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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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY | Sunday, December 7, 6PM

Pull out your ugliest (and most festive!) Christmas sweater and join us here at the church for a merry evening of delicious food and great company! The meat will be provided—please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share. After dinner, stay for a holly-jolly game night packed with laughter and a little friendly competition!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: CHRISTMAS EDITION | Friday, December 19, 5PM-9PM at Mt. Zion

Parents, need a *silent night*? Drop your kids off for an evening of fun while you enjoy a little peace on earth! Kids will enjoy games, crafts, movies — and we'll handle dinner, so you don't have to — while you finish last-minute shopping, wrapping, or simply take a well-deserved break. The event is free, and you can drop the kids off anytime between 5PM and 9PM. Sign up in the Foyer.

BLUE CHRISTMAS | Sunday, December 21, 6PM in the Chapel

Our Blue Christmas service offers a time of reflection for anyone carrying grief, sadness, or loneliness during the holiday season. On the longest night of the year, we gather to be reminded that God is good, God is strong, and God is near. We are not alone—and even in the darkness, we have every reason to hold on to hope.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES | Wednesday, December 24, 4PM & 7PM

Invite your friends and family to worship as we celebrate the arrival of God with us—our Savior who came in humility and power.

- **Christmas Eve Offering**

Christmas is a season of giving in remembrance of what God has given to us in the gift of His son Jesus. We celebrate at Mt. Zion by taking an offering to bless those around us in need. We will divide this year's offering in 3 ways. Locally, lunch debt is accruing significantly at some of our local schools in the midst of many families being out of work or not being paid right now, so we will again bless families at Fairbrook Elementary School in Beavercreek by paying down lunch debt at the school. Nationally, our newly adopted church plant, Rosemont Christian Church, just began a campaign to help them renovate and update their older church building. This is a great opportunity for us to begin our relationship with their church by blessing them in an unexpected way! Finally, the persecution of Christians has heightened around the world and yet the church is growing in many countries where Christianity is illegal. Global Catalytic Ministries was built to support church planters in nations where planting churches is illegal. They are training disciples currently in 71 countries, focusing on discipling former Muslims in hostile nations to go out and evangelize their neighbors and build the underground church in their own home countries.

You will receive a special love offering envelope in the mailing that is headed your way to use for this one-time offering on Christmas Eve. Please place it in the offering plate when you come to service on Christmas Eve. Online giving will be available for Christmas Eve only for those of you who prefer to give online.

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

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

- **CONGREGATIONAL VOTE – Sunday, December 14 (immediately following the worship service)**
MTZ members will vote on the proposed 2026 budget and nominees for church leadership. Two Elders are needed; nominees are John Coulter, Lee Monroe, and Daryl Smith. Two Deacons are needed; nominees are Andy Betts and Phil Blosser. One Deaconess is needed; the nominee is Cathy Scholz. For unopposed candidates, members will vote to approve or disapprove the candidate. A Q&A will be held on December 7 following the service, and absentee ballots will be available at the Welcome Center that day.
- **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB | Thursday, December 4, 6PM**
Ladies, join us as we discuss *Waiting for Christmas* by Lynn Austin.
- **MTZ YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY | Sunday, December 7, 11:30AM**
College students and 20-somethings join us for food, fellowship, and Christmas fun!
- **GOLDENAGER'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH | Wednesday, December 10, 11:45AM at Mt. Zion**
Seniors, come celebrate Christmas with a delicious catered meal, warm fellowship, and live music. Lunch is free! Please sign up in the Foyer.
- **SECOND SATURDAY SERVE | December 13, NOON-3PM**
Join us—rain (snow) or shine—on the second Saturday of each month as we serve together to accomplish various projects and tasks that will make a tangible difference in supporting the ministry of the church. There's something for everyone—no matter your age or ability. Just bring a willing heart and ready hands! Sign up in the Foyer.
- **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
- **RENU YOUTH (6th-12th) | 6PM-8PM (doors open at 6PM)**
Middle school & high school students have fun and learn more about Jesus.
- **AWANA (Pre-K-5th) | 6:30PM-8PM (doors open at 6PM)**
A fun and engaging way for kids to build Bible knowledge and lifelong faith.
- **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: ACTS | Thursdays, 10AM**
A time for women to gather for study, prayer, and fellowship as we explore the Book of Acts together.

SERMON NOTES

HOPE THROUGH HUMILITY

Pastor Shawn Higgins | Philippians 2:1-11

Notes: