

WHAT A BLESSING!!



*From the
Pastor*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

(Ephesians 1:3)

What a difference a year makes! It was just last year this time that we were making our final plans and preparations for the celebration of Zion's 200th Anniversary. That included a nice catered meal and displays of many of the historical items of Zion, and the main worship celebration in October with Bishop Sharma Lewis presiding. On the one hand it seems like years ago, and on the other hand it seems like just last month! There are many lessons that we can continue to learn from the special celebration we enjoyed together, like how we have been blessed to celebrate 200 years of ministry, and how Christ continues to work in our lives, as well as the realization of how quickly time passes. For the purpose of the newsletter, I want to focus on how Christ continues to be very active with all of us in ministry.

When we review all that has occurred in the life of Zion, and its congregation since last September, everyone should be amazed and in awe! There have been new births, new marriages, new members, new ministry opportunities, and a renewed excitement in the ministry at Zion. We have celebrated another successful VBS, Easter celebration, Youth activities and Retreat, a new Confirmation class, another Bible Study, and a wonderfully successful Yard Sale. These are just to mention a few!

The challenge that was posed to us last year was to look toward the next 5, 10, 25 and 50 years at Zion and envision how God will lead us into the ministries on the horizon. If we had only sat back and waited for certainty that God is moving in our midst, we would have missed out on many opportunities. That is not what we did as a church. We embraced the Spirit that is alive and moving at Zion and began a faithful ride for another year, and it is looking amazing, so far.

Our worship attendance is increasing, both in person and online. Our membership is growing and a desire to become more involved in the mission of the church is increasing. There are so many positive and wonderful things happening I feel like a boastful parent. But I praise God for it all. God is leading us, and we are faithfully responding as Christ teaches us. We are open for the work of the Holy Spirit, and we are boldly going into the world in the strength of God's Spirit, and it is showing.

As we faithfully look for the fall season and for the Season of Advent and Christmas, let us continue to celebrate God's work in our lives and seek to faithfully respond to Christ's calling as we continue to be the church to all people.



In Christ,
Pastor David

VBS 2023



Hero Hotline

Once again our VBS experience proved a blessing to all. We had 45 students who attended and all enjoyed the many adventures and activities of the week. It would not have been possible without our many volunteers. We thank everyone who helped make this ministry and outreach so successful.

Adult Volunteers

Carrie Burris
Gail Williamson
Lisa Elder
Liz Blanton
Warren Hickmott
Cindy Summerford
Jimmy Butler

Stacy German
Andrew Collins
Molly Martin
Beth Tyree
Miranda Moon
Seth Blanton
Lauren Mohrhuse

Jim Williamson
Julie Magruder
Ashley Green
Sondra Hickmott
Stacy Lanier
Ian Gordan
George Stephenson

Katie Collins
Rob Thompson
Susan Shaw
Patty Capps
Barbara Wornom
Claire Gordon

Cammie Butler
Tara Thomas
Monty Mills
Amy Moore-
Kelly Dayton
Doug Crockett

Youth Helpers

Dylan Thomas
Grace Thompson
Brady Torres
Grant German

Marissa Lanier
Savanah Soult
Owen Blanton
Carly Woody

Julia Thompson
Emmie Walton
Carson Burris
Summer Hughes

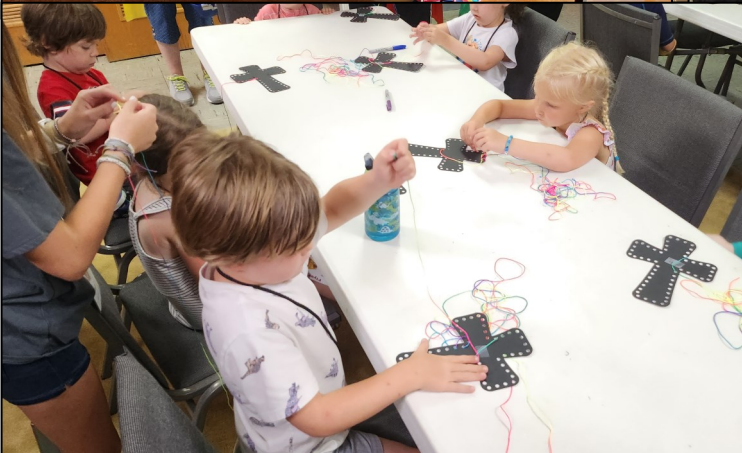
Connor Burvuso
Kinzie Byers
Grace Eason

Haley Thomas
Ayden Soult
Owen Keller



As usual, each VBS MUST include the laundromat for the t-shirts, and of course dancing to the new music, snacks, outdoor games, science experiments, and the Bible stories.







