First Mount Zion
BAPTIST CHURCH
WORSHIP · STUDY OF THE WORD · STEWARDSHIP · SERVICE

Connection Points
March 5, 2024

Connection Points is a weekly communication to keep you connected by providing information on ways to be informed; to sign up for ministry activity, to serve and to give.

News

This Week:

Join us for Wednesday Bible Study At Noon and & 7:30pm for adults (in person and Online) and at 7:30pm for Youth (in-person and ZOOM)

Pulpit Committee:

We are excited to invite you to consider a significant opportunity within the First Mount Zion Baptist Church - joining the Pulpit Committee. This committee plays a pivotal role in shaping the spiritual leadership of our church by undertaking the following responsibilities:

- Seeking and evaluating candidates for the Pastor position.
- Identifying and presenting qualified candidates to the congregation.
- Arranging for candidate presentations to the church members.
- Developing guidelines for these presentations.

In line with our Constitution and Bylaws, the committee will be composed of seven (7) voting members, including a Deacon, a Deaconess, a Trustee, and four (4) atlarge members from our congregation, alongside one (1) non-voting recorder. We are committed to forming a committee that reflects the diverse perspectives of our church family, and this is where your participation becomes invaluable. To facilitate this, we have prepared a survey that will take about 20 minutes of your time. This survey is designed to capture the qualities we value in Pulpit Committee members and to gather the following:

- Demographic information.
- Your personal statement on why you wish to serve on the Pulpit Committee.
- Your commitment level for a long-term engagement.
- Any additional skills you can bring to enhance the committee's efforts.

Your input is crucial to us, and we encourage you to reflect, pray, and

participate in this survey by March 11, 2024. Should you require any assistance or have questions about the survey, please feel free to contact us at PulpitCommittee@firstmountzionbc.org. Your responses will be sent directly to our mailbox, ensuring your voice is heard in this important process.
We look forward to your thoughtful consideration and potential contribution to this vital committee. Here are the five criteria areas for consideration to be nominated to the Pulpit Committee:

1. Spiritual Maturity and Godly Example
Specific Criteria: Demonstrates regular participation in worship services, Bible study groups, and other spiritual growth activities. Offers testimonials of personal faith journey and examples of living out faith in daily life.

2. Active Membership in Good Standing
Specific Criteria: Maintains active membership for a minimum of [specific time period, e.g., 2 years] prior to the selection. Regularly attends church services and participates in church activities/events.

3. Representation of Diversity and Interests
Specific Criteria: Demonstrates understanding and advocacy for diverse perspectives within the church, including but not limited to age, gender, education, and ministry involvement.

4. Commitment to Prayer, Study, Service, and Discernment
Specific Criteria: Regular engagement in personal prayer, Bible study, church service projects, and displays wisdom in making thoughtful decisions.

5. Cooperative and Respectful Work Ethic
Specific Criteria: History of working well in team settings, evidence of respectful communication, and ability to contribute constructively to group discussions.

Apply at **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQLDQ8H**
Contact: **PulpitCommittee@FirstMountZionBC.org**

What's New

All meetings and events begin with a Building Use Request Form.
Use the following link to schedule your next FMZBC ministry or committee meeting.
https://form.jotform.com/12654041222

Volunteer Screening

All Servant Volunteers are Encouraged to be screened. If you have previously been screened, please turn in the completed annual Volunteer Screening Code of Conduct Form to your Ministry Lead.

2024 Volunteer Screening Session Dates

- March 16th, May 18, September 21st, and November 16th, 2024
- Training begins at **9:00 am**
- Visit FMZBC website, resource tab for application and authorization forms.
- Bring completed forms to the training

TO SIGN UP-Contact:

Brenda Byrd at 571 237-0111 **byrdbj@comcast.net**
OR Cynthia Zorn-Pettigrew at 703 -730-5227

Capturing Ministry Moments

AV is collecting photos of ministry activity to integrate with the weekly service countdown. Please send photos here, **https://fmzbc.wetransfer.com** When doing so also include the photo release form. Photo's including minors (under the age of 18) must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian. Please see the following instructions for capturing landscape-oriented pictures and videos with a resolution of 19209x1080:

For Smartphones:

1. Open Camera App:
- Locate and open your camera app on your smartphone.

2. Check Settings:
- Look for a settings icon or option within the camera app (usually represented by a gear or similar icon).

3. Select Resolution:
- Find the option for "Resolution," "Video Quality," or similar.
- Choose "1920x1080" or "1080p" for videos.

4. Hold Phone Horizontally:
- Hold your phone horizontally, ensuring the longer side is left to right. This is the landscape orientation.

5. Focus and Capture:
- Tap on the screen where you want to focus, and then press the shutter button to take photos or start recording videos.

