

GOD IS WITH US



"If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?" (Romans 8:31-32)

It is hard to believe that the year 2023 is coming to an end. How could the year have gone by so quickly? It seems like just last week we were all taking down the Christmas decorations, making vacation plans for the summer, and preparing for the end of a school year, the beginning of summer, and maybe even becoming excited about the fall season. Now we are facing the winter season, and Thanksgiving, and Christmas. It is easy for us to think - SLOW DOWN!!!

Well, we may be thinking that everything needs to slow down, but through our experience in life we understand that time does march on and we just need to embrace it and become a part of moving forward. This doesn't mean that we ignore or forget the past, but it means we cherish the past, learn from its experiences, and continue to strive for the days and the opportunities ahead.

At Zion, when we reflect on the past 10 months, it is once again amazing to witness the movement of God's Spirit and the ministry that we have been active in partaking. Jeff Moore (THRIVE), Seekers Class (Caret), Ben & Norman (Food Closet), PORT, Chemo Love Kits, Angel Tree for Head Start Kids, Fellowship dinners, Easter Bash, UMCOR Sunday and women hygiene kit building, VBS, hosting our African guest – Cesar Akoka, plus more.

In addition, seven youth from our church traveled to a UMC Retreat in Daytona Beach, Florida, where they joined over 2,500 other youth from around the country to worship and grow in their discipleship of Jesus Christ. The youth also participated in several fundraisers during the year to raise money for their retreat. They were also active in completing Confirmation Classes and were baptized and/or Confirmed in the church. Our younger children continue to help raise money for the organ upgrade project and are continuing to share what is on their hearts in our worship services each week.

New families are visiting the church and some are joining. While at the same time, sadly, we have experienced the loss of several members of the church, but their legacies continue to live on in the hearts of many and in the work of the church. Our commitment remains the same, to be the Light of Christ in the world. This means active ministry in many areas other than what is listed above. It means commitments from all of us to be a part of the functionality and ministry of the church. It also means continuing to financially support the church and its ministry.



I am excited about the many ways Christ is alive at Zion, and I am excited about the plans we have for an Advent Bible Study, Worship Services, and other ministry opportunities we will undertake. God is with us and it is evident in the hearts, smiles, and hands of the people of Zion.

As we end this year, let us all praise God and seek ways to faithfully fulfill all of our commitments and our offerings to the church. Let us have faith that we will receive the gifts needed to finish the year strongly, and we will be positioned, financially, for a great start in 2024.

In Christ,
Pastor David



Church Bazaar – Saturday, November 4

Zion United
Methodist Church

Annual Church Bazaar

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Handmade Crafts, Fall & Christmas
Arrangements & Decorations,
Gifts, Accessories, and More!

Bake sale with Homemade Fruitcakes.

Clam Chowder and Hot Dogs for lunch.

2109 Seaford Road, Seaford, Virginia 23696
757-898-7417 www.zionseaford.church

Fruitcake Time!!





CESAR AKOKA CAPTURES OUR HEARTS

Cesar Akoka, a divinity student at Wesley Seminary and native of Congo, Africa won the hearts of the youth at the Retreat in Florida this summer. Pictured below are the t-shirts the youth purchased for Cesar's family, including his wife and 3-year old son. He also visited Zion the last Sunday of August and shared with

the congregation his work in ministry and how God is working in his life. We look forward to seeing him again at Thanksgiving.



NEW DRIVE AND WALKWAY FOR PARSONAGE INSTALLED



After being a part of the long-range plan of the parsonage for several year, 2023 was the year that a new concrete drive-way and sidewalk was installed.

In addition, the tile that was originally installed in the stoops was replaced with concrete. This was because the older tile had worn and had become a slipping hazard.

Before the concrete was poured, a new waterline was added to the parsonage from the water main in the front yard to the line in the house. During the installation, a shut-off valve was added in the utility room for easy access.



THICK CHURCH WALLS

Buildings aren't built like they used to be. This is especially true for Zion. The exterior walls of the sanctuary and 3-story building are over 2 feet wide.