Camp Firelight
A SUMMER CAMP
Psalm 56:3
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

**Coming in
2024!**

Youth Retreat 2023

Seven of Zion's youth, led by Jordan Usselman and Pastor David, began their journey to the UMC Youth Retreat in Florida on Monday, July 24.

After driving about 7-hours, the group spent the night in Santee, SC. The next morning, a brief historical stop in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA was made before arriving in Daytona Beach.

Over 2,500 youth and leaders from UMC's around the US and other countries,



joined together to celebrate their faith and to grow in their faith at Youth 2023:BOLD: *Being Ourselves and Living Different*.

While at the Retreat, the youth spent more than 11 hours in worship over the two-and-a-half day period. The lively music, intriguing speakers and preachers, kept the interest of the students. There were also workshops offered during Wednesday and Thursday, as well as time to enjoy fellowship.



Haley Thomas pictured with Rev. Rachel Billups and all of the students with Rev. Victor Cyrus-Franklin.



Pictures above: Julia Thompson with Rev. Rachel Billups; the Holiday Inn where our group stayed; more worship pictures and the band whom the youth really enjoyed; one of the workshops attended; and the group joyful for the trip back home.

ORGAN FUND & REPAIR UPDATE



The generosity of the congregation has been phenomenal since we first learned of the need to replace the main electronic board of the organ. Our pipe organ has brought us beautiful music and hymns since it was first installed in 1984. But as it has aged, many of the components have begun to show their wear and are in need of updating. When first setting a goal

of \$60,000, we were looking at a five-year campaign to raise the funds. But when the gifts were greater than anticipated and we decided to move forward with the project, we learned that the actual cost of the upgrade was higher than we had expected. The total price is \$79,987.

A contract has been signed with Mark Thompson Pipe Organ Company to lock in the costs, and the work on the upgrade has begun. Mark and a gentleman from the company who is preparing the new digital components were here in July to finalize the schematics for the upgrade.

Once that work is completed, the organ will be removed from the sanctuary so an upgraded keyboard and stops will be added before returning to the church. Then the organ will be rewired to the new digital board and the organ will be ready to play. The deadline for this work will be before Christmas. Thanks for everyone's support, patience, and understanding during this upgrade. The Organ Fund is currently over \$55,000. If anyone would like to donate, you are welcomed to do so and note it on your giving checks and envelopes.



DIAPER DELIVERY CONTINUES

The Seekers Sunday School Class has continued their effort for supporting the **Care Net Peninsula** project:- a local Christian based non-profit organization which supports women in crisis pregnancy situations and post-birth. The class has actively continued donation collection and delivery activities. As of August'23, numerous deliveries have been completed and will continue in the future. Various Items donated include diapers, clothing and hygienic supplies key to supporting infants and early year babies/ mother needs. Various forms of support activities range from monetary, clothing & material, volunteer time to help with minor inventory and kitting. If you would like to know more about helping with this ongoing activity, please contact Wayne Appleton or any class member.



This mission driven by scripture - remembering the words of King David as he declared in Psalm 127:3 "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward."

And more importantly the words of Our Lord & Savior Jesus who said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." -Amen



SUTTON JAMES WROTEN

Congratulations to Megan and Aubrey Wroten on the birth of their daughter Sutton. She was born on Thursday, June 29, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz. and she is 20 inches long.

Sutton is the granddaughter of Richie and Kris Moore and Brian and Nancy Wroten, and great-granddaughter of Amy Moore.



CLEANING & TRIMMING AROUND CHURCH



Maintaining a clean and well-kept church not only applies to inside the building, but also on the exterior grounds. Thanks to some generous gifts, HouseWash 757 was contracted to clean the sidewalks around the church, the brick pavers in the Memorial Garden and parsonage, and the pavilion roof and concrete slab.

Also, Jerry Knutson has been busy keeping the shrubs and weeds in the bedding under control. To maintain a manicured lawn and campus, a good number of hours goes into each of these projects and we are grateful to the volunteers for their work.



Thank
You



Welcome, New Members

Vernon & Eileen Green, Jr.

235 Timberline Loop

Yorktown, VA 23662

757-771-5339

Baptism



TENLEIGH WADE HAWKINS was baptized on Sunday, July 2. Tenleigh is the daughter of Landyn Kopczynski Hawkins and Zack Hawkins. The grandparents were on hand for the celebration as well.