For Digital Cameras:
1. Turn On Camera:
- Power on your digital camera.
2. Access Menu:
- Navigate to the menu using the buttons or touchscreen on your camera.
3. Select Resolution:
- Look for a setting related to "Resolution" or "Image Size."
- Choose "1920x1080" or "1080p" for videos.

4. Hold Camera Horizontally:

- Hold your camera horizontally, ensuring the wider side is left to right.

5. Adjust Focus:
- If needed, use the autofocus feature by half-pressing the shutter button to focus on your subject.
6. Capture Photos or Videos:
- Fully press the shutter button to capture photos or start recording videos.

Remember, these are general instructions, and the exact steps might vary based on your specific device. Refer to your smartphone or camera's user manual for more detailed and model-specific guidance.

DEAF MINISTRY: ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreter onsite each Sunday during the 11am in person worship service and at the monthly Deaf Ministry ZOOM meetings.
The next meeting is March 11, 2024, at 7: 00 P.M. POC for the ZOOM link is Deaconess Pamela Ford, **pdford61@verizon.net**.

Hybrd Sunday School: Sundays at 9:45 a.m. **r**oom 2
29/230 or via ZOOM (registration required)

(Ecclesiastes 4:9, GMT version)
"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them."
(Isaiah 42:9)

Join Sunday School Hybrid each Sunday. For those attending the class via ZOOM Please use the following link to register for SSE-Hybrid:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762921587?pwd=UHd2RWVuWjJrbmhNMnpPYUJkZjE4Zz09
We look forward to seeing you there!

Handouts are available for download from the FMZ (First Mount Zion) website using the following link:
https://firstmountzionbc.org/weekly-sunday-school-lessons/

POC: Rev. Gillis Taylor, Sunday School Superintendent,
SundaySchool@ FirstMountZionBC.org

Childrens' Church (CED):
IT'S BACK.... Children's Ministry/**Kids' Kingdom** worship for PreK to fifth grader. For additional information, please contact Dr. Holley via email at **tholley@firstmountzionbc.org** or Sister Stephany Stewart at **stephanystewart@yahoo.com**. Cannot wait to see you!
Servants Needed! Please email **tholley@firstmountzionbc.org** for the Zoom credentials. Thank you.

New Members Orientation Class-NMOC Class (CED):
NMOC Schedule attached. *Classes are those that give students extra graduation credit. Thanks for your service.

NMOC Schedule for March thru May
Deborah Holley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NMOC Sunday School
Time: 09:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Every week on Sun, at 9:45 a.m.

Mar 10, 2024, 09:45 AM Church Leadership
*Mar 17, 2024, 09:45 AM Spiritual Warfare – Dr. Sandra James
Mar 24, 2024, 09:45 AM Palm Sunday, Please attend regular Sunday School
Mar 31, 2024 ,09:45 AM Easter Sunday, Attend regular Sunday School
Apr 7, 2024, 09:45 AM ABC's of Worship
Apr 14, 2024 09:45 AM Orientation of NMOC & Church Tour (hybrid class)
Apr 21, 2024, 09:45 AM Baptism
Apr 28, 2024, 09:45 AM TBD
* May 5, 2024, 09:45 AM Overview of Christian Education Department
May12, 2024, 09:45 AM No class, please attend regular Sunday School
May 19, 2024, 09:45 AM Holy Communion

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86711906458?pwd=YmM5b2F6VzBDWDRsdFRkVVNpdGdSZz09

Meeting ID: 867 1190 6458
Passcode: 978435
Dial by your location
• +1 309 205 3325 US

Academic Education Ministry (CED):
Additional information and Scholarship Opportunities. First Mount Zion High School Seniors, Juniors, and Parents/Guardians. Are you interested in receiving educational information and available scholarship opportunities?!?! Forward your email address to **aem@firstmountzionbc.org** and we will add you to the distribution list. Do not miss out!

AEM (CED):**Ministry Scholarship Newsletter.** Want to know what is happening with the FMZ Scholarship, other available scholarships, and events? Just click the link below!!
https://firstmountzionbc.org/scholarships-2/

Men's Ministry (CED):
Leadership Team: Bro. James Gaskins, Bro. Xavier Bridges, Dea. Donnell Wright

Women's Ministry Monthly Fellowship (CED): The Women's Ministry will be hosting a Fellowship "Your Purpose Produces Your Destiny "on Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 9:00am-10:30am via zoom. The purpose of the Fellowship is to remind that sometimes we may not realize it, but our lives are not a mistake, we were created by God to have a prosperous destiny. It is ordained as God's unique purpose, planned, and tailored for our lives. We will fulfill our purpose and destiny! Our guest speaker will be Rev. Cynthia Ball, FMZBC Associate Minister & Additional Speaker to be announced.

