



ZION HAPPENINGS

January 2021

Pastor Note

“After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.” Genesis 22:1-3

I am grateful to my Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to celebrate the New Year 2021. Last year, we found ourselves facing huge battles; days were hard, circumstances around us were constantly changing, some people walk through difficult illnesses, others difficult losses, but no matter how hard it was, God’s faithfulness followed us, God’s mercies never ceased around us even during the pandemic. Now we begin a new year, and we need to face it again with the same attitude with hope and faith trusting that God has control, trusting in his promises. Like every year the struggles and circumstances will raise doubts in our hearts; will tell us that it will be a difficult year again; but still, we need to trust. God has chosen us in this time to be a beacon of peace and light during struggles.

Abraham was chosen by God to be a beacon of light in the darkness. The story of Abraham is familiar to us and we all know how difficult it was for Abraham to trust in God’s promises, but as the scripture says, against all hope, in hope he believed in God. (Rom 4:18). Abraham was already an old man when God took him outside and said: *“Now look at the heavens, and count the stars, if you can count them. So will your offspring be.” (Gen15: 5.)* Who can believe that? only a person who had lived close to God, or who has been friend with God, or who was able to recognize his voice. Abraham believed in God's promise, although naturally speaking it was impossible. Abraham and his wife Sarah had passed their childbearing years and had no children, so, his faith was tested with a promise, and regardless of what his reasoning told him, Abraham did not waver in his faith, as Paul says, God kept his promise (Romans 4:20). Sarah gave birth to a baby boy, and they named her son Isaac.

Now we know that Abraham was tested for a second time, and this test was, I guess, harder than the first one. Years later, when Isaac was a child, God spoke to Abraham again. *“And he said: Take now your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will tell you.” Genesis 22: 2.* What was Abraham supposed to think about this? For sure none of this made sense for him; but Abraham's faith in God didn't change. Despite the situation he took action, he got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, cut the wood necessary for the burnt offering, and began the three-day journey through the mountains with Isaac (Genesis 22) We can imagine that he must have been tempted to have doubts, but he believed, without questioning he knew in his heart that God would keep his promise.

In the same way, this new year we might be tempted to think that it will be impossible to go back to the normal life, to do ministry in the way that we have done it, to serve in the way that we have been serving, even though our mind speaks with fear and doubt, our hearts if we trust, will speak with faith.

If you feel that God has given us a mission as an individual, or as part of the body of Christ, let us take action like Abraham, let us walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Yes, we may not be sure what the future will bring this 2021, but faith empowers us to keep moving in God’s direction, trusting in God’s plan. When we have the shield of faith we can also resist the thoughts of doubt that Satan tries to sow in our minds. Abraham decided to live by faith and obedience and because of that he is known as a father of the faith, (Rom 4).

Today, God is giving us a gift of life, a new opportunity to enjoy in his presence, to work for his kingdom, and as children of God, we can respond with faith. Just as Abraham made a difference in the lives of many people through faith and determination, we can also make a difference in this generation too, if we just give that step of faith knowing that the world will not only see our testimony, but will see that the God Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob is with us.

May the peace of God be with you this 2021!

Pastor Norma Villagrana.

Loaves and Fishes: The month of January will be a bag of dry beans



Union County Community Shelter: *The next shelter meal is February 15.* The December meal was served Dec. 21, 2020. We served about 75 people, chicken casserole, green beans, cranberry sauce and cookies. Thank You for your support with this mission project.

Other meal dates:

April 19 June 21 August 16 Oct. 18 Dec. 20



**Zion United Methodist Church
Blood Drive**

**At the American Red Cross
Monroe Chapter**

Conference Room
125 Pedro Street Suite E
Monroe, NC 28110

**Monday, February 8th
3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ZionUMC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Announcements and Updates

- UMW will not have a meeting in the month of January
- The next blood drive will be on *February 8th, 2021 from 3-7*: You can sign up for the blood drive via the Red Cross Portal, look for the February 8th date, as it does not reference Zion.

December 2020 Collections

Online Collections (Tithes)	6,350
12/3 Tithes	2,055
12/3 Children's Missions	5
12/3 NLC Rental	75
12/6 Tithes	2,512
12/6 Children's Missions	6
12/6 Christmas Cards	15
12/13 Tithes	2,540
12/13 Children's Missions	2
12/13 Christmas Cards	121.75
12/20 Tithes	1,910
12/20 Children's Missions	1
12/20 Christmas Cards	200
12/20 UMCOR	100
12/27 Tithes	5,402
12/27 Children's Missions	1
12/27 Christmas Cards	15
12/30 Tithes	750
12/30 Building Fund	5,000
Total	\$26,060.75

A Prayer for our Nation



God of all the ages, in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, reverse our ways and help us to repent. Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

Bishop Paul L. Leeland



Kim Mullis
 Mitzi McManus
 Joe and Helen Greene
 Kay Medlin
 C.W. Price
 Jimmy and Susan Clontz
 Teachers and Students
 Military
 Peggy's nephew- Brett Adams
 Jim Beam
 Rondal & Eloise Purser
 John and Theresa Phifer and family
 Biggers family



Music Notes from Barbara!



Happy New Year Everyone!!!!

*Starting of a new year with lots of music to bring joy to our souls!!!
 "Stir up the gift of God which is in you. For God has not given us a
 spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind,"*

2 Timothy 1:6-7

*Each of us has a gift from God whether it is music, teaching or
 listening! I am particularly interested in music and God has truly
 blessed me. Some of us are afraid to use the talent which God has so
 generously given to us. I think that all of you know how much I love to
 sing but in the last year I have not been able to use that particular
 talent. God has said to me "Barbara, but I have given you so many
 more talents that you can use to show others how much you love
 me". That is so true! We, as humans, seem to dwell on what we can't
 do and forget about all the many other talents that we can use to
 glorify God in other ways. The year 2021 is going to be one of the best
 years we have experienced! I am so looking forward to getting the
 choir back together and singing some amazing music!*

We will raise our voices to sing "Joy to the World"!

With love in my heart for each of you!! Happy New Year 2021!

Barbara

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Polly Donaldson - 1	Zach Herman- 9
Calvin Helms - 5	Tommy Helms - 9
Nancy Martin - 6	Tammy Parker- 9
Brandon Purser - 7	Owen Apple - 10
Celia McCall - 9	Kevin Plyler - 10
Gary Whitley - 9	Riley Watwood - 10
Sidney Haigler - 11	Gail Brock - 11
Leigh Harris - 11	Lucas Hall - 12
Bonnie Haigler - 12	Tanja Huntley- 13
Tucker Biggers - 16	Deacon Taylor - 14
John Phifer - 24	James Lowery - 16
Janie Whitley - 28	Joe Greene - 17
Theresa Donaldson - 30	Kim Brock - 18
	Stephanie Watwood - 18
	Susan Apple - 12
	Doug Martin - 27



Job Opportunity

Part-Time Youth Minister

Zion United Methodist Church in Monroe, North Carolina is looking for a part-time (15 hours per week) Youth Minister. The Youth Minister would lead, serve, and equip the youth of Zion from grades 6-12. The applicant should have a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ and love for youth and families. Zion would love to see the applicant working in a team-based ministry by providing a safe place for the youth to strengthen their faith, to affirm their gifts, to serve God, and to engage in community activities. The applicant would need to be available to work on weekends, evenings, and holidays (Christmas Eve and Easter).

Salary Range: \$15,000

Job Contact Information:

Name: Rev. Norma Villagrana
 Email: zionpastorny@gmail.com
 Phone: (816) 351-4232

If you would like anything added to next month's newsletter please email it to zionumcmmonroe@gmail.com by the first of the month

Thank you





JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Jerry and Dru Clontz - 18	Ricky Mills and Annette Harris - 27

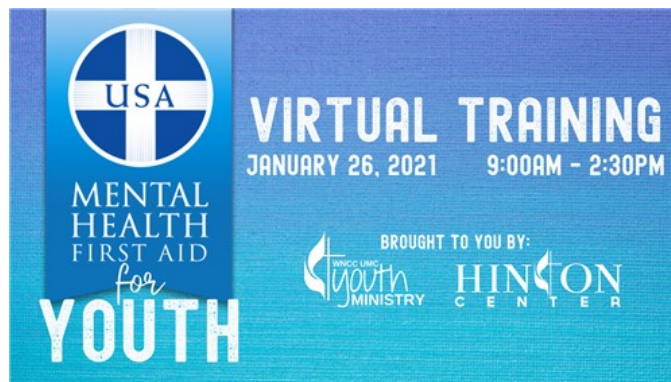
Upcoming Conference Events and News

Winter Leadership Training
Webinar Series
January 10-14, 2021

For more information and
to register please go to
wnccumc.org



 **Western North Carolina Conference**
The United Methodist Church



USA
MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID
for
YOUTH

VIRTUAL TRAINING
JANUARY 26, 2021 9:00AM - 2:30PM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
WNCCLC YOUTH MINISTRY HINTON CENTER

The conference is thrilled to partner with Hinton Rural Life Center to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid virtual training on January 26, 2021.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach adults who regularly interact with young people how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Each participant will be required to complete approximately **2 hours of independent pre-work** then **attend a 5.5-hour virtual live training event** (includes lunch break) from **9:00am - 2:30pm on January 26, 2021**.

The fee for this training is \$50 per person. Scholarships are available (as part of the online registration form).

*Please go to wnccumc.org if you are interested
Registration closes 1/15/21.*

ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**1521 Old Fish Road
Monroe, NC 28110
704-753-1068**

zionumcmonroe@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday February 17th at
6:00PM**

