



Zion Episcopal Church

We share Christ's love and grace with joy, respect, and compassion.

Telephone: (304) 725-5312 | Email: office@zionaepiscopal.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday | 9:00 am — 2:00 pm

Rector's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday | 10:00 am — 3:00 pm, *or by appointment*

If you have news you would like to share with our congregation, please send word to our Administrative Assistant, Kianna, at office@zionaepiscopal.net. News items received each week by Wednesday morning will be published in our Weekly Tidings on Friday.

Upcoming Services and Events at Zion...

Sunday, May 17th

Easter 7

(The Sunday after the Ascension)

This week's altar candles are given for the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Mr. and Mrs. James W. Strider, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest A. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Strider, Sr. by Sarah Strider Seemann and Mr. and Mrs. J. William Strider. Our altar flowers today are given for the glory of God and in loving of William and Katherine Chesley and Charles and Corinne Sharp by Mr. and Mrs. William Chesley, Jr., and Pearl E. Shaffer by Greg Harp.

8:00 am — 9:00 am

Holy Eucharist: Rite I

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild

Kathleen Willis

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Phil Porterfield

Ushers

Sam and Lanette Byrer

Hospitality

Jim Ruddy, Linda Work

9:15 am — 10:15 am

Bible Study | The Parlors

10:30 am — 11:30 am

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild
Verger
Crucifer
Torch Bearers
Gospel Book
Lay Reader
Intercessor
Lay Eucharistic Minister
Ushers
Hospitality

3:00 pm—4:30 pm

5:00 pm—6:00 pm

Monday, May 18th

Tuesday, May 19th

10:00 am — 11:00 am

Wednesday, May 20th

9:00 am — 12:00 pm

5:30 pm — 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 21st

10:00 am — 11:00 am

Friday, May 22nd

Saturday, May 23rd

9:00 am — 3:00 pm

Sunday, May 24th

8:00 am — 9:00 am

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild
Lay Eucharistic Minister
Ushers
Hospitality

9:15 am—10:15 am

Holy Eucharist : Rite II

Joanne McIsaac, Sandy Coughlin

Lee Wilson

Lucy Peyton

Porter Yuhasz, Levi Yuhasz

Colin Harp

Julia Yuhasz

Donny Twyman

Donny Twyman

Stephanie Harp and Randy Hilton

Julia Yuhasz

ECW Program & Reception | St. Philip's

Community Meal Ministry

Choir Rehearsal

Morning Prayer | Hayes Chapel

Thrift Store

Community Meal Ministry | Social Hall

Morning Prayer | Hayes Chapel

Office Closed

Healing Hearts Ministry | Educational Bldg.

The Day of Pentecost | Memorial Day Weekend

Holy Eucharist: Rite I

Kathleen Willis

Richard Seckinger

Donald and Patsy Noland

Jim Ruddy, Linda Work

Bible Study | The Parlors

10:30 am — 11:30 am

Holy Eucharist : Rite II

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild	Joanne McIsaac, Sandy Coughlin
Lay Reader	Kenny Floyd
Intercessor	Brenda Whittington
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Brenda Whittington
Ushers	Stephen Hall and Urath Gibson
Hospitality	Sue Floyd

St. Philip's News...

**Annual Women's Day Program | Women Dedicated to God's Work
Sunday, May 17th at 3 pm at St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Philip's Episcopal Church cordially invite you to join them for Worship and Fellowship on Sunday, May 17th at St. Philip's Church, 411 S. Lawrence Street in Charles Town. Sister Delores Jackson Foster of Mt. Zion AME Church in Knoxville, MD will be speaking. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the program.

Diocesan News...

Grow Church 2026—2027: Registration Now Open!

2026—2027 Registration for Grow Church, The Diocese of West Virginia's Congregational Development Program, is now open.