Financial UPDATE

Fall means cooler temperatures, beautiful foliage, football, and the preparation of Zion's 2024 Budget. Where did the year go? Since we will be diving into the budget numbers and forecasts for the coming year, we want to update the Congregation on our financial health.

We built our 2023 budget with an increased emphasis on mission and service. Reading our newsletters reminds us how we continue to be active in ministry. The articles and pictures of our many activities and ministries remind us how God has led us in accomplishing many wonderful things in 2023.

All of this should serve as a reminder of how God continues to use our gifts of time, talent, and money in making a difference in people's lives. Your gifts are also allowing us to be great stewards of the church campus. In 2023, we continued to update our heating and cooling units, and our audio-visual system. We began to modernize our organ, and we just recently replaced the parsonage driveway and sidewalks. All of this activity has required us to use our financial gifts as was budgeted, but it has also brought a greater focus on the status of our 2023 giving levels.

We are currently below our expected giving levels for this time of the year by about 24%. We ask you to pray about this situation, and if you can, we ask you to increase your gifts for the remainder of 2023 and for 2024. We plan to continue emphasizing mission in our 2024 budget, while continuing to budget for campus improvements and maintenance as well. We will be sending out pledge cards the first of September, as we do each year.

Please prayerfully consider your 2024 gifts and return the cards as quickly as possible. We are scheduled to present our 2024 budget to Church Council on October 11, in preparation for our Charge Conference on November 5, 2023. As a reminder, all are invited to our monthly Church Council meetings. Together with God guiding us, we will continue to grow and to make a difference in people's lives.

Blessing to All,

Scott Dayton, Chair of Finance Committee



IRA GIFTS TO CHURCH



For those who have reached the age of 70 years, they are very familiar with the IRS rules that require withdrawing a minimum amount of funds from their traditional IRA accounts. These funds are taxable as income when withdrawn from the IRA accounts. However, if those withdrawing the funds would donate them to a qualifying charity, the money

is not taxed as income to the IRA holder.

If you, or someone you know, meets the age requirement, and is facing a required minimum distribution, and are fortunate not to need the distribution for living expenses, you can have the funds go directly to Zion UMC. To be eligible for this specific tax-exempt donation, the transfer of funds must be made directly from the IRA to Zion UMC.

If you are interested, or have more questions about this IRS ruling, please contact the church.

UMCOR Response to Wildfires in Maui



Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, please join UMCOR in prayer for those affected. If you would like to make a monetary gift, please make your check to Zion UMC and include "UMCOR – Hawaii" on your envelope or check.



Christmas In July Mission

Thank you to everyone who selected tags from our Christmas Tree and then purchased items for the children in the York County

Head Start program.

Over 90 items were purchased and have been delivered to York County Head Start.





Sunday School Available For All Ages!

REMINDER: Sunday School starts at 9:00 am each Sunday before our worship service - everyone is welcomed!

Children & Youth

Nursery - Room 107

K - 2nd grade - Room 205

3 - 5th grade - Room 208

Youth - Room 302

Adults

Builders Class - Room 221

Young Adult Class - Room 218

Seekers Class - Room 300



- ♦ Nursery class is lead by Cammie Butler & Julie Magruder.
- ♦ Kindergarten through 2nd graders is lead by Ashley Green.
- ♦ 3rd through 5th graders are lead by Blake Simpson.

These three classes use the Celebrate Wonder curriculum from Cokesbury.

- ♦ The youth class is lead by Jordan Usselman. They explore their faith through scripture and discussion, and learn more about the church.



The Builder's Sunday School Class - It uses the quarterly Sunday School books for lessons each week. The first Sunday the class meets in Room 205 (across from the church office). The other Sundays on the 2nd floor in Room 221. We have excellent teachers. For more information contact Leona Knutson 757-898-6582 or Pat Binder 757-898-7784. Hope to see you there!!

CLASS SOCIAL - The Builder's Class will meet at 11:30 am on Thursday, September 21st, at Eggheads Diner, Gloucester Point Shopping Center, 1785 George Washington Memorial Highway, for their monthly luncheon. Contact Pat Binder if you will be attending. PBinder@aol.com, 757-898-7784.

Seekers Sunday School Class - The Seekers Class meets every Sunday in room 300 on the third floor at 9:00am throughout the year. All Adults are welcome to join us and new attendees are encouraged to join the bible study.

Young Adults Class - This class enjoys the time together to learn more about the Bible and how we can apply the lessons to our daily lives. It is for adults who continue to be youthful, regardless of age. It meets in Room 218.

Movie Nights Scheduled!

