

Mount Zion
A United Methodist Congregation
+ Since 1856 +

3006 Old Westminster Pike
P.O. Box 511
Finksburg, MD 21048

Pastor Shawn Vollmerhausen
Pastor Emeritus Wm. Louis Piel
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Mount Zion Weekly

Sunday January 19, 2025



Welcome to our church! Our message is rooted in the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus. We embrace a biblical approach, sharing the "good news" in our daily lives. Join us as we grow in faith and love together!

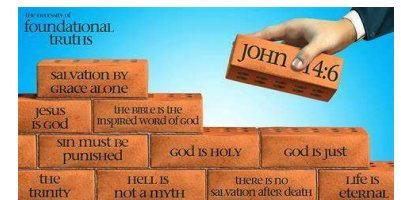
As we gather for the worship of God, we welcome you! Since 1856, the people of Mount Zion-Finksburg have come together to worship God. As part of our gatherings, we emphasize the importance of fellowship and uniting as the family of God. If you are visiting with us this morning or searching for a church home, we encourage you to connect with Pastor Shawn. For those who are already part of our church family, we are delighted to have you with us today! If you want to receive our weekly mailing, please call 301-351-6689.



There are endless reasons to worship God. At the heart of the matter lies this truth: worshipping God is the supreme purpose for which humans were created. You and I were made to worship God. The central function of the Church and the Bible is to glorify and worship God through Jesus the Christ (Ephesians 1:4–6; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 5:13–14; 21:1—22:5). We worship God because we recognize that no other being, thing, pursuit, or pleasure is worthy of the place God inhabits on the throne of our lives. Worship is part of our daily fellowship with God. For believers, worship and Bible study are our way of life. Through worship, we celebrate God's presence and power. We grow closer to God as God speaks to hearts and makes home in our lives. God's will becomes our will, and we are transformed. Yes, God deserves our worship, but we, in turn, benefit from it. What could be better than to find and fulfill our ultimate purpose—to worship God and live in God's presence forever and ever?

The Bible is foundational for those who follow Jesus. Our

Pastor Shawn has started a new Bible study and YOU ARE INVITED! The theme is "our worship of God" and some of the important issues are: *The Focus of Our Worship • Isaiah 40:21-31, The Inspiration for Worship • Psalm 25:4-15, The Attitude in Worship • Psalm 40:1-11 The Benefits of Worship • Psalm 63:1-11, The Lifestyle of Worship • Colossians 3:1-5. 12-17, The Gathering for Worship • Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:12-15.* It's not too late to join us! Wednesday evenings, 6.30 p.m. in the Sunday School room. You don't want to miss it. Join your fellow Mount Zion family and study with us. For more information see Pastor Shawn on Sunday morning or call 410-790-5214. All are welcome! Bring a friend or family member. The Holy Bible is our foundational book.



Mount Zion Cares! "It looks like a war scene," one firefighter said as the wind off the ocean, reaching speeds of 100 miles per hour, spread the fire rapidly from home to home. With tears in their eyes, a resident lamented, "We have lost everything."



Though Mount Zion is a small congregation, we deeply care.

We are blessed to be part of the United Methodist Church and its incredible program, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Thanks to the Mission Fund supported by all congregations, 100% of your donations go directly to those in need.

At a recent meeting, Dan Armacost, Chair of the Church Council, reported that attendees voted unanimously to extend our help. To contribute, please use the special offering envelope attached to this weekly guide. You can also give by mail. Make your check payable to "Mt. Zion UM Church," clearly mark it "Fire Damage," and send it to:
Mount Zion UM Church - Post Office Box 511 - Finksburg, MD 21048
For more information, please call **301-351-0668**.
Through YOU, Mount Zion makes a difference!

Upcoming Church Meeting

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21st Dan Armacost Chair

Meet Our Staff...

+ Pastor: Shawn Vollmerhausen +

Phone: 410-790-5214 Email: shawnvollmerhausen@gmail.com

Church Email: MtZionUMCFinksburg@gmail.com Church Office: 410-517-2300

Director of Music: Leslie Gabler / Missions: Barb Hayes / Treasurer: Bob Hayes

Website & Facebook Page: Kathy Giroux / Lay Leader: Jerry Knop

Worship Technology & Today's Weekly: Mark Hemler / Video: Peggy James

Church Council Chair: Dan Armacost / Trustees & Finance Chair: Bill Tighe

Usher & Fellowship Coordinators: Becky Knop & Melanie Stranix



As we begin this new year, we encourage everyone to commit to a *daily faith devotion*. This practice will help us grow deeper in our faith in God and our Lord Jesus while providing guidance for our daily lives.

The Upper Room devotional for January/February is available free of charge in both regular and large print editions. You can pick up a copy at the church or call 301-351-6689 to have one delivered directly to your home.

Finance & Attendance

In the "Year 2025" we need \$2154 each week for our Operating Budget.

Last Sunday we received \$598 BELOW our Operating Expense

2025 average Sunday attendance: 37 / Last Sunday's attendance: 43



Volunteers are needed to handle our **FELLOWSHIP** Sundays throughout the year. We are asking that refreshments be kept simple...cookies, cake, fruit salad. The church will always provide drinks and chips. Our Fellowship is meant to be a time for sharing and friendship. There will be a few “special” Sundays throughout the year in addition to our Souper Bowl Sunday in February. Additional details will be shared soon. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please reach out to Melanie or Becky.

WHAT’S ON THE SCHEDULE...

- January Ushers: Bonnie & Bobby Graham.
- January 21st - Church Council Meeting Tuesday 7:00pm ... Dan Armacost Chair
- January 22, 29 – Bible Study in Social Hall 6:30pm, Join us anytime!
- January 27th - End Of Year Giving’s Statements will be sent out in the mail
- February 5, 12, 19, 26 – Bible Study in Social Hall 6:30pm, Join Us Anytime!
- February Ushers: Allen & Jeri Rhodes
- February 9th - Soup-er Bowl Sunday Fellowship: Becky Knop
We’re looking for volunteers to bring soups and desserts. Please see Becky Knop.
- April 20th - Easter Sunday

I'm **Collecting All Cards** (Christmas, Birthday and any other kind) that you receive and don't know what to do with. I have Students from the Arc and their care givers come to my shop and they will take the cards and remake them and put in groups to sell. I will bring some to church and you can see what they do and purchase some if you wish. Barb Hayes

Do you have a problem hearing the Pastor during service? We now have a system in place within the sanctuary to help with that. See Mark at the sound cabinet for details.

EOY Statements will be sent out in January reflecting your donations during the 2024 year to Mt Zion UMC.

If you have any questions, contact Mark at mark.hemler428@gmail.com or 410-299-7517

SUNDAY FUNNIES

My light bill just came today, and I believe I also got charged for the sunlight, moonlight, streetlight, the light of the Holy Spirit, and the light at the end of the tunnel!



I love this church!

I love its history and heritage! I love its vision and future!

I love the spirit of Jesus which is in the hearts and lives of our members and friends! We aren't perfect but we are pressing on to be more "Christ-like" every day!

I love this church!

In & Around the Mount Zion Congregation

Who was Frank Laubach (September 2, 1884 – June 11, 1970), and why is he important?



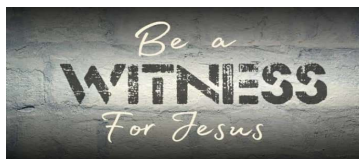
He was a Congregational Christian missionary. In 1915 he developed the “Each One Teach One” literacy program. It has subsequently been used to teach about sixty million people to read in their own language.

In 1955, he founded Laubach Literacy, which helped introduce about 150,000 Americans to reading each year and grew to have an impact in 34 developing countries. At one time an estimated 2.7 million people worldwide were learning to read through Laubach-affiliated programs. Laubach is the only American missionary to be honored on a US postage stamp.

But why is he important to us at Mount Zion and for all Christians who are concerned about the growth and future of the Christian faith?

In our United Methodist denomination, we are asked to support the ministry of Jesus and the church in four key ways: “(1) through our prayers (2) through our presence in worship & outreach (3) through our gifts and (4) through our service.”

At a General Conference of our denomination a number of years ago deep concern was raised that while we may do the above four items fairly well, we are failing in one important and critical area. We are failing to share the faith we say we believe in. We are not inviting people to come and worship & fellowship with us. Far too often we are the silent Christians concerned about our faith but not witnessing of others.



We expect our Pastor to share the faith and to witness to what we believe. But did you know that when a layperson shares the faith – when a layperson like most of us invites someone to worship – or when a lay person shares how God has impacted their lives it is a stronger (much stronger) witness. People respond when God’s love is shared by ordinary people like you and me.

We can put all the ads we want in the local newspaper or on the radio but the most important way is person to person. Let me tell you how God in Jesus changed my life. Let me share with you how the Spirit of God guided me through difficult times.

We do a pretty good job in our mission and outreach program to feed the hungry and reach out to those in need. But we must not neglect to feed someone’s soul. We must not neglect to share the love & hope that comes from a personal relationship with Jesus.

Each one share with one!

+ You may be the only Jesus that some people see +