

# Mt. Zion UMC



3592 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel, MD 20724 – 301-490-3707 –

[mtzionumclmd@hotmail.com](mailto:mtzionumclmd@hotmail.com)

Website: [mtzionumclmd.org](http://mtzionumclmd.org)

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

**Pastor S. Jerry Colbert, Pastor**

(Email: [jwesley2114@yahoo.com](mailto:jwesley2114@yahoo.com); Phone: 443-822-5537)

Information – Office Hours: Wednesday 10-2; Thursday 5-7pm by appointment only. Pastor is off on Fridays. For emergencies contact Mary D. Gibson 301-661-0191 or [mdgibson50@aol.com](mailto:mdgibson50@aol.com).

**Administrative Office** 301-490-3707- leave a detailed message if there is no answer

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### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Isaiah 11:2-4: The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Good morning my Beloved Mt. Zion Family. On this Second Sunday of Advent, we catch a glimpse of God's vision for a peaceable kingdom as we continue to make our way to Bethlehem. Certainly, in the chaos and misjudgment of people, we welcome that peace. The peace that God offers, is that peace that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:9) – ***"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."*** The Apostle Paul reminds us that while worldly peace is typically temporary and conditional Paul advises against worry, encouraging believers to instead present their requests to God through prayer and petition with thanksgiving. This is promised to bring about the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding," which will guard the heart and mind. ***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"***. This means that instead of worrying, one should bring every concern to God in prayer, giving thanks for His provision. The prophet Isaiah casts a vision of a ruler, a child, who will bring such peace to the earth that all creatures will live peacefully together, and no one will destroy or hurt any part of creation.

Blessings abound, Pastor Colbert

**SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST** (Contact Mary D Gibson: [mdgibson50@aol.com](mailto:mdgibson50@aol.com) or 301-490-3707 or 301-661-0191 if someone is sick and also contact Pastor Colbert ([jwesley2114@yahoo.com](mailto:jwesley2114@yahoo.com))

Pearl Powell

Edna Mae Queen

John Hall

Michelle Hall

**PRAYER LIST** (Please contact the Pastor/the Administrative Assistant if the name should remain on the list)

Chautrice Smith Talley	Myra Jackson	Miracle Kupualor
Donald Green	Tiffany Briscoe	Xavier Richardson
Yvonne Kelley	Brenda Proctor	William Lomax
Lakesha Ruffin	Frank Cohn	Williams Family
Karen Mazyck	Joan Briscoe	William Powell
Eben Smith	Pastor Walter Smith	Danzell Lomax
Anthony Morgan	Theresa Hall	Markco Hall
Tenesha Hunter	Ellen Morgan	Greg Smith
Peggy Hall	Brenda Taite	Helen Smith
Shirly Moore	Michele Long	Shyrel Blake
Jimmie Jones	Mary Ellen Hebron	Amari Brooks
Katlyn Carter	Delores Nickelson	Dorothy Hall
Clapton Helligburg	Ranee Brumskill	Yolanda McLeod
Brian Staton	Tankia Parker-Kupualor	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!**

**Weekly Announcements will be emailed. A few will be available in the vestibule.**

**COUNTERS ARE NEEDED!!! – please see Sis. Pat Hall or Sis. Mary D. Gibson**

**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CRAIG A. MOE MULTICULTURAL CENTER IN LAUREL -**  
needed are: See List and Boxes in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, please contact the Pastor or Regina Bell, Outreach Chair.

**Applications for the 2025/2026 Myrtle-Edna Scholarship Fund** are currently being accepted. Students that are members of Mt. Zion UMC and currently attending a two-year or four-year college program are encouraged to apply. The deadline for application submission is **December 31, 2025**. Please contact Frances Hicks or Patricia Hall for additional details and a copy of the scholarship application and criteria

**≈Anyone interested in the design and upkeep of the bulletin boards, please see the Pastor or Sister Tonia Parham.**

**≈Please do not eat or drink in the sanctuary. If you need water, please inform the Usher.  
Thank you**

- **Bible Study – ON BREAK UNTIL THE SPRING 2026**
- **December 10, 17, 24 – Advent Bible via ZOOM 7pm – please contact Sister Gibson if you want to participate and receive a book**
- **December 13 - Leadership Meeting 10am; NST Collaborative Meeting at 12noon; Male Chorus Rehearsal 2pm; Youth Christmas Party 5-7pm**
- **December 18 – Finance Committee Mtg 7pm via ZOOM**
- **December 20 – Trustees Meeting 10am; Praise Team Rehearsal 1pm**
- **December 22 – Voices of Zion Rehearsal 7pm**
- **December 25 – MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- **December 31 – Watch Night Services 10pm**

