



IN TOUCH. . . The Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Family

March 2018, Volume XX Issue 3

**"Making, Maturing, Mobilizing
Disciples for Christ"**

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and
11:00 AM WEDNESDAY Nights @ 6:40 pm

Dr. Mary John Dye; Senior Pastor, Rev. Joel Simpson and
Rev. Tony Moreau; Associate Pastors

- Church Office 704-892-8566
- Fax 704-892-3143
- Youth House 704-892-7825
- Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654
- www.mtzionumc.net

• <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

Maybe it is just me -- but I have lost my sense of time. So much happens in a day that, at the end of the day, it seems like a week. It feels like a month's worth of news and change takes place in a 7 day span. And a month? That feels like a year. Am I the only one? So here, as March begins, it feels like a year's worth of time has passed since last month's newsletter.

A month ago, we were preparing to say goodbye to our longtime, wonderful youth director, Matt Sherrill. We keep our prayers with Matt and Julie as he begins his youth ministry at Carmel UMC and Julie begins her new job. Since he has moved, we say a special thank you to the adults who lead our youth program. They have been wonderful. In addition, Kelley Cooksey has stepped up to coordinate youth Sunday School and Sherry Washam is doing the coordination for Confirmation. We are so grateful for the dedicated adults at this church!

In addition, since the last newsletter, we have hired an interim youth director to support the youth leaders and young people. Welcome Conor Mooney and keep him in your prayers. And pray for Staff Parish as they interview to fill this very important position. They have worked/are working faithfully and with great dedication to serve the church. It has already been announced that Margaret Langston is leaving Mt. Zion. The annual audit has been completed this month with glowing comments about her work. We are grateful for our new financial officer, Patti Loner and all the gifts she brings to our work. Margaret will be working one day a week helping to transition the records and procedures for the many groups she has served across the years. She will be present with us for the first meeting of the Administrative Board on March 19. A lunch to honor her will be held on her last day at Mt. Zion which will be April 10. We will always

be grateful for Matt and for Margaret. And these staff transitions remind us of one of the most important truths about the church: the church is the people. As I have often shared, I grew up as a pastor's daughter. We knew first hand what it meant to come and go-- grateful recipients of all that had gone into the churches before we came and celebrating every way the churches moved forward after we left.

We love Matt and everything he brought. He would be the first to say that it was important for the youth program to be bigger than him. We loved Marcy and the music program she developed. But she would be the first one to say the program should go forward after she was gone. As much as we have all (including me) felt that Margaret was indispensable, she would be the first one to say the work is bigger than she is. At the core of the church is the gift of belonging to something bigger than any of us individually. We celebrate each of the individuals who bless our lives. And we thank God for the church - which keeps us committed to God's way, continuing growth and maturity. We rarely want to say goodbye. We would not have chosen these changes. As they have come in the season of Lent, changes remind us to dig deep into the roots of faith. Lent has always been a call to re-examine what we are attached to and to re-focus on Jesus Christ. Lent, when we walk it faithfully, is a painful time to face our sins, our mistakes, our limitations and to see how we need to change to be more deeply rooted in Christ. Change jars us out of complacency and can become a great blessing.

Let us pray for Matt and bless Margaret in these transition times, making the most of the time we have with the people we cherish. Join me in reading John 15. Blessings, grace, and peace to us all.

Covering our life together in prayer,

Mary John

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
WORSHIP AND FUEL

3

In
this
issue

HAPPENINGS AT MT. ZION

4

CHILDREN'S CORNER

6

**Saturday, March
24 - Community
Children's Easter
Egg Hunt 11 am -
1:00 pm on the
Front Lawn**



**March 28 - Holy Week Wednesday
Night Service in the Sanctuary at
6:40 pm.**

**March 29 - Maundy Thursday Ser-
vice at 6:40 pm in the Sanctuary.
This service is a remembrance of
the last supper of Jesus with his
disciples.**

**March 30 - Good Friday Worship
Service at 6:40 pm in the Sanctu-
ary. This service remembers the
story of Jesus' crucifixion and
death.**

**March 31 - Silent Saturday Service
at 1:00 pm in the Outdoor Chapel
(weather permitting). This is a quiet
and reflective service focusing on
helping us learn to hope when we
cannot see hope.**



Easter Sunday, April 1
7 am Sunrise Service Located
between the Sanctuary and
the Cemetery in the parking lot.
(Free pancake breakfast after)
8:30 am Worship Service in the
Sanctuary with special music.
9:45 am Worship Service in the
Family Life Center with the Praise
Team.
11:00 am Worship Service in the
Sanctuary with special music.

