

## SEASONS OF HOPE



*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." (Proverbs 13:12) and, "hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5*

We have rung in a New Year, at least we have with our calendars. It is that time of year when we once again struggle with writing a new set of numbers on our checks, our papers, and other documents that require a date. Just one digit difference and it does pose some problems, at least for the first part of the year. While on the one hand we celebrate the fresh outlook a new year can bring, on the other hand it is difficult to get our minds and hearts out of the older traditions that we have grown to embrace. It is the time of year when we are often asked what our New Year's resolutions will be and how long do we believe we will continue to strive to accomplish those resolutions. It's a time to seek new things in a new way.

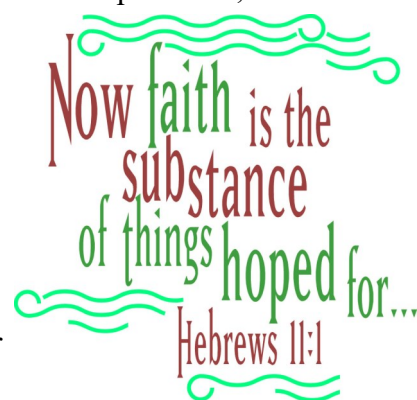
While this may be describing only a small season in our lives, it could also be seen as a way of viewing the many seasons we experience in life. Blending new traditions with old traditions may also be describing more of our customs, our traditions, and our habits then simply the beginning of a new year. It could also be applied to our faith and the hope with find through our faith. One is a hope for a positive action in our lives that will generate something positive and desirable not just for us but for others. But if we find that some of our traditions and customs are hindering the newness of more hope and faith, then we should be bold enough to question which ones may need to be updated.

As we look ahead into this New Year, this new season that is on us, shouldn't we also seek to find ways in which we can strengthen our hope in the Lord? That hope comes through our loving attitude and actions toward ourselves and one another. It is a hope that is truly a gift from God, demonstrated and taught through and in the ministry of Jesus Christ, and remains a part of the actions of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. While the Spirit is a gift and something that we can embrace and share, it is also something that we can either under-utilize or simply ignore. That is when our faith takes a big hit.

I certainly recognize that there are many, many, many responsibilities, activities, and commitments that we already have on our plates. These are with our family, our friends, and our neighbors. The demands on our time are many, yet if we are going to be hopeful in this New Year, which should include building on our faith, then we should truly commit time to growing in our faith. Pray for guidance and direction in seeking to grow in faith and in the hope of Christ.

Thank you for your continued support in prayer, commitment, tithes and offerings, and also thank you for your continued interest in helping Zion UMC grow and glow in the Light of Christ. Let us prepare our hearts for the special way in

which God will lead us and guide us in this New Year.



In Christ,  
Pastor David

# Church Bazaar Recap

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Bazaar a success! Approximately \$10,000 has been raised. We truly appreciate all the time and hard work that everyone puts in throughout the year to make it all come together. The ladies are looking forward to meeting again on Tuesday's starting January 10 – all are welcome to attend.







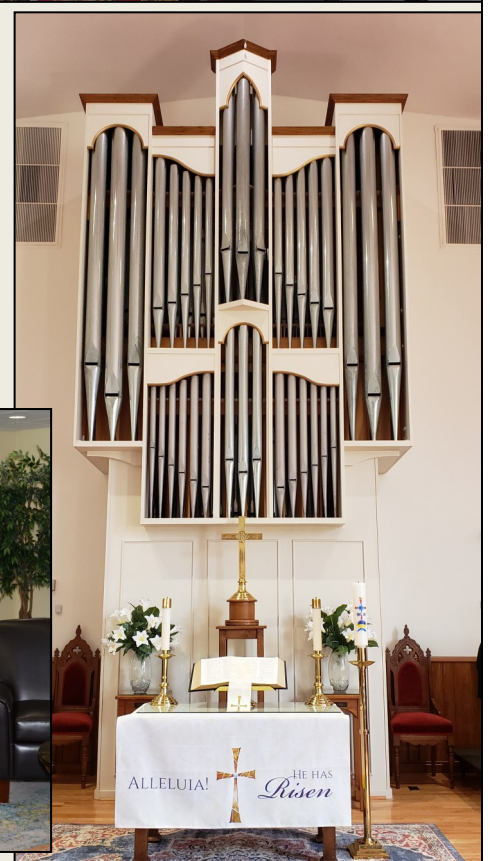
## ORGAN FUND UPDATE

While our pipe organ has brought us beautiful music and hymns in its 38-year history, the electronic board is approaching the end of its lifespan. This means that the board will need to be replaced at an estimated cost is \$60,000.

