

**NEW
YEAR...**



**A NEW WAY
IN THE
WILDERNESS!**

January 19, 2025

Mt. Zion Church

122 Bayard Road, Lothian, Maryland 20711

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Staff at Mt. Zion

Senior Pastor – Pastor Heath Wilson

pastorheath@mzumc.com 410-758-7707 Call/Text

Administrative Assistant – Christi Noell – christi@mzumc.com

Minister of Worship and the Arts - Sarah Brosvic - sarah@mzumc.com

Director of Discipleship and Transformation - Kaula Jacks - kaula@mzumc.com

Marketing Assistant – Julie Hawkins – julie@mzumc.com

9:00am Worship Service

Welcome & Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead, for God is doing a new thing in our midst!

People: We press on, not because we have already reached perfection, but because Christ has called us forward to a new way of life.

Leader: Do not dwell on the former things, nor linger in the past—see, the Lord is making a way in the wilderness!

People: Streams of living water flow in the wastelands, God’s grace leads us on, as we press toward the prize of His calling.

Leader: The path ahead may be unknown, but God is faithful, making all things new and guiding us into His future.

All: With hope in our hearts and trust in His promises, we come to worship the God who leads us in new ways, through every wilderness, toward the fullness of His glory.

*Opening Hymn & Entrance of the Light of Christ

“Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah”

#127

Praises and Prayers

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:18-21, Philippians 3:12-14

Children’s Time

Choir Anthem

“Sheltered in the Arms of God”

Mt. Zion Choir
arr. Russell Mauldin
Pastor Heath Wilson

Message

“New Year, A New Way in the Wilderness!”

Offering and Response to the Word

Doxology

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

#451

Benediction

**Please Stand if Able*

Prayer Concerns

January 19 thru January 26

Ball Family - loss of Barbara Ball

Ginny Beeson - at home recovering

Allen Kammer - depression and anxiety, finding the right medication to help

Nancy Lane - South River Healthcare Center, Edgewater

Vicki Lerch - Acute Leukemia, chemo treatments have started

Al MacDonald - at home now under hospice care

Joanna Mauck - at home recovering from a mini stroke

Pat Minor - dr. appointments and preparing for hip surgery in February

Stephanie Taylor - knee injury

Julie Wilson (Pastor Heath's Wife) - medical concerns from mold exposure

Our Extended Prayer Concerns – Family & Friends

Bill & Lori Carrol - Lori battling dementia and Alzheimer's, Bill is caring for her

Leslie Ellis - health and healing

Steve Ellis - health and healing

Faye - out of the coma but had a stroke

Kathy Harper - recovery from breast cancer surgery and future treatments

Krissa Harris - cancer

Melissa Kilpatrick – continued strength

Pete Medhurst - brain cancer

Rev. Jenn Osterfeld - hand injury

Nancy Reinhard - continued weight gain and strength

Mike Wilkins - treatments for throat cancer

Linda Wright - treatments helping her get stronger

Participants	Today	Next Week
Greeters:	Genie Greenwell	Genie Greenwell
Acolyte:	Bailey	

Birthdays: 1/22 Christi Noell; 1/22 Caitlyn Moreland; 1/24 Bowen Willson
1/25 Genie Greenwell

Announcements

Card Carousel

The Card Carousel that has been in the foyer has been a hit with everyone and we need someone to help with this ministry. The cards are being donated to us, but we need someone to fill it every few weeks to keep it updated with seasonal holidays and new stock. If you would be interested in taking this ministry on, please contact Christi at christi@mzumc.com.

A Need at Mt. Zion

We are currently in need of a Finance Chair and a Church Council Chair and a Congregational Care Coordinator. If you think you would like to serve in one of these positions please reach out to Pastor Heath at pastorheath@mzumc.com or call or text his cell, 410-758-7707.

An Update on the Lawsuit Against Our Conference

As noted before, the judge ruled against us, in a summary judgement, meaning we have no standing or case. The NCLL is preparing an appeal based on what they believe are good grounds about the merits, and that the judge should have recused himself, being a member of a UMC in Anne Arundel County. This appeal could take numerous months to resolve. We advertised that our last Church Council meeting of 2024 would address this matter, and encouraged all MZ members to attend. After completely discussing this matter, we held a vote on a motion to continue with NCLL in the appeal, and pay any additional costs involved. All were members attending were given a vote, and we overwhelmingly approved the motion. Now, we wait. At our January 13, 2025 Church Council meeting, we discussed the need to gather information about options should we eventually prevail in the law suit, or if we do not. Some options include becoming an independent church or joining another denomination such as The Free Methodists or The Global Methodists. At a later date, we will review the information and call a congregation-wide meeting to develop tentative plans. Do not hesitate to bring any questions to myself, Joe Harrison, Tom Ellis, or Dave Stith (*all members of our task force to manage our lawsuit*).

Thanks, Johnny Hines Jr, Lay Leader
