



"Sharing the light from the Promise, to Pentacost, to Points around the world!"  
FMZBC's mission is to connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

## Connection Points

### April 16, 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

### What's New

The **FMZBC Constitution and By Laws document** is now available. Feel free to contact the office to obtain a copy. You may also view the document on line. Note it is password protected. To access it click on the Constitution and By Laws slide and enter the code: **fmzbcdocs2024**

**Church Meeting Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10am.** Attend in person or virtually. In order to vote virtually you must register using the following Zoom webnair link.

You are invited to a **Zoom** webinar.

When: **Apr 27, 2024 10:00 AM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: FMZBC Church Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xMJuob4-Rtu9RIbRfDx50Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xMJuob4-Rtu9RIbRfDx50Q)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**Pulpit Committee's Pastor Search Journey**

**Eight Phases, One Mission**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for outpouring prayers, encouragement, and support as we implement the Pastor's Transition Plan per the Constitution and By-laws.

As many of you may recall, our path consists of eight distinct phases, each crucial in its own right:

**Phase I: Church Governance and Selecting a Pulpit Committee** - In this foundation- al phase, we laid the groundwork for our committee's formation, ensuring we can carry out our responsibilities effectively.

**Phase II: Defining Pastor Search Requirements and Expectations** - We are now delving into the heart of our mission, clearly outlining what we seek in our next pastor and setting high standards of expectation.

**Phase III: Search and Recruitment** - As we enter this phase, we seek out potential candidates who embody the qualities and vision we aspire to see in our church's leader- ship.

**Phase IV: Evaluation and Shortlisting** - With diligence and discernment, we will care- fully evaluate candidates, narrowing our selection to those who most closely align with our values and mission.

**Phase V: Interview and Assessment**- This phase marks an essential step as we en- gage with candidates on a deeper level, assessing their qualifications, spiritual calling, and alignment with our church's vision.

**Phase VI: Presenting Candidate to the Congregation**- A pivotal moment where we present the most promising candidate to you, the congregation, for your consideration and input.

**Phase VII: Decision Making**- Together, we will prayerfully make the decision that will shape the future of our church, seeking wisdom and unity at every step.

**Phase VIII: Transition and Installation** - The culmination of our efforts as we transition to a new chapter under the guidance of our chosen pastor, celebrating their installation with joy and anticipation.

We are thrilled that we have completed Phase I and are embarking on Phase II. Your continued prayers are invaluable as we navigate this journey, seeking God's will and discerning the path He has set before us.

Blessings,  
The Pulpit Committee

**IT4U** is back. The Basics of Office 365, Thursday, April 18th at 11am. In person only. Please RSVP to, [rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org).

**Deaf Ministry.** Are you interested in ASL (American Sign Language) Training. If so, training is scheduled for **Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 10pm.** Sign ups to attend are on **Sunday, April 21, 2024.**

**VBS IS BACK FOR 2024!** (CED) Calling all volunteers interested in serving in our program. Please sign up in the Narthex, beginning this Sunday. Come help us as we have fun teaching our children the importance of *GROWING WITH JESUS!* VBS will run, **Tuesday, June 25 – Thursday, June 27 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.** We need you! Sign up today. For more information, email [VBS@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:VBS@firstmountzionbc.org) or call Dr. Holley at (703) 670-0184.

### **Save the Date!**

#### **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**

- **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](mailto:byrdbj@comcast.net)  
OR Cynthia Zorn-Pettigrew, [pettigcx@icloud.com](mailto:pettigcx@icloud.com)  
at **703 -730-5227**

**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 **May 13, 2024, at 7: 00 P.M.** POC is Deaconess Pamela Ford, [pdford61@verizon.net](mailto:pdford61@verizon.net).

**Hybrid Sunday School: Sundays at 9:45 a.m.** Room 229/230 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](mailto:SundaySchool@FirstMountZionBC.org)

**Childrens' Church (CED):**

Children's Ministry/**Kids' Kingdom** worship for PreK to fifth grader. For additional information, please contact Dr. Holley via email at [tholley@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:tholley@firstmountzionbc.org) or Sister Stephany Stewart at [stephanystewart@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanystewart@yahoo.com). Cannot wait to see you!

**Servants Needed!** Please email [tholley@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto: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.

Apr 21, 2024, 09:45 AM Baptism

Apr 28, 2024, 09:45 AM TBD

May 5, 2024, 09:45 AM Overview of Christian Education Dept.

May 12, 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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86711906458?pwd=YmM5b2F6VzBDWDRsdFRkVVNpdGdSZz09)

[pwd=YmM5b2F6VzBDWDRsdFRkVVNpdGdSZz09](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](mailto: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):**

For questions, please contact WM Director, Gwen L Holland at

[Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org).