For questions, please contact WM Director, Gwen L Holland at **Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org**.

The Zoom Meeting Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81917754844?pwd=afLMx6qjqHqb2j3QANnWbyH8BzDHQN.1

Meeting ID: 819 1775 4844
Passcode: 520448
Dial in: (301) 715-8592

PRAYER REQUESTS: Women Uniting in Fellowship with Love, Praise, and Worship
Greetings to all our sisters in Christ. God is so awesome! He has answered our prayers, and He wants to answer yours too! The WM has established a dedicated email for the women of FMZBC to submit your prayer request. We desire to continually lift your prayer needs as they arise, so please use this email to submit your prayer request. Let the saints pray for you. Prayers of the righteous availeth much! Our Intercessory Prayer Team (IPT) will intercede and faithfully pray over your prayer requests as you send them in.
WomensMinistryPrayers@firstmountzionbc.org.

Youth Ministry (CED): Youth Ministry Bible Study, Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:40-8:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Bible Study is held in the Executive Conference Room and can also be attended via Zoom. To attend via Zoom register using the "Youth Ministry" tab on the FMZ website. In person attendees should report to the chapel first for praise and worship. We are continuing the study of the book of Proverbs. Join us as we do "Bible study for life."

- Youth Group Meeting, Sunday, March 17, 2024, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in the Grain of Heaven. Guest speaker**, Benita Mosley**, Olympic Gold Medalist and CEO of "Multiplying Good." The topic is "Overcoming Hurdles to Accomplish Your Goals." Enter and exit through **Door B**. Lunch will be served**.**

- Youth Ministry hosted Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 4-10 on March 23, 2024, from 11:00-12:30 at First Mount Zion**. RSVP required. Sign up after church in the Narthex or RSVP to Rev. Beverly Jiggetts bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org by Sunday March 17, 2024.** Youth volunteers are needed. Community service hours can be earned for this event.

- High School Retreat for FMZ members who are high school students (9^{th}-12^{th} grade), April 5-7, 2024, at the Williamsburg Christian Youth Retreat Center. Bus transportation, retreat sessions, all meals and T-shirt included. **Cost $20.00.** Registration packets including permission slip are available in the youth ministry box in the Narthex or can be obtained electronically and are due with the $20.00 fee by next Monday, **March 11, 2024**.

Space is limited. Registration may close sooner than March 11th if all slots are filled.

YOUTH MINISTRY ON BLAST! (CED)

This is an opportunity to highlight the amazing youth at First Mount Zion and their notable accomplishments. If you know of a youth that you would like to have profiled in this section, send their name, **picture**, contact information, and accomplishments to Rev. Beverly Jiggetts- **bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org** or **youthministry@firstmountzionbc.org. Accomplishments** can be in athletics, community service, scholastics, overcoming personal challenges, or simply a youth who needs encouragement.

Contact Rev. Beverly Jiggetts, youth minister at **bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org** with any YM questions.

Small Groups Ministry:

First Mount Zion Small Groups Ministry

Schedule

Interest Based Small Groups meet for two semesters each year.
Spring semester: February - June

Consider joining the Interest Based Small Groups Ministry!
We have a variety of groups within three categories from discipleship, sports, shared interest, outreach, health, support, and book groups for all ages.
Regardless of the type of group, through that common interest, we seek to love God, grow in God, serve God, and share God together as a group and with others. There is a group for everyone, including YOU!

For additional information,
please contact:
Stephanie M. Craddock, MS, CDP, ACE | Small Groups Director | 703-670-0184 Scraddock@firstmountzionbc.org
https://firstmountzionbc.org/small-group/

Visit our Small Groups Pages and Directory, to view the variety of Interest Based Small
Groups available (Support, Shared Interest and Discipleship) that are available to our First Mount Zion Baptist Church members and Community. Right click the link below.
Small Groups Directory - First Mount Zion Baptist Church (firstmountzionbc.org)

Point of Contact:
Sister Stephanie M. Craddock,
Small Groups Director
scraddock@firstmountzionbc.org or 703-670-0184.

Volunteers Needed

FMZ Print Shop. Volunteers are needed to print large format posters for ministry events. If you are interested and/or have experience please

contact Walter Holmes, Assistant Facilities Manager at **wholmes@firstmountzionbc.org**.

Ministry Event set-up and break-down**.** Are YOU looking for a way to serve others? Are you in need of volunteer hours or do you simply want to support the ministry activities of the church? If so, please contact Ernest Robbins, Facilities Manager at **erobbins@firstmountzionbc.org.**
Opportunities to serve in food service with the Grain of Heaven contact Sherise Campbell, Food Service Director at **scampbell@firstmountzionbc.org.**
Audio Visual: Interested in supporting ministry activities through audio visual? Join the Audio-Visual Ministry. Opportunities are available in support of Wednesday Night Bible Study, Sunday Worship, Homegoing Services, Weddings, and Ministry Activities, please contact Renee Woolfolk, CBA (Church Business Administrator) at **rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org.**
IT (Information Technology) Support: Interested in sharing your expertise in support of ministry meetings using computers, projectors to display PowerPoint presentations, play YouTube videos, ZOOM, live stream.