Thanks to the generosity of many, and the tireless efforts of our children, our goal of \$60,000 is already halfway met. If anyone would like to donate to this fund, you are welcomed to do so and note it on your giving envelopes.

### Children's Craft Sale For the Organ Fund

Our children continue to work in preparing more craft items to sell to help raise money for the Organ Fund. Our kids have taken in over \$650! Their sale continues in the Commons.





### **Zion Serving at PORT**

Zion served the homeless community through the PORT program on November 16 and 17. Thanks to all of those who helped. Chip Rowley and his volunteers helped prepare and cook the food. Other volunteers helped with signing the guests in for the night and storing their belongings. Pictured above are Bill and Brenda Wells, Chris Hopkins and Debi Hargis are behind Warren Hickmott. Those are just a few of the 13 volunteers who assisted that night. Our next date to serve is the first week of March. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact the church office.



We have had two movie night's over the past couple of months, the first was a Hallow's Eve Movie Night where the kids came in their costumes. The other was the end of December where all enjoyed an indoor snowball fight, photo on page 11. More Movie Nights are being planned for the New Year!



# PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



One of the bigger tasks in preparing the sanctuary and church for the celebration of Advent and Christmas is the assembling and decorating of the Chrismon Tree. But thanks to Doug Crockett and his helpers, which included Josh Humphrey and Cory Crockett and their friends, this task was completed in good spirit. We thank each of the young people who helped with the tree.

Setting up the lighted tree outside, as well as the Nativity scene was another major task that was handled with care, as seen on the next page.



Monty and Warren carefully connect all of the light strands as the base sits ready for the lights.



The lights for the tree and Nativity shined bright.



## The Sanctuary in Advent



Viola and Andrew Collins read before lighting the Advent Candles for one Sunday, and April, Cole and Jackson Foster join Pastor David and Julie in the reading and lighting of the candles on another.

We were also blessed with the Zion Bell Choir who rang during Advent. Pictured are Diane and Gary Short who also performed a duet during that special Sunday.



# CHRISTMAS EVE



After Monty and Warren helped in setting up the stable scene, the service was held with help from the children of the church.

Afterwards, the 11 pm Candles and Carols service was held in the sanctuary.





## ANGEL TREE GIFTS APPRECIATED

Once again we witnessed tremendous support for our Angel Tree this year. Almost half of the Angels were taken the first Sunday they arrived on the tree. Thank you for your continued support of our Angel Tree. The gifts were delivered to THRIVE and the staff was overwhelmed with the number of gift bags and gifts that were included. The timing of the delivery worked well with THRIVE's scheduled distribution of Christmas food and gifts to their clients. The staff shared with us how joyful the clients will be when they receive their gifts. THRIVE sends their gratitude and Christmas wishes to the Zion Congregation for continued support of its ministry, and posted its gratitude on the Facebook page.

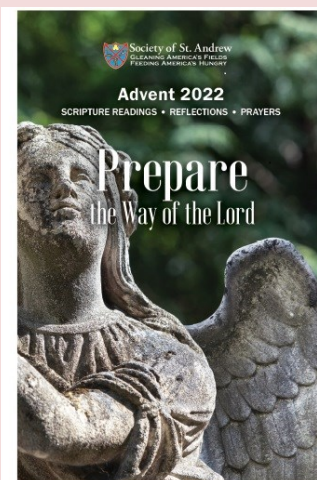


**Thank you  
Zion UMC!**

## Society of St. Andrew Advent Devotional

Another ministry that we support is the Society of St. Andrew who helps feed the hungry throughout the country. It is time to return the coin banks, or a check, to the church so that we can bless the gifts and send them to Society of St. Andrew.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.





