

BUSY IN THE HARVEST FIELD



"When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" Matthew 9:36-38 NRSV

If you have been going to your mailbox each day, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the July-August newsletter, and then learn that it is not there yet, you must have pondered. "Did I miss it?" "Did someone forget to deliver it to me?" or maybe even, "Why is it taking so long to get to me?" For the delay, I apologize. It is easy for me to go through the calendar the last couple of months to try and explain it, but I feel it would seem like excuses.

Maybe the better way to explain it is that thanks be to God, Zion continues to be very busy with the many ministries we are involved with and those we support. This busyness reminds me of what Jesus said to his disciples, that there are many ministry opportunities so be prepared to be constantly busy. Well, maybe not in those exact words, but that is the essence of his message.

Over the dozen years that I have been a part of the ministry here at Zion, we continue to be busy in a number of ministries. The most obvious is in the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ each Sunday through our small group classes and through our worship service. We offer Bibles to help people grow in their faith. We offer Confirmation classes for students making the large leap of better understanding the faith and professing it to the entire congregation.

We offer a number of community activities for our neighbors to be a part of this church, such as VBS, EggFest, SpookFest, the Bazaar, Movie Nights, and other events. We continue to pack kits on Mission Sunday, and support UMCOR in its disaster relief efforts and are also active in mission work to help people rebuild their lives and homes after disasters.

As you view the number of pictures in the pages that follow, I believe each will speak for itself in our goal of being faithful disciples and working the fields for Christ. You will also witness our involvement with the Virginia Conference in expanding not only Zion's roll with the Conference, but our leadership and guidance to expand services for the entire Conference.

It is exciting while also exhausting. It is a blessing and yet it is a challenge to constantly balance our time with everything else that occurs in a 24-hour period. At the 243rd Annual Conference this year in Roanoke, the theme was how we need to be open to the movement of the Spirit and faithfully respond to its movement.

Bishop Sue reminded us to continue to pray, and allow the fruit of the Spirit to blossom in us and through us.

It is a blessing to be allowed to continue to be a part of the ministry at Zion UMC, both within and outside of these walls. I am excited to witness the continued growth as we reach out to others to help us in this ministry. God continues to bless us in so many ways and through so many opportunities. Let's continue to strive to follow the movement of the Spirit as we live into our calling, this summer and beyond, recognizing that God is with us.



Blessings to all in Christ!
Pastor David



Mission Sunday

On May 18, following worship, 600 UMCOR hygiene kits were packed to send to the Virginia Annual Conference. By purchasing supplies in bulk, the expenses were \$2,400. Gifts were received from the congregation, as well as from the Bazaar and UMM, to cover the costs. Thank you to everyone who participated in this mission event!



Once all of the hygiene kits were packed, the boxes were placed in the truck to be carried to Seaford Transfer.

The UMCOR Kits District collection was held on Saturday, June 7 at Seaford Transfer and several from Zion were on hand to assist. There weren't many other churches that delivered kits that day so our volunteers had plenty of time to rest and reflect.



Following Annual Conference, Jeff Moore, Allen Lentz, Pastor David, and Pastor Brian took the 14,500 kits that were collected at Conference to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Below is the view after unloading.





The 243rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference

On Wednesday, June 11, at 7:00 am, Pastor David and I hit the road to Roanoke! When we arrived in the afternoon we headed straight to registration. Pastor David headed off to the clergy session and I jumped right in to help to register other laity members (several volunteers had not shown up). The laity session this year was held virtually and focused on the importance and the roll of lay ministers. It was emphasized that all of us who roll up our sleeves, get involved, and do the work of the church are considered lay ministers. If, however, someone desires to be a Certified Lay Minister, then additional training is available to become certified. If interested, please contact the church office.

On Thursday morning we began with Bishop Sue leading us in worship. The Annual Conference Summary sums it up much better than I can, saying: "Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson brought the morning message on Ezra. She shared the historical perspective on the number of Israelites who came back, only around 10% returned. Bishop shared the hard time that we have been through recently, especially since January and reiterated that this is not a political message, but a message of hope that we will all be in prayer for guidance. Bishop Sue shared about the nostalgia that many of us feel for the days when the church was bigger and more active, but also not very diverse. That diversity is not always comfortable for people. As we look at the future of the church, we stand with people that others want to give up on. Bishop Sue said she will stand with any-

one who is marginalized and being used as a political pawn."

There were two teaching sessions throughout the Conference. Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean, Duke Divinity School, and Scott Erickson, "Scott the Painter," a vocational artist and spiritual director, addressed the delegates. Both had great messages and I encourage everyone to go to www.vaumc.org/ac2025 and watch these sessions.