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

FEBRUARY BIRTH

Bugh Thomas Ray was born on February 12th. Bugh is the son of Ben and Emily Ray, the grandson of Cindy Ray, and the brother of Julia, Jack, and Anna. Congratulations!!



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO Greg Ainslie and family on the death of his mother on February 1st, Danny Meyers and family on the death of his mother, Betty Meyers, on February 10th, the family of Elizabeth Westmoreland on her death February 12th, Randy Oxidine and family on the death of his wife, Lisa Oxidine, on February 13th, and Phil Wilson and family on the death of his father, P.D. Wilson, on February 16.

 * Mount Zion,
 * We can't tell you how special and loved we felt knowing the flowers in church at
 * Carmel our first Sunday were from you all! Thank you so much!!
 * Please know you are all greatly loved and missed. Keep spreading the love of Christ to
 * all, inside and outside of the church walls!
 * Love in Christ,
 * Matt and Julie Sherrill
 *
 *

Thank You!

 * **REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH**
 * **THANK YOU** - We have wrapped up Repairers of the Breach for this year and it was a huge success. We
 * helped 87 families and 217 children of which 125 were from Cornelius. Since the Christmas break was
 * longer than usual we tried to add a little more to food boxes of each family to get them through. All this
 * could not have happened without the dedicated team that did so much. A special thanks to Brian &
 * Jeanie Polly, Lynn & Harry Harriman, Pam Lazur & her family, Robin, Dawson & D.J. Thornton, the Rick
 * Carter family, Tracy Yochum, the Lineweavers, the Ryans, the Mayhew & Jason Murphy Families and the
 * many other families that donated in some way and that put in many hours to help.
 * Thanks to all the others that helped by donating their time, monetary do-
 * nations or collected food for the families. In addition, thanks to Rick
 * McBee for donating the use of the building, Cooke Rentals for supplying
 * the tables, Ferguson Box Company for supplying the boxes, Harris Teeter
 * for helping with the food needed and Dawson Thornton for doing a food
 * drive that brought in 250 cans.
 * God Bless to all that were involved,
 * Tom Russell

Thank You

SINGERS! I KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE!

Now that I have your attention, I want to invite anyone who is interested in joining the choir for Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services to contact me for information, as we **would love to have you**. I hear wonderful voices coming from the congregation on Sunday mornings, and if you think, "Oh, they don't need me up there", that's not true. We are in need of **ALL** parts, so come to rehearse on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 and try it....** You might like it!



HAND BELL RINGERS! We have resumed rehearsals on Thursdays @ 5:30 in preparation for the 8:30 and 11:00 Easter Morning services. If you can read music and count, you are qualified to join us! Feel free to contact me with any questions, slittle@mtzionumc.net

Wednesday Night Worship

Our series during Lent is called "The Art of Being Transformed." Each of the four Gospels tells the story of Jesus in a unique way and, in the process, they teach us about how transformation happens and what to expect. There is an art to being transformed. There is an art to growing in love. There is an art to becoming more like Christ. Christianity has always known this...and deep inside we all know it too. It is a particular way of living life. It is a particular way of seeing life. It is a particular way of understanding and trusting the patterns. Join us each Wednesday as we learn and practice the art of being transformed.



F.U.E.L.

FAITH USED in EVERYDAY LIFE

FUEL HAPPENINGS IN MARCH

We meet on Sundays at 4:30 pm
in the Family Life Center.

- 3/4 - Discussion Groups
- 3/11 - Nerf Night!
- 3/16 - 3/18 - Camp Tekoa
- 3/18 - **NO FUEL (RETURNING FROM CAMP TEKOA)**
- 3/25 - JEDI Night

Camp Tekoa payment and early bird ASP payments were due March 4th. Visit the website at www.mtzfuel.net for more information on retreats and payment schedules.



Our interim youth director, Conor Mooney, and his son Jack.

Reminder:

Please send any articles you would like to have included in the newsletter to the church by April 1st. They may be emailed to kfellows@mtzionumc.net



Be sure to follow us on
FACEBOOK at
[Facebook.com/Mtzumc](https://www.facebook.com/Mtzumc)

HAPPENINGS AROUND MOUNT ZION

THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center

Mount Zion will host **Stephen Girodano**. **Stephen** was in New York in Tower One of the Twin Towers on 9/11. He has a compelling story to share with us and then will be answering questions.

We plan to have finger foods and desserts. If you would like to bring a food to share, anyone is welcome to contribute.

This is a rare chance to meet history in person.

