

This Week at Mt. Zion

Monday	27	5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball
Tuesday	28	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR VACATION 5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball
Wednesday	29	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR VACATION 10:00-12:00 PM - Lectionary Group 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	30	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR VACATION 5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator
Friday	31	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR VACATION

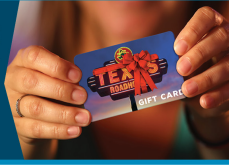
November Sexton Volunteer - Janie Bostian

**November 2 - Scriptures - Psalm 32, Luke 19:1-10,
Sermon - God loves See-it-throughers!**



(704) 630-7288
275 Tingle Dr - Salisbury, NC

FUNDRAISING
RAISE MONEY
BY SELLING
TEXAS ROADHOUSE® GIFT CARDS



**10% of Your Total Gift Card Sales will go back to
Mt. Zion Preschool**

- This is a PRE-SALE of our Gift Cards. You will collect all money at the time of order and turn it in with your order forms.
- Make sure to write all contact information of the buyer clearly on your order form, because you will deliver the activated gift cards back to them.
- We accept cash ONLY. If someone wants to write a check, please have them make it out to **Mt. Zion Preschool-NOT TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

Every \$30 in GC's purchased in any increment will receive 1 \$5 off coupon to be used on your next visit

Our Gift Cards can be purchased in increments from \$5 to \$100
Gift Cards can be redeemed at ANY Texas Roadhouse



Mt. Zion
Preschool



GIFT CARD

Caption



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

Mt. Zion

United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 26, 2025



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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

+

October 26, 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

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Handbell Choir

*Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 65

(Leader and **People**)

(1) Our God, you deserve praise in Zion,
where we keep our promises to you.

(2) Everyone will come to you because you answer prayer.

(3) When our sins get us down, you forgive us.

(4) You bless your chosen ones,
and you invite them to live near you in your temple.

We will enjoy your house,
the sacred temple.

(5) Our God, you save us,
and your fearsome deeds answer our prayers for justice!

You give hope to people everywhere on earth,
even those across the sea.

*Hymn

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

52

*Prayer of Invocation

(Unison)

We gather in Your house, O Lord, to worship Your holiness. You have delivered us here this morning and we will praise Your Name. Thank You for the hope we will find as we worship this morning.

Amen.

*Gloria Patri

“Glory Be to the Father”

805

*Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

(Leader and **People**)

(9) Jesus told another parable—this one addressed to people who were confident in their self-righteousness
and looked down on other people with disgust.

(10) Imagine two men *walking up a road*, going to the temple to pray.
One of them is a Pharisee and the other is a despised tax collector.

(11) Once inside the temple, the Pharisee stands up and prays this prayer in honor of himself:
“God, how I thank You that I am not on the same level as other people

(page 1 continued)

crooks, cheaters, the sexually immoral
like this tax collector over here.

(12) *Just look at me!* I fast *not once but* twice a week,
and I faithfully pay my tithes on every penny of income.”

(13) Over in the corner, the tax collector begins to pray,
but he won’t even lift his eyes to heaven.

He pounds on his chest *in sorrow* and says,
“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

(14) *Now imagine these two men walking back down the road to their homes.*
Listen, it’s the tax collector who walks home clean before God, and not the Pharisee,
because whoever lifts himself up will be put down
and whoever takes a humble place will be lifted up.

Anthem

“The First Psalm”

Chancel Choir

Youth Minute

Candice Safrit

Call to Prayer

“Be Thou My Vision”

(vs. 1) 532

Morning Prayer (based on Psalm 65)

(Leader and **People**)

We gather, O Lord, to say thank You for this opportunity to worship
and to ask for Your power and protection in the lives of people not with us this morning.

We have amazed spirits when we think of how You answer prayers
of so many different kinds of people around the world.

Please, hear now our requests for the blessing
of our lives and the lives of others.

Forgive us, O God, for times we are uncaring or judgmental.
Bless us, O God, with spirits that will care and accept others as You accept us.

Bless, O Healer, that the people we’ve mentioned for healing and strength
will feel Your power and touch in their lives.

Save the grieving from despair
and give them glimpses of life forever with You as a comfort.

David prayed for justice in his day,
so we pray for justice now.

Give our country’s leaders Your blessing to be agents of justice
through leading nations to peace,

relieving suffering at home and abroad
and living as a beacon of hope for the future.

You give hope here in our church and community
and around the world. We pray in the Name of the One Who gives us hope:

(page 2)

Passing the Peace

Sermon "God Loves Sitters!"

Offertory

*Choral Congregational Response "Doxology" 809

*Offering Prayer {for offerings given in person, Online and by mail}
Thank You God for loving us all. Thank You Jesus, for showing us the ways of humility. Thank You Spirit, for moving us to be generous in supporting Your ministry with our offerings. Amen.

*Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" 558

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Be Thou My Vision" (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:** Jeanne Kirk, Jewel Thompson, Peyton Bare. 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: November - Rice & Pasta

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!"



Thank you to our church family for all the prayers, calls, visits and other acts of kindness during dad's passing. Thank you to all for a wonderful memorial service also.

Dennis Corriher and Family

THANK YOU to everyone who helped out in any way with the church yard sale. From donating items, to purchasing or lending a hand the day of or helping with the hot dog sale. A total of **\$5,311.00** was raised towards the Building & Improvement Fund.

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased chicken pies during our fundraising event. A total of **\$1,091.90** was raised towards our Building & Improvement Fund.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

Veterans Day Meal | November 9

Sunday, November 9 after worship, Mt. Zion will honor our Veterans. Join us in the SonCourt for a meal and fellowship. Chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish and or dessert to share and enjoy the wonderful display compliments of our Mt. Zion History Committee.

JOY Club | November 13 | 11:30-1:00

The JOY Club of MTZ UCC has been invited to join the Prime Timers of 1st UCC, Salisbury, for their Thursday, November 13, 11:30-1:00 pm meeting. The Prime Timers meet in the Fellowship Hall of the church and will provide a meal of soup and sandwiches. Pastor Larry Bolick and the other Prime Timers would love to build relationships between our two congregations. Pastor Simonds will present his testimony of coming to be a United Church of Christ minister for the program that day.

Youth North Carolina Zoo Trip. | November 16

The youth and families will travel to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro Sunday, November 16 after worship. Lunch will be at Culver's. Please RSVP to Nikki and let her know you would like to attend. Transportation will be the church mini bus. Families will be responsible for lunches and the church will provide zoo tickets.

Community Worship Service | November 23 | 4:00pm

Mt. Zion will join our sister churches, Sunday, November 23 at Lutheran Chapel beginning at 4:00 for our community Thanksgiving service. Pastor Curry from Oak Grove Baptist Church will preach. The combined choirs of MTZ and Lutheran Chapel will lead music. Pastor Topinka from St. Marks will lead worship along with Pastors Simonds and Tucker.

Liberty Commons Worship Service | November 30

The Liberty Commons worship service will be held on Sunday, November 30, beginning at 2:30. We hope you will join us and invite a friend or family member to have worship with our church members at Liberty Commons.