



# IN TOUCH... The Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Family

November 2021 Volume XXIII Issue 11

"Making, Maturing, Mobilizing  
Disciples for Christ"

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY - 8:30 AM and 11: 00 AM Indoor in the Sanctuary  
9:45 AM Worship on the Front Lawn

Rev. Dr. Angela Marlowe and Rev. Jonathan Marlowe: Senior Pastors  
Rev. Lauren Hill: Associate Pastor

Contact Phone Numbers

Church Office 704-892-8566

Pastor on Call 704-819-9025

Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 2 PM | Friday 9 AM - 12 PM

Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654

Website - [www.mtzionumc.net](http://www.mtzionumc.net)

## Being Thankful at Mt. Zion

### Jonathan's Journals

November is a time to be thankful. Of course, anytime of year is a good time to be thankful. I remember in my childhood that our family spent one summer living in England. On July 4, one of our British friends wished us a Happy Thanksgiving. Bless his heart, he knew it was one of those funny American holidays. We didn't want to explain to him what July 4 was really about, so we just smiled and said, "Thank you!" Thanksgiving is for any time of year.

Nevertheless, I like to focus on giving thanks during November. Here at Mt. Zion, we have so much for which to be thankful! I'd like to reflect on some of them at this time. I am so thankful for our Trustees. You may not know it, but they do so much for our church. We have a large church campus, and there is almost always something that needs to be fixed. The air conditioning or the heat; the lights or the water; the grass or the trees; the office equipment or the church busses. There is always something going on (or off). And they keep it all going. Especially during the pandemic, they have checked on the different buildings to make sure there was nothing going haywire. They have had workdays to help the church look its best. They have gone out of their way to help the staff and others continue the ministries of the church safely. I am thankful for our Trustees.

I am thankful for our outdoor worship services. At a time when we are (rightly) still being cautious about the spread of Covid-19, these outdoor services have been a God-send. This year, we started outdoor worship at Easter, which was a glorious day. As time went on and the weather got hotter, we moved the stage to a spot with more shade. So many people at Mt. Zion have made it possible for us to have outdoor worship. The setting up of the outdoor sound equipment (even with a radio antenna) has been a weekly endeavor. Our September 12 outdoor service drew 300 people as we honored fire, police, EMT's and other first responders. Many people have told me they appreciate the opportunity to worship outside, not only because they have felt safer outside, but also because they just enjoy the natural environment. Many different musicians have led our praise of God outside. We've had outdoor Sunday School for children while the outdoor services take place. Not all churches are able to have an outdoor service, but I am so thankful that we are able to.

Of course, indoor worship services are going on, too. There are so many people who make these possible: ushers and musicians; acolytes and choir members, altar guild and counters. Audio visual technicians volunteer their time, not only to make sure we can hear things in the sanctuary, but also so that folks can watch online. I am thankful for all of these people.

I am thankful for our church staff; they keep on improvising and thinking of new ways to carry on the ministries of our church. They cooperate. They help each other out. They deal with the limitations; they sometimes work at home. But they always figure it out. And they get along; they laugh together, and occasionally cry together, but they always love together. They handle adversity with grace and strength. They make the best out of sometimes challenging circumstances. They pray together, work together, and sometimes eat together. They offer their best to Mt. Zion because they truly care. I am thankful for each one.

Well, I could go on and on about what I am thankful for at Mt. Zion - I've only touched on a few here. In the month ahead, we'll have more opportunities to give thanks. Let's make a habit of it, giving thanks all year round, even in July.

Peace, Jonathan



## WORSHIP AT MT. ZION

Mt. Zion continues to offer multiple times and ways to worship. Bring a friend, come and worship with us.

### Worship times and locations

8:30 AM - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with communion each week

9:45 AM - Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary

\*If we have unusually warm weather on 11/14 or 11/21 - we will worship outside one last time for the season. Watch the midweek email for more information.

11 AM - Traditional Worship with choir in the Sanctuary and online

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

November 7 - All Saint's Sunday - We remember and give thanks for our Mt. Zion Saints at all three services.

November 14 - Today in worship we will give thanks and celebrate our Mt. Zion Veterans.

November 21 - Today we will Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart.

November 28 - Advent begins with a new sermon series - "How Did You Get in the Christmas Story?"

## Wednesday Nights

November 3rd & 10th at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Zoom



Join us for Methodist Moments on the Mount as we look at the past, present, and future of Methodism. Where did we come from? How do we make decisions? What do we believe? We will explore these and other topics. Have a question about some aspect of Methodism? Send your questions to Pastor Jonathan at [jmarlowe@mtzionumc.net](mailto:jmarlowe@mtzionumc.net).

## Gratitude Month

Throughout the month of November, the Pastors and Staff of Mt. Zion will be sharing reflections of gratitude on the ministries of Mt. Zion on our church's Facebook and Instagram accounts. We will be using the hashtag #thanksMTZ every day in November as we share our thanks. We are challenging YOU to join in with us as well and share what you are thankful for on your social media, using the hashtag #thanksMTZ. We look forward to sharing our gratitude and thanksgiving for God's many blessings with you throughout the month of November and hope you will join us!



## Homebound Bags for Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, we want to share our blessings with members of our congregation who are homebound. We will be collecting the following items to be included: Apple Cider Mix, Fall Themed Kitchen Towels and Cozy Socks. Other items will be purchased, and monetary donations will be accepted to help with the cost. All donations need to be in the church office by Monday, November 15th. Please contact Pastor Lauren at [lhill@mtzionumc.net](mailto:lhill@mtzionumc.net) if you have any questions!

# MISSIONS UPDATE

## ROOM IN THE INN

Mt. Zion is excited to welcome our Room in the Inn neighbors back to our campus for this winter. We will start with a soft opening December 7th at 6:00 p.m. If the Covid-19 numbers continue to decline, we will host more guests in January, February, and March. How can you help? We need volunteers to spend the night at our youth house, volunteers to provide a dinner item, breakfast or bag lunches, volunteers to eat dinner with our guests. All overnight guests will be required to provide proof of vaccination prior to boarding the bus to Mt. Zion. We have plans to space our guests out in the house. This ministry is very rewarding as we share God's love to guests that appreciate a warm meal, a hot shower and a peaceful night's sleep. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call Susie Crump @ 704-575-5531 or e-mail [Susancrump@bellsouth.net](mailto:Susancrump@bellsouth.net).



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Build a Shoebox Bless Children Around the World Without Leaving Home. This year Mt. Zion will support Operation Christmas Child through their "Build a Shoebox Online" endeavor. Now more than ever children need great joy! You can give boys and girls in need a tangible expression of God's love through a gift-filled shoebox packed from your computer or handheld device. In just a few clicks, you can select toys and other fun items to include as well as a letter and photo to delight the heart of a child. Use the link below and follow the "Build a Shoebox Online" tabs. Pack a shoebox online today!

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

## ADA JENKINS

### After-School Snacks Needed

Ada Jenkins' LEARN Works has an immediate need of daily snacks for 50 students in their after school program. (This is the same program our backpack school supplies were donated to.) Suggested snacks include fruit, veggies, string cheese, snack crackers, etc.

Please visit the link below for more information including a complete listing of specific snacks (to accommodate dietary needs), drop-off location directions, and to sign-up. This is a great idea for a Sunday school class or small group project! Here is the signup genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D45AAA82CA7FF2-learn3>

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Laurie Knight @ [appfan1188@carolina.rr.com](mailto:appfan1188@carolina.rr.com). Thank you!



### Christmas at Ada Jenkins

We're excited to announce that plans are under way for the 2021 Christmas at Ada Jenkins (formerly Repairers of the Breach) and we need your help!

This year we will be providing Christmas for about **25 families** and their **55 children** in the LEARN Works program. Each family will receive a food-only gift card along with a small gift (scarf, gloves, etc.) for the parents. The children will receive winter clothing and toys selected just for them from their wish lists.

**New this year** - we will also be serving approximately **25 single adults** who are either unsheltered (homeless) or housed by providing a variety of needed items and gifts also selected just for them from their wish lists.