Grow Church is a two-year program that gathers four times per year (eight times over two years) to form participants as a community and as members of the Diocese of West Virginia; teach congregational development skills including planned change, understanding levels of conflict, life cycles of organizations, and more; and offer opportunities for continued spiritual formation and worship

The Grow Church Program will meet September 18—19 and November 20—21, 2026; and February 12—13 and April 16—17, 2027. Contact Canon Jordan Trumble at jtrumble@wvdiocese.org or click [here](#) to learn more or register. All weekends for 2026-2027 Grow Church Program will take place at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

From Rev. Johanna...

Ascension Day | Thursday, May 14th

"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven."

— Luke 24:50-53



I love that the last thing Jesus does before departing from his disciples is that he lifts his hands, and he blesses them. There is something so tender about the image of Jesus, hands raised, face turned toward the people he loves and his speaking a blessing over them as he departs. It is an intimate, priestly gesture. And it is the gesture he chose for his very last moment with his disciples.

We use the word "blessed" freely. We say we feel blessed when something good happens. We say "bless you" when someone sneezes. But in the deep tradition of scripture, blessing means something richer and more profound than a warm feeling or a polite expression.

In the Hebrew tradition that shaped Jesus and his disciples, to bless someone was to speak God's favor over them — to declare that God's presence, God's goodness, and God's life were resting upon that person. It was not simply a wish. It was a commissioning.

When Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples, he was saying — with his whole body, with his raised hands, with whatever words he spoke over them — you are held. You are loved. You are mine. And now, go. That blessing was not just for the disciples standing on that hill two thousand years ago. Through our baptism, through our life in the body of Christ, that same blessing rests on us. We are held, loved, and known by the living God. And we too are sent.

Here's what I find striking about the moment before Jesus departs from his disciples. The blessing and the sending happened at the same time. They are woven together. You cannot have one without the other. And that's still true for us. We are not blessed so that we can hold the blessing tightly and keep it safe. We are blessed so that we can carry it outward — into our homes, into our neighborhoods, into the ordinary moments of our days. The blessing we have received in Christ is meant to flow through us to the people around us.

In Luke's account, Jesus reminds his disciples that they are "*witnesses of these things*." The very nature of being a witness means not keeping what you have seen to yourself. The disciples share the blessing. They carry it into the world. And one of the most powerful ways we witness to the love of God is simply by blessing the people around us — by speaking and acting in ways that say to another person: you are seen, you are valued, you matter to God and to me.

I wonder if sometimes we hear words like "go and bless others" and feel a little overwhelmed, as if we need to do something grand or extraordinary. But the most powerful blessings in our everyday lives are often the smallest ones.

Think about what it means to pick up the phone and call someone you have been thinking about — a friend who lives alone, a former neighbor, a family member you haven't spoken to in a few weeks. That phone call says: I thought of you today. You are not forgotten. That is a blessing.

Think about a handwritten note. In a world full of emails and text messages, there is something deeply personal about a card or a letter that someone took the time to write by hand. It says: you were worth the time it took me to sit down and put pen to paper. That is a blessing.

Think about a smile — a genuine, warm smile offered to someone at the grocery store, or at the doctor's office, or even to the person who delivers your mail. You never know what someone is carrying on any given day. A smile that says I see you and I am glad you are here can be more powerful than we realize. That is a blessing.

And then there is prayer — the quiet, faithful habit of holding someone in your heart before God. You may never even tell them you are praying for them. But those prayers matter. They are real. They are a form of blessing that costs very little and carries tremendous grace.

These are the very things that make a life of faith visible in the world. Jesus lifted his hands and blessed the people right in front of him. We can do the same — with a phone call, a note, a smile, a prayer — for the people right in front of us.

Pace é bene,
Johanna+

Zion's Community Care Pantry News...

Collaborating together to transform one another by welcoming the stranger, providing hospitality, and restoring community where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Zion Welcomes Kay Kodak Community Care Pantry Coordinator

Please welcome Kay Kodak to Zion's Community Care Pantry. Kay has graciously and generously offered her time and logistical experience to help move our Community Care Pantry ministry forward. Kay will be working to provide oversight of the pantry, organize and inventory donations, and schedule of packing and the delivery of groceries to our clients.



