



WEEKLY GIFTS FROM GOD



"For the LORD GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you." Psalm 84:11-12 NRSV

How much would you pay to go somewhere each week that would guarantee that you would have a moving experience from God? I would imagine that some would pay richly for that guaranteed experience. The reason I am confident people would be willing to pay is because of the cost of theme parks, water parks, and other fun, adventurous places where families travel. With the costs of other adventurous and exciting venues being what they are, again I ask, how much would you be willing to pay in order to experience God's powerful presence weekly? The good news is there is no cost, other than your commitment.

A few weeks ago, the Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown preached to the church in my absence, and he made an interesting statement. He said that people should experience God's presence every time they come to church. He was referencing weekly worship services. Rev. Brown concluded by saying that if people truly felt that they would experience God each week when attending church, then our churches would be filled to the brim with people.

Sadly, people don't think that is possible. While Rev. Brown's notion is an interesting concept, maybe we should accept it as a challenge. Too often we get into a habit and through that habit we develop a pattern of simply going through the motions with little regard to the possibility of a life-moving experience. This is especially true when it comes to our faith. While there are many aspects of our weekly Sunday school and worship services that we may enjoy, are we expecting anything else?

I believe that Rev. Brown has placed a challenge before us. What harm is there in being open to the work of the Holy Spirit? As disciples of Jesus Christ, why don't we expect to be moved by God each week? When we are open to the work of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit on its impact in our life and the lives of others. If we accept the challenge, I have faith that we will witness a difference in 2024 and 2025.

As we look toward a new year, let's be fully open to the movement of the Spirit. Let us grow through more small groups, more weekly studies, more people attending our weekly services, and more opportunities of serving our community through mission work. It is exciting to think about the many possibilities God may have in mind for us. I invite you to join me in embracing that excitement and faithfully living into the commitment challenge.



The commitment to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by acknowledging that we are born anew through our baptisms, and we are looking forward to the weekly miracles that God has in store for us. It should be an exciting and rewarding experience that all can encounter.

**REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

In Christ,

Pastor David



OUR 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CAMP FIRELIGHT - July 8-11

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS another tremendous success. With over 65 children and youth actively involved in this year's event our volunteers arose to the challenge and made it enjoyable for all.





Each evening at Camp Firelight the Bible stories and take home points were taught and emphasized at each station. Through crafts, games, science, story time, & music the campers learned to always put our trust in the Lord.



Whenever I'm afraid,
I put my
trust
in **YOU.**
Psalm 56:3





We tried some new things at VBS 2024. Snack time was held with all groups together, which was done immediately following the opening. This proved to be a big hit. We also added our Middle School class with Mr. Doug and Mr. Blake, and this was also a huge success!

Our volunteers taught, made crafts, danced, prepared meals, got wet, challenged the youth, and brought enthusiasm and joy to all.



Our camp director, Hailey Thomas, and puppeteer, Owen Keller were also very popular.





We are excited about our July 2025 VBS

Road Trip -
On the Go With God
Date to be announced

OUR ORGAN HAS RETURNED!!!!

The organ is back! Ron Streicher from Florida, and Kyle Steele from Pennsylvania representing Walker Technical spent a week in August, here at Zion making sure each wire and component is hooked up correctly, they have paid close attention to all the details. Mark Thompson has come in and added some finishing touches. It's great to have our beautiful pipe organ back and playing again!



Above: Part of the digital board that was installed in the cabinet of the organ pipes.

Left: The internal workings of the actual organ console.

Bottom left - a view of the organ before the upgrade and the bottom right is the updated view of the keyboards, stops, and foot pedals.



Youth Pool Party

Thank you to Sam & Lewis Stratton for hosting our Youth's end of summer pool party. A great time was had by all the youth who attended. Pastor David did stop by and the youth gave him get well cards they had created.



