

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6 N E W S L E T T E R

Through the Windows

Mt. Zion exists to ...
 + Love God
 + Communicate God's love to families and individuals in
 our community and beyond



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord! I can hardly believe it is already December. This past month we have welcomed the community into our church through the fall festival, remembered those Saints who have gone before us, prayed for Youth Winter Retreat, joined with area churches to give thanks to God, collected food for those in our community, and recommitted to our Scouting ministry! I am truly humbled by the manner in which you allow the God to work in and through you. This next month, holds much to anticipate as we will participate in Advent celebrations, join with First Methodist for a Cantata, hold one another in prayer during the Longest Night Worship Service, and worship the Christ our Lord on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

As we enter into this Advent Season, we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of a child. While the world begins to celebrate Christmas the day after Thanksgiving, we, in the church wait. We wait on the birth of our Lord who will save us from ourselves.

The United Methodist Church describes Advent in this way,

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts for the twelve days from December 25–January 6.

As Taylor Burton-Edwards notes, the Christmas Season "begins with the birth of Jesus and gives us two full weeks to encounter the extraordinary love, threats, dangers and opportunities God's Incarnation [in the birth of Jesus] set off then and still sets off today." God entered our world, not as a conqueror but an infant, demonstrating the depth of God's love — and a radical vision of peace and love — for all creation.

It is during this season we prepare and wait. We prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ and we wait anxiously for his birth.
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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Olivia Poole-Reneau
Assoc. Pastor	Rev. Lucas Tribble
Lay Leader	Carol Duke
Children's Ministries Coordinators	Brooke Miles & Sarah Andrews
Youth Director	Rev. Lucas Tribble
Nursery Director	Nikki Bonner
Pianist	Greg Waldrep
Organist	Jeannie Boehmler
Secretary	Heather Wilmot
Custodian	Mary Canty
Newsletter Editor	Sarah Andrews



4-Tommy Henderson & William Spear
Alt. Buddy Pittman

11- Randy Hodge & Buddy Pittman
Alt. Tommy Henderson

18-Doyle Pair & James Baker
Alt. William Spear

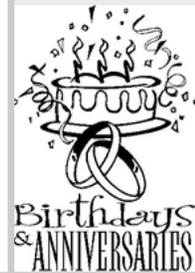
25-Tommy Henderson & Buddy Pittman
Alt. James Baker

HOSPITALITY:

- 4- Hank Holland
- 11- Micki Thornhill
- 18-Jeannie Boehmler
- 25- Carolyn Garnett

BIRTHDAYS

- 2-Don Gilbert, Matt Anderson, Keith Banks
- 7-Richard Terry
- 8-Amber Howard
- 15-Earl Stone
- 16-Tommy Henderson
- 17-Samuel Rhames
- 19-John Boehmler, Christian Arnold
- 25-Stephen Stokes, Mark Stein
- 29-Nikki Bonner
- 30-Carmeron Carswell
- 31-Elaina Howard, Carter Donaldson



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-Dave & Debbie Wilmot
- 17-Eric & Shirley Garrett
- 21-Don & Carol Duke, Bill & Carolyn Franklin
- 298-Bobby & Barbara Franklin



Please Contact Hank Holland if interested in placing Flowers in the church

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 5-Trustees @7
- 12-Finance @ 7
- No UM Men
- No Admin Council

Every Sunday:
Choir Practice @5pm
Prayer Mtg in Joy Class @6pm

Every Wednesday:
Supper @5:30-6:30pm
Children Ministries @630pm

Every Thursday:
Youth Ministries @ 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2-Secret Sister Christmas Party @7pm -Micki Thornhill's home
- 6- Golden Agers Luncheon
- 11-Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata @3pm -FUMC in Phenix City
- 14-Longest Night Worship Service @630pm
- 18-Open House at Steve & Olivias @6-730pm
- 21-Youth Christmas Party @6-8pm
- 24-Christmas Eve Candelight Communion @630pm
- 25-Christmas Day Worship Service @930am

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It is also during this time of year that we look to the second coming of Christ. We joyfully anticipate that great day when the Kingdom of Heaven will come to this earth.

On December 14th, following Wednesday Night supper we will take part in the Longest Night Worship Service, which will be at 6:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary. In each church I serve, I have vowed to start or continue this important worship service during the Advent season. The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to gather and for churches to worship pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child. However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season. Perhaps you have lost a loved one this year, have experienced a troubling diagnosis, or find the darkness difficult to overcome. This is a service that recognizes that complexity. It is a time for people to come and rest in the light and assurance of Christ.

Additionally, part of being a community is supporting others and joining with those who grieve. We have lost wonderful members of this church over the past year and as part of the community of faith we are called to walk along side those who grieve, suffer, and for whom this season of the year is a time of difficulty. This is a service for everyone and all are welcome to take part in this time of reflection, communion, hope, and healing.

I pray that you will have a holy Advent that is filled with wonder, love, peace and joyful anticipation

Grace and Peace,

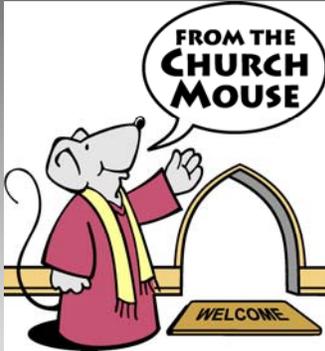
Pastor Olivia



*We welcome Eli-Liam Mason Clack
to our community of faith at
Mt. Zion.*

*Eli is the son of Christian Clack,
grandson of Nikki Bonner.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent at Mount Zion

- November 27th, 6:00 p.m.
Chrismon Worship Service
- December 1st, 6:00 p.m.
Smiths Station Tree Lighting
- December 2nd, 7:00 p.m.
Secret Sisters Christmas Party at Micki Thornhill's home
- December 11th, 3:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata at FUMC Phenix City
- December 18th, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Open House at Steve and Olivia's Home
- December 21st, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth Christmas Party
- December 14th, 6:30 p.m.
Longest Night Worship Service following Wednesday Night Supper.
- December 24th, 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- December 25th, 9:30 a.m.
Christmas Day Worship Service
Bring your family as we worship Christ our Lord!



visit our website

www.mzumcss.org

Mt. Zion's Community of Faith

animate



Join us for a new young adult Sunday School Bible Study taught by Brooke Miles.



The United Methodist Men

The Men's breakfast is the 4th Sunday of each month at 7: 30am and all men are encouraged to attend.



WOMENS COVENANT GROUP

On the third Sunday night of each month, Pastor Olivia will be hosting a monthly women's covenant group for those who serve in our children's ministry. After meeting with our Children's Ministry Team, it has become heavy upon my heart that we must provide an opportunity for growth and discipleship for those that volunteer in this area. All women are invited to attend and become part of this covenant group, which will meet in my home. This women's covenant group will not be a bible study, but rather, an opportunity to share our joys and concerns with one another and faithfully pray for each other.

A large, orange, curved shape on the left side of the page, resembling a stylized flame or leaf, with a small green circle near its top edge.

*United Methodist Men
Logo Contest*

We are having a contest to design a new logo for the church. The new logo will be used on all church correspondence, signage, bulletins, and the website as well as other places to help Mt Zion be more recognizable as well as help to distinguish us from others.

Contest entries will be accepted through New Year's Eve, December 31, 2016. Judging will be completed January 15, 2017. Artwork can be submitted by anyone regardless of membership in the church. All entries will be considered, whether the artwork is hand drawn or computer generated, simple or complex. All are encouraged to submit an idea!

There will be a cash prize to be announced later.

See a representative of the UMM if you have any questions.

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MT. ZION
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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