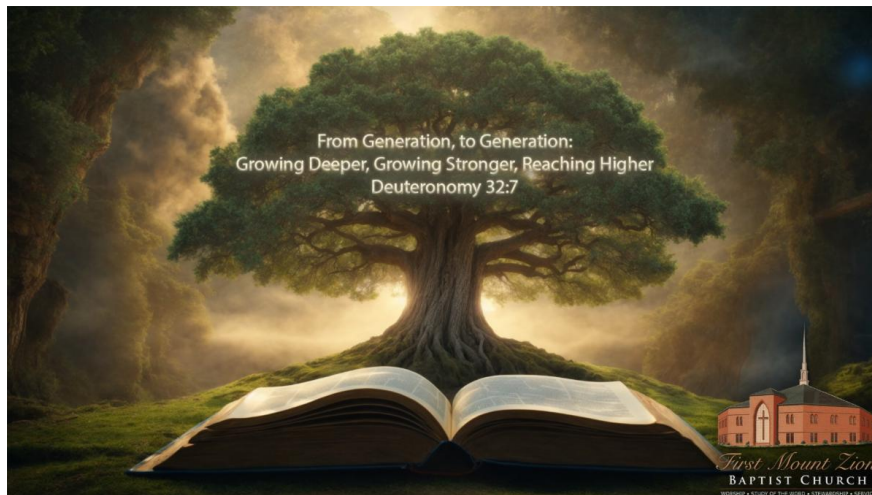




"Sharing the light from the Promise, to Pentecost,  
to Points around the world!"  
FMZBC's mission is to connect people who have a desire to  
become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



## **Connection Points**

### **July 1, 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**

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**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

## Remain Connected

Please use the following link to update your contact information: [Member Update Form](#)

## Save the Date!

### August Church Meeting

Saturday, August 3rd, 11:00 a.m.

### REVIVAL

Sunday, August 4th at 11 a.m.

and

August 6th (Tuesday)  
through August 8th (Thursday)  
at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

## What's New?

### Message from the Pulpit Committee

Members of FMZBC and Staff – First giving honor to GOD. We want to give glory to GOD for all He has done and all He is doing.

As you are aware, we are currently in "Phase II" of the Pastoral Search for the next Under-Shepherd for First Mount Zion Baptist Church. As we continue, in earnestness and humility, to delve deeper into the heart

of the search, we are asking for each of your continued prayers and patience as we continue to define the pastoral search requirements and expectations.

When Christ was ministering to the crowds, his response was compassion and teaching. He did not tell the disciples to pray for those people. Instead, he said to pray for laborers (Matthew 9:38).

We should never forget that looking for a pastor is, first of all, a spiritual exercise. Everyone in our congregation has a part in this process. The most significant way for our church family to participate is to commit to prayer. We would like to suggest three areas that you might put at the top of your prayer list regarding our pastoral search.

### **Pray for First Mount Zion Baptist Church.**

It is one thing to seek a person who will be the pastor; it is another thing to be the right church.

1. Pray that First Mount Zion Baptist Church will continue to **Seek the Lord** in every aspect of our ministry. Please pray that we will give attention to the most important responsibilities of the ministry. Continue to pray that worship will be vibrant, our witness will be visible, and our fellowship will be genuine.
2. Pray for **Perseverance**. The search process can take time, but patience is a great teacher because it can produce growth and maturity (James 1:4).
3. Pray for **Unity**. As we seek to find our next pastor, please pray that we, as a congregation, would put the most important things first.

### **Pray for the next Under-Shepherd of GOD's choosing.**

The Lord already knows who that person is, and we need to pray for this person and their family as we go through this process.

1. Pray that this person will be open to the work the Lord is doing at First Mount Zion Baptist Church and that this person will be excited about the

opportunities here.

2. Pray that this opportunity will be a spiritual journey that will mark this person in their trust in the Lord and provide an example to those at FMZBC of the importance of following the Lord.
3. Pray that the Lord will continue to use this person where they are, as they honor the Lord by proclaiming GOD's Word and faithfully serving in their present ministry.
4. Pray that this would be an adventure of faith for this person's whole family, as they seek together to serve the Lord in another place or capacity.
5. Pray that the Lord will prepare this person's heart for what is a mystery to them, but not a mystery to the Lord.

### **Pray for Church Leadership and the Pulpit Committee.**

Those serving in the search for our next Pastor need GOD's guidance.

