

SEPTEMBER 2025

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I tell you, **love your enemies** and **pray for those who persecute you**, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:43-45a

## ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday . September 7th . 6p

Come to the church parking lot for ice cream and to enjoy the amazing musical talents of some of our people.

Bring your lawn chair and a friend.



We will convene a special session of the LCC (Local Church Conference) on Sunday, September 7th, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose is to hear and cast votes regarding a resolution to extend a ministerial mentorship to Connor and Maddy Pyle.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Celebration Sunday

Sunday . September 28th . 9:15a

We will have a time of baptism on this day.

If you are interested in being baptized,  
please let Pastor Steve or Karyn Rogers know.

We will not have regular Sunday School on this day.

## Men's Breakfast

All men (ages 12 and older) are invited to breakfast, fellowship, and spiritual growth on Saturday, September 13th, from 8-9:30a. *Sign up on the bulletin board.*

## Ladies Book Club

The September/October selection is "Night Falls on Predicament Avenue" by Jaime Jo Wright. Obtain a copy and get reading. We will meet on Monday, October 20th, at 6p for a discussion.

## MISSIONS NEWS

### August Missions Giving

Global Partners

Faith Promise . . . \$750

JESUS Film . . . \$100

Mozambique Bible College (sponsorships) . . . \$90

Hoffnung Haus . . . \$1000

## Mums Pickup

Thank you for ordering mums. They will be delivered to the church on Wednesday, September 10th, and be ready for you to pick up from 6-7:30p.

## Walk for Life

There's still time to sign up to be part of the Mt. Zion team walking around Baker Park (a little over a mile) on Saturday, September 6th, to raise money for the Henry County Pregnancy Care Center. Get friends and family to sponsor you. We'll walk and talk together. Plan to meet at 8:30a at the Baker Park Large Shelterhouse for registration. Collect sponsorship money before Saturday, September 6th. Free t-shirts for pledges of \$30 or more.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

October/November Classes  
will begin October 5th at 9:15a

### ACTS: THE REVOLUTION OF FAITH (Ethan Roberts)

Take a walk through the "revolution of faith" as we trace the unlikely growth of the church as recorded in the book of Acts. This movement set itself apart from a culture of hatred and excess, and became a revolution of hope to a broken world.

### FEAR NOT: FINDING THE COURAGE TO BE WHO GOD

WANTS YOU TO BE (Susie Rankin)

Unpack ten New Testament stories in which God commands someone to "fear not." Each story exposes a common fear, and will challenge us to face our fears and follow in faith.

### THE POWER TO CHANGE (Emily Raines)

Isn't it frustrating knowing that you need to change, you want to change, and are trying to change, but not changing. It's time to rely on a greater power source than your will and determination and actually change by learning to master the habits that matter most.

### PREDICTING JESUS: STUDY OF THE

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH (Alicia Jackson)

Join us as we study Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus and their fulfillment in the New Testament. Isaiah's prophecies regarding Christ — reveal so much about God: His power, His nature, His plans. We can trust Him to do what He says He is going to do.

### UNHOLINESS (Shawn Andrews)

Christianity tends to reduce salvation to being merely about either forgiveness by God or friendship with Him. But according to Scripture, neither is at the heart of His concern with the problem of evil. This study will expose our spiritual enemies in biblical terms, defining the reality of evil in its unholy trinity: the flesh, the world, and the Devil.

## Attendance Last Month

	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24
Sunday School	63	54	55	59
Worship	157	155	181	166



Keep up with the church by liking  
and following our facebook page.

(Search for New Castle Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church)

# KIDS & TEENS

## KIDS MINISTRY

### The Gospel Project in Kids Church

We are one year into our Bible study that takes place during Kids Church. The Gospel Project is a great journey we have been on together. This month, we see David become king of Israel. After protecting his family's flock of sheep, David was called into a role of shepherding God's flock — the nation of Israel. He showed his trust in God through defeating Goliath, his heart for mercy in sparing Saul, and his willingness to put God's plans above his own. But King David was still a broken human who gave in to his sinful desires. Yet, God showed His love and grace by forgiving and restoring David upon his repentance.

September's Big Picture Questions:

**Elementary** - *Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.*

**PreK/K** - *Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.*

**Nursery and Younger PreK** - *"Lord, no one is like You. You are great."*

Key Verse: Jeremiah 10:6

### A Few Reminders . . .

As summer ends and we all get back into a routine, a few reminders . . .

- Kids Church for elementary kids starts at 10:20a. All kids, no matter the age, can be dropped off as early as 10:15a.
- Please be prompt in picking up your kids after the service.
- We do not serve snacks during kids church - even for special occasions like birthdays and holidays. Even so, please keep us updated on allergies.

