallway and outside the multipurpose room for Easter donations.

To have eggs brought to your home, please register through the sign up genius link below. Please list only the children in the drop down that asks “How Many People Will Be Attending?” If you have trouble with the site, please reach out to me for help. An additional list will be hanging on the Christian Ed bulletin board.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080849A5AA2EABF94-eggmyyard

Please contact Arielle Crooks Mtzion.ChildrensMinistry@gmail.com if you would like to help!
Continued from Pg. 1

Brothers and Sisters,

There is not just a light at the end of the tunnel. There is an Easter at the end of Lent. There is a Resurrection at the end of Death. There is a Kingdom at the end of Time. As United Methodists, this is part of our Creed:

_We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world._

In other words, we believe the best is yet to come, and we live as if it were already here.

We are citizens of the Kingdom of God. Always. During Lent, pandemics, lockdowns, and ice-storms. So, I wish you all a blessed Lent, and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you... one way or another!

God speed,       Pastor Steve

---

**Church-Wide Pretzel Sunday!!**

*March 14th- Mark your calendar - It’s PRETZEL SUNDAY!*

This is a Fun and exciting day for the children!! During Sunday school children will learn the Christian history of the Lenten pretzel and how it helps us to remember to pray and thank Jesus for all that He has done for us.

**This year will look very different and it is open to every member of our church!** Instead of making the pretzels during the Sunday school hour, this will be a take home activity! It will be a simple process and most ingredients (no eggs) will be provided with clear and simple instructions. Please reach out to me or sign-up on the sheet posted on the Christian Ed bulletin to let me know how many pretzels you want available to take home.

Please reach out to Arielle Crooks if you are available to help pack take home sets or if you would like a set made for your family.

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**Join us!**

*Worship from your home at 8:30am*
*Inside Worship offered at 8:30 and 10am*

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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Pretzel Sunday</td>
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**Handbell Rehearsals Have Begun**
*but it’s not too late to join!*

Looking for a fun and safe way to get back into the world? Whether you are a seasoned musician or somebody looking for a new experience ... ALL are welcome!

Weekly rehearsals are held on Sundays at 11am following the 10am service. If interested, contact Ben Stern by email zionumc.music@gmail.com.
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circle of Friends invite you to join our group in Fellowship
Saturday, March 13 at 8am in the parlor
Connect with others and help with the many Missions we do for our church!

Any questions, please call me anytime.
Thank you and Blessings to all, Carolyn Ayers, President

The UMW Circle of Friends cancelled our February meeting. Due to COVID restrictions we are pretty well at a standstill. We continue with our participation in the Take and Go Lunch Program and are in the early stages of preparing a new cookbook.

Please e-mail your recipes to Lesley Maguire lmaguire@md.metrocast.net, Lesley said she has not received many entries. Pull out your recipe cards and share your favorite dishes with us. I know we have some wonderful cooks in our congregation and we are anxious to try some new dishes.

We pray that things will soon return to "NORMAL" so we can continue our regular activities.

Happy Birthday wishes to Cathy Johnson, Priscilla Sampson, Jean Dean and Trish Herriman celebrating their special day this month.

A Valentine thought:
For God so lo (V) ed the world
   That He g (A) ve
      His on (L) y
         Begott (E) n
            So (N)
               (T) hat whosoever
Believeth (I) n Him
   Should (N) ot perish
   But have (E) verlasting Life.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March13th at 8:00 in the Parlor.
Hope to see you there.
P.S. bring your recipes!

May God bless you and keep you, may
He make His face shine upon you, and
be gracious unto you, may He lift up His
countenance upon you and give you
peace. Numbers 6:24-26

God’s Blessings,
Carolyn Ayers
COF President

The Ayers’ and Sparks’ families wish to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls. Rex and Rachel are both recovering from their surgeries and really appreciate the outpouring of care and concern from everyone. It means a lot to know that there are people who truly care. I’m sure the continued prayers are speeding up their recovery. I want to thank everyone because I could feel your prayers and support.

God Bless you all!
Carolyn
Hello again.

Jean here with some more information about the new Leadership Board (approved name for our Unified Board) and how it is organized.

The Leadership Board is the part of the church that deals with finances, personnel issues, and trustee issues. This board will deal with those issues as a single body rather than as several committees. This is a simpler method of the operational side of the church and frees up more people to participate in the mission activities of Mt. Zion.

