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WELCOME TO MT. ZION! If this is your first time with us, please stop by the Welcome Center for a gift. We're so glad you're here today!

- **INTERESTED IN BEING BAPTIZED?** Pastor Vance would love to talk with you about this next step in your journey with Jesus. Email pastorvance@mountzionchurch.org or contact the Church Office.
- **NEED PRAYER?** Prayer Team members are available to pray with you under the front screens following the service or submit a request at mountzionchurch.org/prayerrequests
- **DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCH APP!** Search Mt. Zion Xenia in the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE | Church Closed December 29–January 3 (except for the following service & event)

While the church will be closed during this time, we will be open for our **Family Communion & Prayer** and **RENU Youth Lock-In** (more info below) on Wednesday, December 31.

2025 YEAR-END GIVING

If you are considering a donation to Mt Zion this year, the last opportunity to give through the plate that is outside the Worship Center is today. Any online gifts must be given by December 31. Any mailed donations must be postmarked by December 31.

ONE-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN Many of you joined in our challenge to read through the Bible this past year, and Pastor Vance encourages everyone to take up the challenge in 2026:

- There are 4 readings per day (25 in a month, so you have a few days to catch up if you miss one).
- One reading comes from the Old Testament, one from Psalms or Proverbs, one from the Gospels, and one from the rest of the New Testament.
- Paper copies are available at the Welcome Center, or you can follow along in the Mt. Zion app. When you open the app, tap on the "Bible" tab at the bottom of your screen, then tap the word "Plan" (next to the calendar icon) to see the reading for the day.
- The app's "Play" button is a nice feature that lets you listen to the daily reading while driving to work, walking the dog, or even cleaning the house.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY COMMUNION & PRAYER | Wednesday, December 31, 4PM-5PM & 7PM-8PM

On New Year's Eve, pastors and elders will be available to serve communion and pray with families individually. Arrive at any point during the designated hours as we close the year and prepare our hearts for the one ahead.

RENU YOUTH NEW YEAR'S EVE LOCK-IN | Wednesday, December 31–Thursday, January 1, 8PM-6AM

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to ring in the New Year at our all-night RENU Youth Lock-In right here at Mt. Zion. We'll have silent disco, Nerf wars, glow-in-the-dark activities, great food, and nonstop games. Bring a friend and kick off the new year with us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 4**

Next Sunday, Pastor Vance will begin a new sermon series called *The Living God: A Journey with Elijah and Elisha*. Together, we'll walk through 1 & 2 Kings, and we invite you, your and your friends & family to join us as we start this journey.

- **STUDY OF 1ST TIMOTHY | Sundays, 9AM**

Join our Adult Sunday School class for this study of the first letter the apostle Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy. We'll learn about Paul's instructions to young Timothy and the truths about Jesus found throughout the letter, including His role as Mediator between God and humanity.

- Our regular weekly **AWANA (Pre-K–5th) & RENU YOUTH (6th–12th)** gatherings resume **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7** with doors opening at 6PM. AWANA Clubbers will kick off the new year with a cozy PJ night and a hot chocolate bar.

- **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP | Next meeting - Thursday, January 8, 2PM-4PM**

Being a caregiver can be physically, mentally, and spiritually exhausting. This group offers encouragement, conversation, and prayer with others walking a similar journey. Our study resource will be *The Heart of the Caregiver*, a scripture-based guide for caregivers.

- **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB | Thursday, January 8, 6PM**

Ladies, join us as we discuss our Book of the Month, *Widow of Gettysburg* by Jocelyn Green.

- **MEN'S ALLIANCE | Mondays, 6:30PM (MTZ Parking Lot)**

A weekly 30-minute outdoor workout + a 30-minute fireside devotional for men of all fitness levels. Learn more at mensalliancetribe.com/tribes/shepherd

SERMON NOTES

NEW LIFE IN THE NEW YEAR

Pastor Shawn Higgins | Joshua 1:1-9, Matthew 28:18-20

Sermon notes: