



Zion Episcopal Church

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

Telephone: (304) 725-5312 | Email: office@zionepiscopal.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 parish administrator, Eric Ott, at office@zionepiscopal.net. News items received each week by Wednesday morning will be published in our Weekly Tidings on Friday.

Upcoming Services and Events at Zion...

Saturday, December 13th

Sunday, December 14th

Advent III

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Jan Young and Priscilla LeMaster in loving memory of Carl LeMaster and by Mary Ann McDonald Hetzer in loving memory of John Yates McDonald and Dorothy Bosworth McDonald.

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild Linda Work, Laurie Ruddy

Lay Reader Phil Porterfield

Ushers Jim and Laurie Ruddy

Hospitality Jim Ruddy, Linda Work

9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Study | Hauser Room

9:15 am – 10:15 am **Holy Eucharist | St. Philip's**

10:30 am — 11:30 am
11:45 am — 12:45 pm

Choral Eucharist : Rite II
Cocoa, Coffee, and Caroling | Parlors

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild	Joanne McIsaac, Sandy Coughlin
Verger	Lee Wilson
Crucifer	Erin Delaney
Torch Bearers	Colin Harp, Rightly Wildman
Gospel Book	Winnie Wildman
Lay Reader	Kenny Floyd
Prayers of the People	Jamie Wilson
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Jamie Wilson
Ushers	Stephanie Harp, Randy Hilton
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm	Community Meal Ministry Social Hall

Monday, December 15th

8:45 am — 9:45 am	Exercise Class Gym
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Morning Prayer Parlors
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Trustees' Meeting Parlors
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Exercise Class Gym
5:00 pm — 6:30 pm	Strategic Planning Committee Parlors
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm	Exercise Class Gym

Tuesday, December 16th

8:45 am — 9:45 am	Exercise Class Gym
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Morning Prayer Parlors
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Exercise Class Gym
4:00 pm — 5:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting Parlors
7:00 pm — 8:00 pm	Beginning Biblical Hebrew Online via Zoom

Wednesday, December 17th

9:00 am — 12:00 pm	Thrift Shop Open
9:15 am — 10:45 am	Exercise Class Gym
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Morning Prayer Parlors
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm	Exercise Class Hauser Room
5:30 pm — 6:30 pm	Community Meal Ministry Social Hall

Thursday, December 18th

8:45 am — 9:45 am	Exercise Class Gym
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Morning Prayer Parlors
10:00 am — 11:00 am	Exercise Class Gym
5:00 pm — 6:00 pm	Exercise Class Gym

Sunday, December 21st

Advent IV

8:00 am — 9:00 am	Holy Eucharist : Rite I
--------------------------	--------------------------------

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild	Linda Work, Laurie Ruddy
Lay Reader	Linda Work
Ushers	Donald and Patsy Noland
Hospitality	Jim Ruddy, Linda Work

9:15 am — 10:15 am

Bible Study | Hauser Room

9:15 am — 10:15 am

Holy Eucharist | St. Philip's

10:30 am — 11:30 am

Choral Eucharist : Rite II

Scheduled to Serve

Altar Guild Joanne McIsaac, Sandy Coughlin

Verger Lee Wilson

Crucifer Greg Harp

Torch Bearers Levi Yuhasz, Porter Yuhasz

Gospel Book Colin Harp

Lay Reader Erin Delaney

Prayers of the People Don Twyman

Lay Eucharistic Minister Don Twyman

Ushers Sandy Coughlin, Ken Fanelli

11:45 am—12:45 pm **Greening of the Church**

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm Community Meal Ministry | Social Hall

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, kindly find a replacement and let our parish administrator know so that our scheduling accurately reflects those serving!

From Rev. Johanna...

Candlelight Vigil: Presence and Hope



On Wednesday evening, I joined nearly 200 neighbors in front of the Jefferson County Courthouse for the Candlelight Vigil in Support of Immigrant Rights. Zion was well represented as we stood together, praying for those pushed to the margins of our society.

Because I was wearing my collar, a woman approached me and asked if I would write a letter on behalf of a man who was picked up by ICE in Shepherdstown in October. He was detained overnight in Shepherdstown and transferred the next day to a facility in Pennsylvania, where he remains.

He has lived and worked in Shepherdstown for 25 years. He is a single parent. His detention has left his two sons—both U.S. citizens—and their aging grandfather without their sole source of financial and emotional support.

I told her, “Yes—of course.” We exchanged contact information, and the man’s sister reached out the next afternoon. We spoke by phone about her brother and the many families who share this struggle.

After hearing their story, I wrote a letter in support of his request to return home to Shepherdstown. We spoke again later that evening.

I do not yet know what effect my letter—or others like it—will have on his case. But I do know this: it cost me nothing to show up. And sometimes a simple, steady presence becomes a small candle of hope in someone’s fearful night.

I suspect I received a gift in being there; still, I pray that our presence offered a measure of courage and companionship to this family. I invite your prayers for this father, his children, and their grandfather – and others like them. I invite you to practice the ministry of presence: show up, listen, stand alongside. Consider writing letters of support when invited by trusted advocates. Support local organizations that accompany immigrant families. If opportunities arise, help with practical needs (meals, transportation, childcare).

May we be a people who carry light into fearful places, who choose compassion over indifference, and who remember that every act of love—no matter how small—participates in God’s healing work among us. Peace be with you.

Adopt-A-Family Tree, Ornaments Available in the Narthex...



