

THE SEASON IS HERE!!

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

It was 20 years ago when I received my first appointment as a Licensed Local Pastor of The United Methodist Church. I had left a 21-year career in healthcare marketing and public

relations, that I thoroughly enjoyed, when I felt God calling me into ministry. I had been accepted at Duke Divinity School and was beginning to embark on something that I felt God calling me to do, pastoral ministry. There were many uncertainties and many nervous moments, but Julie, Austin, and I were being faithful, and we left the Eastern Shore to travel westward to the Danville area of the state to begin that new journey in faith.

During those early days I felt like Abraham, simply going where God was leading. I knew we were going to end up in a small community called Swansonville, and I knew that was also the name of the church. The parsonage was right next door, and that was all I was focused on learning about at the moment. That plus going to seminary in the fall.

My first time in the pulpit as the pastor of this church was in July, and my first semester of classes began in August. All of this was twenty years ago, and our lives have been in transition ever since. All for the glory of God, and all has been a true blessing. But now the season has changed once again, and I feel that the time has come to retire as an Elder in the church.

This will be effective at the end of this current appointment time, which will be June 30, 2026. Which means that I will remain active, dedicated, and devoted to my appointment here at Zion. It also means there is much work for us to do as faithful servants of Jesus Christ, and we have many plans in the works for this fall, winter, and even next summer.

As we look at the events that have occurred since the last newsletter, we will see once again how God is at work in our lives and the life of Zion. We will also notice the activities and events that are coming soon that will require all of us to remain active in the various roles of the church so we can achieve all of the goals.

Entering this new season of fall, we need to recall what the Spirit has led us to from the past and become excited and enthusiastic about the ministries ahead, as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. We praise God for the ability to be in ministry together as we excitedly look to the newness that each season will bring us. But maybe more importantly, we should look with excitement about how God will use us in the newness of each season to share God's love and grace to others.

Blessings to all in Christ!

Pastor David



*Make every effort
to keep the unity of
the Spirit through
the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:3, NIV



Community Appreciation Day

Sunday, September 7, 4 pm – 7 pm

Even with the weather threatening to storm, people from the community came and enjoyed time at the Pavilion with friends and neighbors.





Annual Church Bazaar

Saturday, November 1 - 9 am - 2 pm



Zion's Cemetery is continuing to rebuild many of the headstones and footstones that have become unlevel or have sunken into the ground from improper concrete bases installed incorrectly. We have completed approximately 40 units, and have another 50 remaining to correct. Adam Swale is our go-to person who is completing the work.

Fall Cemetery Clean Up is coming soon. We are asking for all spring and summer flowers to be removed by Sunday, October 26, in preparation for fall/winter/Christmas decorations. Also, graves should be decorated with only one flower arrangement. It has been observed that some graves have numerous small decorations placed on them, which is not allowed according to Cemetery policy. This causes the grass cutters problems with keeping our cemetery properly trimmed.

CHRIS GARNER SENDS HIS LOVE

Chris Garner contacted the church several weeks ago to express his gratitude for all of the love and support that we have offered him over the years. He also wanted to share with everyone that he is now living with his mother and her husband in Richmond. In addition, he has found a new job.

Chris is working in Richmond as a rehab counselor for those who struggle with addictions. His employer is a Christian organization that also emphasizes the importance of faith in recovery.

He says that he is now able to apply the lessons he learned from Zion's members in being forgiving and loving, even when the person is not being fully cooperative. Chris wanted again to thank everyone for the love shared in supporting him and to tell everyone "hello."



New Front Doors Installed in August

The sun had just risen on the morning of August 4, when the people from Wayne Harbin Builders and supporting sub-contractors arrived at Zion to begin removing the front doors and replacing them with a new set. This included taking everything down, from the doors, to the side windows to the transom above the doors. Once everything was removed, the teams put the new doorframe up and then added the new transom. The doors were pulled in place by the afternoon before the workers left for the day. On Tuesday, the rest of the trim was added and the painting began. The installation and painting were done by week's end.



