

Zion United Methodist Church
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“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

July 26, 2026

Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent
LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Presiding Bishop



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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
****Please stand as you are able in body or spirit***

Prelude~ “Praise Him” - #172 AAHH

Welcome~ Rev. Dr. Andrea Cummings-Wratee

****Opening Hymn~ “Just a Little Talk with Jesus” - #378 AAHH***

Opening Prayer

****Offering***

Doxology~ “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”~#650 AAHH

Prayer of Illumination: Holy God, open our minds and hearts through the presence of your Holy Spirit so that we might bear good fruit. In Jesus’ name. Amen

****The Scripture Readings***

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12: At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

Mark your Calendar

VBS, August 8th from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Theme: Shine Brightly with Jesus. Cost: \$5 per person (includes snacks, drinks, and lunch). Adult cost: \$8 for learning materials. For more information, contact Sis. Kim Courtney. Also, if you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Sis. Sheila Milburn, ASAP to complete your Safe Sanctuary training.

The Unified Board Meeting is on August 11th at 6 pm via Teams only. Members are encouraged to attend each monthly meeting. August through October will be dedicated to preparing for the church conference on November 7, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. at Mt. Harmony-Lower Marlboro, 155 E. Mt Harmony Rd., Owings, MD.

Homecoming, August 23, 2026. Please contact Sis. Judy to join the planning team.

Announcements? If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to zionlexpk@gmail.com by Wednesday.

Ready to Join Zion? Please text 301-997-3328. Pastor Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the membership vows and schedule a Sunday to join Zion.

*The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

***Proclamation~** Dr. Cummings-Wratee*

****Affirmation of Faith: (881 UMH): I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (*universal)***

Prayers of the People: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

****Confession/Pardon/ The Peace~** Pg. 8*

***Thanksgiving & Holy Communion~** Pgs. 9-11*

Lord's Prayer

Post Communion Prayer: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Announcements

****Benediction***

Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

*The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

****Psalm~** #840 & 843~ UMH, Psalm 119:129-136, response #1*

****Second Reading:** Romans 8:26-39: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is*

written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.***

Song of Preparation~ “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52: He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”