Sponsored by the Kiker Class and Circle #4

Troop 10 is again pre-selling BBQ Boston Butts (Pork shoulder). Please contact any Troop 10 Scout or complete an order form that can be found in the church bulletin, the church office or any Sunday School Classroom. Pre-orders are due March 18th. The Troop will cook the pork shoulders overnight Saturday and they will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday before and after each service. Order yours today, and enjoy some yummy Troop 10 BBQ for your Palm Sunday Brunch.

This is the season of Lent-- which focuses on the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf and looking inward to see how our lives can be more fully grounded in God. A Lenten calendar, Lenten journal guide and a guide to the traditional Lenten disciplines are available to guide a meaningful Lenten practice. To help keep our focus on the cross, there will be no flowers in the Sanctuary for worship during the Sundays of Lent.

Save the Date for the Senior Luncheon

This event will be held on **April 17** at 11:00 am in the Family Life Center. This luncheon is for church members whose birth year is 1948 and earlier. Please RSVP by April 8, to Sebra Maines at 704-895-7716 or sebramaines@yahoo.com

MISSIONS

This will be our 6th year of providing Easter baskets for the After School Children at Ada Jenkins Center. They will need between 75 and 125 baskets. This will be a great opportunity for families and classes to help in this project. There are two ways to help: Create your own basket or donate \$15.00 for us to purchase one for you. You can do this by dropping off your baskets at the Church Office or on Sunday mornings on the table in the Family Life Center prior to Monday, March 26th.

If you have questions, please contact Tom Russell [704-507-2493](tel:704-507-2493) or Tom@moisturewarranty.com.

Checks should be made out to Mt. Zion and designated in the memo area for Easter Baskets.

New Mission Emphasis for the Lenten season at Mt. Zion UMC:

Children in our 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Sunday School will lead the effort to raise funds for Wine to Water, a non-profit organization focused on providing clean water to people around the world.

- Our goal is \$4,000 for 75 "sawyer filter" kits to provide emergency clean water filtration.
- Our Filter Build event is set for Sunday, April 29, from 12:30-2:30 in the Family Life Center classrooms. The 3rd-5th graders will host the event. We will have space for 25 additional adults and/or youth to join us as we assemble the 75 filters and learn more about W/W ministries.

Wine to Water was founded by Doc Hendley in 2003 and is based out of Boone, NC. We are excited to have Madison Barker, W/W staff member, to help us with our Filter Build Event. Madison and her family attended Mt. Zion during her childhood. She was a part of VBS, elementary camps, youth group, and two Mt. Zion mission trips to Ganado, Arizona. Madison has traveled to Nepal to observe W/W wells and water purification projects.

You can make a special offering to help with the cost of the water filters with a check or cash to Mt. Zion UMC during the month of March. Be sure to place cash in an envelope marked Wine to Water or write Wine to Water on the memo line of your check and place in the offering plate or mail to the church.

Visit the W/W website to view many videos of their water ministry in several countries.

<https://www.winetowater.org/>



So God created mankind in
His own image, in the
 image of God He created
 them; male and female He
 created them.

Genesis 1:27

His ministry was created to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility, advocacy, and additional opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

His opportunities for March include:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---|
| · Just As I Am – | 4:30 | March 11 – Hut | Fellowship, Devotion, Fun – He Lives! |
| · The Feast – | 11:00 | March 18 – Youth Room | Modified Worship Service for Families |
| · JEDI Night- | 4:30 | March 25 – FLC | Fellowship with Youth |
| · Sustain – | 6:30 | March 27 – Parlor | Support Group for Caregivers |
| · Agape Sunday School – | 9:45 | Every Sunday | Modified Sunday School Class |
| · A Place For Us – | 11:00 | Every Sunday | A quiet, dedicated worship |
| | | | Livestreaming space dedicated for times when privacy is needed/desired. |

Did you know... **UMAR** is a non-profit ministry founded in 1983 by the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is dedicated to promoting community inclusion, independence and growth for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, vocational, and cultural enrichment opportunities. UMAR serves over 400 individuals through:

- | | |
|--|---|
| · 22 Group Homes | <u>Barnabas Home</u> is on our campus and currently serves 6 men. |
| · 1 Independent Home | <u>Disciple Home</u> is on our campus and is currently seeking residents. |
| · 9 Apartments | <u>McClesky Apartments</u> is on the campus of Huntersville United Methodist Church and currently serves both men and women. |
| · 3 Day Programs | |
| · We are happy that many individuals associated with UMAR choose to actively participate in our <i>His</i> programs. | |

2018 ALTAR FLOWERS - Would you like to honor someone dear, a special occasion or a group of people? Maybe you would like to remember a loved one in a very special way. Church Altar Flowers offer a way to express your love and gratitude. Flowers may be purchased for \$100.00 for two arrangements or \$50.00 for one. On your designated Sunday, you may take the flowers to someone of your choice after the 11:00 service. A special notation of your gift will be made in the bulletin. Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate. The church office will bill you for the flowers requested. We want to continue placing live flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, but need your help. Thank you for using this as a way to honor or remember someone special.