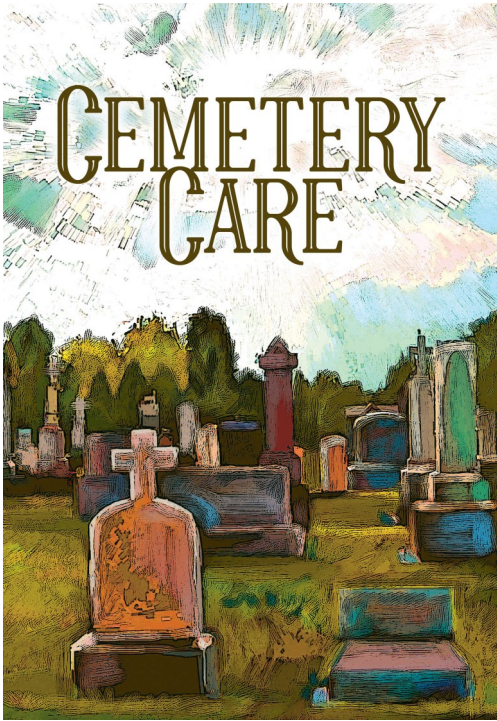
JOIN US
for
LUNCH

Builders Class Lunch

Thursday, September 19, at 11:30 am
Toscana Italian Restaurant

in Washington Square Shopping Center.

Please contact Maria or Pat by September 15th if you plan to attend.



The Cemetery Committee would like to give an update to our project on the repairs of many of the head/foot stones at the cemetery. As a reminder, the cemetery is actually made up of four individual sections.

1. Zion Cemetery - open to all members of Zion Church that meet certain criteria.
2. Ballentine Cemetery - adjacent to Zion Cemetery, individual plots are owned by families.
3. Hornsby Section - used for cremations and individual family markers.
4. Memorial Garden - located next to the church and parsonage where individual cremations are laid to rest and family markers are installed on a nearby plaque.

The Cemetery Committee has complete control of the maintenance and up keep of all four cemeteries. Currently at the Zion and Ballentine Cemeteries, approximately 25 head/foot stones have been restored by placing concrete foundations under the stones. Some of the stones were sinking into the ground below the inscription dates, or unlevelled. These stones had been placed before regulations were added that required concrete footings.

We have a list of approximately 90 stones that are in need of repair. We will continue to work on this project for several years until all stones are completed. It takes special care to repair some of the stones. We are very fortunate to have Adam Swale as our contractor. This is an expense that is being incurred by the committee. The only income the committee has is through donations of families and friends with relatives buried at the cemetery. Donations can be made directly to the Cemetery Committee, or when a member dies, memorial gifts are accepted. If anyone has questions concerning this project or about the cemetery, please contact a member: Zetie Damron, Chris Hopkins, Doug Crockett, Monty Mills, Susan Shaw, Jeanette Moldovan and Carol Westcott.

Zion United Methodist Men Meeting

**Thursday, September 12
at 6:30 pm**

All men are encouraged to attend for a meal
and conversation.



Church Family Dinner

Sunday, September 29

5:30 pm

Please bring a side dish or dessert
to share. Fried Chicken will be
provided.

VBS Mission Project Chemo Kits for Kids

Thank you to everyone who filled a bag or donated money during VBS to help build the 41 kits that are being distributed to kids who are taking Chemotherapy.



Christmas in July

Thank you to everyone who purchased items to assist the children in our York County Head Start program. The wonderful gifts will help fill the kid's closet at Head Start. A total of 36 packages of underwear, 36 packages of socks, and 24 pairs of shoes were picked up by the Head Start staff. The ladies expressed their sincere gratitude to Zion for all we do to help the Head Start Students.



Church Bazaar

Saturday, November 2, 9 am - 2 pm

BAKING FRUITCAKES

OCTOBER 23 & 24
9:00 AM

Help Needed with:

- Grease & Flour pans
- Mixing the batters
- Decorating the cakes
- Bagging and pricing

Please come join the fun!

Call the church office if you have any questions.