These holes were drilled for the new exhaust line of the new furnace.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

The ten students who had been working on their Confirmation classes were Confirmed in the Church on this special Sunday. The classes were for seven weeks and the students spent two-hours class time each gathering learning about our Christian faith. During the Confirmation Service, Owen Keller, Ethan McLawhorn, and Roman Robinson were baptized. Students who had already been baptized and were now being Confirmed in the church were, Dylan Thomas, Daniel Earl Simpson, Grace Thompson, Julie Thompson, Haley Thomas, Owen Blanton, and Carson Burris.

Congratulations to these students who reached this milestone in their spiritual journey. May the Spirit continue to dwell in each as they grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.





DIAPER DELIVERY CONTINUES

The Seekers Sunday School Class continues to support the **CareNet Peninsula** project: - a local Christian based non-profit organization which supports women in crisis pregnancy situations and post-birth. The class continues to deliver donated items to the group. Some of those items include diapers, clothing and hygiene 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. They also helped CareNet move into their new office a few weeks ago. 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."*

Our Christmas In July Mission

Thank you to everyone who selected tags from our Christmas Tree and purchased items for the children in the York County Head Start program this past July. Over 90 items were purchased and were delivered to York County Head Start in August, which the staff joyfully received.

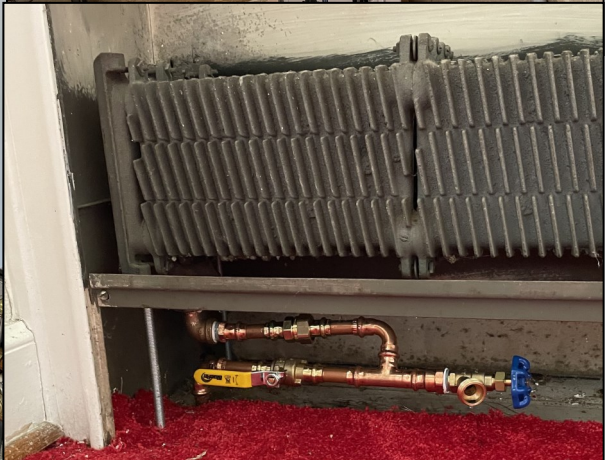


NEW FURNACE INSTALLED

During a routine boiler maintenance in March, it was discovered that a leak in the unit was getting to a dangerous point and a replacement was needed. The 25-year old furnace had corroded inside and it was allowing water to seep out. The amount of corrosion was not clear until the unit was dismantled.

A new, more energy-efficient unit was installed. This meant a rack had to be constructed to hold the units, and new piping was installed to assure service for many years to come.

Scott Eyer and Chad Hensley from Professional Heating and Air spent a couple of weeks at the church installing the new units. They also replaced all of the valves on each of the radiators in the Sanctuary.





OUR YOUTH on SUNDAY

For those who are not early risers or do not make it to Sunday School on Sunday's, this scene would not be a familiar one. But to others, this is normally where our youth gather in fellowship before going to the third floor for Sunday School each week. During the worship service, if they are not playing the handbells, they are in the balcony helping to run the audio, Facebook Live, and the Power-Point. Thanks to our YOUTH!!!

Update From THRIVE

Jeff Moore and Seaford Transfer continue to help THRIVE in their move into their new building. These pictures are of Jeff Moore and Tim and Allen Lentz, who were installing refrigerator and freezer doors on the new walk-in units at THRIVE's new location on Nettles Drive.

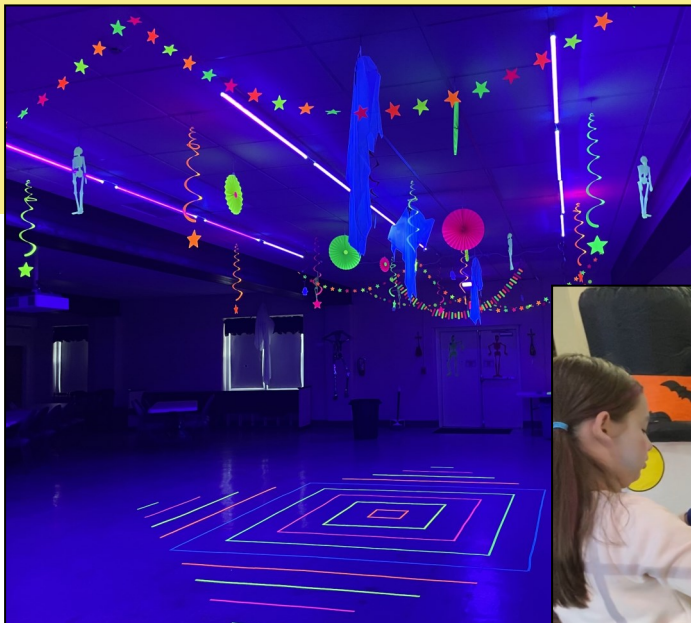
The new location is scheduled to open by the end of November, the first of December.

