

This Week at Mt. Zion

Sunday	5	Called Consistory meeting after worship 5:00 PM - Hayride & Weenie Roast at Bancroft's
Monday	6	5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball
Tuesday	7	5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball
Wednesday	8	10:00-12:00 PM - Lectionary Group 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9	5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator
Friday	10	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - CHURCH YARD SALE
Saturday	11	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - CHURCH YARD SALE

October Sexton Volunteer

Jeff Safrit

October 12

Scriptures - Psalm 66:16-20,

Luke 17:11-19

Sermon - God loves Seekers!

**WEAR PINK
SUNDAY**
OCTOBER 19

WE INVITE YOU TO WEAR PINK WITH US
IN CELEBRATION OF BREAST CANCER
AWARENES MONTH

**SUNDAY
19
OCTOBER**
1:00-5:30 pm

**RED CROSS
BLOOD
DRIVE**

WALK INS
WELCOME

Scan QR code
to schedule
appointment

1 PINT OF BLOOD SAVES
3 LIVES!

Mt. Zion UCC
1415 S. Main Street | China Grove
704.857.1169 | mountzionucc@windstream.net

Enter code
Mt Zion UCC

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 5, 2025

COMMUNION SUNDAY

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Pastor, Reverend James Simonds
1415 South Main Street | P.O. Box 1298
China Grove, NC 28023-1298

704.857.1169

mtzionchinagrove.com | mountzionucc@windstream.net

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost + October 4, 2025

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Words of Greeting

In Prayer and Meditation Let Us Prepare our Hearts
for Worship through God’s gift of Music

Prelude

*Responsive Call to Worship Psalm 137:1-4 (Leader and People)

(1) Beside the rivers of Babylon we thought about Jerusalem,
and we sat down and cried.

(2) We hung our small harps on the willow trees.

(3) Our enemies had brought us here as their prisoners;
now they wanted us to sing
and entertain them.

They insulted us and shouted,
“Sing about Zion!”

(4) Here in a foreign land,
how can we sing about the Lord?

*Hymn “As Your Family, Lord, Meet Us Here” 773

*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)
God, we thank You for this place where we can find truth and hope even when
we feel like a stranger in a foreign land. And we thank You for the communion
table where all are welcome. Give us thankful hearts and minds as we worship
You today. Amen.

*Gloria Patri “Glory Be to the Father” 805

*Scripture Reading Luke 17:5-10 (Leader and People)

(5) The apostles said to the Lord,
“Make our faith stronger!” (6) Jesus replied: If you had faith no bigger than a
tiny mustard seed,
you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up,
roots and all,
and to plant itself in the ocean.
And it would!

(7) If your servant comes in from plowing or from taking care of the sheep, would you say,
“Welcome! Come on in and have something to eat”? (8) No, you wouldn't say
that.

You would say, (page 1 continued)

“Prepare me something to eat.

Get ready to serve me, so I can have my meal.

Then later on you can eat and drink.”

(9) Servants don't deserve special thanks for doing what they are supposed to do.

(10) And that's how it should be with you.

When you've done all you should, then say,

“We are merely servants, and we have simply done our duty.”

Anthem “Table of Joy” Chancel Choir

Youth Minute Candice Safrit

Offertory

*Choral Congregational Response “Doxology” 809

*Offering Prayer {for offerings given in person, Online and by mail}
God, as servants, we return our tithes and offerings to You. Though our gift may
seem as small as a mustard seed at times, we are thankful for the ways in which
we know You multiply our gifts to Your service. Amen.

Call to Prayer “Be Thou My Vision” (vs. 1) 532

Morning Prayer (based on Psalm 137 and John 17) (Leader and People)

Lord Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer,

we turn to You once again with our prayers.

You are the One Who made the very mountains

that show us Your grandeur and strength.

Trusting in the promise that through faith,

we can move mountains with our prayers,

we lift before You now

needs of our community and country.

We have mentioned today people who have sat down

and cried from pain, loss and fear.

Bless those in tears to feel Your healing hand on their shoulder.

Bless those who serve our community to feel Your protection and care.

Bless our country and its leaders

to be a rock of support and peace near and far.

As we prepare our hearts for communion,

we pray You will forgive us our sins.

Teach us what it means, O Lord,

to choose Your paths,

love people the way that You love them,

(page 2 continued)

and speak Your grace into every conversation.
Thank You, God, for calling us to be Your servants.
Thank You, God, for calling us friends.
Lead us, God, to be difference makers for Your kingdom in the week to come.
We pray in the Name of our Comforter and Friend saying . . .

Affirmation of Faith
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator 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, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Sermon "God loves Servers!"