**SEE FLYER ON PAGE 5 FOR THE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!**

**Pastor Colbert is inviting you to a scheduled meeting:**

Topic: **Prayer Meeting**

Time: **Every Monday Morning beginning at 7:00 AM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID – 820 5667 4428 – Password 846829 – Dial by location –1.301.715.8592 (Washington, DC)

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**December 8-Dennis Blalock, Nia Keene-Short**

**December 9-Michael Caceres December 11-Matthew (MJ) Shivers**

**Last Week's Attendance - 37**

**On-Line - 95**

### **ONLINE GIVING**

In Order to ensure the donations are properly processed, it is recommended that Church Members should begin using the **Mt. Zion Website** ([www.mtzionumclmd.org](http://www.mtzionumclmd.org)) to make their On-Line donations using the following Questions, please contact Sister Vivian Mason. Thank you.

#### **STEPS:**

- GO TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.mtzionumclmd.org](http://www.mtzionumclmd.org).
- CLICK ON 'MORE'
- CLICK ON 'DONATE'
- CLICK ON THE SELECTION FOR 'RECURRING' OR 'ONE-TIME' DONATION
- SELECT THE FUND (YOU MAY ADD ADDITIONAL FUNDS)
- SCROLL DOWN AND FILL IN APPROPRIATE PAYMENT INFORMATION
- SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT



**CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH THE EXPECTATION OF THE SOON COMING KING!**

To my beloved Mount Zion family, as your Pastor I am asking that you set aside some quiet time during this season of Advent. A time of focus on what is to come and our relationship with the Messiah. I am asking if you will do this special reading and prayer on a Saturday evening; of course, you may do it as often as you like.

"Light a candle occasionally during the Advent season and reflect on these questions: What is time for? If time is only for work, then what will be left of me when the work is done? If there is no light in me, what will happen when the darkness comes, as darkness comes to every life? What is the gain of leading a useful life if I do not also lead a meaningful one?"

By Joan Chittister

### **Praying in the Dark!**

Advent is that unchangeable season when the same concepts, the same words rise over and over again, year after year, to challenge our hearts and plague our minds. Advent is the season of waiting. And who hasn't waited? When we are little children, we wait for gifts from our parents. When we are young adults, we wait for the lover who will take us to the magic world of Everything. The problem is that the presents pale and the magic world sags all too quickly into reality. But then Advent comes, relentlessly and throughout life, with its words of hope and faith—shepherds and magi, crib and star, Emmanuel and glory—and stirs our hearts to pinnacles of possibility one more time. Ruben A. Alvez wrote, "Hope is hearing the melody of the future; faith is dancing to it today." The real Christmas gift, for which **Advent is the process, is learning to hum hope, learning to dance the divine.**

Advent is a high spiritual season when we prepare to birth the Christ in our lives. In the monastery we pay special attention to the vigil services that take place each Saturday during Advent. "Vigil" means to keep awake, to be watchful. The community gathers in prayer by candlelight to anticipate the Sunday feast, to spiritually prepare for Christmas. I love that the community prays the Advent vigils by candlelight. Praying in the dark means that we have to know all the songs and psalms by heart. If you're looking for a good Advent practice, you might memorize a favorite Advent scripture passage.

"The power of the Most High will overshadow you," the monastic liturgy prays during Advent. But who really believes it? And yet, it is the clear, soft, consuming, overshadowing power of the Most High in us—the power of goodness that is undeterred by any other power on earth.

Candles are prominent symbols in the Advent services. Candles focus our minds on the light of Christ and remind us always that time is going by, that light is ebbing. Light a candle occasionally during the Advent season and reflect on these questions: What is time for? If time is only for work, then what will be left of me when the work is done? If there is no light in me, what will happen when the darkness comes, as darkness comes to every life? What is the gain of leading a useful life if I do not also lead a meaningful one?

"Heavenly Father, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to focus on You and not the distractions of the season. Quiet our hearts and minds, and let us embrace the hope of your son, Jesus. "Father God, we thank you for this season of waiting. We have hope as we wait because of the gift of your son, Jesus. Amen".





YOU ARE INVITED TO

# MT. ZION YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

5PM-7PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

FOOD | CRAFTS | MOVIE | FELLOWSHIP

3592 WHISKEY BOTTOM RD  
LAUREL, MD 20724

REV. S. JERRY COLBERT  
MT. ZION UMC OR LAUREL