



AUGUST 2023

The Grapevine



MOUNT ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Little Church with a *BIG* Heart that *Cares* deeply for the community,
Loves unconditionally like Jesus, *Welcomes* all to participate in Ministry!

Sunday School 10 am Worship Service 11 am

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**5th Sunday Service, July 30, 11 am, Shiloh UMC - Pastor Cathy is preaching.
Potluck lunch after the service. Bring your favorite dish!**

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Wednesday, August 2; 4 pm

DS Lory Beth Huffman here

(See related article on this page)

Thursday, August 3; 4 pm

Decorate cemetery - Volunteers needed

(see related reference on page 2)

August 6; 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Annual Decoration Sunday Service

(See related article on page 2)

No Sunday School today

Continuing series - ***Come and See:***

The Life God Wants for Us

(Please read ahead each week)

Message: *What More Do You Want?*

Gospel of John - Chapters 9 & 10

August 13; 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: *The Beginning of the End*

Gospel of John - Chapters 11 & 12

Holy Communion

Thursday, August 17; 2 pm

Church Council - Everyone is welcome.

August 20; 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: *Die or Deny?*

Gospel of John - Chapter 13

August 27; 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Message: *Assurance of Love and Peace*

Gospel of John - Chapter 14

(finish reading the Book of John)

WELCOME TO MT. ZION UMC

We are pleased to introduce the newest members of our Mt. Zion church family. Melissa and David Rodriguez have come to join us by way of transfer from the Roberta UMC in Concord, NC.



IMPORTANT COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet with District Superintendent Lory Beth Huffman on **August 2 at 4:00 pm** at the church. She will discuss the District's partnership with Mt. Zion and discuss setting goals moving forward. Please plan on attending if you are on the Council.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 13 | Catherine Cox |
| 16 | Scott Blevins |
| 17 | Caleb Phillips |
| 21 | Linda Absher |
| 28 | Bobby Davis |

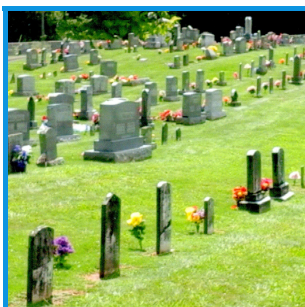
DECORATION SUNDAY

Our annual Decoration Sunday Service will be held in the sanctuary on **August 6 at 11 am**. Everyone is invited to stay for a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide meat, paper products, utensils, and drinks. Please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to round out the menu.

Graves may be decorated Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Decorations not secured on top of the headstone or in vases attached to the headstone will need to be removed from the cemetery before Thursday morning due to scheduled cemetery mowing. (*Cemetery Guidelines; 02/16/23*)

Donations are gratefully accepted for the perpetual care needed to keep the cemetery looking its best. If you are unable to attend the Decoration Sunday activities, you may mail your donation to: Mount Zion Cemetery Fund, c/o David Lambert 238 Fairview Road, Laurel Springs, NC 28644.

PLEASE NOTE: We are seeking volunteers to assist with decorating every grave using the artificial flowers we will provide. Plans have been made to meet in the cemetery **Thursday, August 3 at 4 pm**. Please be aware this is subject to change, depending on weather conditions at that time.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations! The donations make such a positive difference in the lives of our students. ~ Piney Creek School
(*Mt. Zion will continue our school ministry for students needing assistance with lunches, hygiene/other personal items, and school supplies for the new school year.*)

CEMETERY DONATIONS

Mt. Zion UMC has made a donation to the cemetery fund in remembrance of our friend Allen Blevins, who passed away on May 27. Allen's presence is greatly missed at our Sunday morning worship services.

A donation in memory of Allen Blevins has been received from Linda B. Hanson of Glasgow, KY.

A donation to the cemetery fund has been received from Linda L. Miller of Piney Creek, NC.

The Cemetery Committee expresses its thanks for all donations, which are used to assist with maintenance costs.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor Cathy is having a knee replacement on August 10. She will be unable to drive for at least 4 weeks. If you can volunteer to do a grocery pickup for her, that would be great! Also, she will not refuse food gifts - just remember that she doesn't eat meat. Call if you want to come by and visit...she would love that!!!

Rev. Tom Miller will be preaching for her for three weeks. Please continue to keep both Pastor Cathy and Rev. Miller in your prayers.



FROM THE PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Cathy Davis



“Mother Teresa once said, ‘Our vocation is to belong to Jesus so completely that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. What you and I must do is nothing less than putting our love for Christ into practice. The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put into our deeds every day. That is the measure of our love for God.’” (Claiborne, Shane; Wilson-Hartgrove, Jonathan; Okoro, Enuma. *Common Prayer Pocket Edition* (p. 349). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

If you were to ask someone who they belong to, you’d most likely get very different answers. I can imagine some might say “my husband” or “my wife,” “my job,” or “my family.” I would HOPE that you’d get a few answers that indicated they belonged to the Lord.