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates, led us in worship for the Memorial Service, then he was recognized at the retirement service. Rev. Bates will be returning to his home of Liberia to continue his ministry.

On Friday afternoon there were four constitutional amendments that were voted on. These are amendments that came from the 2020/2024 General Conference regarding Regionalization. We will not know the outcome of this vote until all Annual Conferences have voted. They require a 2/3's vote from all voting members of all Annual Conferences collectively.

Saturday morning Bishop Ken Carter led the Service of Call & Ordination. After that we hopped on the road and headed back to Seaford. I enjoyed my time in Roanoke, representing my church, there have been some changes to Annual Conference, some I enjoyed, and some not so much. But I look forward to seeing what AC2026 holds in Harrisonburg.

Sherry Wornom, Lay Member to Annual Conference





We also ran into Bland Newman at Conference who expresses his love to all.

Bethany UMC - Smithfield Mission Project

Bethany UMC is delivering household items to people affected by Hurricane Helene who live in Spruce Pine, NC. Thanks to everyone who helped with this wonderful mission work. It seems everyone had a joyful time in shopping for the items needed.

The list of items that we delivered to Smithfield on July 16 were: 7 bed pillows, 10 sets of sheets, 2 throw blankets, 1 Air Fryer, 3 toasters, 4 Crockpots, 1 Coffee Maker, 6 sets of dinnerware, 17 pots and frying pans, 2 sets of glassware, 2 sets of food storage containers, 13 sets of cooking utensils, and tablecloths, placemats, & kitchen towels were collected and boxed up for delivery.



VISIT TO GOD'S PIT CREW

Scott Dayton, Warren Hickmott, Jeff Moore and Pastor David joined with Pastor Brian Posey, and Pastor Tim Beck from the Living Waters District to visit Randy Johnson, CEO of God's Pit Crew. The purpose of the trip was to learn how God has worked in the ministry that he and his wife began in 1998. It was also to gather information and support as the Virginia Conference is analyzing the feasibility of a ministry warehouse in Virginia. It was a rewarding visit and generated a good amount of excitement about this project.



YOUTH BOWLING NIGHT

The youth enjoyed an evening of bowling together as a group on Sunday, June 29.

The fellowship proved to be rewarding to all who were able to attend. They look forward to their next event together.





VBS 2025 - Road Trip

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS a tremendous success. Each evening, we welcomed over 50 children! There were over a dozen youth group leaders and helpers, and more than 35 adult volunteers, who all rose to the challenge and made VBS 2025 so spectacular!

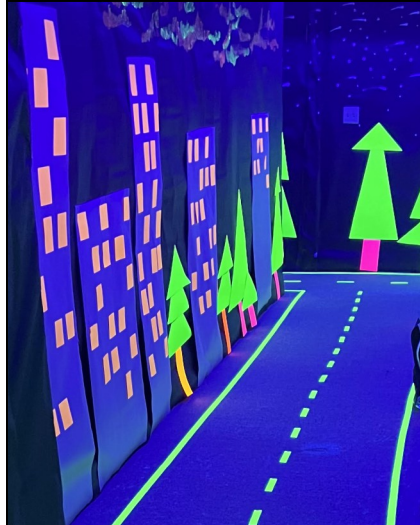
Through the Bible lessons, science experiments, music, games, crafts, and other activities we all learned that God is with us wherever we go!







Thanks to our amazing kitchen crew who kept us all fed with dinner, snacks, and the best Kool-Aid around!





We are excited to announce the theme for VBS 2026 will be “Snowball Mountain Challenge” Tentative scheduled for July 13 – 16, 2026

United Methodist Men Help a Neighbor



The Zion men received a request to help an 83-year-old woman split firewood for the winter. Thanks to Reggie Moore, Doug Crocket, Dalton Mason, Richie Moore, Aubrey Wroten, Ben Bridger, Jake LeFlon, Andrew Collins, and Jeff Moore, the project was completed.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

MISSION - UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES (UMFS)

This year our youth are taking charge of our mission project for our annual Christmas in July Angel Tree. They are supporting UMFS, a nonprofit organization that provides a comprehensive array of programs to meet the needs of high-risk children and parents to enable them to overcome challenging circumstances and succeed. A national leader in helping children, UMFS also identifies unmet social service needs throughout Virginia and develops appropriate partnerships to address them.

Tags on the tree in the Commons are for items that will prepare kits for new foster families. Each kit will have “ice breakers”, card games, a craft or activity,



snacks, gift cards for a family restaurant, etc.