Be In the Know! The Fitness center is open on Saturdays from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. Check the website for schedule changes in support of ministry activities.

Closings and Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather
During times of inclement weather please check the Church website. Notices are also posted to WTOP and WJLA.

FMZBC Job Vacancies
FMZ is currently recruiting for the position of Finacial Manager (Accounts Receivables) and Church Management Software Administrator. Please express your interest in the position by emailing emplyment@firstmountzionbc.org. Listings are posted on Indeed and the church website.
https://firstmountzionbc.org/job-vacancy-announcement/

Good to know. **Connection Point** entries are due by noon on Mondays.
Submission of weekly announcements and PR (Purchase Requisition): Please note the following change. Announcements and weekly PRs (Purchase Requisition) are due by noon each Tuesday. Thank you for your support! Announcements and PRs submitted after the deadline will be processed the following week.

Gym and Fitness Hours Monday-Saturday. Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m-1:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1pm. Please check the calendar for updates.

IT (Information Technology) **Help Desk Is Here for You! Please email IT4U@firstmountzionbc.org** to request IT support. Have

questions about ZOOM or OFFICE365? Need an Email or password reset? Please email us for assistance with your questions to include FMZ email address password resets.

Vanco On-line Giving

VANCO, FMZBC's on-line giving **and mobile app**. platform, operates with an elevated level of security. As a result, access to users on the same network (FMZ IP address) will be blocked. When off site individual users may be denied access temporarily because of too many failed login attempts. After some
time (up to 4 hours) the account will automatically reset to allow users to select the forgotten password option. To avoid this issue onsite please consider using the VANCO/FMZ mobile app for giving. As a Vanco registered user you should see this option when you sign in. You may also access the app using the following QR code.

Note: the development of the mobile app is ongoing to include the inclusion of a text box to enter your FMZ membership number. Using the mobile app is encouraged if you are onsite and blocked from the VANCO site. Instead revert to using your mobile data.

You may give online using the following online giving link:
https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi- bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlgoBDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNx D8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KGonFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbcjOdOpuGh5p9VUzbG-MUX6XHubq5Z7ap5JVmPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dxxaHhzX- YjOncGsSrUtYU7E=&very=3

Or access the link through the FMZBC website: www.fmzbc.com **and** click on ONLINE GIVING (VANCO) at any time. To avoid failed transaction fees, please regularly review your online giving account to ensure contact and payment sources are up to date. When submitting a change of address to the Church, please also log on to VANCO to update your address. If you are interested in learning more about VANCO or have any questions as a VANCO online giver, please contact the front office, (703) 670-0184.

You may give by Mail: First Mount Zion Baptist Church, 16622 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, Va. 22025. You may also schedule a time for pick up, from your home, with your Zone Leader.

Please check the FMZ website regularly for a complete listing of ministry activities and updates regarding weather closings during office hours. As always, during these times of uncertainty, safety is of the utmost importance as we do our best to keep the congregation connected and informed while maintaining the health and welfare of all. Please check your email and the Church website for regular updates. Looking forward to our return in the future.

FMZ COVID Guidelines -WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW-August 13, 2023

Our church safety protocol activities will be in accordance with those set by the State of Virginia:

- Proof of Vaccination Status is no longer required to enter FMZBC.
- There will be no temperature checks required upon entry into FMZBC.
- Wearing a mask is optional.

ATTENTION ALL ZOOM MEETING HOSTS: To protect our ministries from potential "Zoom bombing" by miscreants and hackers, it is no longer recommended to post- meeting ID and passcodes to the website or social media. As an alternative, Zoom offers a registration feature for meeting participants to register for a meeting using a registration link. Once the registration link is established by the host, the link can be shared as usual via Connection Points, email, text, etc. The organizer/host will receive a roster of registrants and, if necessary, can use the list to verify people before they are allowed in the meeting.

For those who schedule ZOOM meetings, to follow is a short video on how to enable the registration feature to Zoom meetings.

How to set up a Zoom registration link for better security:
https://youtu.be/VqomCzNnii4

Wednesday Bible Study:
11:00 am and 7:30 pm
In Person, www.fmzbc.com, YouTube or Facebook Live
Youth Bible Study at 7:30pm in person or ZOOM

Kids' Kingdom Worship Service:
Third Sundays at 11 am on Youtube

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Worship Service: 11:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:45 AM

DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA FOUNDED IN 1867
FMZBC
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