Adopt-A-Family gifts are needed by December 14. Please leave your wrapped gifts under the tree in the Narthex of the church or drop them by our parish office. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Ellis at (703) 727-2985.

December Scheduling News...

December 13th | Sacred Spaces 3 pm—7 pm

Zion Church will be open to the public during this year's Sacred Spaces tour. We are looking for a couple of individuals to help with guiding people through our church, sharing information about the history of Zion, our stain glass windows, and the Episcopal Church. Printed materials will be available for you to follow and to share with those who come through our doors. We are also hoping to provide some light refreshments to serve our guests. If you have time to serve as a tour guide, provide some hospitality or share your musical gifts, please contact Rev. Johanna.

December 14th | Coffee & Cocoa together with Cookies & Carols in the Parlors

Bring a half-dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and join us following our 10:30 am service to share in fellowship, enjoy some delicious holiday treats, and sing some of your favorite carols.

December 21st | Greening of the Church following our 10:30 service.

Following our 10:30 am service on December 21st (Advent IV), we will green our sacred space for our Christmas celebration. Plan to stay and help with the preparations or plan to stay and encourage those who are hanging the greens! Light refreshments and coffee will be available. Join us for fun and fellowship!

December 21st | Caroling & Gathering at the Rectory beginning at 7 pm

We will be gathering at the rectory at 7 pm to head out into the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols for our neighbors! Plan to join us as we connect with our neighbors and spread Christmas cheer and good will—caroling sheets will be available, but don't forget your flash light or a battery operated candle! Following the caroling, light refreshments and fellowship will be enjoyed in the rectory. All are welcome!



**December 24th | Christmas Eve
Festival Eucharist at 6 pm
Candlelight Service with Brass Quintet**

Please note that this year, we will be having one service on Christmas Eve. The service will be a Candlelight Festival Eucharist with our Choir and a Brass Quintet.

December 25th | Christmas Day — Contemplative Eucharist at 9 am

Christmas Memorial Flowers...

Christmas Memorial Flowers

If you would like donate a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of someone or to offer as a thanksgiving at Christmastime, please complete the form below and either mail it to the Parish Office or drop it in the alms basin on Sunday. The cost this year is \$16.00 each.

Please make your checks payable to: "Zion Episcopal Church Flower Fund," with a notation on, "Christmas Poinsettia," on the memo line. All Christmas memorials will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Please print names clearly. You may drop your check and names by our parish office or

Mail to: Zion Episcopal Church
221 East Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
Given by: _____

(Name and Telephone Number)

In memory of Or A Thanksgiving for: (Please underline)

Stewardship Pledge Campaign Update...

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign continues to receive 2026 Pledge Commitment Cards.

As of December 3rd we have received 46 pledge commitments totaling \$186,446.00. The total amount of the increase in pledges is currently \$29,264.00

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card. Your generosity is inspiring.

If you have not yet submitted your 2026 pledge commitment card, there is still time! Pledge cards may be placed in the offertory plate during one of our services, dropped off at our parish office Monday through Thursday between 9 am and 2 pm, or mailed to Zion Episcopal Church, 221 E Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex of the church, our parish office, or may be downloaded from our website by clicking on the 'Tell Out My Soul' button:



JCCM News...

On Tuesday, December 23rd, JCCM will be hosting a Holiday Potluck for their clients from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please consider stopping by JCCM and saying hello. If you would like to contribute a dish to the potluck, please contact Brooke Grossman, Executive Director, JCCM at (240) 313-5797.



Shopping List for JCCM: Food Items: Spaghetti Sauce, Ramen, Crackers, Canned Meat (chicken, tuna, beef stew, chili) Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Hearty Soups, Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc.) Rice, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Bottled Water. **Zion contributed 57 pounds of food to JCCM last week!**

Non-food items: Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Shampoo, Body Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Conditioner, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper.

Zion's Monthly Meal Ministry News...

If you wish to sign up to serve at our Monthly Meal Ministry please click on the following link below. Our next meal is scheduled for Saturday, December 27th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

[Zion's Monthly Meal Ministry Sign Up](#)

Prayer Requests...

For Those Who Are Housebound...

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

For Those on our Parish Prayer List...

Those in nursing homes, assisted living, and rehabilitation centers, Alex, Edna, Emma Anne and Nick, 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, Laurie, Barbara, Wanda, Jennifer, Karmen, Karen, Tyler, Walter, Bob, Alison, Ned, Richard, Dennis, Renee, Lori, Evan, Bertie, Brad, Robert, Rusty.

For Those Who Have Died...

Carl LeMaster, John Yates McDonald, Dorothy Bosworth McDonald

For Those Celebrating Birthdays in December:

Judy Maye, 3 rd	Harlan Salisbury, 13 th	Candy Cain, 24 th
Sally Skinner, 5 th	Sandy Campbell, 15 th	Liam Blood, 24 th
Traci Davis, 6 th	Brenda Whittington, 15 th	Randolph Hilton, 25 th
Annette Murphy, 8 th	Annette Hale, 16 th	Levi Yuhasz, 25 th
Carl Neve, 9 th	Karen Wysong, 16 th	Chris Carter, 29 th
Nathan Seibert, 10 th	Andrew Cassell, 17 th	Anne Steptoe, 30 th
Geneviene Costello, 10 th	George Cornwell V, 18 th	Peggy Crusan, 30 th
Jody Carter, 12 th	Bill Myers, 22 nd	George Cornwell, 31 st