Dates available through June: 2 arrangements are available unless noted otherwise.

April 8 (1 set) April 22 (1 set) April 29 (1 set) May 6 May 13 (1 set) May 20 (1 set)
May 27 June 3 June 10 June 24

Your Name _____

Phone # _____ Date(s) Requested _____

Number of arrangements (1 or 2) _____

Wording for Bulletin _____

Easter Egg Hunt: This event will take place on March 24th from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. rain or shine! In addition to the egg hunt, there will be activities, crafts, bounce houses and lunch will be served. This is open to everyone in the church and in the community.

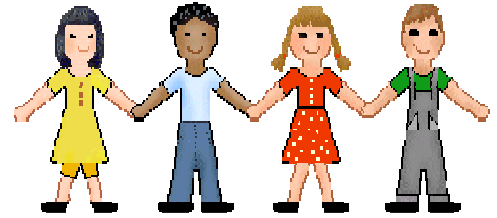
Children's Music: Music with Ms. Shelley will start back Wednesday, April 11th! They will practice April 25th, May 2nd and 9th to prepare for singing for our Moms on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th.

Kids Club: Meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through the end of March in Room 107. Childcare is provided for those three and younger in Room 101.



M.O.M.S. (MOTHERS OFFERING MUTUAL SUPPORT) Meeting will take place on March 20th in the Parlor at 7:00 p.m. All moms are invited!

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Save the Date: Music and Art Camp will be **June 18th – 21st**

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School will be **July 9th – 12th**

Childcare needs your help! We are looking for several new staff members, 21 years old or older. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Ashley Sherman at (704) 807-3757 or asherma@mtzionumc.net.

We are excited to announce Sonshine Preschool is growing. God is GREAT! He has blessed our weekday ministry with 95 children enrolled for the 2018 – 2019 preschool year! We have a spot in a four year old class and a spot in a three year old class. A wait list has been formed for our twos. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool where young children play, learn and grow in God's love, please tell them to contact the preschool office. During your prayer time, please lift up these sweet families and staff of Sonshine Preschool.

With our growth, Sonshine Preschool is currently accepting applications for awesome preschool teachers for the 2018 – 2019 preschool year. If you or someone you know would be a great addition to our team and has a strong desire to help children learn and grow in God's love, please call the preschool office or email Patti Goforth, pgoforth@mtzionumc.net.

Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our Family Night Fundraiser at Tenders. The money earned will be used for preschool supplies and our scholarship fund. A total is coming soon.

During the month of February, our preschoolers filled two boxes of toiletries to share with the women recovering from substance abuse at the Daymark Center in Concord. The children enjoy giving to others! Great job Sonshine kids!

Our March mission will be the Cornelius Animal Shelter. We will be collecting old and new towels, canned dog food, Special Kitty cat litter, dishwashing detergent and laundry detergent (HE kind). If you would like to help the shelter, you can leave your items at the preschool office. Thank you God for animals to love.

The Children's Theatre of Charlotte will be presenting "Balloonacy", a program for children 2 – 5 years of age, Tuesday, March 13, 11:30 am in the FLC. This program is sponsored by Sonshine Preschool. If you have a child who would enjoy this program, please join us! The program will last approximately 45 minutes.

Sonshine Preschool Preciousness:

During the Cat in the Hat visit the Cat took off his gloves and sat by a four year old who responded with, "Why you are a real person! I really don't like the Cat in the Hat, but I like you!" Oh the preciousness! Happy Easter from our little people and staff of Sonshine Preschool! He's ALIVE!

Jesus is not here, He is risen." Luke 24:6 March Favorite Bible Words



MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/18 – 2/28/18

2018 General Fund Budget: \$ 1,262,630

Budget Gifts: \$ 150,617

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 179,718

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$ 153,456

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$ 998

Capital Fund Expenses: \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$ 16,651

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 995

Please contact Patti Loner if you have
questions.