Handmade Crafts
Fall & Christmas Décor
Gift Ideas
Bake Sale with Homemade
Fruitcakes
Clam Chowder & More





Congratulations to Chip and Marie Rowley on the birth of a new granddaughter:

Avery Marie Corbitt

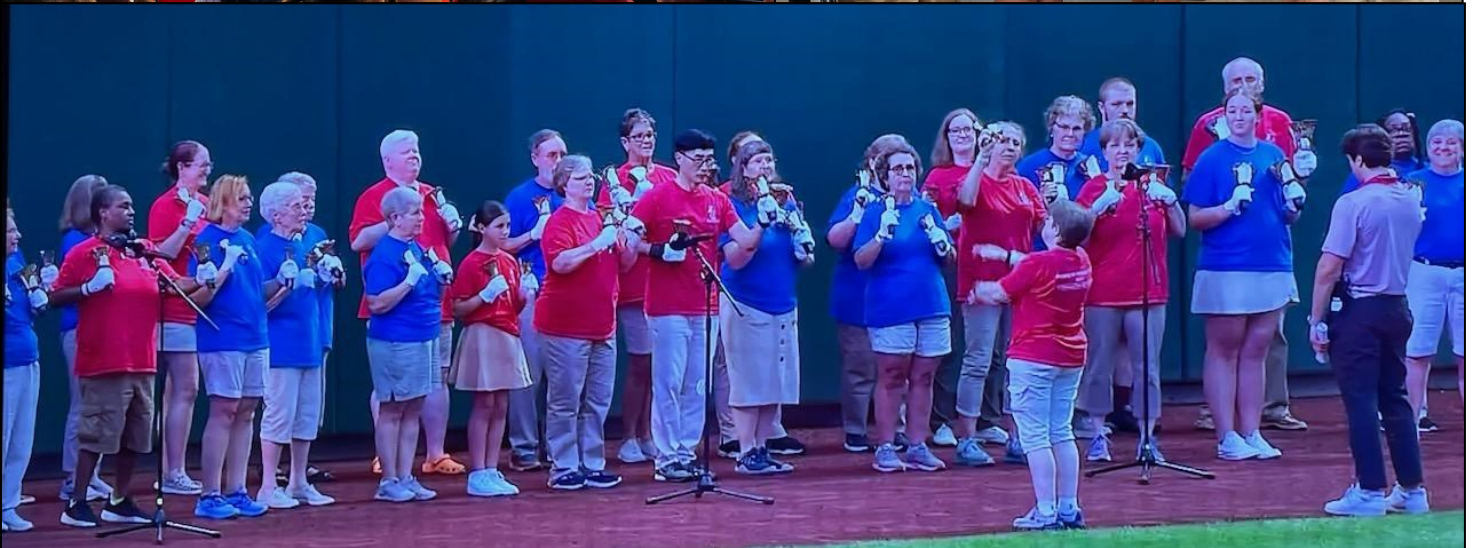
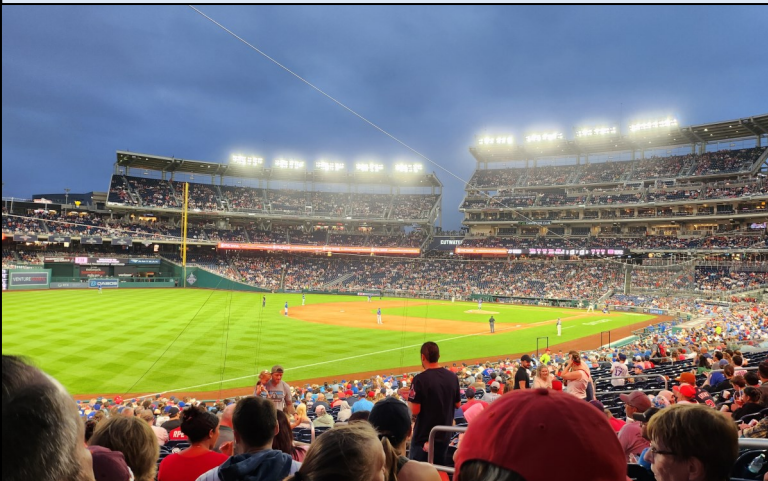
Born: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Weighing: 6 lb. 1 oz.