A new mission opportunity will be our focus during our Share the Love Mission in February. They are called Chemo Kits, a kit of various items that will be given to people going through chemotherapy. Simple gestures of love and support can go a long way, if you would like to help please see Doug Crockett or call the church.

Tags will be placed on the tree in the Commons beginning Sunday, January 15 that will include such items as: hand sanitizer, lip balm and lotion (fragrance free), lozenges/hard candy (Lemon flavored/Ginger chew), puzzle books, soft knit cap, and soft socks. Items need to be returned by Sunday, February 12.

## MITTEN TREE

Even though we were once again asked not to purchase mittens, hats, scarves and other winter attire for Henry Fork, it is very comforting and reassuring to witness the money that was given to support this ministry.



The kids enjoying Movie Night & Snowball fight.

The Golden family would like to thank Pastor David and the Cemetery Committee for their assistance with the graveside service for Bobby Allen Golden, Sr. on November 12th. It meant a lot to our family.

Becky and Bobby Golden



### More Fellowship Dinners in the Works

Andrew Collins and Warren Hickmott are working with the church office to schedule weeknight fellowship dinners.

The first dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 pm. We hope everyone will come out to join in good food and fellowship. If you would like to sign up to prepare a meal, please contact the church office.



### UNITED METHODIST MEN DINNER & MEETINGS

The men will begin meeting again soon. The goal is for the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are interested in helping to plan and prepare a meal, please contact the church office.



Our youth are planning fundraisers to raise money for a Youth Retreat they would like to attend in Daytona Beach, Florida in July.

The first fundraiser is a Chili Cook-off planned for Saturday, January

28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. A love offering will be taken at the door. The Youth are looking for volunteers to make chili to be judged at the event. If you are willing to make a pot of chili to share please contact the church office.

## SHROVE PANCAKE DINNER

Wednesday, February 22, 6 pm

Love offering for the Food Closet will  
be accepted



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 7 pm

Following the Shrove Wednesday  
pancake dinner.

## HEALTH NEWS

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year! As we look ahead to see the season of spring approaching, we need to start to prepare. Where do we start?

Ok, how about preventing falls—to begin, make these a daily routine:

- Remove objects and debris in your path such as loose throw rugs.
- Wipe up spills.
- Tape down electrical cords when using for a temporary project.
- Walk where you can hold onto steady furniture, counters, or cabinets, so in the event that you fall you can use them for support.
- Allow easy access to lights when entering a dark room.
- Use handrails on stairs and steps.
- Use a shower chair when bathing if you are unsteady with your balance.
- Don't bend down when picking up objects from the floor as this may cause you to become dizzy—squat for safety!
- Wear shoes with good soles for gripping floor surfaces.
- Don't use a chair as a ladder — a safety ladder or a good strong reacher would be safer to use.
- Never walk without your cane or walker when the ground is uneven or slippery. Finish turning around before you walk.
- When go out for a walk, wear your glasses and keep the cellphone on hand in case you are alone. Let someone know where you are going so they can wait for your return and know your location.
- Take your time for safety and to prevent accidents.
- Stand up slowly from a sitting position to prevent blood pressure from dropping which causes light headedness.
- Know where your chair is before taking a seat.
- Lastly, take a deep breath, think what your planning to do before ambulating.

Stay safe and enjoy each day!!

God bless us. Maria S.



## Rewards Programs for Zion

Zion is continuing to see the benefits of being a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program and of Amazon Smile.



So far we have received over

\$1,200 from Kroger Community Rewards, and \$550 from AmazonSmile. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute. To

learn more about either of these programs, please contact the church office.