The original transom window has been saved and will eventually be hung in the History Room on the second floor of the church.



The original door frame and doors are in the left photo and the new doors, side windows and transom are on the right. The doors are now the proper size for code and they also swing outward, rather than inward, which is also required by code. The inside of the door is shown in the top right photo. Thanks to all who helped support this project through your financial gifts.



Dinner & Meeting
Thursday, September 18
6:30 pm



NC Mission Trip

Blake Simpson and Rebecca Yasky joined other people from other church groups and traveled to the mountains of North Carolina to help victims of last years floods.

The first day required lots of painting as they helped transform a former car dealership into a missions headquarters for the area.





When completed, the headquarters will serve as a volunteer team coordination center and also a storage warehouse for supplies in assisting to rebuild homes and lives from the community. Blake and Rebecca also served a few of the families affected by the storm in their homes. One project meant the cleaning out of all of the debris from a storage area for access to the electrical panel. On August 24, there was a dinner to give the Blake and Rebecca time to share their experience with the congregation. They felt Christ's presence in their work for others.



YOUTH VISIT UMFS - RICHMOND

The Zion UMC Youth had the privilege to travel up to Richmond and visit UMFS (United Methodist Family Services). They serve the state of Virginia through foster care, residential treatment and so much more. The campus consisted of a multitude of different living accommodations, a fully functioning K-12 school, and other nonprofit spaces for community organizations. The housing areas accommodate families and children who are considered high-risk. Their mission is to champion children and teens through the



toughest odds and create bright futures for them. Our youth delivered the items that were collected from our Christmas in July Mission. The items in the assembled kits go to help acclimate foster families to their new children. This was an incredible experience for our youth and allowed them to see all aspects of the UMFS Mission and see where all of your generous donations will be utilized.

The Youth would like to thank the congregation and would love to continue to foster this partnership with UMFS in the future! Haley Thomas



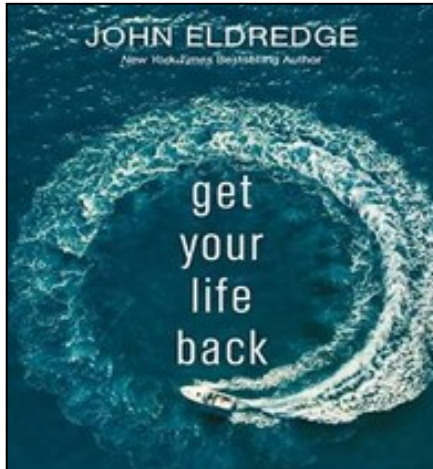
Youth's Summer Activities

Our youth were instrumental in assuring that this year's VBS went off smoothly and effectively. Many of our youth helped in every aspect of the weekly activities and responsibilities. To show them appreciation for their effort, a meal was served and many enjoyed the food and fellowship.

The Stratton's also invited the youth to enjoy their pool and some hot dogs on August 17. The cool water and wonderful food were enjoyed by all.