Here's how you can help:

**Monetary donations** - It takes approximately \$100 to sponsor an individual child, a family, or an adult. Again this year we will have to purchase items that were previously donated and we also hope to have enough funds to purchase books. No donation is too small!

**Volunteers needed** - to shop, wrap gifts, make boxes, set up workshop, help on pickup day, and extra hands anytime are always appreciated! More information coming soon and additional ways you can help.



This ministry relies heavily on your generous gifts and this year we are asking for your continued support. Please consider making a donation to Christmas at Ada Jenkins. Make your check payable to Mt. Zion and write 'Christmas Ada Jenkins' in the memo line. Thank you!

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry or have any questions, please contact: Sebra Maines at [sebramaines@yahoo.com](mailto:sebramaines@yahoo.com) or Torrie Thompson at [torriej@bellsouth.net](mailto:torriej@bellsouth.net).

## Neighborhood CARE Center

COMING SOON

Details for Thanksgiving and Christmas opportunities at Neighborhood CARE Center are coming soon!



*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*  
**Matthew 25:40**





# F.U.E.L. Youth News



We have had a great month! We started off the month of October with Huntersville UMC's youth joining us for our guest speaker, Tim who talked about the importance of faith in God during trying times. We went to a concert in Charlotte to see Tauren Wells.

**Scan here  
for all  
youth  
forms and  
sign ups.**



## November Dates:

**Nov 6th-** Church BBQ

**Nov 7th-** Leaf Raking in  
Smithville- 3:30-5:30- meet at  
The C.A.R.E. Center

**Nov 12th-14th-** Tekoa Retreat

**Nov 21st-** Combined Youth at  
Huntersville UMC





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## ADVENT KICK-OFF!

We invite families, individuals, and everyone in between to a fun **Christmas event** on the first Sunday, in Advent, **Nov. 28 from 11:00**

**-1:00 p.m.** in the gym of the Family Life Center. We will have a Christmas family movie playing while you can build your family's own Advent Wreath to take home (register below), and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Advent devotions will be available for pickup.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094EAF622A2F58-advent>

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday we meet immediately following Children's Time during the 8:30 AM and 9:45 AM services for children in 5th Grade and younger in the Ed. Building. The Nursery is also available at 11 AM.



## BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY

All of our four year-olds and First Graders were presented with a Bible on October 10th during all 3 services.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS CLUB

All children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend over the fall on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM for fellowship and fun! We meet for one hour that includes: music with Ms. Shelley, a Bible lesson & craft, and play-ground time. Our remaining sessions together are November 3, 10, & 17. Elementary students are practicing for this year's Christmas Musical, "Random Acts of Christmas" which will be performed December 5th at 3:30 PM.



## ACOLYTES

If your child is interested in being an Acolyte, please contact Stacey at [smcmercuri@mtzionumc.net](mailto:smcmercuri@mtzionumc.net) for more information on training and scheduling for all three services.



## SONSHINE PRESCHOOL



A very BIG thank you to all the Sonshine Parents, Staff, Church Staff and Church Members who supported the school and participated in our Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser! We sold 862 bundtlets and raised \$1,794.00 for Sonshine! What an amazing success and our largest fundraiser in several years!

Sonshine Preschool's theme for the month of November is Working and Harvest. Our monthly fruit of the spirit is Goodness. We are learning about Transportation, Jesus calms the storm (Joshua 1:9), Building/Machines, Noah's Ark (1 Thessalonians 4:11), and We Are Thankful, Ruth and Naomi (Psalm 136:1).

The preschool will be closed on Monday, November 1st, Tuesday, November 2nd for Election Day, Thursday, November 11th for Veterans Day, and Wednesday, November 24th through Thursday, November 25th for Thanksgiving.





# TRUNK OR TREAT



Thank you to all that brought a decorated trunk, participated or helped with our Trunk or Treat event this year! A special thanks to Debbie Jackson, Buddy Phillips, David & Sebra Maines, and Jonathan Boger.





# MT. ZION'S 82ND ANNUAL BBQ

**On Saturday, November 6th!**

**Starting at 10:00 AM!**

**Please join us this weekend....**

**Come be a part of the Tradition of friends, fellowship and great BBQ!**

**Here's your cheat sheet for ALL things BBQ!**

All links can be found on the Mt. Zion website under the BBQ tab or use this link: <http://www.mtzionumc.net/>

Day of Sales for Hot plates and BBQ sandwiches will be 1st come, 1st served!

We need volunteers! Volunteer spots are limited and therefore every spot is needed! Please review the sign-up list below or see the BBQ table at Sunday Services to sign up.

BBQ sign-up for volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AFAC29A0F5C07-mtzion>

New this year! BBQ t-shirts – get yours now for just \$10! We would love those serving the event to wear our new t-shirts and be part of the fun!

Order here: <https://forms.gle/ge3Tqg3ydZybo4Bz9>

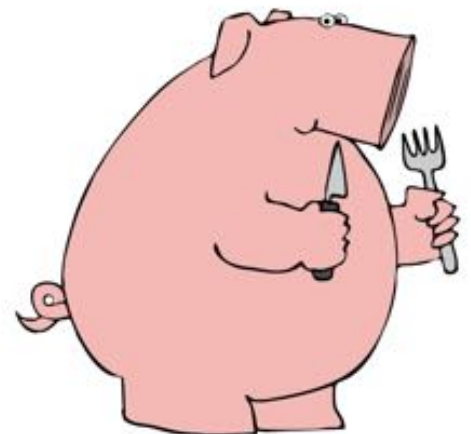
Youth volunteers...we need you! Please see Brittany!

Lastly, consider sponsoring an Angel Pig in honor, celebration or in memory of someone special for just \$25! Your donation helps to offset the price of the BBQ and allows more \$ to go towards missions and ministries. You can use the attached sheet or fill-out your form on-line. Click here to complete sponsorship form and to submit payment:

<https://tinyurl.com/MTZAngelPig>

And Please Pray! Pray for our committee, our volunteers, our community, the outreach possibilities and the missions and ministries that this event will serve.

We look forward to seeing you!



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy Fall, Ya!!! You just can't beat the season changes in North Carolina. It is a wonderful time of year with the lovely colors in the trees and the cool nip in the air. We have a few reminders of some scheduled events to put on your calendars:

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings, during choir rehearsals that begin at 7:00 in the choir room. We have many extra books and listening CDs if you would like to join us. A chair in the loft is waiting for YOU! We would also love to have more folks in the loft on a weekly basis, just in case you would like to be a part of the choir. The Praise Team is also an option for you to get involved. So contact one of us and come join us anytime!

The Handbell group recently recorded three lovely selections you can view on the church website, YouTube, or Facebook. You will be seeing us in person in the near future during the 8:30 and 11:00 services, but we wanted to share these with you online before ringing for you again in person.

Mark your calendars! During Wednesday night Kids' Club, the children have been working diligently on the Christmas musical, "Random Acts of Christmas", which will be presented in the afternoon on December 5th at 3:30 in the Sanctuary. The message in this musical portrays the importance of showing kindness through God's love and teaches us that we can live out the gospel every day.

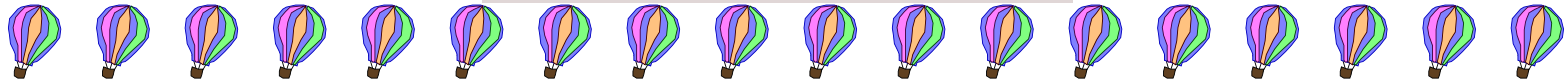
Looking ahead, we will begin a Youth Hand Chime/Bell choir on January 9, 2022, and Babygarten (ages birth-2 years old) will begin in the spring of 2022.

As always, thank you for supporting our music ministry at Mount Zion.

Shelley and Melanie



## ADULT TRAVEL MINISTRY



The Adult Travel Ministry trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania was a huge success, where we enjoyed 'Queen Esther' at the amazing Sight and Sound Theater, learned all about the Amish culture, saw sights from the Underground Railroad, had lunch aboard a train, learned about some amazing Tiffany stained glass church windows, and visited Patsy Kline's hometown. On the way home, we visited an Apple Orchard where we could pick apples, had a hayride and enjoyed an awesome homemade lunch, and lastly visited a Potato Chip Factory. Amazing memories, new games learned and loving fellowship.