Thank You



GLOW PARTY SHINED

This was our first Glow Party -Movie Night. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped set everything up, it glowed with fun and excitement. Being the middle of October, Halloween was the theme.



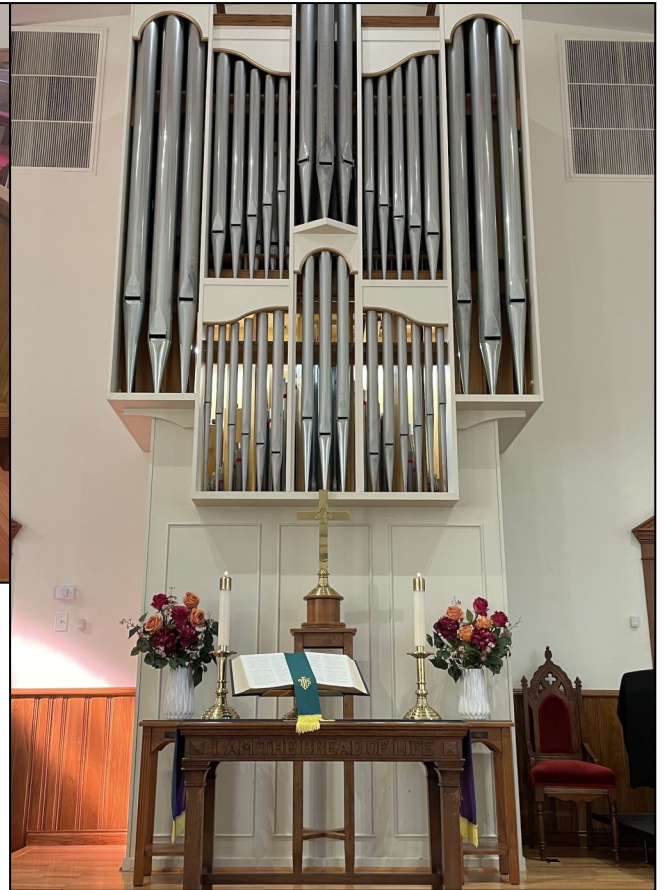
Kids enjoyed the games, activities, candy, and of course, the movie.

ORGAN FUND & REPAIR UPDATE



A contract was signed in July with Mark Thompson Pipe Organ Company to upgrade our organ. Work has begun on preparing the new digital components for the organ which will be installed at a later date. Once that work is completed, the organ will be removed from the sanctuary for an upgrade to the keyboard and stops, before it is returned to the church.

Then the organ will be rewired to the new digital board and the organ will be ready to play. The previous deadline had been before Christmas, but the company is also working on the organ at the Naval Academy, and we were concerned all of the components would not be completed by December. Therefore, the final part of the organ work will be done after the first of the year. If anyone would like to donate, you are welcomed to do so and note it on your giving checks and envelopes.



MISSION COMMITTEE



The Mission Committee is being reenergized to evaluate our current mission ministries and determine if there are other mission ministry opportunities that Zion can support. Some of the ministries that were reviewed and discussed included:

THRIVE

Natasha House

PORT

CareNet

Lackey Clinic

Peninsula Rescue Mission

UMCOR

The York County Food Closet

York County Head Start

Henry Fork Service Center

If you would like to get involved in this important ministry, please call the church office.



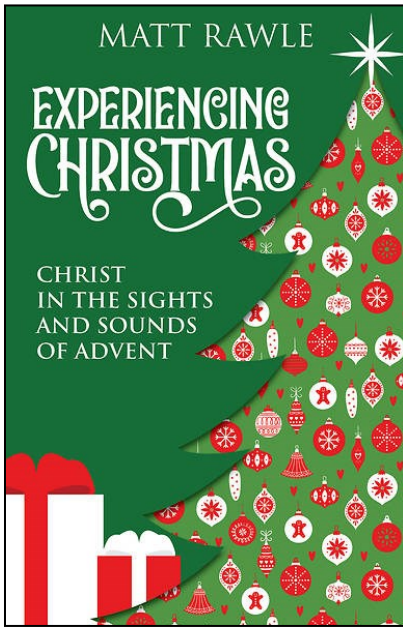
Welcome, New Members

Mike Salyer
110 Melody Lane
Yorktown, Virginia 23692
757-871-1801

Scott Tuck
109 Landing Road
Seaford, Virginia 23696
757-696-1838



Congratulations to Robin Mills and Scott Tuck who were married here at Zion UMC on Saturday, September 9. Robin has been a life-long member of Zion, and Scott decided to transfer his membership to Zion to be with his new bride.



ADVENT BOOK STUDY

**Thursday's November 2, 9, 16, & 30
at 2:00 pm OR 6:30 pm**

Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season. These differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Christmas is when God surrounded the divine with senses of his own. That first noel was when God had eyes to see suffering, ears to hear our cries, and hands to hold those in need, and all of these senses were bundled in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. "This will be a sign to you," the angel told the shepherds, and they traveled to Bethlehem and found a child. What signs do you see during the Advent and Christmas season that point you to the divine? **Please call the church office to sign up.**

Society of St. Andrew Advent Devotions Available in November

As the Advent season quickly draws near, it is easy to feel anxious and busy. Let us stay grounded this season with *The Gift of the Present* — The Society of St. Andrew's seasonal devotional booklet.

This year's theme is a timely reminder to not let the struggles of the world prevent us from experiencing the love and hope of Christ today. May we enter this season of hope and longing with the peace that only God can provide.



Parsonage Christmas Open House

Come and enjoy fellowship,
snacks, treats, hot cider, and more
at Pastor David and Julie's home.

Friday, December 1

From 6:00 until 8:00 pm



PARSONAGE
Open House



Tuesday, November 21

7:00 pm at Zion UMC

Come and join other churches from York County for this community Thanksgiving Service.

Church Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 10

5:30 pm

The meat will be provided, and the congregation is asked to bring a covered-dish for this family church Christmas Dinner.



Christmas Dinner



A Service of St. Nicholas

Sunday, December 17

10:00 am at Zion UMC

The congregations from Crooks UMC, Providence UMC, and Zion UMC will be gathering together on this Sunday for a special worship service. It will be led by St. Nicholas himself.

The Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21

7:00 pm at Zion UMC

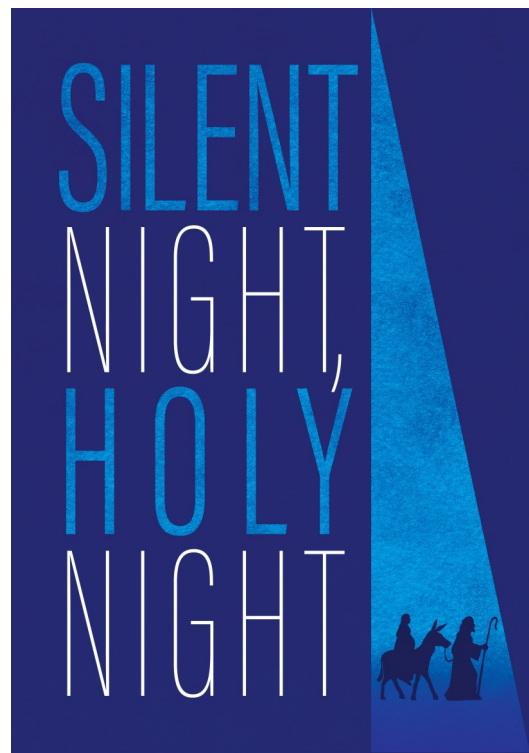
We come together to worship God during this day which has the longest darkness of the season. An opportunity to be in a sacred place during the darkest hours.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year so we are making plans to celebrate in a special way. There will be a total of three services offered: Our regular 10 am worship service, a 5 pm outdoor carols and Scripture-reading service, and then our traditional 11 pm Candlelight and Carols service. Please mark your calendar now!!



Carols & Lessons Outdoors
5:00 PM - weather permitting

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Candlelight & Carols
11:00 PM in the Sanctuary

We Welcome Emma Grace Magruder



Emma Grace was born on September 1. She is the granddaughter of Pastor David and Julie, and the daughter of Austin and Kelly Magruder.

Big brothers, Connor and Lane were also excited with little Sis!



We Welcome Lydia Meissner Burns



Lydia Meissner Burns was born on September 30, 2023. She is the granddaughter of Frances and Chuck Meissner, and the daughter of Leslin and Mike Burns.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Movie Nights Scheduled!

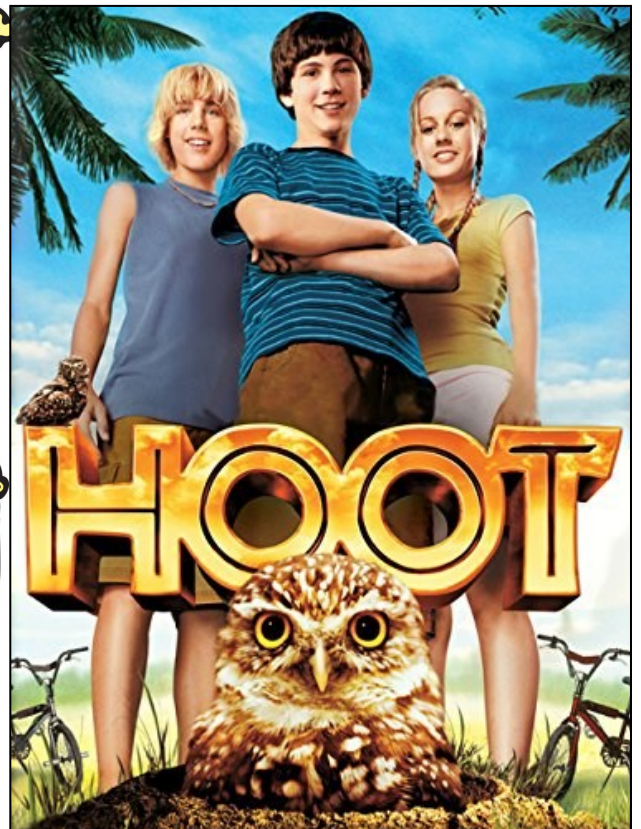
Saturdays at 6:30 pm



**JANUARY 13 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL**



**FEBRUARY 17 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL**



**MARCH 9 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL**



Thanksgiving and Christmas 2023 Health and Spiritual Wellness

How often do we say “It’s time for the holidays again”? Personally, it seems every year manages to go faster than the previous one. We’ll just call this maturity in life!

Needless to say the Holidays are upon us for this year’s season with November and Thanksgiving. Children enjoy coloring turkey pictures, pilgrim hats or cornucopia fruit baskets. The grownups usually focus on family times; which tend to include a feast. Some travel to meet with family afar whereas others have relatives come to see them. Celebrations find us gathering and hopefully finding things to be grateful for. Let’s ask ourselves to list at least 3 things we are grateful for this year. I’ll start: 1) family, 2) health, and 3) faith. Why don’t you take five minutes to ponder what you’re thankful for.

As we approach this first big holiday~jot down 3 things to be thankful for; especially if you’ve had the loss of a family member, sickness or hardship- try to look deeper to find some happiness and joy.

December brings with it the joys and blessings of Christmas! As we celebrate this Christmas season, our thoughts turn to that sacred event long ago when the *Prince of Peace and the Light of the World was born*, (see Isaiah 9:6). “A song sings it: ‘Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?...This sleeping child you’re holding is the great ‘I am!’ Writings tell us that God became a human being so that we can know God on a human level. In every generation since, people have come to know-you and I can know; know the living Lord, know the eternal God through faith in Christ this Christmas. Enjoy all the joys of gifts, foods, decorations and time with family and friends. Also we may welcome and worship Jesus in the quiet moments of candlelight and prayer. The gifts of Advent and Christmas—**hope, peace, joy and love**—these are the blessings of our Savior Jesus Christ. Where will you find them this season?

Patty Capps, RN
Contributor-Zion’s Nurse Articles



IRA GIFTS TO CHURCH

For those who have reached the wonderful age of 70 years, 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 any IRA account. 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.