### Glimpses of Kids Ministry:

- "There were no tears today!"
- Potato Days, Potato Judges, Potato Plays, Potato Bowling, Potato Rolling
- Prayers over each kid by name. Anointing those who feel a special call on their heart.

## TEEN MINISTRY

It was good to see our teens return to Teen Group. They were treated to ice cream treats (courtesy of Pastor Steve). Laughter and all kinds of expressions were part of our potato night. We ended the month getting to enjoy a fall-like evening with games and our message outside. In the mist of chip taste testing, WeeNee World ventures, and enjoying the weather, we opened the Word of God together and saw the commitment of Elkanah to get his family to the Tabernacle, the blessings of being so in tune with God you see him at work in others, and how others should hear from you that you believe in Jesus. This month mattered. Thanks for being a part of it.

### Sunday Evenings

September 7th . 4:30p

September 14th, 21st, 28th . 5-7p

### Parents & Teens

You are both invited to join us on September 7th at 4:30p for Teen Group before the church-wide Ice Cream Social. We'll have a game and then have a time to hear from former Mt Zion teens, Maddy and Hannah. Parents, even if your teen can't come, we hope you still will. This night will be so special and your presence is valued.

Parents, we want to invite you into something special this September. Besides encouraging you to join us on the 7th, the rest of the month we invite you in to time with Pastor Steve for the first 15 minutes of Teen Group. We'll have refreshments available just for you, Pastor Steve will share a bit about what your teen will experience that night, you'll have a time of prayer over our night, and have some fellowship with each other. You then are free to go of course, or we invite you to utilize Duck Creek Corner for a spot to visit, read, or relax.

### "Anything But a Cup Night"

Sickness and the Ice Cream Social has caused us to land on our third and final date for "Anything but a Cup" Night. Join us September 21st for our second annual smoothie night. *What can you come up with?* I considered a mailbox, but have a different plan in mind. Last year, we saw a funnel, a bucket, a clean gas can, a pineapple, and more. We can't wait to see your creativity!

Save the date for an afternoon at the Orchard on  
October 12th! Make plans to join us for yard games  
and a campfire on October 19th.

We've added a feature to our monthly newsletters - writings from our congregation. If you would like to write something for the newsletter, please contact the church office.

## The Prayer of Jabez

During my message a few weeks ago, I shared how one of our recent Sunday School classes made my prayer time more complete and impactful. Debbie Johnson taught a class called "Pray First", and it was based on a study written by Chris Hodges, the founder and senior pastor of the Church of the Highlands. If this class ever comes around again, I would highly recommend that you take it and soak it all in!

Essentially, the book discusses different models of prayer that we can take from scripture and pray over our own lives and circumstances. But what I love most about these models is that they keep us focused on what is most important in prayer. They are not chances for us to go to God and tell Him a list of what we want, which is what prayer can easily become. They keep our focus on worshipping Him, acknowledging and submitting to His will, and giving our needs over to His thoughtful, powerful authority.

The prayer model that stood out to me the most was the Prayer of Jabez. You can find this prayer in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. Scripture does not have a lot to say about him, but the prayer that he offers is simple and profound. Chris notes that he prays for blessing, influence, presence, and protection.

When we pray for blessing, it is not simply for possessions or wealth. We are praying that God would bless our lives with His supernatural riches so that we can be a light for Him. Like Pastor Steve often says, "Lord, bless me so I can be a blessing to others!" When we pray for influence, we are asking God to help us use what He has blessed us with to make a difference for Him and His kingdom. Next, we pray for God's presence. As we are blessed by God and given influence over what He has entrusted to us, inevitably, we will be humbled as we realize our need for His presence in our lives more and more. Lastly, we pray for protection. As we dive into the callings that God has placed on our lives, we will need God's protection from every attack of the enemy.

It seems fitting that we should practice using this model and pray over our church.

Jabez cried out to the  
God of Israel, "Oh, that  
you would bless me and  
enlarge my territory! Let  
your hand be with me,  
and keep me from harm  
so that I will be free  
from pain." And God  
granted his request.

1 Chronicles 4:10

*Dear Lord, today we lift up Mt. Zion to you. We pray that you would bless our people and our church in every area of ministry. As we receive these blessings, may we use them to influence those in our community. May we have a unified purpose of bringing those around us to you by whatever means you provide. When we engage in this calling, give us your presence. Walk with us through trials and strengthen us during each hurdle. Lastly, we pray for your protection. Protect our ministry and our calling and our faith as we fight for your kingdom to prevail. Thank you, Jesus, for using us in such beautiful ways. Amen.*

*Hannah Roberts*