If you have been wondering how to get involved with any aspect of this important ministry, please contact Kay and let her know you are interested in learning how you can serve in the pantry.

Kay's email address is: kck44leo@proton.me

The following donations would be appreciated: **Food Items:** Maseca (corn flour), Beans, Lentils, Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Fruit Cups, Applesauce, Juice Boxes, Cooking Oil, Shelf-stable Milk, Shelf-stable meat/fish. **Personal Care Items:** Dental Care Products, Diapers (Sizes 3, 4, or 5), Enfagrow Formula (Toddler), Similac (0-12 M), Feminine Hygiene Products, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toilet Paper. Your generous donations may be brought to our parish office during parish office hours.

JCCM News...

Thank you for your abundant generosity in helping to support those suffering from food insecurity. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. This past week Zion contributed 50 pounds of food to JCCM's food pantry.



WV Fest News...

WV Fest, Saturday, June 13th
Outreach Opportunity | 10:00 am — 5:00 pm

WV Fest Sign Up

Our vestry has once again affirmed Zion's hosting a water station during WV Fest. The water station will be in front of our Gym on Saturday, June 13th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (set up begins at 9:30 am). We are still in need of individuals/families to serve at the water station between the hours of 12 pm and 5 pm. Sign up for a time slot by clicking on the link below to help us make a positive impact!

Parish News...



*Photos Left to right:
Drew and Erin (Delaney)
Grove married at Zion on
Saturday, April 25th; Rainbow
School Mother's Day Tea.*



Prayer Requests...

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed."
—Matthew 8:8

For Those Who Are Housebound...

Marian Auer, Jean Hale, Earl and Bertha Kelican, Edna Phillips, Doris Starks.

For Those on our Parish Prayer List...

Those in nursing homes, assisted living, and rehabilitation centers, Alex, Edna, Doris, Annette, Pat, Doug, Michael, Mary Bruce, Jim, Leo, Peggy, Donna, Lucas, Ava, Owen, P.T., Tom, Sharon, Jim, Mary Jane, Bobbie, Don, Cassidy, Kelly, Ruth, Lousie, Becky, Barbara, Wanda, Jennifer, Karmen, Tyler, Bob, Alison, Ned, Richard, Dennis, Renee, Lori, Evan, Bertie, Brad, Robert, Rusty, Joshua, Diane, Michele, Patrick, Karen, Brian, Joyce, Phil, Melissa, Velma, Ruby, and Debbie.

For the Men and Women Serving in our Armed Forces...

Andrew, Amy, Blake, Bill, Bridget, Sean, Dakotah, and Andrew.

For Those Who Have Died...

Mrs. James W. Strider, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest A. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Strider, Sr., William and Katherine Chesley, Charles and Corinne Sharp, and Pearl E. Shaffer.

For Those Celebrating Birthdays in May:

Laurie Ruddy, 5 th	Henry "IV" Davenport, 13 th	John A. Kirby, 24 th
Alexander Peyton, 5 th	Matthew Brashear, 14 th	Lillian Kirby, 24 th
Shea Smith, 5 th	Locke Wysong, 16 th	Stone Sinnett, 25 th
Luch Weatherholtz, 6 th	Laurie Delaney, 17 th	Robbie Salisbury, 29 th
Ellie Splawn, 8 th	Sandy Burke, 21 st	Edna Philips, 30 th
Cody Truitt, 8 th	Chris Pitzer, 22 nd	Lyn Widmyer, 30 th
Sarah McGivern, 11 th	Sonja James, 23 rd	

If you are celebrating a birthday this month and your name does not appear on the list above, please send an email or call our parish office so that we can add your birthday to our birthday list! (Email: office@zionaepiscopal.net or phone: (304) 725-5312)