I have been selected to chair this Board for its first year. The other voting members are Joan Ritchie, Kellie Harding, Kelly and Shawn Haynes, Hudson Buckler, Bill Geyer, Joan Bartz, Bobbie Jo McAfee, Carolyn Ayers, Jennifer Voorhaar, Bobby Johnson, Ide Hill, and John Standish. Non-voting members are the Pastor, Toni Hayes, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Arielle Crooks, and Ben Stern.

Although the entire Board serves together as finance, trustees, SPRC, and church council, some of the board members specialize in those various areas.

- Finance Specialists: Bill Geyer and Joan Bartz
- Trustees Specialists: Bobby Johnson, John Standish, and Ide Hill
- SPRC Specialists: Bobby Jo McAfee, Carolyn Ayers, and Kellie Harding
- Lay Leaders: Kelly and Shawn Haynes share this position; and
- Youth Representative: Hudson Buckler

Any member of the Board can help you with any questions you may have. And remember that the entire Board acts as overseer in all areas of church function. The only individual standing committee not incorporated into the Leadership Board is the Lay Leadership Development committee (aka Nominations).

The board invites anyone interested to attend the board meetings, which will be on the fourth Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be held on March 25 at 6:30pm. All meetings will be open, except when personnel issues are being discussed. We will be meeting at least in part via ZOOM, although there may be a contingent that prefers face to face and will do that, connecting to the rest of us with someone’s computer from their meeting place.

If you want something to be added to the Leadership Board agenda, let me know. Tell me who you are and what you want to address. You will be added to a future agenda. Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question about how the Board operates or about a particular issue that you are concerned about.

With Christ’s love, Jean

Bible Trivia

Finish this Verse

“According to Paul, everyone is tempted, but God will not allow the believer to be tempted _______________. ”

Challenge: In what book of the Bible can this verse be found?

Check your answers on pg. 11
UNITED METHODIST MEN

ALL men of Mt. Zion are invited to join us on Saturday, March 13 at 8am.
Meeting will be held inside.

We will continue to reach out to our Mt. Zion family and continue keeping in touch by telephone conversations. We encourage everyone to keep in touch with friends and family.

David Wright, UMM President 301-904-7855, kjw1996.dw@gmail.com

“TO MEET SUCH A MAN”
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square."

Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the store front church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked.
"Not really," he replied, "just resting."
"Have you eaten today?"
"Oh, I ate something early this morning."
"Would you like to have lunch with me?"
"Do you have some work I could do for you?"
"No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."
"Sure," he replied with a smile.
As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions. Where you headed?"
"St. Louis."
"Where you from?"
"Oh, all over; mostly Florida."
"How long you been walking?"
"Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were

Continued on pg. 7
To Meet Such a Man

dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought.

He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God. "Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked.

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like?"

"What?"

"To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?"

"Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground. "Could you use another Bible?" I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it 14 times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see" I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

"Where are you headed from here?" I asked.

"Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon."

"Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?"

"No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next."

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

Continued on pg. 8
Continued from pg. 7

“To Meet Such a Man”

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; Plans to give you a future and a hope."

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you."

"I know," I said, "I love you, too." "The Lord is good!"

"Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked.

"A long time," he replied

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem."

"I'll be there!" was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

"You bet," I shouted back, "God bless."

"God bless." And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

Then I remembered his words: "If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will...

George Hill UMM

Mt. Zion Food Pantry
Our Food Pantry is open every other Friday from 8am-11am. (Upcoming: March 5, 19)

Thank you for the donations that continue to come in for our Food Pantry. It is only through your generosity that we are able to help families in need.

Donations can be brought on Food Pantry Days between 8-11am:

- Canned Fruit
- Tuna fish
- Breakfast Cereal
- PB and J
- Canned Vegetables
- Beefaroni
- Spaghettios
Together We Are Making a Difference

2021 Appalachia Service Project
SUMMER MISSION TRIP
June 27 - July 3, 2021

Our ASP Team is still going this summer to help make homes warmer and dryer. ASP Volunteers and Families develop life-long relationships. Everyone who comes into contact with this ministry is transformed.

Interested in going or learning more? Visit www.asphome.org or contact Eddie Davis.

Thank you for supporting our ASP Mission Trip. Without the help of our congregation, we could not make this possible.

Christmas in April 2021

Christmas in April is changing to May 22 this year. We are hoping that the few extra weeks will allow more people to get immunized.

