

CONNECT

UPWARD • ONWARD • OUTWARD

Winter/Spring 2025





*Mount Zion's vision is to become
a passionate body of disciples
being transformed by Christ,
growing through biblical teaching,
and sharing the Good News
to the ends of the earth.*

*Mount Zion's mission is calling people
Upward, Onward, and Outward.*

For us to achieve both the vision
and mission of Mount Zion, we need
to connect with God, each other,
and our community.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

MOUNT ZION WEBSITE

Go to: mountziongmc.org

- Worship Times
- Upcoming Events
- Ministries
- Livestream
- Past Sermons
- Prayer Requests
- Online Giving

Visit us on Social Media



CONNECT WEEKLY



A weekly email is sent out that previews what is happening at Mount Zion. ***To sign up for this email, you may use the QR code provided.***

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Every person at Mount Zion has free access to biblical videos, interactive devotionals, kids' shows and much more. Flyers with the QR code and directions are available at the Welcome Center.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

CARE MINISTRY

The Care Ministers offer care through cards, calls, emails, texts, and visitations at homes and hospitals. The ministry is designed to connect individuals to one another as we journey together through life. We pray that people find hope and companionship through this ministry. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is seen multiple times healing bodies, minds, and spirits. He understood the depths of suffering and its hold on the lives of people. **Contact: Cindy Brendle, Care Ministries Coordinator: cindy@mountziongmc.org**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Mount Zion has a Prayer Room located off of the Chapel that is open 24 hours daily for anyone needing a quiet spot to meet with God. Additionally, feel free to join us for a prayer group that meets every Wednesday morning, 8:00-8:45 AM, in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH LENDING LIBRARY

Located in the Prayer Room is a valuable resource of books that are available for borrowing: prayer books, devotionals, and studies.

BIBLE CART

A cart with Bibles is located in the Fellowship Hall. They are free for anyone who wants one or would like to give a Bible away to someone. Children's, youth, and study Bibles are just a few of the choices available. This Bible Cart Ministry is supplied by Steve Sorrell.

NEXT STEPS

REALM®

Realm® is Mount Zion's Church database and smartphone app. Realm makes it easier for our church family to connect with each other and grow as a connected community of believers.

Here are a few of the highlights our Realm app offers:

- **News, Posts, and Photos**
- **Events, Messages, and Participation Info**
- **Notification Settings:** Manage your preferences for group notifications and emails



If you are not yet connected with Realm, use the QR code provided.

DISCOVERING MOUNT ZION

Are you considering joining the church and becoming more involved at Mount Zion, but would like more information? Then join us for our next Discovering Mount Zion class. Lunch will be provided, and ***childcare is available upon request**. This is a 3-hour class, taught by Pastor Leonard, focusing on a higher level of spiritual commitment and the ins-and-outs of Mount Zion. Watch for the next class being offered. Please contact Donna Rex at: donna@mountziongmc.org for more information.

First class of 2025 is Sunday, February 9th. You will need to register in Realm or at: mountziongmc.org/upcoming-events.

****Registration will be available close to the date of the classes being offered.***

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We encourage you to consider joining an Adult Sunday School class; below are the current classes being offered. You can contact the leaders directly, or contact Donna Rex at donna@mountziongmc.org. Also, if you are a Mount Zion member who is interested in beginning a new class, contact Donna Rex.

GOOD SAMARITAN'S CLASS

Sundays 9:30 AM • Fellowship Hall

Contact Les Brown: lbrown120@nc.rr.com for details.

BIBLE SEEKERS/Women's Class

Sundays 9:30 AM • Room 103

Contact Alma Black: ablack03@centurylink.net for details.

FISHERS OF MEN/Men's Class

Sundays 9:30 AM • Room 105

Contact Dean Crow: crowdean86@gmail.com or

Tom Breci: tom@brecidetailing.com for details.

SHARE AND CARE CLASS

Sundays 9:30 AM • Room 104

Contact Julia Dupree: robert.julia@centurylink.net for details.

BIBLE DISCUSSION CLASS

Sundays 11 AM • Room 103

Contact Bill Cordray: bill@kesslercommunications.com for details.

BIBLE DISCUSSION CLASS

Wednesday 7 PM • Teleconference

Contact Bill Cordray: bill@kesslercommunications.com for details.

ELEVATE SUNDAY



INFANT - 2 Years

9:30 & 11:00 • Room 101

PRESCHOOL

(Potty Trained 3-5 years)

9:30 & 11:00 • Room 102

K-5th GRADE

9:30 & 11:00 • Room 203



6th-12th GRADE

11:00 • Room 202

**See Next Gen Connect Groups for Youth Opportunities*

ELEVATE KIDS & YOUTH

ELEVATE KIDS & YOUTH

Toddler, Preschool, K-5th Grade • Wed's • 6:30-7:30 PM

A weekly program where children, ages 1 year old and up, engage in interactive lessons that involve games, science, cooking, crafts, and more that are designed to match Mount Zion's Mission and Vision to call children Upward, Onward, and Outward in their walk with our Lord.