Jan. 2—Church Office Closed  
Jan. 8—Epiphany Sunday  
Jan. 9—6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting  
Jan. 10—10 am Bazaar Workshop Resumes  
Jan. 11—6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner  
Jan. 13—Social Hall Reserved  
Jan. 16—Church Office closed  
Jan. 16—6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting  
Jan. 17—6:30 pm Church Council Meeting  
Jan. 23—1-6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive  
Jan. 28—5:30 pm Chili Cookoff

Feb. 3 & 4—Social Hall Reserved for Girl Scouts Powderpuff Derby  
Feb. 8—6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner  
Feb. 13—6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting  
Feb. 15—6:30 pm Church Council Meeting  
Feb. 20—6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting  
Feb. 22—Ash Wednesday  
6:00 pm Pancake Dinner  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service  
Feb. 23—6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting

### **Weekly Events**

Tuesday's 10—2 Bazaar Workshop  
Sunday's 5:30—6:45 Handbell Rehearsal

## **Donations Needed for Spring Yard Sale**



A Yard Sale is being planned for sometime this spring with the proceeds going to the Organ Fund. We have already started collecting items! If you have things you would like to donate please drop them off in the social hall during office hours. We are accepting everything! Household goods, electronics, clothes, holiday décor, etc.



### January Birthdays

Winston Crockett	1/1
Andrew Harrison	1/2
George Stephenson	1/2
Michael Mapes Jr.	1/3
Loren McAdams	1/5
Ronald Collier Jr.	1/7
Shirley Paetz	1/7
Robyne Patterson	1/9
Davis Conner	1/10
Marissa Lanier	1/10
Tracy Hill	1/12
Clifford Winbush IV	1/12
Joseph Rohde	1/13
Savannah Soult	1/13
Pete Hartman	1/14
Owen Keller	1/16
Daniel Martin	1/16
Crystal Thomas	1/16
Trevor Capps	1/19
Robin Mills	1/20
Sherry Wornom	1/21
Audrey Miller	1/22
Zetie Damron	1/23
Erica Davenport-Goon	1/24
Claire Gordon	1/26
Janet Hoffman	1/27

### February Birthdays

Clarence Westcott	2/1
Anne Conner	2/3
Dylan Thomas	2/3
Megan Wroten	2/5
Sandra Emerson	2/6
Deborah Harris	2/10
Mary Boyd	2/11
James Flowers	2/12
Raymond Forrest	2/12
Wesley Collier	2/15
Phyllis Teel	2/16
Amanda Doggett	2/17
Brenton Robinson	2/17
Joan White	2/18
Patricia Williams	2/19
Andrew Collins	2/20
Julie Booth	2/21
Chip Rowley	2/21
Donald Teel	2/23
Reggie Moore	2/24
Joyce Adams	2/25
Caroline Carden	2/25
Michael Crockett	2/25
Sam Stratton	2/25
Rhonda Difulvio	2/26
Karen Wood	2/26
Caitlin Carden	2/27
Wayne Appleton	2/28

### January Anniversaries

James & Julie Gordon	1/7
Chris & Anna Hopkins	1/8
Zetie & Irene Damron	1/23
Richard & Rebecca White Sr.	1/27
Thomas & Margaret Hogge	1/28

### February Anniversaries

Pete & Betty Parkerson	2/14
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### **Wi-Fi Access**

**Connect to:** Zion Guest  
**Password:** zion1822

### **OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!**

**January:** Betty Bartek & Sherry Wornom

**February:** Jessie Raymer & Bonnie Bennett

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed throughout the year, please call the office or send an email to the church office at [office@zionseaford.church](mailto:office@zionseaford.church) so we can update our database.

### **Zion's email addresses:**

**Pastor David:** [pastor@zionseaford.church](mailto:pastor@zionseaford.church); **Office/Sherry:** [office@zionseaford.church](mailto:office@zionseaford.church)



Zion United Methodist Church  
PO BOX 240  
Seaford, Virginia 23696

January—February 2023



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**Monday, January 23**  
**From 1– 6 pm**

*Zion's Staff*

Pastor: Rev. David Magruder

Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom; Accompanist: Tara Thomas

757-898-7417, Fax: 757-898-9226 Email: [office@zionseaford.church](mailto:office@zionseaford.church)

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