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 3rd our Pastors blessed the beloved pets of our Mt. Zion family on the front lawn.



## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

**A SPECIAL GIFT WAS GIVEN:** IN MEMORY OF Jane Smith to the Budget, **IN HONOR OF** Phil Jackson to the Budget, **IN MEMORY OF** Minerva Bullock to the Music Fund, **IN MEMORY OF** Mildred Jones Nelson to the Christmas at Ada Jenkins Fund.

### BAPTISM:

Jack Thomas Westmoreland was baptized on October 3, 2021. He is the son of Matthew and Ashley Westmoreland and grandson of Wayne and Mary Ellen Westmoreland.



**SUPPORT GROUP OPPORTUNITY:** The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) has a caregiver support group that meets once a month at Mt. Zion. Frontotemporal Degeneration is the most common dementia for people under 60 years of age. The support group meets every third Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 205 on the upper level of the Education Building or via Zoom. Contact the church office for more information.

**HELP:** Mt. Zion Bus Drivers Needed! There is a need for a driver(s) for the big, 34 passenger, Church Bus. The Older Adult group travels locally 2 times a year and no farther than 3 hours from the church campus. You will need a CDL license and we will help you with that process. For the Older Adult trips, the Bus Driver always goes free to the event. To inquire about this opportunity to bring smiles to our older adults, contact Dora at 704-737-4859/ dalmas2@mi-connection.com.

**THANK YOU:** Dear Mt. Zion Friends,

We are humbled by your nomination and honored to receive the 2021 Towel and Basin award. It is our privilege to serve our church family in any way that we are able. It is also an honor to share this award along with Fran Conard - what a true servant she is!

Thank you for this honor!

Sebra & David Maines



## Staff

### Senior Pastors:

Rev. Dr. Angela Marlowe  
amarlowe@mtzionumc.net  
Rev. Jonathan Marlowe  
jmarlowe@mtzionumc.net

### Associate Pastor:

Rev. Lauren Hill  
lhill@mtzionumc.net

### Director of Music Ministries:

Shelley Little  
slittle@mtzionumc.net

### Assistant Dir. of Music Ministries:

Melanie Kalkan  
mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

### Coordinator of Children's Ministries:

Stacey Mercuri  
smercuri@mtzionumc.net

### Director of Youth Ministries:

Brittany Morris  
bmorris@mtzionumc.net

### Financial Officer/Office Manager:

Patti Loner  
ploner@mtzionumc.net

### Administrative Assistant:

Mary Ellen Westmoreland  
mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

### Preschool Director:

Kim Webb  
sonshinepre@mtzionumc.net

### Assistant Preschool Director:

Cathy Wiese  
sonshinepre@mtzionumc.net

## SAFETY GUIDELINES - NOV. 2021

The safety and well-being of all members & friends of Mt. Zion is our top priority.

- We strongly recommend the wearing of masks for individuals of the appropriate age at all indoor ministry activities, including worship. As of September 22, 2021, Mecklenburg County's indoor mask mandate includes church activities.
- We trust families to make wise decisions about what is age-appropriate for their children regarding masks. We also acknowledge that some people may be unable to wear masks because of medical or other conditions.
- To protect our children and youth, those volunteers and staff working with youth and children are required to wear a mask when participating in indoor children's and youth ministry activities.

Dear Mt. Zion Family,

It is with a grateful heart and much appreciation for the honor of accepting the "Towel And Basin Servant" award for 2021. I would like to thank those of you who nominated me and voted for me. I am most humbled to have been chosen alongside Sebra and David Maines, who do so much more than my small part. I will continue to serve my Church and Church Family in every way that I am able. Many blessings to all of you.

Fran Conard



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### September Financial Report

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministries of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

Our 2021 approved budget total is \$1,018,706

Total budget income in September – \$ 60,681

September's expenses - \$ 75,245

Year-to-Date budget income - \$ 643,541

Year-to-Date expenses - \$ 668,877

Total available cash for budget expenses:

\$ 162,114

We have 66.17 days of cash on hand.