6th-12th Grade • Wednesdays • 6:30-8:00 PM

Throughout the year, Elevate Youth holds weekly ministry on Wednesday nights, plus weekend retreats, service opportunities, fellowship nights, and a summer discipleship camp.

Wednesday Night Meals • FREE • 5:30-6:15 PM

We also serve dinner on Wednesday nights during the Elevate season. Meals are free and for the whole family to enjoy. We hope that this helps our families navigate the midweek schedule so that children can attend Elevate. Children that are 5th grade and younger need to attend the meal with their parents, but youth can be dropped off.



ELEVATE KIDS & YOUTH



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER FOR ELEVATE.



NEXT/GEN CONNECT GROUPS

REVIVAL GENERATION • 6th-12th GRADE

Our world is divided in almost every way imaginable—religion, politics, race, views on sexuality, and much, much more. On the surface, it might not seem like the time is right for a movement of God. On the contrary, now is the perfect time for revival! Not the emotional, momentary, feel-good type that comes and goes, but a revival that changes hearts. When God changes hearts, churches change. And changed churches change cities, which change nations, which change the world. When the world has seemed to be at its darkest, the Spirit of God has moved in a way that only He could. Can He do it again? Yes, He can!

Meets: Sundays / Time: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Dates: Jan 5th - Feb 23rd / Location: Room 202 / Cost: Free

Contact Jenni Ackerman to sign up: jenni@mountziongmc.org

WHO IS THIS JESUS • 6th-12th GRADE

Most Americans have heard the name of Jesus. Maybe they've even heard a few things He said or did. But who is Jesus really? What was He like? Where did He live? What did He really care about? We'll explore these questions and more while on location in Israel, where Jesus walked and spent His days on Earth.

Meets: Sundays / Time: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM / Cost: Free

Dates: March 2nd - April 13th / Location: Room 202

Contact Jenni Ackerman to sign up: jenni@mountziongmc.org

NEXT/GEN CONNECT GROUPS

KING DAVID • 6th-12th GRADE

Warrior. Liar. Hero. Murderer. King. Hollywood couldn't write a more conflicted and compelling story about a boy who would become king. But this humble shepherd boy who became the greatest king of Israel also struggled with sin, authority, purity, and integrity. In these four inspiring youth Bible study sessions, we will look at the trials, temptations, and triumphs that King David faced and see how the truths found in David's life are relevant to the real-life issues we might encounter every day.

Meets: Sundays / Time: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Dates: May 4th - May 25th / Location: Room 202 / Cost: Free

Contact Jenni Ackerman to sign up: jenni@mountziongmc.org

CHILDREN'S HAND CHIMES • 2nd- 5th GRADE

Children will learn to play the hand chimes. Reading music is not a requirement.

Meets: Sundays / Time: 4:00-4:30 PM

Dates: 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

Location: Sanctuary / Cost: Free

Contact Jenni Ackerman to sign up: jenni@mountziongmc.org

CHILDREN'S SINGERS • PRESCHOOL-5th GRADE

Children will be practicing and learning to present songs for the special music at worship on Sundays.

Meets: Sundays / Time: 4:30-5:00 PM

Dates: 1/12, 1/26, 2/2, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

Location: Sanctuary / Cost: Free

Contact Jenni Ackerman to sign up: jenni@mountziongmc.org

CONNECT GROUPS

What are Connect Groups?

A Connect Group is a small group, which is usually 8 to 12 people, who come together and meet regularly with similar interests. A variety of interest-based groups are offered three times a year: Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer. **Winter/Spring Connect Groups** are listed below; you may contact each leader directly to sign up for that group or gather more information about it. Contact information is also available in the RealmConnect APP. *If you don't have access to the APP, contact Donna Rex at: donna@mountziongmc.org for further details.*

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT by MAX LUCADO

A Traveler's Guide Through the End of this Age

Join Max Lucado on an optimistic and accessible journey into what the Bible says about the end times. This six-session series will provide a solid foundation for understanding God's eternal plan and events like the rapture, the tribulation, and our eternal glory in heaven. As Max teaches us, the end of our story is all about hope and all about Jesus.