Mt. Zion will have the same house that we were assigned last year. We hope to finish what we started. We still need to install a porch and steps, repair a rear deck, and replace two more windows.

The family has stepped up and completed some of the other projects. There is still a lot to be done.

Please let me know if you can help.
Thank you for your continued support,
Ken Cardinale

FREE TAKE & GO LUNCHES
11am – 12:30pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Pop-up-Pantry: Wednesday

The Circle of Friends have been making sandwiches and passing out lunches every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11-12:30. In addition to lunch, we also provide a box of dry food items to families on Wednesday.

Thank you for your continued support,
Nancy Cardinale

Picture Right from 2017
Linda Dean and Ken Cardinale

Mt. Zion Church
Christmas in April
St. Mary’s County
A&B Trucking

Circuit Rider March 2021
Enrollment has begun for 2021-2022 school year.
Registration forms are available on our webpage.

2021 Preschool Summer Program
The preschool will be having their first ever Summer Program for children ages 2-5. The program will run June 29- Aug 6th on Tue, Wed and Thur from 915am-1230pm. The cost is $325 for 6 weeks. Please contact Rebecca for more information. 301-884-5455 or go to our website at www.mtzionpreschool.com.

Given in Memory of our loved ones
A Donation was made to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Norma & Stanley Buckler by: The Family, Susan Hamilton, Mamie Wenke, Patsy Johnson
A Donation was made to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Stanley Buckler by: Tom & Ouida Starbuck
A Donation was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Mary Jo Comer by: Barbara Walter

Stay Informed … Get the Latest Information … Stay Connected
E-VINE: Join the church email list to receive Prayer Requests, Event Reminders, Cancellations, Sunday Bulletin, and more. If you have already signed up and feel you are not getting messages, please email Ide at ide-hill@comcast.net.

Join our Facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/65452201342/?ref=bookmarks
When we post a new video to the group, all group members are immediately notified that something new has been posted.

Pastor Steve’s Weekly Updates on Facebook Every Thursday 8pm
Join in the discussion. Get updates and ask questions. https://www.facebook.com/MtZionMech/ Inspirational scriptures and quotes to keep us moving forward. Get a sneak peek at the sermon topic for Sunday. Share your input or questions about the story or topic.
### March 2021

Recurring Weekly Events are BOLDED

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<td>Worship Sunday</td>
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<td>8:30sm On-Line &amp;</td>
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<td>11-12:30pm Take-n-Go Meals “Pop Up” Pantry 7pm Antique Power (bl/gr)</td>
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<td>7pm Boy Scouts (mp)</td>
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**Answer to Bible Trivia from pg. 5**

“Above that he is able.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

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**Worship with Us**

**Worship from your home at 8:30am**

**Inside Worship offered at 8:30 and 10am**

**Limited seating is available at 8:30am in the Sanctuary.**

Please do not arrive before 8:15am. This will still be our on-line service.

Pews have been taped off to allow for social distancing.

**Worship at 10am in our Fellowship Hall**

Chairs are arranged 6 feet apart in groups of 2, 3 and 4 to allow for families to sit together.

Communion held at the 10am Service on the first Sunday of each month.

**Masks are required and temperature taken at the door at both services.**

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**For more information, visit our website at www.mtzionmech.org**
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
27108 Mt. Zion Church Road  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Address Service Requested

**Sunday Schedule**

On-Line Service @ 8:30 am
In Person Worship @ 8:30 and 10am
Sunday School Offered for All Ages

**Senior Pastor - Pastor Steve Humphrey**
preacher.steve.humphrey@gmail.com

**Director of Christian Education - Arielle Crooks**
Mtzion-ChildrensMinistry@gmail.com

**Director of Music Ministry - Ben Stern**
zionumc.music@gmail.com.

**Office Administrator - Toni Hayes**
admin-mtzion@md.metrocast.net

**Care Visitation Coordinator - Pattie Scherer**
301-884-4344; to patscherer707@gmail.com

**E-vine Coordinator - Ide Hill**
Ide-hill@comcast.net

**Preschool Director - Rebecca Fitzgerald**
301-884-5455; preschool-mtzion@md.metrocast.net

**Office Hours**

Offices are staffed intermittently at this time.
Office: 301-884-4132/Fax: 301-884-4010
There will be a delay in the response to messages left on the church phone.

**Mt. Zion Vision**

Building a welcoming community of faith centered on Jesus Christ that reaches beyond our walls.