1. There are so many aspects involved in the Pulpit Committee's work in just preparing for the search. Pray that our commitment to the task will stay strong and that we will be timely in the way that we accomplish each of our responsibilities.
2. Pray that we will put first things first. Finding our next Pastor is not just an organizational responsibility; it is a spiritual duty. Pray that we will continue to seek GOD in every aspect and that each member of the Pulpit Committee will continue to seek the Lord's help.
3. Pray for strong unity in the process. Pray that the Pulpit Committee will work together in a way that demonstrates love and honors all members' input.
4. Pray that our choices will reflect Godly wisdom, that the Pulpit Committee will be sensitive to the direction of the Lord as we look at potential candidates and make a recommendation(s) to the congregation.

Members of FMZBC and Staff – We are happy to inform you that we will be hosting focus groups for our Pastoral Search. The purpose of focus groups is to allow you, the church body, to speak with us about your desires and needs in your next Under Shepherd. Focus groups allow you to have a more intimate conversation with us. We appreciate your feedback from the Questionnaire. The focus groups will allow you to have more in-depth conversations with us.

Our goal is to be able to talk to as many members that want to share their needs in the next Under Shepherd with us. We will be providing in-person and virtual focus groups in addition to hosting focus groups on select weekends and weekdays.

### **Registration Information:**

You can register for a focal group by clicking the link below. If you need assistance registering or do not have technology to register, please email the pulpit committee and we will make ourselves available at the church to assist you.

- You will be requested to enter your first/last name, email address, and church membership number for verification purposes. (If you do not know your membership number, you can contact the church office or your zone leaders or stop by the leadership desk on Sundays.)
- Waitlists are available but limited.
- Upon completion, you will receive an email from the Pulpit Committee a week prior to your registered time slot as a reminder. It will include any additional details related to your focus group session.

**Focus group registration is now open.**

*Types or Focus Groups:*

- Thursdays are **Virtual**.
- 3rd /5th Saturdays in July are **In-Person**.
- 1st/3rd/5th Saturdays in August are **In-Person**.
- 2nd /4th Saturdays are **Virtual**.
- Sundays are **In-Person**.

Pulpit Committee Email:

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

Link: [Click Here to Register through Eventbrite](#)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each **Sunday at 9:45 a.m.** for Adult Sunday School. You may join us in person or via ZOOM.

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Use this link to view the FMZBC Constitution and Bylaws

[Constitution and Bylaws](#) . You may also view the document on the FMZBC website. Note, it is password-protected. To access it, click on the Constitution and Bylaws slide and enter the code: **fmzbcdocs2024**  
Printed copies are available by contacting the front office at **703-670-0184**.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Adult and Youth Bible Study will resume in September

### YOUTH MINISTRY (CED)

**Community Service Opportunity:** The Deaconess ministry has established a “Clothing Give Away” store (all items are free) for children and adults in room 156 next to the Barber Shop. Community Service hours can be earned by working in the store. Deaconess Ledora Akanni is the point of contact.

[Akanni\\_ledora@yahoo.com](mailto:Akanni_ledora@yahoo.com)

**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.

### MEN'S MINISTRY (CED)

Bro. Edward Jones, Director, FMZBC Mens' Ministry,  
703-623-0917

Leadership Team: Bro. Edward Jones (Director); Bro. James Gaskins (Co-Director); Bro. Xavier Bridges; Deacon Donnell Wright

### IT4U IS Returns this September!

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please contact the CBA, Renee Woolfolk,  
[rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:rwoolfolk@firstmountzionbc.org).

### DEAF MINISTRY

ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters are onsite each Sunday during the 11 a.m. worship service. You may observe in-person and online at [www.fmzbc.com](http://www.fmzbc.com). The monthly ZOOM meetings are also held with an interpreter. For additional information, please email Deaconess Pam Ford at [Deaf Ministry](#). Thank you for your support and assistance.

## HYBRID SUNDAY SCHOOL (CED)

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Room 229/230 or via ZOOM (registration required).

(Ecclesiastes 4:9, GMT)

*“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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762921587?pwd=UHd2RWVuWjJrbmhNMnpPYUJkZjE4Zz09>

We look forward to seeing you there.

Handouts are available for download from the FMZ 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)

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH (CED)

Children's Ministry/Kids' Kingdom worship for Pre-K to fifth grade. 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!

## NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION CLASS NMOC (CED)

Jul 7, 2024, 9:45 a.m.

No class: Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Jul 14, 2024, 9:45 a.m.

Stewardship

Jul 21, 2024, 9:45 a.m.

Prayer

Jul 28, 2024, 9:45 a.m.

