



BEING FAITHFUL CAN BE EXHAUSTING

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

Now that the Christmas Season is ending and Epiphany (January 6) is in the picture, it is time to celebrate a New Year. When January 1, rings in each year, it always comes with a great deal of fanfare and excitement. People hug one another, they shout with glee and joy, they may even lift their glass for a toast or two, all to celebrate the past and welcome the future. What a joyous and ambitious time for all to celebrate.

As faithful people, we should look at each new day with that same optimism and excitement. We should look back on what we learned from the past and celebrate how we have been given the opportunity to begin a new day with fresh and invigorating energy and a positive outlook. As people of faith, we are called to live that way, each and every day. Even in the times of despair or complete exhaustion, we are expected to embrace the gift of a new day and approach it in gratitude and seek to be an imitator of God.

When we are exhausted from striving to be faithful in our discipleship, we can also become rejuvenated from Christ's promise of being new again through his love and grace. We can remember our past, but continue to walk forward in hope and in faith. We need to seek and embrace the new Spirit that comes with being new again. When we are in that Spirit, then we look to the future with hope and optimism. That Spirit will give us the energy to make it through another day.

This newness continues to be revealed through the ministry of Zion, as we continue to remain committed to mission work, mission ministry, and growing as a faithful community in the lessons of Christ. While we witnessed some of our faithful members complete their course in faith and now rest from their labor, we joyfully receive new members with open arms and hearts.

I thank you for your continued commitment to the church through your presence and your willingness to help in the many responsibilities of the church. I also appreciate your prayers, and your tithes and offerings that are faithfully given to the work of Christ through the church.

Looking ahead to this New Year, let us continue to come together in faith and service, and let us commit to grow in our small groups, in our Bible studies, in our worship, and in our mission ministries. Through Christ, we can look to the challenges ahead as an opportunity to grow and we can, like Christ, give God a fragrant offering that is satisfying and faithful. While at times needing to pause to refresh ourselves from ministry, we can look to the New Year and new ministries as gifts from God and we can celebrate God's loving grace through service to others. Happy New Year!

Pastor David



Our Service of St. Nicholas Sunday, December 1, 2024









***Thank you to everyone who helped to make this
worship service so special.***

Pastors

Rev. Art Wolz as St. Nicholas
 Rev. Byung Chul Sung of Crooks Memorial UMC
 Rev. Lisa Blackmonson of Providence UMC
 Rev. David Magruder of Zion UMC

Acolytes

Olivia Collins & River Williams

Mother Mary

Sadie Williams

Music Leaders and Instrumentalists:

Debbie Rountrey, Director of Music Providence UMC
 Tara Thomas, Accompanist Zion UMC
 Betty Warren, Director of Music Crooks Memorial UMC
 Sherry Wornom, Handbell Director Zion UMC
 Natalie Johnson - Flute
 Ashton Kessler - Trumpet

Community Choir

Lisa Blackmonson
 Kaye Darone
 Bob Downs
 Jon Durfee
 Angela Echols

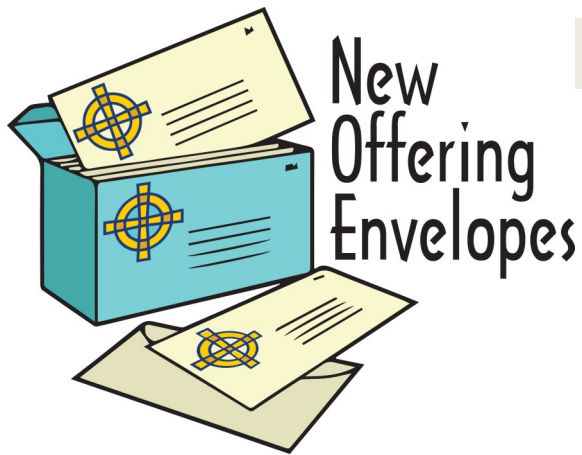
Community Handbell Choir

Viola Collins	Julia Thompson
Vanessa Knight	Beth Tyree
Cary Radcliff	Gregg Wrenn
Zoe Radcliff	Cindy Summerford
Jessie Raymer	Haley Thomas
Diane Short	Tara Thomas
Gary Short	

Keith Henry	Clark Rich
Cindy Ingram	Lynn Sentz
Cleo Mackey	Rachel Shaw
Kathy Mackey	Diane Short
Linda Orgeron	Melissa White

