

**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](http://www.zionumclexpk.org)**  
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**\*If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to [zionlexpk@gmail.com](mailto:zionlexpk@gmail.com) by Wednesday.**



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

***Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

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



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## ***Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

***\*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit***

***Prelude~ “God Has Smiled on Me”***

***Welcome~ Rev. Dr. Andrea Cummings***

***\*Opening Hymn~ “Lead Me, Guide Me” - #474 AAHH***

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Offering***

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

***Prayer of Illumination: God of wisdom, by your Spirit speak  
this day a word of life, and plant in us the power of your  
righteous love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

***\*The Scripture Readings***

***First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20: “See, I have set before  
you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey  
the commandments of the LORD your God that I am  
commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking  
in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and  
ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the  
LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering  
to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but  
are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I  
declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall  
not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to  
enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against  
you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings***

## ***Ready to Join?***

*Please complete the form and hand it to an usher. Pastor  
Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the  
membership vows and the date for you to join.*

## ***What are our membership vows?***

*Vows are taken when a person joins a United Methodist Church  
as a baptized or professing member. By taking the baptismal  
and local church membership vows, the individual agrees to  
covenant with God and the local church members to keep the  
vows that are part of living the baptismal covenant and  
reception into membership in the local church.*

*These vows have four parts: (1) to confess Jesus Christ as Lord  
and Savior; (2) to believe in the Christian faith as contained in  
the Old and New Testaments; (3) to support The United  
Methodist Church; and (4) to uphold the local congregation  
with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.*

***Name(s)*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Address*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Phone/Email*** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mark your Calendar**

**The Unified Board Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom only.** We encourage all members to attend. To submit an agenda item, email Sis. Stephanie Lee at [stephanielee13@gmail.com](mailto:stephanielee13@gmail.com) ten days prior to the meeting. Please make plans to attend if you submit a request to the board.

**Annual Homecoming is August 24, 2025.** The theme is **“Faith Through the Generations: A Legacy of Testimonials.”** Supporting Scripture: “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. ~ Psalm 100:5.” The colors are shades of blue and white. The committee is requesting a **donation of \$50.00** in addition to your regular tithes.

**Pastor Cummings’s 3rd Anniversary celebration will take place on September 14, 2025.** Our theme is “A Good Example,” inspired by 1 Peter 5:2-3. The guest speaker is Rev. Chania Dillard. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a meal. The colors are purple and white. The committee requests a \$50 love offering in addition to regular giving. Members are encouraged to give cards and gifts to the pastor individually.

**145<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary** celebration will be on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Sis. Omega Taylor.

**Flowers for the Sanctuary:** Purchase flowers in honor of a loved one, anniversary, birthday, celebration, or other special occasion. Contact Sis. Janie, with any questions.

and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

**\*Psalm Reading~** Psalter 738, response #2

**\*Second Reading:** Philemon 1-21: Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother— especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

*So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.*

### ***Song of Preparation ~ “Holy One”***

***\*Gospel Reading:*** Luke 14:25-33: Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

***Proclamation~ Dr. Cummings***

***Invitation to Christian Discipleship***

***Affirmation of Faith~ 881 UMH***

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

***Prayer of confession, assurance, and pardon~ pg. 8 UMH***  
***Thanksgiving & Communion~ pg. 9-11 UMH***

***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***

***\*Closing Hymn~ “Lord Make Me More Holy” - #632 AAHH***

***\*Benediction~ Dr. Cummings***