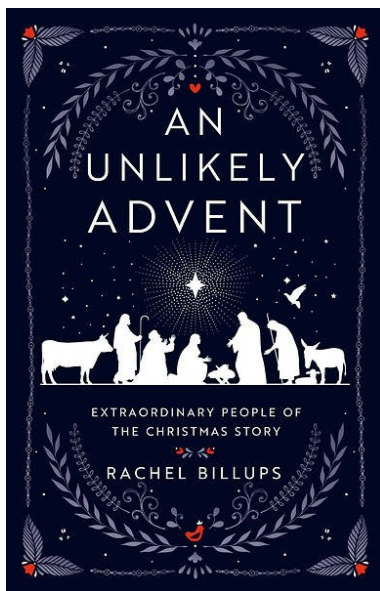
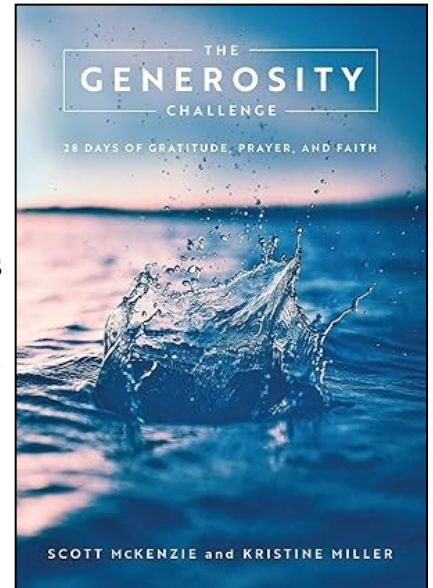
Book Studies and Classes Coming Soon



“Get Your Life Back” by John Eldredge, a practical guide to restoring balance, peace, and connection with God amidst the chaos. This six-week study will be at 6 pm, starting September 9 and continuing each Tuesday through October 14. Glenna Usselman will be leading this study. The cost of the books is \$15.



“The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith.” This four-week study will begin on Tuesday, October 21, and conclude November 11. There will be two opportunities to attend this class. Pastor David will be leading a 2 pm session, and Carrie Burris will be leading a 6 pm session. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Sign-up Station soon, or call the church office if you plan to attend.



This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

*Pastor David will lead this study at either 2 pm or 6:30 pm
November 20, December 2, 9, & 16.*

Confirmation Class Begins in September

Sessions for a new Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, September 28, at 4 pm, and conclude in November. Confirmation is for students 13-years of age and older. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the church office.





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

Hadleigh Tabb Hawkins

Born July 6, 2025
7 lbs. 3 oz.,
19.5 inches long

Congratulations
Parents: Landyn & Zach Hawkins
Big Sister: Tenleigh Wade
Grandparents: Kathy & Barry Kopczynski.



Planning for 2026 – In preparation for 2026, our committees are meeting to prepare the budget as well as filling leadership positions. The 2026 pledge cards were mailed out to help in the planning, and the other committees are offering input into future planning of the church. Our Charge Conference will take place on Sunday, October 19 at 2 pm, at St. Luke's UMC on Ella Taylor Road, in Grafton.



**Annual Church Bazaar
Saturday, November 1
9 am - 2 pm**

Handmade Crafts, plus Fall & Christmas Decorations
Bake Sale w/ Homemade Fruitcakes
Clam Chowder, hotdogs, and more!

Please consider helping by volunteering as we once again welcome the community to Zion!

SPOOKFEST '25

Saturday, October 18

6 pm - 8 pm

TRUNK OR TREAT



**Trunk or Treat, Games, Bounce House,
Hot Dogs, Popcorn, and More!**

This is a huge community event, many volunteers are needed to help with food, games, and activities. Start planning your trunk design now! Sign-up sheets will be available soon.

There will also be a basket at the sign up station for candy donations.



Sarah Vienna to Visit Zion

Sunday, September 28

Join us for Worship as we welcome singer, songwriter, motivational speaker, and non-profit leader, Sarah Vienna, to Zion. Sarah will share her talent for music and her experiences in Romania as she has developed the non-profit Firm Foundation. Firm Foundations Romania is a Christian nonprofit

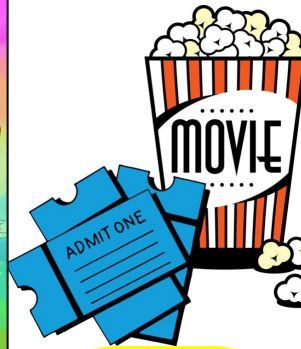
organization dedicated to transforming the lives of disadvantaged children and families in Romania through education, support, and the love of Christ. A love offering will be collected in support of Sarah's ministry and a covered dish lunch will follow the service.