*Hymn "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" 563

Call to Communion (Leader and **People**)
The disciples gathered for Passover and Jesus changed it into communion for them and us. Let us join the tradition of sharing the Lord's Supper together this Passion Sunday.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to you, Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to praise you, Lord.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Holy Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is praised among all peoples.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
who for ever sing this hymn to the glory of your name: (page 3 continued)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, Almighty One!
Blessed are you, Jesus Christ!
In the power of the Spirit
you created all things,
blessed them,
and called them good.
You called to yourself a people
To make your mercy and truth known in all the world.

We betrayed your calling;
You were faithful.
We wandered from the way;
You called us to return, and led us home.
On the night of your betrayal, Lord Jesus, you took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to your disciples and said,
"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
You did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,
"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant in my blood."
Christ has come among us.
Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.
Pour out your Spirit on us
Pour out your Spirit on us
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ
Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

All who wish to commune are invited to come forward to collect bread and a glass of juice. If you don't want to come forward, Pastor Jim will deliver bread and juice to those who wish to remain in the pews. After all have been served, we will take of the bread and then the juice together. (page 4 continued)

*Hymn	<i>"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"</i>	(vs. 1) 708
*Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>"Be Thou My Vision"</i>	(vs. 2) 532
*Postlude		
*All able please stand		

Welcome to Mount Zion United Church of Christ. If you’re looking for a family that accepts people as they are and works to spread God’s love, we’d love to have you join us. Please speak to Pastor Jim if God is leading you to join the MTZ family! You can call or text him at **336-682-9649**. Or you can email him at **pastorszion@gmail.com**.

Please lift our sick and shut-ins in prayer, and show your concern through visits, cards, calls and prayers. **Convalescing at Home:** Jewel Thompson, Wild Bill Corriher, Peyton Bare. Jeanne Kirk is at Big Elm. Pat Archie is at Liberty Commons. Doris Campbell is at Trinity Oaks. Thelma Corriher is at Brookdale High Point North. Judy Beaver is at The Laurels of Salisbury. Doris Hileman is at Morningside of Concord. Members and Friends of the congregation are reminded to help the pastor and secretary by informing them of any persons who are sick or in the hospital.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southside Church of God Food Ministry Donation: October - Peanut Butter & Soup

Be sure you are following the Mt. Zion Facebook page so you will be able to find our live-streamed services and other important information! **www.facebook.com/mtzioncg** or search your Facebook for "Mount Zion United Church of Christ, China Grove, NC" then click the "Like" button!"



Pastor Jim OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Jim will be at the Chataqua Retreat at Christmount in Black Mountain, NC **October 20-24**.

Chicken Pie Fundraiser | September 17 - October 13

Mt. Zion UCC Fundraising Committee is selling delicious chicken and other pies. Please pick up order form at handbell tables and return with payment **no later than Monday, October 8** to the Church Office. Pies will be available for **pick up on Friday, October 17, Sunday, October 19** after worship or at Preschool after October 20. Make checks payable to: Mt. Zion UCC with **BUILDING FUND** in memo line. If you have further questions, contact Sandee Carrigan.

Congregational Meeting | October 12

MTZ UCC will meet for a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 12 after worship to discuss one item: spending over \$10,000 to complete the youth restrooms, install 2 new drinking fountains, cap a drinking fountain and take out a utility sink. Our possible spending will be in addition to a large grant we have received for this project.

Celebration of Baptism

Join the Mt. Zion friends and family, **Sunday October 19**, as we celebrate the baptism of Mary Catherine Meadows, daughter of Sarah and Andrew Meadows. Maternal grandparents are Candice and Jeff Safrit. Church members are invited for cookies and lemonade after worship with the family in the old library.

JOY Club

The JOY Club will travel to Wilkes County, **Wednesday, October 22** for delicious mountain apples. We will leave the church at **10:00am**. Everyone that wishes to attend must sign up on sheet at handbell tables as only 15 passengers can fit on bus. Everyone else will need to provide their own transportation. Please sign up ASAP. There will be no meeting in November or December.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be **CLOSED** for vacation **Friday, October 10, and, Tuesday, October 28 - Friday, October 31**. Please contact Pastor Jim directly. Thank You.

Trunk or Treat | October 25

Saturday, October 25 from 5:00-6:00pm, Mt. Zion will host a gathering of ghouls and goblins for the annual Trunk or Treat in the preschool parking lot. You can help us out by bringing your candy filled, decorated trunk that night or just by donating candy. Popcorn will be available.

A Fall Night in China Grove

Join Mt. Zion members, Saturday, October 18 from 5:00-8:00pm at Hanna Park for A Fall Night in China Grove, where we will have a booth set up for the event.

Please join us
for a reception
to honor
and celebrate

**Mrs.
Emily
Bancroft**

for her many years
of service and dedication
as Preschool Director
at Mt. Zion Preschool.

Sunday, November 2
2:00-4:00pm | Mt. Zion SonCourt