Parents: Casey Lowther & Bryce Corbitt

Handbells Ring the National Anthem at Washington Nationals Baseball Game

Five members of Zion's Handbell Choir, Jessie Raymer, Cindy Summerford, Haley Thomas, Tara Thomas, and Sherry Wornom, joined approximately 40 other ringers from around the area to ring the National Anthem at the Washington National's baseball game at National's Park on Friday, August 30. It was a wonderful opportunity and we all enjoyed the experience, the fun, and the fellowship. The performance was televised before the game so all could see.



Movie Night Schedule



September 21- 6:30 pm

November 16 - 6:30 pm

SPOOK-FEST '24

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:30 PM

at Zion's Enchanted Forest

Trunk or Treat, Inflatable Slide, Games,
Movies, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, and
More!

Contest for the best decorated Trunk.

*Please contact the church office to sign-up if
you plan to decorate a trunk.*





I want to thank the 35 members of the congregation who came out for our Ministry, Missions, and Finances meeting in July. It was a great opportunity to discuss the mission of our church, the many missions we are committed to, and to discuss our current financial status. We are the church, and in order for us to remain active in all aspects of ministry, we need to live into our mission and our financial commitments.

Now that we are experiencing cooler days and lower humidity, it means....it's Budget time. Your finance committee has begun the annual process of reviewing our finances and preparing next year's budget. We are building a leaner 2025 budget, which will maintain our focus on mission, but align with the realities of reduced giving. We are continuing to delay capital expenditures and are reducing fixed expenses where we can.

The Virginia Conference leadership recognizes the reduction in giving Conference-wide and have also cut apportionments accordingly. You should have received your 2025 pledge cards in the mail. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving where you feel called. Return your cards as soon as possible as we are on a short deadline to prepare and approve our budget and present it to the Charge Conference on Sunday, October 27 at 3:00 pm at St. Luke's UMC.

Scott Dayton
Finance Chair



Scrapbookers Enjoy Social Hall

Many may have noticed a number of cars in the church's parking lot some Friday evenings and Saturdays. There is a scrapbook group who rents the social hall so they can have some space to spread out and enjoy their craft. Many scrapbook items are on sale for the people, and sometimes, special guests appear!



september



october



Sept. 1 - Rev. Art Wolz to lead us in Worship
Sept. 2 - Church office closed for Memorial Day
Sept. 9 - 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal Resumes
6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Sept. 12 - 6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting
Sept. 13 & 14 - Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
Sept. 18 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
Sept. 19 - 11:30 am Builders Class Lunch at Toscana
Sept. 21 - 6:30 pm Movie Night
Sept. 29 - 5:30 pm Church Family Dinner

Oct. 4 & 5 - Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
Oct. 9 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Oct. 16 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
Oct. 19 - 6:30 pm Spook-Fest '24
Oct. 23 & 24 - 9 am Baking Fruitcakes for Bazaar
Oct. 27 - 3:00 pm Charge Conference at St. Lukes UMC

Weekly Events

Monday's - 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday's - 10 am - 2 pm - Bazaar Workshop



Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, December 1 - 10:00 am

A Service of St. Nicholas Worship Service

Featuring: Rev. Arthur Wolz

Combining the congregations, pastors,
musicians, and worship leaders of:

Crooks Memorial UMC
Providence UMC
& Zion UMC



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 \$1,800 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.

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
Jordan U. Murphy	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
Wendy McAdams	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
Anna Mae 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
Nancy Clark	10/8
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
Scott & Robin Tuck	9/9
Andrew & Katie Collins	9/17
Jeff & Kathryn Moore	9/18
Chip & Marie Rowley	9/22
Jeff & Nancy Verry	9/29

October Anniversaries

James & Samantha Grimmatt	10/6
David & Julie Magruder	10/6
James & 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



Sunday,
 October 27
 3:00 pm at St.
 Lukes UMC
 Yorktown

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 2024

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



BOO!



Zion's Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Magruder

Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom; Accompanist: Tara Thomas

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