Total designated fund balance is \$ 274,264

Please contact Patti Loner (ploner@mtzionumc.net)

if you have questions.





CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 2

Cornelius, NC

We're On The Web!  
[www.mtzionumc.net](http://www.mtzionumc.net)

19600 Zion Avenue  
Cornelius, North Carolina 28031

Tel: 704-892-8566  
Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654

***"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"***

**FAST LINKS** - Below are the fast links to many of our ongoing ministries at Mt. Zion UMC.

Please use these to keep informed and stay in touch with our church family.

Mt. Zion Website - [www.mtzionumc.net](http://www.mtzionumc.net)

Mt. Zion Facebook - [www.facebook.com/mtziumc](http://www.facebook.com/mtziumc)

Mt. Zion Podcast - <https://podpoint.com/mt-zion-umc-cornelius-nc>

Mt. Zion Instagram - [@mt\\_zion\\_umc](https://www.instagram.com/mt_zion_umc) | [#thanksMTZ](https://www.instagram.com/mtziumc)

Mt. Zion Ustream - <https://video.ibm.com/channel/BYk2qrGsRY7>

Mt. Zion YouTube Channel - <http://tinyurl.com/mtzumcyt>

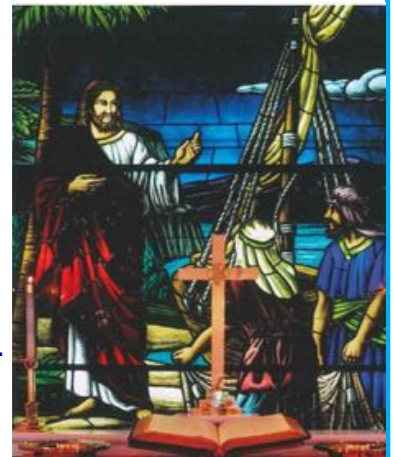
Mt. Zion Online worship guide - <http://www.mtzionumc.net/online-worship-guide>

Mt. Zion Youth information - [www.mtzionumc.net/ministries/youth](http://www.mtzionumc.net/ministries/youth) | IG: [@MTZFUEL](https://www.instagram.com/MTZFUEL)

Mt. Zion Children - <https://www.facebook.com/MtZionKids/>

<http://www.mtzionumc.net/ministries/childrens-ministries>

Sonshine Preschool - [www.facebook.com/SonshinePreschoolMtZ](http://www.facebook.com/SonshinePreschoolMtZ)



### **CORNELIUS WOODS OPPORTUNITY**

Prices  
range  
from  
\$218,000  
to  
\$475,000.



Sizes  
range  
from 870-  
2100  
square  
feet.

11 Villas and the 4 story Condo buildings will have covered parking and elevators.

Call for details on current incentives, including a one year membership to the Lake Norman YMCA.



### **MT. ZION CRAFT NIGHTS**

Whether it is scrapbooking or making cards, knitting, quilting or sewing, painting or carving wood, come join us in Christian fellowship and spend special time together.

We will meet November 19th, from 3 - until in the Hut (across from the Family Life Center).

For any questions, contact Dora Dalmas at 704-737-4859 / [dalmas2@mi-connection.com](mailto:dalmas2@mi-connection.com) or Susie Crump at 704-575-5531  
[susancrump@bellsouth.net](mailto:susancrump@bellsouth.net).

Hope to see you there!  
*Sponsored by Women of Zion*



### **PRAYER SHAWL**

The ladies of the PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY invite you to join them on **Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.** to knit/crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. There is a place for you, no matter what your skill level is.

If you are interested in learning how to knit, they can help with that, as well. (Yarn is provided.) They meet in the **church Parlor** (located on the upper level of the Family Life Center) and hope to see you soon! Please remember to wear a mask and social distance, if not vaccinated.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to place altar flowers in the Sanctuary please contact the church office at 704-892-8566 for available dates.

### **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and pictures you have by November 23rd for the next newsletter to:  
[newsletter@mtzionumc.net](mailto:newsletter@mtzionumc.net)