

Pastor's Note

On July 23, the Olympic games in Tokyo started. I have seen some short videos of some of the events and I like to see the high levels of performance these athletes have. They do things that look very simple, but for me, it would be very hard to do some of the basic things they do with such grace and confidence.

When I think about these athletes many times, I wonder about their motivations to be at the Olympics. For example, the games are happening without the public, and that is not an exciting thing for the athletes, they cannot feel the emotion and the enthusiasm from the public. The public is one of the great strengths for the athletes to perform!



On the other hand, there is a risk of COVID-19 and Delta variant, and still, they want to be there. On other occasions, the games happen in times of war, in times of international conflicts, and in times of danger for many of the athletes, yet they want to go and perform. The athletes don't care in what country the games will take place, they would go whatever they need to go, and again I wonder; what is their motivation, what makes the athletes training hard, and dedicate their lives to their disciplines and go wherever they need to go, in the circumstances that may be a danger for them and even under the personal risks for them?

I guess their motivations are so complex and diverse as it is with the motivations of believers in living their spiritual lives. When the apostle Paul compared our spiritual lives as a competition in a race where we have obstacles to jump, and yet we need to keep our sight on the goal, yes, that is hard. Spiritual life is a discipline that we are excited to live and share and perform with the best of our abilities.



We live a spiritual life during cultural challenges, social conflicts, and international events that affect our lives. We lead spiritual lives in times when we feel discouraged, tired, and many times even wondering about our capacity to live out our faith. Yet, there is something within us that keeps us ongoing, that makes us go wherever we need to go, to make us jump over those obstacles even when we know they are difficult, but that motivation keeps our focus on the goal.

Everyone has different motivations and reasons to live their spiritual lives, but there is one thing in common, and that is that no matter how hard our spiritual lives are at times, there are rewards to everyone. Our assurance is that if in this life our spiritual performance is not as good as we wish, the final prizes await for all of us, and then our reward will fill our spirits for eternity.

Enjoy your spiritual life, and perform it to the best of your abilities, and don't get discouraged by the challenges that it implies. God knows the intention of your hearts.

With love, pastor Norma.





AUGUST
Charles & Kay Medlin - 1
Doug & Nancy Martin - 2
Jamie & Amy Wiley - 4
Carlton & Gayle Brock - 11
Mark & Jennifer Clark - 16
Bobby & Ann Simpson - 26
Bobby & Lila Clontz - 30

SEPTEMBER
Sidney & Melia Haigler - 11
Robbie & Lisa Hall - 18
Zach & Peggy Herman - 18
Randy & Tara Warlick - 22



AUGUST	
Spencer Thomas - 1	Julie Plyler - 20
Tracy Biggers - 2	Madeline Taylor - 25
Daniel Purser - 3	Katie Price - 26
Jennifer Clark - 8	Emily McCall - 30
Kevin Brock - 9	Annette Harris - 31
Robbie Hall - 12	

SEPTEMBER	
Arlene Haigler - 1	Betsy Hinson - 22
Erin Beach - 9	Tony Purser - 25
Ronald Thomas - 11	Natalie Harris - 26
Teresa Phifer - 14	Mark Clark - 27
Susan Clontz - 17	Vann Huntley - 27
Jamie Wiley - 21	



Join us as we celebrate Homecoming

Sunday September 19th

Sunday: Homecoming at 10:00am

A potluck lunch will be Served by the UMW



Join us for Fall Revival

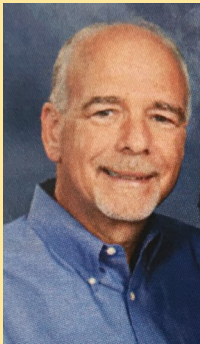
Sunday September 19th -September 22nd

Sunday Night: TBA

Monday Night: *Rev. Edward Butler* From Mill Grove UMC

Tuesday Night: *Rev. Matt Smith* from Faith UMC Indian Trail

Wednesday Night: *Marty Barrett* Union Grove Indian Trail & Ice Cream Social



1 Thessalonians 5:11

*"So encourage each other and give each other strength,
just as you are doing now."*

Upcoming Church Events and News



Loaves and Fishes: This month we will be collecting packages of mashed potatoes, corn muffins, sugar and grits

Senior Nutrition Program: There is a new volunteer opportunity, they provide meals to homebound seniors in Union County, if you would be interest in volunteering every week, or want to be a substitute for those who cannot make it, Please contact Gloria Haney at gloria.haney@unioncountync.gov or by calling 704-296-4312



We will host a Red Cross blood drive on 8/16/2021 from 3pm to 7:30pm in the New Life Center. Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment may go online to the Red Cross donation website and search for Zion United Methodist Church event or call [1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767) and request our drive We will also take walk ins, however, the wait is usually less if the person has an appointment.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- ◆ *The care ministry team* will be meeting on August 21st at 6:30 over zoom. If you would like to participate please contact Pastor Norma.
- ◆ *The United Methodist Men* will be meeting on August 15th at 8am in the New Life Center
- ◆ We will be serving the Union County
- ◆ Community Shelter on August 16th, if you would like to donate or volunteer please see Tara Warlick.
- ◆ *The United Methodist Women* will be meeting on August 24th at 6pm to clean up for Revival and Homecoming

Prayer Group: Fast & Pray

Tuesdays @ 5PM in the Sanctuary

Please send anyone prayer requests to zionumcmonroe@gmail.com

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

(Hebrews 10:19-23)



The annual United Methodist Men golf tournament is scheduled for September 18th at Red Bridge in Locust, North Carolina. More information will be available in the coming weeks.



Thank you to those in the youth group that were able to join us at the Heart for Monroe Closet!





JULY GIVINGS

Tithes	11,963
New Life Center	150
Children's Mission	22
UMCOR	50
Book Bag Mission	650
Total	12,835

Music Notes from Barbara

Hi! Everyone!! Hope your August so far is going very well! Woke up this morning to Fall weather and it certainly feels wonderful!!! I could handle this weather all the time!

I am still here at Zion and can't think of anyplace I would rather be at the moment! Things seem to be opening up a little at a time and really feels like a little normalcy! Our attendance is growing a little each Sunday which tells me that more of our members are beginning to "come back" to church! Now that the congregation can sing along with the hymns it sounds more like Sunday morning at Zion!!!

Love to you all!!!!

Barbara



A BIG
thank
you
♥

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to this years Bookbag Mission. With the help of the congregation as well as the UMW and UMM, we were able to donate 17 Bookbags along with bibles, hygiene products and shoes!

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



- Kay Medlin
- C.W. Price
- Jimmy and Susan Clontz
- Jim Beam
- Rondal & Eloise Purser
- Biggers family
- Tammy and Bobby Parker
- Shirley Lowery
- Bernice Tomberlin
- RA & Elsie Kindley



We believe every child deserves a chance:

- We see hope in each of them. We build on their strengths, nurture goals, create opportunity, and prepare children and families to shape their own futures.
- Children in our program:
- Children in foster care and adoption systems because of abuse or neglect.
- Children whose parents are addicted, unhealthy-absent from their lives.
- Kids-on their way to youth prison or just getting out-who want a better future.
- Young people unadopted, who need help transitioning to adulthood without the safety net of a family.
- Kids diagnosed with mental illness and developmental delays.
- Preschoolers with special needs or family struggles- at risk for falling in life, even before they have started kindergarten.

Zion can make a difference in our community.

If you would like to volunteer or donate please see Pastor Norma