Saturdays at 6:30 pm



OCTOBER 21 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL



SEPTEMBER 23 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL



We pray for all of our students, teachers, staff, administrators, and bus drivers to have a great 2023 - 2024 school year!

Church Bazaar - Saturday, November 4

The Bazaar Ladies have been working each week on craft projects in preparation for this year's big event. The preparation for fruitcakes has begun. We will be baking them on October 25 & 26 starting at 9 am.

Fall arrangements have been made and are for sale in the social hall.

There is storage for White Elephant / yard sale items if you have things you would like to donate please bring them by the church any-time the office is open.

We look forward to this years Bazaar being a day of fun and fellowship.

The group recently gave \$1,000 to UMCOR for relief in Hawaii.



Ushers Needed

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, we will return to collecting our offering during the service as has been the tradition in the past. We need your help "passing the plate", so if you are willing to volunteer to be an usher, contact the church office or call, text or email Scott Dayton.

Scott will build a schedule and remind volunteers before the service each week. Please sign up via your preferred means of communication - phone, text or email.

Scott Dayton,
smdayton40@gmail.com, or 757-303-0650



STROKE WARNING SIGNS

Five-to-seven days before a stroke, you could have these signs of an impending stroke: Numbness or weakness of the face, in your arm or your legs. Trouble speaking or understanding speech is another possible sign, as well as trouble seeing out of one or both eyes. In addition, trouble walking, dizziness, or problems with your balance, or maybe a severe headache without any particular reason.

Always know the signs of a stroke and call 911 immediately. The signs are:

- F - face is drooping
- A - arms can you raise both?
- S - speech is it slurred or jumbled?
- T - time to call 911.

Beat stroke call 911 FAST!!!

Research by Loma Linda University in California found that if you drink five glasses of water daily it could reduce your risk of a stroke by 53 percent. So drink up folks.

Sandra Phaneuf



COMMENTS FROM GIBSON MOON'S LETTERS SHARED by HIS FAMILY

"I have really been enjoying reading the sermons Zion sends out each week, and the notes from the congregation."

"Seeing all those familiar names makes it exciting to think about coming home."

"I hope we can all go to church together [when I get home]."

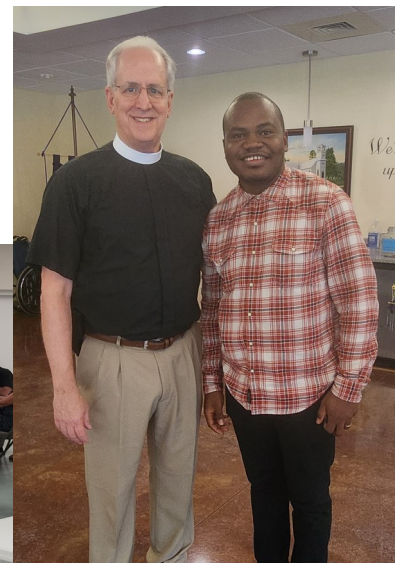
"I get a little teary-eyed every time I read a letter from home."

Thank you to all at Zion UMC who have supported Gibson during his training to become a U.S. Marine.

Miranda and Austin Moon
& Amy Moore

Welcoming Our Brother in Christ, Cesar Lodiha Akoka

During the Youth Retreat in Florida our youth met Cesar at lunch following a worship service. Cesar is studying for his Masters in Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. He joined us for Worship and Lunch on Sunday, August 27th. Cesar is from Congo, where his wife and son are living. We look forward to many more visits with Cesar.



September

October

Sept. 1 - Funeral Service for Lisa Mills
 Sept. 4 - Church Office Closed
 Sept. 8 & 9 - Social Hall Reserved
 Sept. 11 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Sept. 20 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Sept. 21 - 11:30 am Builders Class Lunch
 at Eggheads Diner
 Sept. 23 - 6:30 pm Movie Night
 Sept. 28 - 6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting

Oct. 9 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Oct. 11 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Oct. 13 & 14 - Social Hall Reserved
 Oct. 19 - 6:30 pm - ZUMM Dinner & Meeting
 Oct. 21 - 6:30 pm Movie Night
 Oct. 25 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Oct. 25 & 26 - 9 am Baking Fruitcakes for Bazaar

Weekly Events

Tuesday's 10—2 Bazaar Workshop



kroger community rewards

Thank You for Your Support!

Zion continues to receive the benefits of being a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program. So far we have received over \$1,500 from Kroger Community Rewards.

Thank you to everyone who continues to list Zion as its community reward partner. Signing up is easy through the app or on Kroger's website. If you need help signing up, please contact the church office.