November

December

Nov. 2 – 2:00 OR 6:30 pm – Advent Book Study
 Nov. 2 & 3 – 9:00 am Set up for Bazaar
 Nov. 4 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Church Bazaar
 Nov. 5 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
 2:30 pm Charge Conference at Chestnut
 Memorial UMC
 Nov. 9 – 2:00 OR 6:30 pm – Advent Book Study
 Nov. 10 & 11 – Social Hall reserved
 Nov. 13 – 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Nov. 14 – Zion Serving at PORT
 Nov. 15 – 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Nov. 16 – 2 OR 6:30 pm – Advent Book Study
 Nov. 21 – 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving
 Service
 Nov. 23 & 24 - Church Office Closed
 Nov. 27 - 6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
 Nov. 30 – 2 OR 6:30 pm – Advent Book Study

Dec. 1 & 2 - Social Hall Reserved
 Dec. 1 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm Christmas Open House
 At the Parsonage
 Dec. 7 - 11:30 am Builder's Class Lunch -
 Toscana Restaurant - GW Square
 Dec. 10 - 5:30 pm Family Christmas Dinner
 Dec. 14 - Zion Serving PORT
 Dec. 17 - 10 am The Service of St. Nicholas
 Dec. 21 - 7:00 pm Longest Night Worship
 Dec. 24 - 10 am Christmas Eve Worship
 5:30 pm Worship Outside
 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
 Dec. 25 - 27 - Church Office Closed

Weekly Events

Monday's - 5:30 pm - Handbell Rehearsal



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.

2024 Offering Envelopes Available Soon

It is that time of year, when our current offering envelopes end. For those who continue to support the church with the use of Offering Envelopes, you will be able to pick them up in the church's commons area beginning Sunday, December 10. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Celebrations!

November Birthdays

Joanne Rohde	11/1
Anne Conner	11/2
Allen Pompei	11/2
Richard Boyd	11/5
Joyce Wilburn	11/5
Patricia Capps	11/6
Frank Ancarrow	11/7
Matthew Greenwood	11/8
Eleanor Simpson	11/8
Sandra Phaneuf	11/9
Carey Crockett	11/10
Irena Collischan	11/11
Gail Akers	11/12
Lynn Allsbrook	11/12
Cole Matthews	11/12
Easton Matthews	11/12
Miles Matthews	11/12
Julie Kellum	11/12
James Dillon	11/13
Evangeline Ferguson	11/15
John Moldovan	11/15
Richard White Sr.	11/16
Ronald German	11/19
Peggy Smith	11/20
John A. Moldovan	11/21
Pete Parkerson	11/21
Liz Blanton	11/22
Corey Crockett	11/22
Dustin Crockett	11/22
Lewis Stratton	11/22
Thomas Scallorn	11/24
Lisa Elder	11/28
Rick Hopson	11/29
Chase Palen	11/29

December Birthdays

Evelyn Hartman	12/1
Barbara Wornom	12/1
Warren Hickmott	12/3
Haley Thomas	12/4
Vivian Canada	12/6
Wray Emerson Jr.	12/9
Hannah Stansberry	12/10
Robert Hansford	12/11
Jackson Moon	12/11
William Moreland	12/11
Richard Wornom	12/17
Frances McLawhorn	12/19
David Freeman	12/20
Ashby Ahner	12/24
Katie DeChristopher	12/27
Austin Jones	12/27
Preston Hargis	12/29
Cindy Summerford	12/29
Kyle Taylor	12/29

November Anniversaries

Brook & Tara Thomas	11/13
Barry & Kathy Kopczynski	11/17
Corey & Caitlin Carden	11/21

December Anniversaries

Pete & Evelyn Hartman	12/8
Preston & Debra Hargis	12/10
Alex & Joan White	12/10
John & Beverly Ashley Jr.	12/18
Benjamin & Florence Rush Jr.	12/21

Wi-Fi Access
Connect to: Zion Guest
Password: zion1822



It is on November 5,
that we set our
clocks back one
hour!!

OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!

November: Susan Shaw & Warren Hickmott

December: Pat Binder & Maria Scallorn

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
November - December 2023

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



**Remember to turn your clocks back
an hour on Sunday, November 5!**



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