**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](mailto:WomensMinistryPrayers@firstmountzionbc.org).

**Youth Ministry (CED):**

- **Youth Ministry Bible Study, Wednesday, April 17, 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. Join us as we do "Bible study for life."
- **Youth Group Meeting for youth in grades 6-12 on this Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Grain of Heaven.** We will have "pottery finishing" for those who previously decorated pottery and there is the opportunity for 14 youth who did not get to decorate pottery works to do so. Lunch will be served. Parents/Guardians will need to sign youth in. Youth will be

escorted to Door B for check out at the end of the meeting.

- FMZ Middle School Lock-in May 17-18,2024 for youth in grades 6-8 who are FMZ members. Topics chosen by the youth council are "Trusting God," and "Real Friends,". There is no charge for this event, but the permission slip and registration form must be completed. The deadline for submission has been extended to Monday, April 22, 2024. Forms are available in the Youth Ministry Mailbox or contact Rev. Jiggetts [bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org) to receive electronically.
- **YOUTH MINISTRY ON BLAST!** 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](mailto:bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org) or [youthministry@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto: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](mailto:bjiggetts@firstmountzionbc.org) with any YM questions.

#### Small Groups Ministry:

See the save the date below for the October 5, 2024 5K

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:erobbins@firstmountzionbc.org). **Opportunities** to serve in food service with the Grain of Heaven contact Sherise Campbell, Food Service Director at [scampbell@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto: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 Dijae North, Audio Visual Director at [dnorth@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:dnorth@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? Contact, Renee Woolfolk, Church Business Administrator at [rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org)

### Be In The Know!

#### Building Use Request

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>

The Fitness center is open Monday -Saturdays from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. Pickleball Courts are now open on Saturdays. Tuesday and Thursday evening hours coming in April. However, 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.

### FMZBC Job Vacancies

FMZ is currently recruiting for the position of Church Management Software Administrator. Please express your interest in the position by emailing [employment@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:employment@firstmountzionbc.org). Listings are posted on Indeed and the church website.

<https://firstmountzionbc.org/job-vacancy-announcement/>

**Good to know.** Connection Point entries: Submission of weekly announcements and PR forms (Purchase Requisition) are due by noon each Tuesday. Announcements and PRs submitted after the deadline will be processed the following week.

**IT (Information Technology) IT4U-Help Desk Is Here for You!** Please email, [rwoolfolk@firstmountzion.org](mailto:rwoolfolk@firstmountzion.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 sometime (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.

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=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNx D8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbcjOdOpuGh5p9 VUzbG- MUX6XHubq5Z7ap5JVMPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dxxaHhzX- YjOncGsSrUtYU7E=&very=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNx D8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbcjOdOpuGh5p9 VUzbG- MUX6XHubq5Z7ap5JVMPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dxxaHhzX- YjOncGsSrUtYU7E=&very=3)

Or access the link through the FMZBC website: [www.fmzbc.com](http://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.

### **Capturing Ministry Moments**

AV is collecting photos of ministry activity to integrate with the weekly service countdown. Please send photos to, <https://fmzbc.wetransfer.com> When doing so also include the photo release form. Photos 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 1920x1080:

#### **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.

## **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:

- o Proof of Vaccination Status is no longer required to enter FMZBC.
- o There will be no temperature checks required upon entry into FMZBC.
- o 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>



**SAVE THE DATE - 5K**  
**October 5, 2024 - 9AM**  
**Occoquan Regional Park**  
**Lorton, Virginia**

First Mount Zion Baptist Church  
 Celebrates the 5th Anniversary  
 Healthy Start Mind & Body 5K

Bringing Awareness to Alzheimer's Disease

You may register for (1) of the activities below

5K Run/Walk \$25  
 1.5 Mile Senior Run/Walk \$25  
 1 Mile Youth Fun Run - Ages: 12/Under \$15  
 (All 3 races will be electronically timed)

Registration includes: Official T-Shirt, Swag Bag, Finisher Medals,  
 Awards & Monetary Prizes (top 3 finishers per age category)  
 Electronic Race Bib, DJ, Catered Meal & More!  
**REGISTRATION OPENS - SUNDAY, JULY 14th.**

POC: Stephanie M. Craddock  
 scraddock@firstmountzionbc.org - 703-670-0184

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

11:00 am and 7:30 pm

In Person, [www.fmzbc.com](http://www.fmzbc.com), YouTube or Facebook Live  
**Youth Bible Study** at 7:30pm in person or ZOOM

**Sunday Service Worship:**

Service: 11:00 AM

**Kids' Kingdom Worship Service:**

Third Sundays at 11 am on Youtube

**Sunday School:** 9:45 AM in person or via ZOOM

**Fitness Center**

Monday -Thursday, 9am-4:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Friday, 9am-1pm



First Mount Zion Baptist Church | 16622 Dumfries Road Dumfries VA 20112, Dumfries, VA  
 22025-1920 | 703-670-0184

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