

12.17.23



Share Jesus. Grow Disciples. Serve Others.

**WELCOME TO MT. ZION!** We are so glad that you're here and that you chose to worship with us today. If it is your first time with us, please pick up a gift bag at the Welcome Center. No strings attached; we just want to say thanks for coming.

**FIND US ONLINE** | website: [mountzionchurch.org](http://mountzionchurch.org), Facebook @**MTZChurch**

**THE DETAILS** | Contact the **Church Office**: M-TH; 8:30AM-5PM **Phone**: 937.426.0814

**Email**: [info@mountzionchurch.org](mailto:info@mountzionchurch.org) **Address**: 428 Shepherd Road, Beavercreek Township OH 45385

**GIVING** | Offering plates are available at the entrances and exit of the Gym. If you would like to give online, please visit [mountzionchurch.org/giving](http://mountzionchurch.org/giving).

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING BAPTIZED?** If you have recently made a decision to begin a relationship with Jesus or you have never made this public profession of your faith and desire to now, Pastor Vance would love to talk with you about setting up a time for you to be baptized. You can email him at [pastorvance@mountzionchurch.org](mailto:pastorvance@mountzionchurch.org) or call the Church Office if you are interested.

**NEED PRAYER?** Members of our Prayer Team are available to pray with you following the service across the Foyer in the Chapel or submit a request to our Prayer Chain at [mountzionchurch.org](http://mountzionchurch.org).

### **CHRISTMAS EVE AT MT. ZION | Sunday, December 24, in the Gym**

Invite your friends and family as we celebrate the birth of King Jesus together in worship:

- **Worship Service at 10AM** - KidZone for infants thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.**
- **Candlelight Worship Service at 4PM** - Childcare provided for children 3 and under  
(This year's special **Christmas Eve Love Offering** will be equally divided between Oaks of Righteousness (an orphanage in Honduras and a ministry of Mission on the Move) and to help support local families by paying off school lunch debt for students in a local elementary school.)
- Invite cards are available in the Foyer.

### **GINGERBREAD BASH | Sunday, December 17, 4PM at Mt. Zion**

We are hosting a Christmas celebration that you and your family will NOT want to miss! It's called "Gingerbread Bash." "What's a Gingerbread Bash?" you ask. It's a gingerbread nativity building party designed for the whole family. In addition to building and decorating your own gingerbread nativity, you'll get to play games, sing songs, hear the Christmas story from the Bible, and discover the good news of Jesus. It's a truly sweet way for your family to celebrate the birth of our Savior! We can't wait to "bash" with you!

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING | Wednesday, December 20, 6PM-8PM**

Teams of Christmas carolers, of all ages, will head out to spread some Christmas cheer to some of the elder members of our church family. If you plan to join us, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS | Thursday, December 21, 6PM-8PM in the Chapel**

Our Blue Christmas service offers a time of reflection for those who are grieving, sad, or lonely during the holiday season. We gather on the longest night of the year, in the midst of suffering, to remember God is good. God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

### **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB | Thursday, January 4, 6PM in the Church Library**

Ladies, read our Book of the Month *Shower in Seasons* by Beverly LaHaye & Terri Blackstock and join us to discuss.

## **GRIEFSHARE | Wednesdays, 13-week sessions begin January 10, 6:30PM-8PM at Mt. Zion**

GriefShare is a free Christ-centered grief and loss support group. We want to offer a safe place for you to find help and encouragement as you navigate your grief journey following the loss of someone you love. We know it hurts, and we want to help. These weekly sessions are self-contained and open, meaning you can join the group at any point. **Sign up at the Welcome Center or register online at [griefshare.org/groups/176439](https://griefshare.org/groups/176439).**

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP WRIGHT STATE BASKETBALL GAME | Saturday, January 20, 7PM**

Men, come cheer on the Wright State Raiders men's basketball team as they take on the Milwaukee Panthers. There is no cost for the tickets, but we ask that you sign up at the Welcome Center to reserve your spot. We will meet at the Nutter Center (3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Fairborn, 45324) on game day. Tickets will be available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center the week before the game (Sunday, January 14). Please contact Jeff Mullins ([jmullins2063@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullins2063@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions.

**CONGREGATIONAL VOTE RESULTS - Elders:** Tom Kornbau & Mike Priaulx **Deacon:** Jeff Eldridge  
**Deaconesses:** Carolyn Fear & Carol Ober **2024 Budget:** Accepted

# **SERMON NOTES**

## **When God Shows Up: The Right Direction**

December 17, 2023 | Matthew 1:18-25 | Pastor Vance Weeks

Matthew 1:18-19 | **How should Joseph respond to this unbelievable story?**

Joseph's options:

1. Have Mary stoned
2. Disgrace her
3. Divorce quietly

Matthew 1:20-23 | **God shows up in Joseph's confusion**

Matthew 1:24-25 | **Joseph demonstrates faith in the face of doubt**

### **What you should learn about faith from Joseph**

- Faith is not about belief, it is about trust
- Faith is not about reason or rationale, it is about relationship
- Faith involves not just the brain, but also the feet
- Faith involves not just beliefs, but how you live
- Faith doesn't remove doubt, it sets direction