In the world that we are living in today, there is so much divisiveness and exclusion that some people may not feel they belong to anyone or anything. This is sad. We are told from a young age that we must “make it” in the world. In order to “make it,” we overwork, overspend, don’t get enough sleep or exercise, and often spend way too much time in front of a screen of some kind.

And, yet, Jesus has always offered a life of so much more than that. Jesus’ life was marked by spending one-to-one time with his friends, family, and even strangers. He taught his followers to love others as they loved themselves! To love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength! I don’t think that these were just suggestions.

What would life be like? What would the world be like if more people did what Jesus taught? Can you picture it? Not only would someone else’s life be enhanced, your life would be better, too. Let’s work to teach others that life isn’t about what one accomplishes; it is about how much love we share.

Lord, we are bound to you by grace, grafted into your kingdom by love. Since the beginning of time you have found ways to be present with us, your children. Teach us to embody your loving presence in all that we do this day. Amen.

Pastor Cathy

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Cathy will be starting a new Bible Study toward the end of September. We will be studying *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. Stay tuned for dates and times!

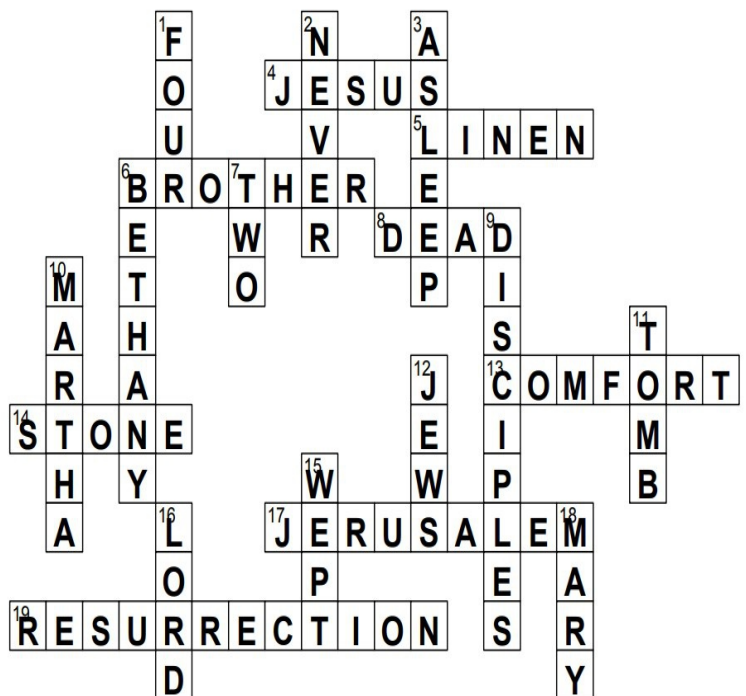
UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

We hope you enjoyed reading through the Gospel of John this summer!

Beginning in September, we will have a new sermon series entitled *Men and Women of Faith*. We will study several of them from the Old Testament who were faithful to God: Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Esther, Ruth, Elijah, and Samson.

Maybe we can learn from these examples how to be faithful to God today.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS John 11:1-44



Church Life



On Sunday, July 9, a church family breakfast was served at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. This lively group enjoyed each other's company and a delicious meal consisting of sausage casserole, cinnamon buns, muffins, cantaloupe, grapes, juice and coffee. Thanks to all who prepared the food and the 19 participants for their presence at this activity. *(Out of photo range - Bobby Davis)*



Congratulations to Patti Cox, the talented creator of this beautiful quilt, shown at left outshining a nearby rainbow! The quilt's title is "Valley Blossoms" and it's a biggie - 99" x 99" - so it's hefty! It tied for first place as *Best of Show* at the recent Alleghany Quilt Show. Patti says she started it about 3 years ago, but when the earthquake hit and then her sister got sick, she had to stop working on it for about two years. She just started to finish it up this past Spring. We're so proud of you, Patti!



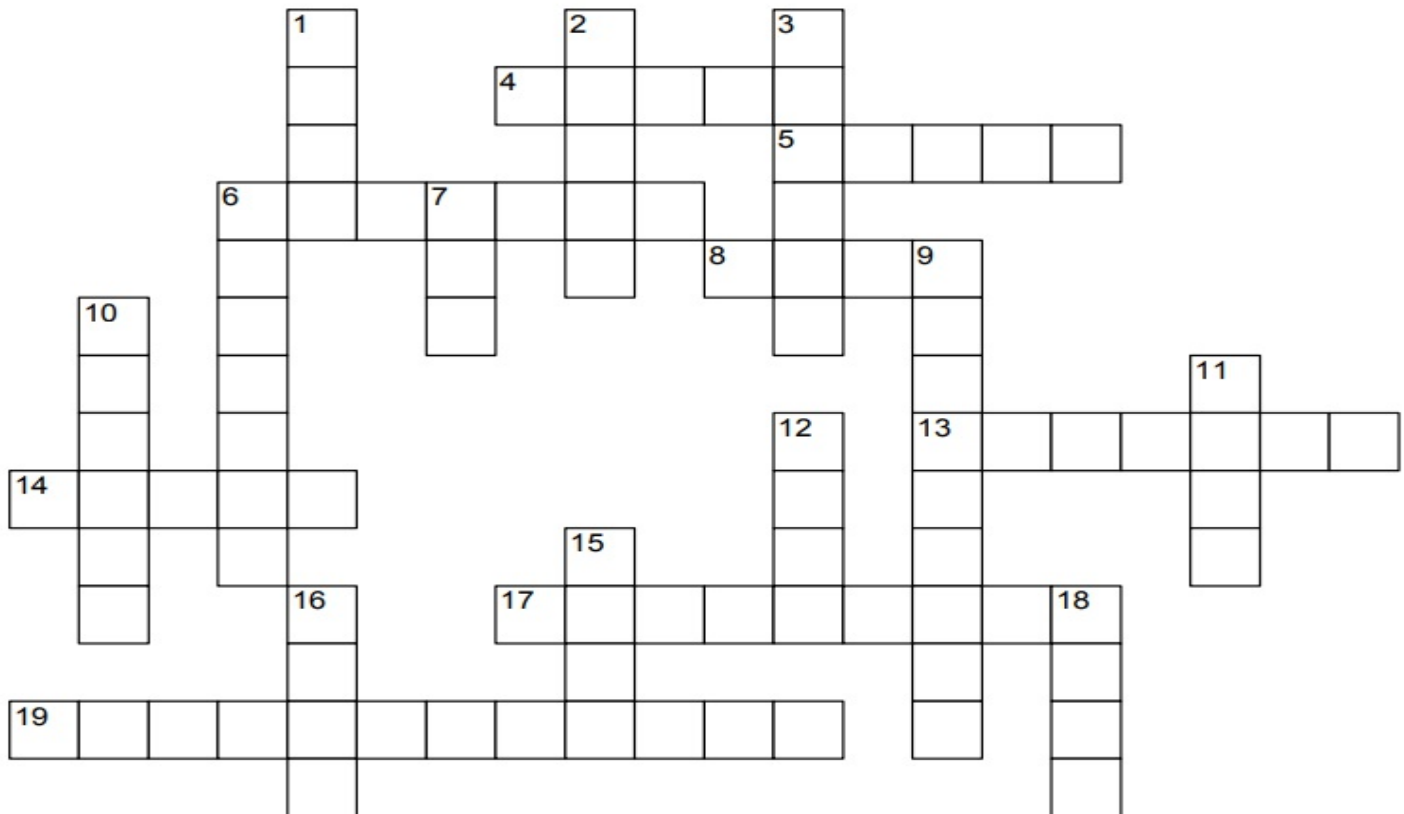
Enjoy our beautiful new wreaths made for the summer season. They certainly create a cheerful welcome all around our house of worship!



We are now recycling the water bottles that are used at the church. Please help by depositing your **empty** bottle into the designated trash can in the Fellowship Hall.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

John 11:1-44



Across

- 4 God's Son
 5 Lazarus was wrapped in this type of cloth. (John 11:44)
 6 What was Lazarus' relationship to Mary and Martha? (John 11:2)
 8 Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus is _____." (John 11:14)
 13 Many Jews came to _____ Mary and Martha (John 11:19)
 14 This was laid across the entrance of the tomb (John 11:38)
 17 Bethany was less than two miles from this city (John 11:18)
 19 Jesus said, "I am the _____ and the life." (John 11:25)

Down

- 1 Number of days Lazarus was in the tomb (John 11:17)
 2 Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will _____ die. (John 11:26)
 3 Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen _____." (John 11:11)
 6 Village where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived (John 11:1)
 7 Number of days Jesus stayed after He heard Lazarus was sick (John 11:6)
 9 Followers of Jesus (John 11:12)
 10 Sister of Mary (John 11:1)
 11 Place where Lazarus was buried (John 11:38)
 12 These people came to comfort Mary and Martha (John 11:19)
 15 Jesus _____. (John 11:35)
 16 Title Martha called Jesus (John 11:39)
 18 Sister of Lazarus (John 11:1)