Photography by Rick Hopson

*Thank you to the Hospitality Team of Zion UMC
for preparing the refreshments.*

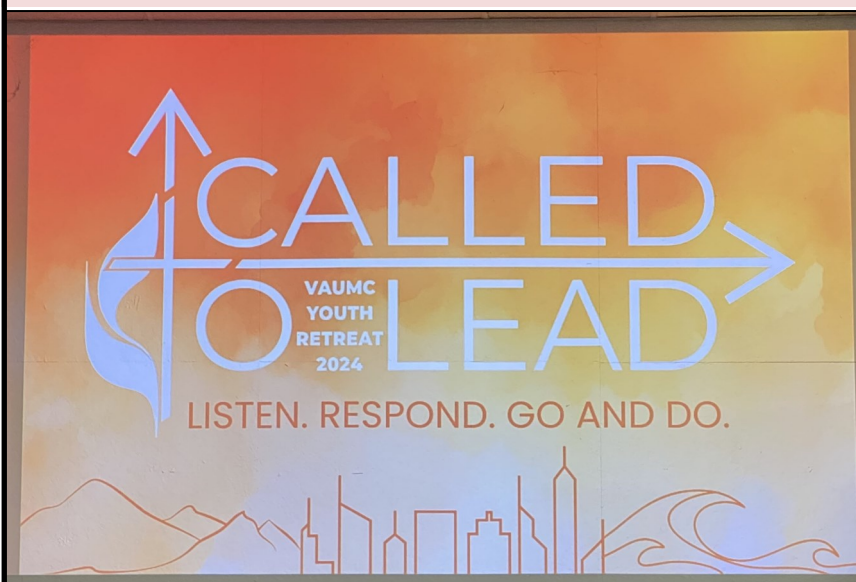


2025 ENVELOPES ARE HERE

The new envelopes for weekly offerings are now available in the church. The boxes with the envelopes are located outside of the church office, so the next time you are by the church, please stop by and pick yours up.



YOUTH ATTEND VIRGINIA CONFERENCE RETREAT



Several of our youth attended the Virginia Conference Youth Retreat in November. The Retreat was held at the Virginia Nazarene Retreat Center in Powhatan. The theme was “Called to Lead”. The sessions focused on the importance of listening to God’s calling, to faithfully respond to that calling, and to go and do the work of Christ in the community. Those who attended were Haley Thomas, Ryan Berube, Julia and Grace Thompson, and Jordan Murphy, Youth Leader.



Birthday Party for Jesus

From our youngest participant, Axel, to members of our senior youth group who helped tell the nativity story, a great time was had by all who attended the Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, December 22. Thanks to Mr. Doug and Glenna Usselman for getting things prepared for the celebration! The games, crafts, and birthday cake were all a hit!



LIBERTY LIVE FILMED IN SANCTUARY

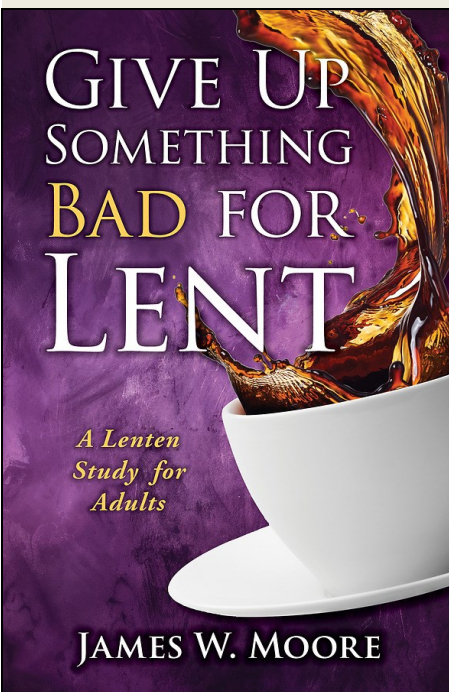


Members from Liberty Live Church, visitors from the scrap-book group, and a few members of Zion came together the second week in November to film a special for Liberty Live's Christmas special. We decorated the church with a Christmas tree and pulled out some candles for the filming. Weston Hanna, whose family is part of Zion was in charge of the production and enjoyed filming at Zion UMC. Thanks to all who helped make this successful.

Community Thanksgiving Worship

A Thanksgiving worship service for the county was coordinated by the York County Ministers Group. This year's service was held at Christ the King Episcopal Church on Big Bethel Road on Wednesday, November 26.

Members of the Ministers Group who assisted included, Rev. David Magruder, Rev. Thomas Haynes, Bishop Susan B. Haynes, Rev. Nannette Woodworth, and Pastor Don Freeman.



LENTEN BOOK STUDY - MARCH THROUGH APRIL

During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. Rev. James Moore challenges us to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be.

The sessions will be held on Thursdays, at both 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm. The first session is March 6 and it will continue through April 10. Contact the church office to sign up now. The books are \$15.

Zion Christmas Dinner Was Special



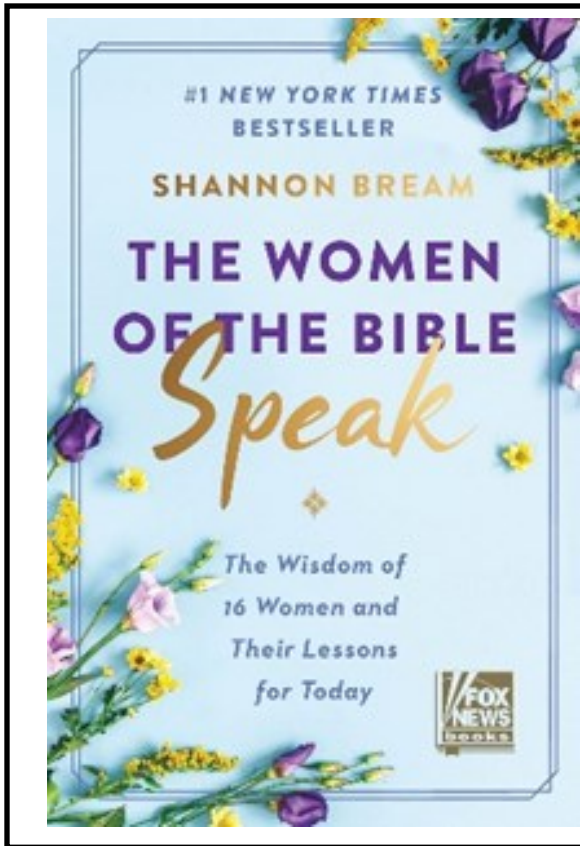
Everyone enjoyed the bright, festive, and silly props, trivia games, fantastic meal and wonderful fellowship at our Christmas covered dish dinner on December 8. Thank you to Rob Thompson and crew for preparing the turkey! This event put everyone in the holiday spirit.



Builders Class Christmas Lunch



A great time of fellowship and a delicious meal was had by all who were able to attend the Builders Class Christmas Lunch at Surf Rider in Poquoson on Thursday, December 5.



New Bible Study

Featuring the Book:

The Women of the Bible Speak

Beginning Sunday, January 19

A new Bible Study will begin Sunday, January 19, and will meet during the Sunday School hour, starting at 9 am. The focus of the class is the book, "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream.

Please contact Glenna Usselman, at the church office or at youthdirector@zionseaford.church, if you are interested in attending.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Teachers Needed



There are many opportunities for you to help our children and youth grow in their faith. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these areas, please contact our Youth Ministries Director, Glenna Usselman, at the church or by email at youthdirector@zionseaford.church. Our needs include:

- Weekly Teachers for Middle School Class
- Substitute Teachers for All Children's Classes
- Youth Teacher while Jordan is on Maternity Leave starting in April.



Welcome, New Members

We welcome our newest members who joined our Zion family on Sunday, December 29, 2024



Ben & Amanda Bridger

510 Dandy Loop Road
Yorktown, Virginia 23692
757-927-4433 (Ben)
757-894-1549 (Amanda)

Welcome **Takeko Curtiss**
1416 Waltham Lane
Newport News, Virginia 23608
757-272-2441



Sherry Collins

613 Willow Bend Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23323
757-618-9901



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE SUPPORTING YORK COUNTY HEAD START



Thank you to everyone who selected tags and purchased items for children in the York County Head Start Program. A total of 20 coats, 25 sweatshirts, 13 hat & Gloves sets, 10 blankets, and more than 60 pieces of clothing were collected and delivered to York County Head Start.

The staff and parents expressed their appreciation for the kindness and generosity of the congregation here at Zion.



FEBRUARY SHARE THE LOVE MISSION OPPORTUNITY



The mission project we will be focusing on during our ***Share the Love Mission*** in February, is Chemo Kits. These are kits of various items that will be given to people going through chemotherapy. Simple gestures of love and support can go a long way.

Tags for the items of the kits will be placed on the tree in the Commons beginning mid January, 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 Tuesday, February 11.

Movie Nights Resume!



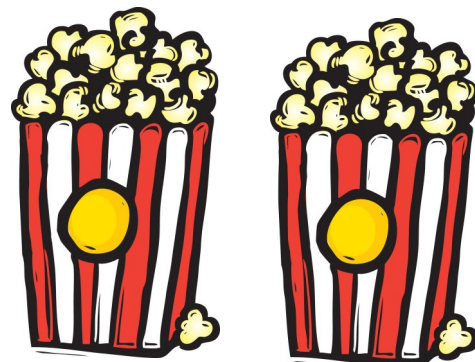
January 18 - 6:30 pm



February 15 - 6:30 pm



March 15 - 6:30 pm



JANUARY

Jan. 1 – Church Office Closed
Jan. 3 & 4 – Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking group
Jan. 7 – 6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
Jan. 8 – 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Jan. 12 – Rev Art Wolz will Lead us in Worship
Jan. 13 – Church Office Closed
Jan. 18 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - **Garfield**
Jan. 19 – New Sunday School Class Begins
The Women of the Bible
Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown to Lead us in Worship
Jan. 20 - Church Office Closed
Jan. 23 – 6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting
Jan. 29 – 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 - Social Hall Reserved
Feb. 2 - Rev Art Wolz will Lead us in Worship
Feb. 3 - Church Office Closed
Feb. 7 & 8 Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking Group
Feb. 10 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
Feb. 15 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - **The Wild Robot**
Feb. 19 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

Weekly Events

Monday's - 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Beginning Jan. 13
Tuesday's - 10 am - Noon Bazaar Workshop
Beginning Jan. 14



**Zion United Methodist Men
Dinner and Meeting
Thursday, January 23, at 6:30 pm**



March 5
Ash Wednesday
April 13
Palm Sunday
April 20
Easter Sunday

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 \$2,000 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!

January Birthdays

Andrew Harrison	1/2
George Stephenson	1/2
Michael Mapes Jr.	1/3
Shirley Paetz	1/7
Robyne Patterson	1/9
Davis Conner	1/10
Tracy Hill	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 Tuck	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
Carol Ann Davis	1/28

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
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
Reginald 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

January Anniversaries

James & Julie Gordon	1/7
Chris & Anna May 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

Pastor David will be having his other knee replaced on January 9. Rev. Art Wolz and Rev. Clarence Brown will be preaching for him during his absence and pastoral coverage has been arranged during his recovery. Also, the Church Office will be closed on Mondays, January 13, 20 and 27.

OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!

January: Gayle White & 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@zionseford.church so we can update our database.

Zion's email addresses:

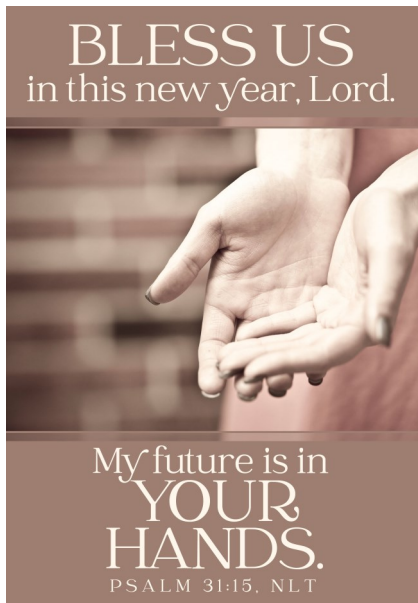
Pastor David: pastor@zionseford.church **Office/Sherry:** office@zionseford.church
Youth/Glenna Usselman: youthdirector@zionseford.church




Zion United Methodist Church
 PO BOX 240
 Seaford, Virginia 23696
January - February 2025



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



O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
 be to 
follow you
more closely
 and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

Zion's Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Magruder; Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom
 Accompanist: Tara Thomas; Youth Ministry Director: Glenna Usselman
 757-898-7417, Fax: 757-898-9226 Email: office@zionseaford.church
 Website: www.zionseaford.church or Like us on Facebook