No class until September 8th

Enjoy wonderful and blessed August family time.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81493910631pwd=OTl1RkdZR2FOWnJyQncyVVNxNFUrUT09>

Meeting ID: 814 9391 0631

Passcode: 413438 Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 814 9391 0631

Passcode: 413438

### **ACADEMIC EDUCATION MINISTRY (CED)**

If you are interested in receiving educational information and details on scholarship opportunities for First Mount Zion high school seniors, juniors, parents, and guardians, please forward your email address to [aem@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:aem@firstmountzionbc.org) and we will add you to the distribution list. You may also visit <https://firstmountzionbc.org/scholarships-2/> for details.

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY (CED)**

The Women's Ministry would like to inform you that we will be having a Welcome Back from Sabbatical Tea Fellowship "**You are A Daughter of the King: Claim Your Tiara**" onsite at FMZ and virtually on **September 21, 2024 @ 9:00 am.**

Look for more information starting in August.

In addition, there will be a Teapot Decorating Contest! More details forthcoming!

For questions, please contact WM Director Gwen L Holland at [Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org).

Greetings to all our sisters in Christ! God is so awesome. He has answered our prayers, and he wants to answer yours, too. Toward that end, the WM has established a dedicated email address for the women of FMZBC to submit prayer requests. Our desire is to continually lift up your prayer needs as they arise, so please use this address to submit your requests: [womensministryprayers@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:womensministryprayers@firstmountzionbc.org) Our Intercessory Prayer Team (IPT) will intercede and faithfully pray over your requests as you send them in. Remember, the prayers of the righteous availeth much. Let the saints pray for you!

For more information, please contact WM Director Gwen L Holland at [Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:Womensministry@firstmountzionbc.org).

### 2024 VOLUNTEER SCREENING SESSION DATES

**September 21** and November 16, 2024.

Training begins at **9:00 a.m.**

Visit FMZBC website's resource tab for application and authorization forms. Bring completed forms to the training session.

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**

### **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

**See the save-the-date image for the October 5, 2024, 5K**

**SCHEDULE:** Interest-based small groups meet for two semesters each year. Upcoming sessions are Fall, October 2024-January 2025 and Spring, February 2025-June 2025.

Consider joining an Interest-Based Small Group. 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! Visit the [Small Groups Directory - First Mount Zion Baptist Church \(firstmountzionbc.org\)](http://firstmountzionbc.org).

Point of Contact:

Stephanie M. Craddock,  
Small Groups Director, 703-670-0184  
[scraddock@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:scraddock@firstmountzionbc.org).

## 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). For opportunities to serve in food service at the Grain of Heaven, contact Sherise Campbell, Food Service Director, at [scampbell@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:scampbell@firstmountzionbc.org).

**Audio Visual:** Audio-Visual Ministry opportunities are available in support of Wednesday Night Bible Study, Sunday worship, homegoing services, weddings, and ministry activities. Please contact Bro. Dijae North, Audio Visual Director, at [dnorth@firstmountzionbc.org](mailto:dnorth@firstmountzionbc.org)

**IT (Information Technology) Support:** If you are interested in supporting ministry meetings using computers, projectors to display PowerPoint presentations, YouTube videos, ZOOM, or live stream events, 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:

### [Building Use Request Form](#)

FITNESS CENTER hours are as follows:

- Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pickleball courts are now open on Saturdays.

Please 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 positions of **Financial Analyst and Church Management Software Administrator**. Please express your interest in either position by emailing [Employment](#).

Listings are posted on the church website at [Job Vacancies](#)

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

### 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 offsite, individual users

may be denied access temporarily because of excessive 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.

Note: The development of the mobile app is ongoing to include 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. Otherwise, revert to using your mobile data.

You may give online using the following online giving link:

### [Online Giving Link](#)

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](tel: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.** FMZ in action. Share your photos here! Photos will be incorporated into the weekly Bible Study and Sunday Worship Countdown. Click on the following link to share your photos.  
[Capturing Ministry Moments](#)

**Attention 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/VqomCzNnii>

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

7:30 p.m.

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

**Sunday Service Worship:**

Service: 11:00 a.m.

Kids' Kingdom Worship Service:

Third Sundays at 11 a.m. on YouTube

**Sunday School:** 9:45 a.m. in-person or via ZOOM

**Fitness Center**

Monday -Thursday, 9 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (no evening hours on the 3rd week of the month)

Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please check the Fitness Calendar

[Fitness Calendar](#)



First Mount Zion Baptist Church | 16622 Dumfries Road Dumfries VA 20112 | Dumfries, VA  
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