

Zion United Methodist Church
21291 Three Notch Road, P. O. Box 341
Lexington Park, Maryland 20653
Church Office Number: (301) 863-5161
Church Website: www.zionumclexpk.org
Follow us on Facebook: Zion UMC Lexington Park
Subscribe to our YouTube: @zumclexingtonparkmd695

Pastor 301-997-3328	Dr. Andreá Cummings-Wratee revandreacummings@gmail.com
Unified Board Chair 301-542-6568	Lay Min. Kevin Harris kharr2@gmail.com
Minister of Music 410-535-9158	Bro. Isaac Harris ike.harris@comcast.net
Trustee Chair 240-434-8356	Bro. Jay Camp jay@accuratemobile.net
Usher Board Chair 240-317-5554	Sis. Juanita Commodore juanita.commodore@yahoo.com
Outreach Chair 301-863-7114	Sis. Janie Hunter jhunter@md.metrocast.net
Christian Education 240-925-3712	Sis. Sheila Milburn samilburn64@yahoo.com



“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

July 12, 2026

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



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for our e-news!**



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

Prelude~ “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus”

Welcome

****Opening Hymn~ “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” -
#455 AAHH***

Opening Prayer

****Offering***

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

***Prayer of Illumination: God of life, by the power of your
Spirit, come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we
long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the
name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.***

****The Scripture Readings***

***First Reading: Genesis 25:19-34: These are the descendants of
Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and
Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter
of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the
Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she
was barren, and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife
Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her,
and she said, “If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she
went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, “Two***

Mark your Calendar

***VBS, August 8th from 8 am to 4 pm. Theme: Shine Brightly
with Jesus. 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.***

***Homecoming, August 24th. 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.***

Proclamation~ Rev. Jacob Cogman

***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)*

***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**

nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger.” When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

***Psalm~** see insert

***Second Reading:** Romans: 7:15-25: *I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war*

with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

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

Song of Preparation~ "I Need Thee"

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23: *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.*

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



*Sower went out to sow, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55021> [retrieved June 8, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/feargal/5765705109/>.*