Leaders: Elaine Heintzelman: dexchines@gmail.com

Jack Granger: jacksgranger@gmail.com

Meets: Weekly on Mondays / 2:30-3:30 PM

Dates: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24

Location: Room 103

Cost: Free - *RIGHTNOW MEDIA*

CONNECT GROUPS

PRAYERFUL GRANDPARENTS

This group will open with a brief devotion and end with fellowship, but most of the time will be spent in prayer for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Participants don't have to consider themselves to be spiritual giants or prayer warriors. Anyone wanting to be intentional about influencing future generations for Christ is welcome. Of all the gifts we can offer, our prayers are the best and most enduring.

Leaders: Pastor Leonard and Donna Rex

Meets: Monthly on 3rd Thursdays / 3:00-4:00 PM

Dates: 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17

Location: Parlor

Cost: Free

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

We will be reading the Christian Books listed below and follow up with discussion each month.

Jan: *"I Surrender All"* by Priscilla Shirer

Feb: *"The Fight for Female"* by Lisa Bevere

March: *"The Women of the Bible Speak"* by Shannon Bream

Contact: Jenni Ackerman:

jenni@mountziongmc.org

Meets: Monthly on Mondays / 7:00 PM

Dates: 1/27, 2/24, 3/31

Location: Room 103

Cost: Purchase of Books



CONNECT GROUPS

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This is a weekly Bible study for women on the life of Moses and Exodus. Participants will need to bring their Bibles. Any translation of the Bible is welcome. No homework is required.

Leader: Glenda Fowler: gnf253@yahoo.com / 919-810-6849

Meets: Weekly on Tuesday mornings / 10:00-11:30 AM

Dates: 1/14-5/20

Location: Room 103 / Cost: Free

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP & STUDY

This group offers an opportunity for young adults to meet, learn, and grow together in faith. Participants will be studying:

Family Discipleship by Matt Chandler and Adam Griffin

Have a New Kid by Friday by Dr. Kevin Leman

Leaders: Todd Spivey: tspivey.home@gmail.com

Miller Sawyer: millersawyer3@gmail.com

Meets: Weekly on Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 PM

Starts on 1/8 and runs concurrently with Elevate. *Does not meet on the 1st Wed. of each month.*

Location: Parsonage / Cost: Purchase of Books

SENIOR FIT CLASS

This group of senior adults joins together for low-impact chair exercises. **Some standing is required. Wear comfy clothes and sneakers.*

Leader: Diane Shannon: bake5017@yahoo.com

Meets: Weekly on Thursdays / 11:00 AM-Noon

Dates: 1/2-5/30

Location: Fellowship Hall / Cost: Free

CONNECT GROUPS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CPR COURSE

In this course you will receive basic CPR training, including adult, child, and infant CPR and choking training (*but not certification*). Also, you will be instructed on how to use our church AEDs. There will be five classes offered, with a limit of 10 per class. You only need to sign up for one of the dates. **This is for middle-school age and up.*

Leader: Vickie Donohue: vdonohue64@gmail.com
919-631-0456

Meets: Tuesday evenings / 6:00-8:00 PM

Dates: 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18 (Select one)

Location: Chapel

Cost: \$2 for Booklet (Families can share)

FAITH DRIVEN ENTREPRENEURS

Faith Driven Entrepreneurs is about connecting people because we know all too well how lonely the journey of an entrepreneur can be. Through a foundation group, you can lock arms with other like-minded business leaders and develop meaningful friendships. This is an 8-week journey



where you will learn more about your call to create, watch compelling videos, engage in conversations with other entrepreneurs, and listen to what God has to say. For additional information go to www.FaithDrivenEntrepreneur.org.

**People may attend individual sessions.*

Leader: Barbara Taylor: barbarahemphilltaylor@gmail.com

Meets: Friday mornings / 8:00-9:00 AM

Dates: 1/17-5/30 / Location: Room 103 / Cost: Free

CONNECT GROUPS

MOUNT ZION MEN

This group is open to all men. Participants gather for a time of fellowship, breakfast, and devotion each month. There also will be opportunities for service in our community that take place on different days of the week. We hope you'll join us! You do not have to participate in the service projects to be a part of this group.

Leaders: Bill Cordray: 317-507-6427

Bob Kisner: 919-819-0987

Meets: Monthly 2nd Sunday

7:00-8:00 AM

Dates: 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11

Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: **Suggested: monthly donation of \$5*

which is applied towards community outreach projects. Breakfast is provided each month.



BASIC BEGINNERS SEWING CLASS

Have you ever wanted to learn to sew but did not know where to start? Or do you have a sewing machine, and it's been years since you've used it, and you'd like to freshen up on your sewing? If you are willing to take the leap, join us as we start with all of the basics of sewing, starting with learning to thread your machine all the way to making yourself an apron. *Volunteers for experienced seamstresses to provide assistance are needed.*

Leader: Trish Adkins: trish@mountziongmc.org

Meets: Fridays / 6:30-8:00 PM

Dates: 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7

Location: Room 103 (104 for Overflow)

Supplies/Cost: \$20 / Your Sewing Machine, Pair of Sharp Fabric Scissors, Small Tote for Supplies

CONNECT GROUPS

THE TRUTH PROJECT

Pilate, the Roman governor, asks Jesus, "What is truth?" Some people today talk about "having their own truth." Understanding the nature of truth may be the most important intellectual pursuit in which we can engage. Living our lives according to the truth may be the most significant practical activity in which we can participate. The Truth Project is a video-based study comprised of 12 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett. Each lesson explores the relevance and importance of living with a Christian worldview in daily life. This study is appropriate for older high school students and adults.

Leader: Pastor Leonard Rex

Meets: Weekly on Mondays / 7:00-8:30 PM

Dates: 1/20-4/14

Location: Office Conference Room

Cost: Free

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT

Gather together for a night of games, food, and laughter. Each week we will all bring out our favorite board games and play! Led by Jenni and Tim Ackerman.

Contact: Jenni Ackerman: jenni@mountziongmc.org

Meets: Monthly on Fridays / 7:00 PM

Dates: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28

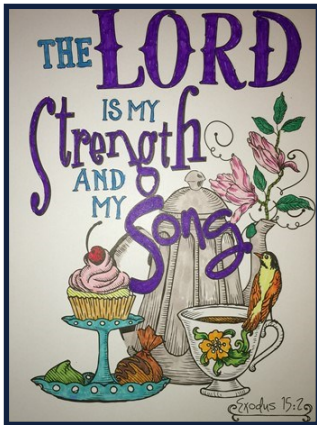
Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Free - *Each participant will be asked to bring an appetizer to share.*

CONNECT GROUPS

CREATIVE CHRISTIANS

This is a group for crafty souls who gather to share in Christian fellowship while working on their own craft projects. Bring a project and a snack to share. Come for part or all of the evening. *Group is for 13 and up.



Leaders: Carolyn Brown and Sarah Lee:

usborne4you@nc.rr.com

or angelectra@aol.com

Monthly on Fridays / 6:00-10:00 PM

Dates: 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9

Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: Free

LADIES BUNCO GROUP

Bunco is a fast-paced dice game played in rounds that gets everyone involved at the same time! It only takes minutes to learn. We will have fellowship, devotion, and prayer. Bring a snack to share.

Leader: Sheila Brookover: sbrook467@gmail.com

919-862-4405

Meets: Monthly on Fridays

7:00-9:00 PM

Dates: 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/25, 5/16

Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$5 a month for prizes



SERVE

Here are just a few suggestions on how you can serve at Mount Zion:

DIGITAL MEDIA MINISTRY

Each week we have a team of volunteers that help enhance our worship through running the slides and running the cameras for the livestream during the 9:30 and 11:00 services. Experience is not required; training is provided, and we offer flexibility in scheduling. **Contact: Katelyn Sawyer, Online Ministries Coordinator: katelyn@mountziongmc.org**

MUSIC MINISTRY

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Music Ministry at Mount Zion, including Choir, Cantatas, E519, and special music. **Contact: Julie An, Director of Music Ministry: julie@mountziongmc.org, Or Erin Nenni, E519 Leader: erin@mountziongmc.org**

SAFE SANCTUARY/SECURITY MINISTRY

Volunteers are needed to help with church security on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Contact: Roger Locklear: rogerlocklear@yahoo.com

YARD MINISTRY

The Yard Team oversees the physical needs of the church landscape, cemetery, and parsonage lawns. Volunteers are always needed to mow, trim, and perform basic lawn care.

Contact: Tim Cowell: tdcowell2@gmail.com

SERVE

Here are some additional ways to serve and connect through Mount Zion's partnership with Community of Hope, located in Garner.

We encourage you to learn more about this local ministry on their website at communityofhopeministries.org. The following are ways Mount Zion is already helping serve with Community of Hope:

CARPENTER'S HAND

This group provides home repairs to “*at-risk*” citizens in the Garner area. Widows, single mothers, senior citizens, and those with disabilities are eligible to benefit. The services include minor home repairs, lawn maintenance, and other household needs.

Contact: Bill Cordray: bill@kesslercommunications.com

FOOD PANTRY

Currently, we are looking for individuals who are interested in helping with the Community of Hope's Food Pantry pick-up at the Food Lion on HWY 50.

Contact: Janice Krakowsky: magicaljan22@gmail.com

GARDEN OF HOPE

Community of Hope has an on-site garden where it grows fresh produce to give out through its food pantry. Each year, their garden produces thousands of pounds of fresh produce.

Contact: Bill Poske: wposke54@gmail.com