The youth will be assembling these kits and delivering them to UMFS in Richmond, where they will be able to tour the facility and learn of all the ways we can assist this important ministry. Items must be returned to the tree by Sunday, August 3rd.

**Join us as we celebrate our
Savior's Birth....in the summer!
Sunday, July 27, at 10 am**





**We welcome our newest
babies to the Zion family.
Congratulations!!!!**

Riley Kristine Wroten

Born April 29, 2025
7 lbs. 15 oz.,
20 inches long

Congratulations to Aubrey, Megan,
and big sister Sutton.



Kacey Lynn Murphy

Born: May 2, 2025
6 lbs 8 oz
19 inches long

Congratulations to
Jordan and Jordan Murphy



New Babies



Everet Dalton Mason

Born June 1, 2025
8 lbs. 11 oz.,
20.75 inches long

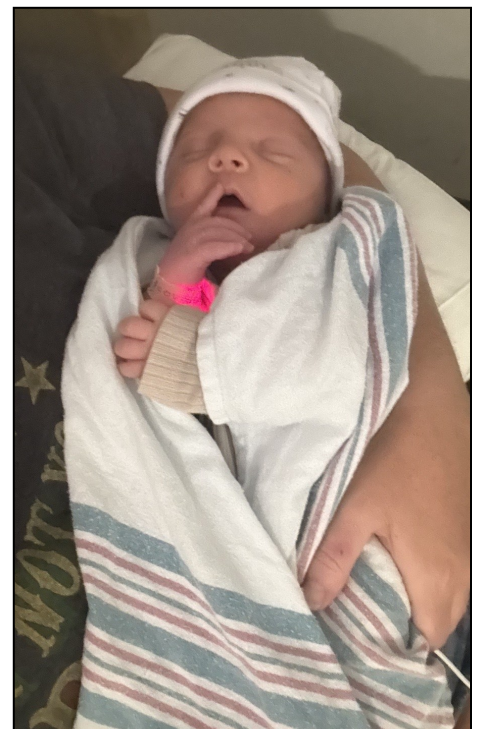
Congratulations :
Dalton & Katharine Mason



Anthony Colton Lee

Born June 18, 2025
5 lbs. 85 oz.,
17 inches long

Congratulations :
Katelyn Suzanne & Anthony Triston Lee
Grandson of Melissa Harris



Weddings



Jennifer Wood & Andy Dorner
May 31, 2025



With
this Ring...



Laurie Swicegood
& David Franklin
July 5, 2025



bride
AND
groom



All who attended the 6-week study of Adam Hamilton's book "Wrestling with Doubt – Finding Faith" enjoyed the experience. We thank Carrie Burris, who did a great job leading this study.



To Parents of Middle Schoolers – Pastor David is beginning to outline a schedule for another Confirmation class this fall. The plans will be for the sessions to begin in September and conclude by the end of October. Confirmation is for students 13-years of age and older. More information about the classes will be announced soon.



Community Event at the Pavilion

Sunday, September 7, 5 pm – 7 pm

Helpers needed to grill hot dogs, make popcorn, sno-cones, cotton candy, referees for the bounce house, horseshoes, corn hole, and other activities.

SPOOK FEST '25

Saturday, October 19, at 6 pm

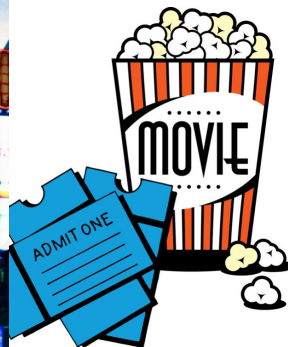
This is a huge community event, many volunteers are needed to help with food, games, and activities. Start planning your trunk design now!



Movie Nights



Sunday – August 10– 6:30 pm
Designed for adults, bring your favorite snack to share!
Popcorn will be provided



Saturdays

August 23– 6:30 pm

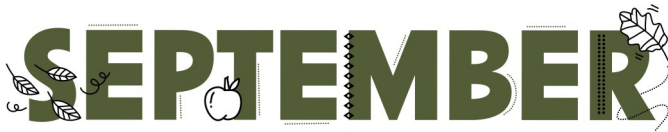


September 20 – 6:30 pm



July 3 - 6 pm "Wrestling with Doubt" Book Study
 July 4 - Church Office Closed
 July 5 - Sanctuary reserved for Wedding
 July 7 - 10 - 6 pm Vacation Bible School
 July 15 - 11 am Funeral Service for Carlton Forrest
 July 19 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - A Goofy Movie
 July 25 & 26 Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
 July 27 - Christmas in July Worship Service