Movie Nights



September 20 – 6:30 pm



Saturdays



October 11– 6:30 pm



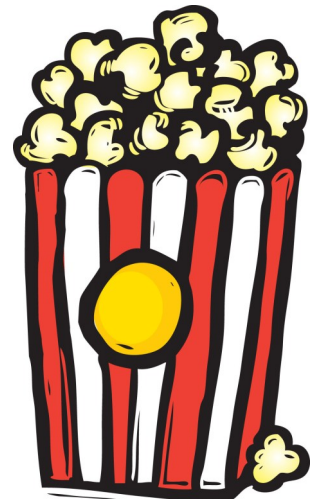
Sunday

November 16

6:30 pm

Bring your favorite snack to share!

Popcorn will be provided



SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 – Church Office Closed for Labor Day
 Sept. 5 & 6 – Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
 Sept. 7 – 4 pm – 7 pm – Community Appreciation Day
 Sept. 8 – 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Sept. 9 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study
 Sept. 10 – 6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
 Sept. 14 – 11:15 am Called Church Conference
 Sept. 16 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study
 Sept. 17 – 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Sept. 18 – 11:45 am Builders Class Lunch
 6:30 pm ZUMM Dinner & Meeting
 Sept. 20 – 6:30 pm Movie Night – **Minecraft**
 Sept. 21 – 11:15 am SpookFest ‘25 planning meeting
 Sept. 23 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study
 Sept. 28 – Sarah Vienna to join us
 for Worship with Music & Mission
 Covered Dish Lunch following Worship
 4 pm - 6 pm Confirmation Class
 Sept. 30 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study

OCTOBER

Oct. 3 & 4 - Social Hall Reserved for Scrapbooking
 Oct. 5 - Rev. Art Wolz to Lead us in Worship
 4 pm Confirmation Class
 Oct. 7 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study
 Oct. 11 - 6:30 pm Movie Night - **Monster House**
 Oct. 12 - 4 pm Confirmation Class
 Oct. 13 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 Oct. 14 – 6 pm “Get Your Life Back” Book Study
 Oct. 15 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
 Oct. 18 - 6 pm -8 pm SpookFest ‘25
 Oct. 17 - 5 pm Girl Scout Lock in
 Oct. 19 - 2 pm Charge Conference at St. Luke’s UMC
 4 pm Confirmation Class
 Oct. 21 - 2 pm or 6 pm - Generosity Challenge Book Study
 Oct. 22 - 9 am Baking Fruitcakes for Bazaar
 Oct. 25 - Noon - Wedding & Reception
 Oct. 26 - 4 pm Confirmation Class
 Oct. 28 - 2 pm or 6 pm - Generosity Challenge Book Study
 Oct. 30 & 31 - 9 am Set up for Bazaar

Weekly Events

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

Service of St. Nicholas

Sunday, November 30 - 10 am

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 \$2,200 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
Brook Thomas	9/5
Ellen Rhinehart	9/6
Ferebee Shaw	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 Usselman-Murphy	9/14
Norma Ahner	9/15
Patricia Thurlow	9/16
Bruce Capps	9/18
Belinda Humphrey	9/18
Kelly Dayton	9/19
Elsie Henley	9/20
Dalton Mason	9/20
Wendy Grogan	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 Hopkins	9/30
Betty Parkerson	9/30

October Birthdays

Elizabeth Armistead	10/1
Lorene Berry	10/1
Jackie Robinson	10/2
Margaret Thomas	10/4
Olivia Collins	10/6
Viola Collins	10/6
Judith Castagnola	10/8
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
Anthony Prata	10/23
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 Grimmett	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

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!

September: Beverly Black & Flo Rush

October: Leona Knutson & Chris Wolfe

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
September - October 2025

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

**Welcome
Autumn**



SPOOKFEST '25
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
6 PM - 8 PM

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