Looking Ahead!

Experiencing Christmas

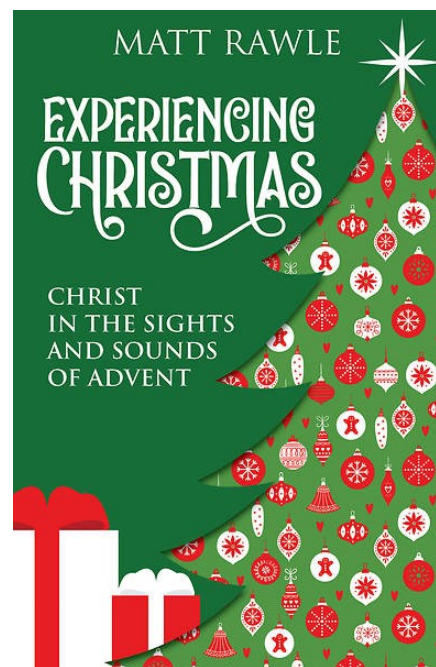
Advent Study

Thursdays - November 2, 9,

16, & 30

2:00 pm or 6:30 pm

**Society of St. Andrew
 Advent Devotions Available
 in November**



Celebrations!

September Birthdays

Chris Wolfe	9/3
Tanner Stippich	9/4
Ian Gordon	9/5
Christopher Henley	9/5
Ellen Rhinehart	9/6
Edwin Shaw Jr.	9/7
Darlene Stephenson	9/9
Jimmy Butler	9/10
Amy Greenwood	9/11
Chad Williams	9/12
Eric Ancarrow	9/14
Scott Dayton	9/14
Norma Ahner	9/15
Bruce Capps	9/18
Belinda Humphrey	9/18
Kelly Dayton	9/19
Elsie Henley	9/20
Dalton Mason	9/20
Barbara Hopson	9/21
Martha Simonnet	9/21
Chip Thomas	9/21
Julie Magruder	9/22
Ricky Thompson	9/23
James Williamson	9/23
Jerry Knutson	9/25
David Patterson	9/25
Lawrence Stippich	9/25
Norman Rush Sr.	9/26
Larry Shaw	9/27
Anna May Hopkins	9/30
Betty Parkerson	9/30

October Birthdays

Elizabeth Armistead	10/1
Lorene Berry	10/1
Jackie Robinson	10/2
Carleton Forrest	10/4
Margaret Thomas	10/4
Olivia Collins	10/6
Viola Collins	10/6
Joan Quass	10/7
Judith Castagnola	10/8
Nancy Clark	10/8
Jake Honeycutt	10/11
Ronald Bowler	10/12
April Foster	10/12
Julia Thompson	10/14
Kathy Kopczynski	10/19
John Pack Sr.	10/19
Greg Simonnet	10/19
Nancy Thompson	10/19
Dee Dee Matthews	10/20
Christopher Crockett	10/22
Christopher Patterson	10/22
Betsy Rowe	10/24
Vivian Smoot	10/26
Logan Goon	10/27
Jessie Raymer	10/29
Nellie Teagle	10/29
Nicholas Crockett	10/30
John Pack Jr.	10/31

September Anniversaries

Bruce & Patricia Capps	9/6
Larry & Debbie Shaw	9/13
Andrew & Katie Collins	9/17
Jeff & Kathryn Moore	9/18
Chip & Marie Rowley	9/22
Vernon & Eileen Green	9/25
Joseph & Joanne Rohde	9/28
Jeff & Nancy Verry	9/29

October Anniversaries

James & Samantha Grimmett	10/6
David & Julie Magruder	10/6
Jimmy & Cammie Butler	10/7
Charles & Frances Meissner	10/9
Jeff & Gayle White	10/11
David & Amara Ancarrow	10/12
Matthew & Carrie Burris	10/13
Chad & Elizabeth Williams	10/13
Winston & Sharon Crockett	10/24
Matthew & Shawna Needy	10/24
Miranda & Austin Moon	10/27
James & Amy Greenwood	10/30

Wi-Fi Access

Connect to: Zion Guest

Password: zion1822

OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!

September: Beverly Black & Flo Rush

October: Leona Knutson & Chris Wolfe

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 so we can update our database.

Zion's email addresses:

Pastor David: pastor@zionseaford.church; **Office/Sherry:** office@zionseaford.church



Zion United Methodist Church
PO BOX 240
Seaford, Virginia 23696

September - October 2023



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEAFORD, VA 23696
PERMIT # 1

Hello



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

Website: www.zionseaford.church / Like us on Facebook