August 3 - Rev. Art Wolz to lead us in worship
 Deadline for Christmas in-July gifts
 August 10 - 6:30 pm Snacks & A Movie - **Wicked**
 August 11 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 August 13 - 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting
 August 14 - 6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting
 August 15 & 16 - Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
 August 20 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 August 23 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - **Sonic the Hedgehog 3**



Sept. 1 - Church Office Closed for Labor Day
 Sept. 5 & 6 - Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
 Sept. 7 - 5 pm - 7 pm - Community Event
 Sept. 8 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Sept. 17 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Sept. 20 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - **Minecraft**

Weekly Events

Tuesday's - 10 am - 2 pm Bazaar Workshop



Dinner & Meeting
 Thursday, August 14
 6:30 pm

Offerings & Online Giving

Our offerings are collected in the baskets by the entrances to the sanctuary and the collection box by the church office. Gifts can also be mailed to the church at: Zion UMC, PO BOX 240, Seaford, VA 23696

- If online giving is more convenient for you, please scan this QR Code which will lead you to the E-Giving page on our website.
- In E-Giving you have the option to use your credit/debit card or directly from your checking account which carries no service fee.
- **Text to Give** - Text a dollar amount (example: \$20) to 844-652-1975 and complete the form. There is a \$3 minimum for this option.



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!

July Birthdays

Nancy Honeycutt	7/1
Julie Mason	7/2
Landyn Hawkins	7/3
David Soult	7/3
Macon Ancarrow	7/4
Rodney Llewellyn	7/6
Chris Garner	7/8
Austin Moon	7/9
DeeVee Green	7/10
Janet Hamm	7/11
David Magruder	7/11
Sadie Williams	7/11
Ethan Hartman	7/14
Susan Jones	7/14
Crystale Soult	7/14
Nancy Wroten	7/15
Anthony Futrell	7/16
Jeff Moore	7/16
Cesar Akoka	7/17
Tara Thomas	7/17
LouAnn Miller	7/18
Maggie Thompson	7/18
Faye Childrey	7/19
Michael Mason	7/20
Jean Bowler	7/21
Axel Young	7/21
Katie Collins	7/22
Kristina Beavers	7/22
David Turk	7/22
Marie Rowley	7/28
Carol Westcott	7/29
Leona Knutson	7/30

August Birthdays

Ashley Green	8/1
Elizabeth Williams	8/2
Scott Hartman	8/3
Tyler Goon	8/5
Chris Hopkins	8/5
Betty Bartek	8/6
Charlotte Goon	8/6
William Henley	8/6
Kristen Turk	8/6
Grant German	8/8
Sondra Hickmott	8/8
Sharon Thomas	8/8
Cooper Wornom	8/8
Caleb Needy	8/9
Gayle White	8/9
Jeff Verry	8/12
Daniel Simpson	8/13
Theresa Crockett	8/14
Lynne Hartman	8/15
Maria Scallorn	8/17
Phil Drummond	8/18
Sally Miller	8/18
Robert Johnson	8/19
Frances Edmondson	8/21
Carrie Burris	8/23
Joseph Wood	8/25
Mickey Monahan	8/26
River Williams	8/26
Carolyn Ancarrow	8/27
Conner Carden	8/28
Danielle Taylor	8/28
Amy Moore	8/29
David Tyree	8/30
Winston Crockett	8/30
Owen Blanton	8/31

July Anniversaries

John & Jeannette Moldovan	7/1
Wray & Sandra Emerson Jr.	7/18
Douglas & Theresa Crockett	7/22
Roy & Ashley Green	7/23
Robert & Marilyn Johnson	7/27

August Anniversaries

Phil & Penny Drummond	8/1
Scott & Kelly Dayton	8/4
David & Crystale Soult	8/11
Wayne & Gwendolyn Appleton	8/18
James & Gail Williamson	8/18
Aubrey & Megan Wroten	8/21
Clark & Barbara Nickerson	8/25

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.

Wi-Fi Access

Connect to: Zion Guest
Password: zion1822

OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!

July: Gayle White & Sherry Wornom

August: Jessie Raymer & Bonnie Bennett

Zion's email addresses:

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



Zion United Methodist Church
PO BOX 240
Seaford, Virginia 23696
July - August 2025

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



Zion's Staff

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Accompanist: Tara Thomas; Youth Ministry Director: Glenna Usselman
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Website: www.zionseaford.church or Like us on Facebook