Please note: These figures are based on
funds received at time of publication. The
monthly Treasurer's Report may be differ-
ent due to funds postmarked by the end
of the month but not received until after
publication.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN

HONOR OF Matt Sherrill, a gift was
given to the Budget, **IN HONOR OF**
Myke Griffeth, Jim Causey, Richard
Little, Mary Jane Bambrough, Jim Bam-
brough, Bill Edmondson, David Hodson
and Pat Jenkins, a gift was given to the
Budget, **IN MEMORY OF** Carol Ann
Cooke, gifts were given to the Budget
and the Cemetery Fund, **IN MEMORY**
OF Virginia Ainslie, a gift was given to
Sonshine Preschool, **IN MEMORY OF**
Betty Meyers, gifts were given to the
Budget, **IN MEMORY OF** Elizabeth
Westmoreland, gifts were given to the
Budget, **IN MEMORY OF** Lisa Oxidine,
a gift was given to Sonshine Preschool,
IN MEMORY OF Jeanne Sarver, Joey
Tesh, and Leslie Walker, a gift was
given to the Backpack Ministry. **IN AP-
PRECIATION** for the use of the Family
Life Center, a gift was given to the
Budget.

THE BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY is currently providing weekend meals for 16 students
at JV Washam Elementary School with anticipated additions in the coming months. We ap-
preciate the congregation's financial support and the contributions to our food inventory
which has enabled us to expand our outreach as needed. If you would like to be a weekly
sponsor to a specific child, please contact Cindy Parnell at cindy.parnell2015@gmail.com or
call/text to 727-420-0337.

FEBRUARY 2018 ATTENDANCE

February 4th: 8:30: 76; 9:45: 111; 11:00: 170 = 357

February 7th: 25

February 11: 8:30: 71; 9:45: 87; 11:00: 209 = 367

February 14: 130

February 18: 8:30: 86; 9:45: 98; 11:00: 181 = 365

February 21: 32

February 25: 8:30: 84; 9:45: 111; 11:00: 193 = 388

February 28: 33

Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. Mary John Dye

mdye@mtzionumc.net

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joel Simpson

jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau

tmoreau@mtzionumc.net

Director of Music Ministries:

Shelley Little

slittle@mtzionumc.net

Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

Director of Christian Education:

Ashley Sherman asherman@mtzionumc.net

Associate Director Christian Ed

Stacey Mercuri smercuri@mtzionumc.net

Interim Director of Youth:

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cmooney@mtzionumc.net

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Margaret Langston

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Financial Officer

Patti Loner

ploner@mtzionumc.net

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Kelly Fellows

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Mary Ellen Westmoreland

mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

Part Time Assistant: Ginny Wilkins

gwilkins@mtzionumc.net

Interim Preschool Director:

Patti Goforth

pgoforth@mtzionumc.net

Church Phone: 704-892-8566

Fax: 704-892-3143

Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Cornelius, NC

We're On The Web!
www.mtzionumc.net

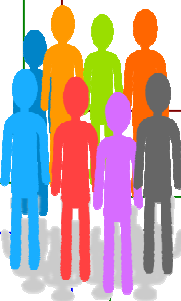
19600 Zion Avenue
 Cornelius, North Carolina 28031

Tel: 704-892-8566
 Youth House: 704-892-7825
 Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654
 Fax: 704-892-3143
 E-mail: ploner@mtzionumc.net

"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to attend a weekly **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** now meeting on Wednesdays, 7 am at Bethel Presbyterian Church: 19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius, NC 28031. Breakfast will be provided.

MOMS – Mothers Offering Mutual Support meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the church Parlor at 7:00 pm. Young moms from pregnancy through preschool age children are welcome.



All women of the church and community are invited to join the **WOMEN OF ZION** on the first Tuesday of each month (location to be determined). We meet at 7:00 pm for fellowship and a devotional program. Please contact us at mzwoz1@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information. We look forward to seeing you the first Tuesday of each month! To receive meeting reminders, text the message @womenofz to 81010.

NEW BEGINNINGS... We bowl, go to movies, take tours and just have friendship with others that have lost a spouse.

We have something going on all the time! **TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Barbara Broadway: email: bbroadway47@gmail.com 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson: email: Shirley@ransonteam.com 704-904-0973

YOU ARE INVITED...SEWIN' LOVE (FORMERLY DRESS A GIRL) MEETS THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH in the Youth Room at 6:30. Everyone is welcome!! We will teach. **No experience necessary.** Bringing your own sewing machine is welcome, but not necessary. You may contact Robin Lambert for information. rllambert96@gmail.com.

The ladies of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** invite you to join them on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 to knit/crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. No matter what your skill level may be, there is a place for you. If you are interested in learning how to knit, they can help with that, as well. (Yarn is provided.) They meet in the church Parlor (located on the upper level of the Family Life Center) and hope to see you soon!