



ZION HAPPENINGS

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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September 2020



OUR VISION

**To be a church
that follows
Jesus so
closely and
makes
disciples so
well, that our
community and
town cannot
help but be
transformed.**

The Pastor Note

Genuine Love

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Romans 12:9-13

What we find in this scripture is that Paul is calling the believers to live and to witness Christ profoundly. For many it will sound difficult and complicated, but is it not, for us as believers witness for Christ is simply just being who you are. To witness Jesus we don't have to go door to door telling strangers about Jesus, but it means living for Jesus every day so that not only our words will preach Christ, but our lives as well.

According to the apostle Paul, our consecration to God, and his love for us, must be reflected in a particular way, for instance; in our relationship with one another in the local church; in loving each other with brotherly affection (Rom.12: 9-10); in serving others selflessly (Rom.12: 11); in rejoicing in our affliction (Rom.12: 12); in helping others in need and in showing hospitality to all people (Rom.12: 13). In other words, in our relationships, in our actions, whatever we do for others we are doing it for Christ. There is a belief that to show love to others we must have resources available; but if we look at the witness of the Early Christians we see the great impact they had in the world and how effective they were in sharing their

witness without having many resources. They didn't have the resources that we have, the benefits that we have, the education that we have, the connectional system that we have, the transportation that we have. So the question is, and how then did they witness? How did the church grow in an expositional way? Well, it was quite simple for them; they loved one another. They loved Jesus to the point to offer their lives as a sacrifice they rejoiced in hope and were patient in tribulation.

Last week, I was talking about faith with one of our retired pastors in the Methodist system, he was sharing with me the story of some of the ordained elders serving in Africa and how many of them have been killed by ISIS. And still, there are many willing to serve and lose their lives for the sake of the gospel. Today, our pastors serving in Nigeria are suffering the ongoing execution by ISIS, but the power of living as Christians, the power of living for Christ, the power of witnessing the kingdom of God has made them strong and there is no evil force that can stop their witness and their worship because they are truly attached to Christ.

Jesus describes us as branches attached to the vine. He is the vine and we are the branches, and if we stay attached to the vine we will bear much fruit and our lives will be a testimony and our witness will affect all our surroundings. I wonder what it takes for us to have this genuine love? How can we reflect that love? Jesus told his followers: *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:14-16)*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, if we let our light reflect and shine Christ through us, we will be in the position to show the genuine witness and love for others. I praise God and give thanks for your witness and the genuine love that you show for one another. You love Jesus because in his grace he loved you first, and that's genuine love. Amen!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Norma.



NEWS....

Bookbag Mission

Another big thank you to Tanja Huntley for putting together the bookbag mission on August 8th. We were able to serve 35 kids from 18 different families, Tanja also delivered 4 bags to the schools that were not picked up. We were also able to hand out 16 student Bibles, 31 pairs of shoes, and along with school supplies the bookbags also contained Christian crafts, bookmarks, snacks and information about Zion. Thank you to everyone who helped financially, in person and with prayers. Without you this mission would not have been possible!



Loaves and Fishes

In September, the Loaves and Fishes item will be a box of crackers. Food scarcity is still a problem for many of our neighbors. If you can help, please drop your donations by the church for this ministry.

Union County Community Shelter Meals needs your help

During Covid19 the Mission Committee has catered meals from local restaurants to feed our neighbors at the Union County Community Shelter. We felt it was important to still provide meals to people in need during this pandemic but not to expose our members to 80-100 people at the shelter. We also felt that supporting local struggling restaurants was positive for our community as well. Donations are needed for us to continue this mission. The cost to cater the meal has been around \$5.-\$6. a person--around \$500. each time in April, June, and August. Our next meals will be served October 19th and December 21st. Donations can be sent to the church with UCCS in the check memo line.

"If you cannot feed 100 people then feed just one." (quote from Mother Theresa).

Birthday At Home Mission Opportunity

Zion has partnered with Meals on Wheels to provide birthday cards to their clients. Each day Meals on Wheels delivers food to approximately three hundred clients in Union County. They would like to deliver a birthday card to each client on their birthday. We need volunteers to write a short note in a card and sign it. The cards will be provided to you. You may sign it, "A friend from Zion United Methodist Church". To make it even easier we are going to give you ideas for notes to include. If you would be interested in participating in this mission, please let Tanja Huntley or Emily McCall know. We can bring the cards to you or leave them at church for you to pick up and we will get them from you when completed. Tanja's cell 704 242-2995 Emily's cell 704-242-1545. We are going to do all 300 now, so please be prepared to give us a number of how many cards you would be willing to write. This is a great opportunity to be a blessing to others as we continue to be socially distant.

Examples of notes to include:

- *May God bless you with a happy and healthy year.
- *Wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with blessings.
- *May your special day be filled with happiness and love.
- *Every birthday is a gift from God.
- *A birthday is an opportunity to celebrate your blessed life from God.
- *On your special day remember that you are loved unconditionally by our Father in heaven.
- *A birthday is like a new year and my wish for you is a great year full of happiness and sunshine!
- *May the coming year be one that will be filled with laughter of friends, love of family, and the life that you dream of.
- *May God bless your special day with more love than your heart can hold.
- *May the Lord bless you and keep you. Make his face shine upon you and bring you peace on your birthday.
- *This is the day that the Lord hath, made-let us rejoice and be glad in it!
- *May God bless you and grant you long life, prosperity and happiness for all your days.
- *As God made the heavens, he chose this blessed day for your birth. In his image you were born and in blessings do you live.
- *May the light of the Lord shine upon you and grant you happiness on this birthday and for many years to come.
- *We are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works. Ephesians 2:10
- *Today we celebrate the joy you give us and the blessing that you are.

SEPTEMBER**OCTOBER**

Arlene Haiger - 1

Shirley Lowery - 3

Erin Beach - 9

Emma Hall - 5

Ronald Thomas - 11

Cameron Plyler - 7

Teresa Phifer - 14

Scarlet Helms - 16

Susan Clontz - 17

Gray Brooks - 18

Jamie Wiley - 21

Taylor Apple - 19

Betsy Hinson - 22

Susan Beam - 19

Tony Purser - 25

Peggy Herman - 20

Natalie Harris - 26

Virginia Braswell - 30

Mark Clark - 27

Vann Huntley - 27

**Virtual Sunday School:**

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever." Amen. Philippians 4:19-20

Adult Sunday School:

The Gift class invites everyone to join them on a Zoom Conference every Sunday morning from 10:00-10:45 AM. Come and join us for a morning that is meaningful and fruitful with our Bible Study. For information please contact Skip Watwood. We miss you all.

Senior Sunday School:

The Senior Sunday School Class will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10 am in the New Life Center, everyone is welcome to join.

*Music Notes from Barbara!*

Good Friday to you! This has been a good month all the way around! We have had plenty of rain so far and everything is beautiful and green at my house and hopefully at your house too!

We are continuing to record Sunday service on Friday evenings and worship together outside on Sunday mornings! So far we are having good attendance on Sunday and if you haven't been yet we are missing you! No rain delay yet but even if it does rain you can sit in your car and listen to the service and not get wet!

I really appreciate everyone who has been doing special music for our services. If you would like to participate please call me at (704) 236-2655.

I am continuing to work on Christmas music and other special music for the choir when we are able to come back together in the Lord's house! Who knew we would be distanced for such a long time! I miss the choir so much and miss looking out into the congregation and seeing all the beautiful loving faces looking back at me every week! A smile is worth a thousand words, believe me!

Use your time wisely and don't forget to stay in touch with each other! Love you all very much!!!!

Barbara



Andrew Mullis

Kim Mullis

Mitzi McManus

Joe and Helen Greene

Kay Medlin

C.W. Price

James and Shirley Lowery

Jimmy and Susan Clontz

Margaret Mackey

On August 27th we were able to hold the red cross blood drive in downtown Monroe from 3-7PM.

Thank you to the congregation, we were able to donate 16 units of blood. Also a special thank you to Nancy Martin and Debbie Purser.



Starting this week, September 8th, I will be in the office on Tuesdays from 12-3, Thursdays from 11-5 and Fridays from 1-4. If you need to reach me outside of my office hours please email the church's email (zionumcmonroe@gmail.com) or by my cell (704-345-3558). Thank you so much!

Mackenzie

If you would like anything added to next months newsletter please email it to zionumcmonroe@gmail.com by the first of the month
Thank you all

United Methodist Women - Western North Carolina Conference

We have cancelled our Annual Celebration scheduled for September 11-13, 2020 at Lake Junaluska.

Our Annual Celebration will instead be a virtual event via Zoom Webinar on *Saturday, September 26 at 2:00pm and on Sunday, September 27 at 2:00pm.*



Julia Willis, WNCC UMW President
Joanie Strohm, WNCC UMW Vice President

To register for this event please go to:
<https://wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2020/>

WNCCUMC Metro District Missional Network

Gatherings: The Great Pause: The Rebirth of the Church in COVID Time

September 20th OR September 27th
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Presented by: Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath, the Co-Founder and President of Neighborhood Seminary

We'll be meeting via Zoom and offering the same content on both dates so choose the date that works best for you and your laity, and join through the links provided below.

SEPTEMBER 20 - JOIN VIA ZOOM

SEPTEMBER 27 - JOIN VIA ZOOM

Zion Homecoming and Revival Night

Please join us on Sunday November 1st for our outdoor homecoming event! It will be from 8:30-9:15 AM followed by a breakfast in a bag.

Our Outdoor Revival Night will be on November 1st from 3-5 PM, it will be a night of praise and worship!

Go ahead and mark your calendars for these events! More details to come.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 for our outdoor worship service! If you haven't been to one of our outdoor services, you have missed a blessing. So enjoy a drive out, you can sit in your car, bring a lawn chair or stand, we are practicing social distancing.

2020 Charge Conference

This year the charge conference will be held virtually via zoom on Sunday November 8th at 11AM.

August 2020 Collections

Online collections (Tithes)	500
8/02 Tithes	2,800
8/02 Food Pantry	25
8/10 Tithes	1,950
8/16 Tithes	975
8/23 Tithes	3,492
8/23 memorials	50
8/30 Tithes	1,995
8/30 Memorials	50
8/30 UMW	120
Total:	11,957

Administrative Council Meeting

Jerry Clontz, the Ad Council Chair is calling for an informative meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The Ad Council will meet in the New Life Center. Everyone is welcome to join.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in the WNCCUMC we will continue following the guidelines practicing social distancing, and wearing a mask during our meetings. Please mark your calendars, and plan to join us in this important church meeting.