This Week at Mt. Zion Sunday 14 Youth travel to Jocko's Mini Golf after worship Monday 15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball Tuesday 16 5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator 5:30-7:00 PM - Pickleball Wednesday 17 10:00-12:00 PM - Lectionary Group 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal Thursday 18 5:20 & 6:30 PM - Camp Gladiator

September Sexton Volunteer - Max Corriber

September 21 Homecoming

Scriptures - Psalm 113, Luke 16:1-13 | Sermon - God loves Solvers



MOUNT ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Reverend Jim Simonds, Pastor

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

704.857.1169

mtzionchinagrove.com | mountzionucc@windstream.net

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

†

September 14, 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 51:1-7

(Leader and **People**)

(1) You are kind, God!

Please have pity on me.

You are always merciful!

Please wipe away my sins.

- (2) Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt.
- (3) I know about my sins, and I cannot forget the burden of my guilt.
- (4) You are really the one I have sinned against;

I have disobeyed you and have done wrong.

So it is right and fair for you to correct and punish me.

- (5) I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.
- (6) But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom.
- (7) Wash me with hyssop until I am clean and whiter than snow.

*Hymn

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

227

*Prayer of Invocation

(Unison)

Thank You God for this house of mercy. Thank You God for this family who accepts us as we are. Thank You God for cleaned hearts and voices that can sing Your praise as we worship.

Amen.

*Gloria Patri

"Glory Be to the Father"

805

*Scripture Reading

Luke 15:8-10

(Leader and People)

(8) Jesus told the people another story

What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep the floor,

and look carefully until she finds it?

(9) Then she will call in her friends and neighbors and say,

"Let's celebrate!

I've found the coin I lost."

(page 1 continued)

(10) Jesus said, "In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him."

Anthem "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Chancel Choir

Youth Minute Nikki Franz

Call to Prayer "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (vs. 1) 295

Morning Prayer (based on Psalm 51:1-7)

(Leader and **People**)

Savior, we gather again to pray in Your Name.

We thank You that You are always kind and eager to hear our prayers.

We pray that You will have pity on those who are suffering in grief

and send them merciful reminders of Your love and plans for our eternity.

We have mentioned those who are ill or injured

and pray that they will receive Your healing and sustenance to get a new start toward living healthily again.

We think about the time that You found David overwhelmed with the consequences of his sinful choices.

And know that You forgave Him and erased his sins.

We pray for ourselves and those we love who may, today, be overwhelmed with the consequences of sinful choices.

And, like David, pray for mercy and forgiveness.

We remember again this first Sunday after 9/11

the kinds of tragedy that can so quickly strike a nation.

And we pray for our nation to be the agents of strength and patience

to bring peace to our borders and to others who look to us for help.

And we pray specifically for the Middle East

that You would melt hearts to enable peace there as well. We pray in the Name of the Prince of peace . . .

Passing the Peace

Sermon "God Loves Shiners"

Offertory

*Choral Congregational Response

"Doxology"

809

*Offering Prayer {for offerings given in person, Online and by mail}

Thank You God for choosing to be in relationship with us. We celebrate the way You give us what we need and more. Please bless these offerings to invite others to a relationship with You. Amen. (page 2)

*Hymn "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Revive Us Again"

(vs. 4) **723**

445

*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, Dennis 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: September - Oil & Cereal

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!"



Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Becky Drye, who passed away Saturday, September 6, surrounded by her family who loved her so. A Celebration of Life Service was held on Saturday, September 13 at Mt. Zion United Church of Christ. Becky's family is so grateful for the outpouring of cards, visits, calls, texts, emails, and more from those who loved them and loved Becky. May we continue to remember them in prayer.

September Clothing Drive

For the month of September, the youth are encouraged to bring their used clothes and clothes of friends to be donated on behalf of the church to a local clothing ministry so local children can enjoy their generosity.

Homecoming Sunday | September 21

Mark your calendar and plan to bring the whole family, a meal to share and, invite former members and other friends to join us for Homecoming Sunday, September 21.

(page 3)

JOY Club | September 24

The JOY Club will meet at Gary's BBQ for the monthly meeting, beginning at 11:00am on Wednesday, September 24. Please sign up at handbell tables if you plan to attend.

Liberty Commons Worship Service | **September 28** | **2:30 PM**

Once again Mt. Zion will meet at Liberty Commons for worship service, Sunday, September 28, beginning at 2:30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. Invite your friends!

Hayride and Weenie Roast | October 5 | 5:00 PM

Once again EVERYONE is invited for the Mt. Zion annual Hayride and Weenie Roast. Join us at the Bancroft home at 170 Corriber Farm Road, Sunday, October 5, beginning at 5:00pm. Please bring a side dish, drink and/ or dessert to share with everyone. Please RSVP to Emily Bancroft.



October 10 & 11

The church yard sale is set for October 10 & 11 and will benefit our Building & Improvement Fund. Drop off your **PRICED**, **CLEAN** and **WORKING** items in the church hut during office hours or contact Mary Corriher.

Please NO TV's or clothes.

