

PRAISE REPORT

Jan - March 2021



CALLING PEOPLE HIGHER

Pastor's Corner



I preached a series of messages in January about lessons we should have learned from 2020. I believe it was relevant, but the timing may have been off a bit. One of those messages focused on our schedules and particularly the danger of over-filling our lives with activity so that we live in constant hurry and distraction. That message may have seemed irrelevant three months ago, since most of our normal opportunities were still curtailed. Now schools are back in session, more entertainment venues are open, and sporting events are occurring. Slowly the economy, and the pace of life, are gaining momentum like a rollercoaster that has just started its downhill run. Before we start screaming and holding on for dear life because our schedules drive us rather than the other way around, let's review some biblical principles.

John writes: And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. – 1 John 2:17 (NLT)

First, let's identify our values. We need to distinguish what is truly important from all of the lesser competitors for our time and attention. When busyness takes over, it is easy to live life without ever considering what we truly value. We can end up giving equal attention to every task, opportunity, or demand, or we can totally ignore the more important matters in deference to the squeaky wheel.

Second, let's clarify our priorities. That means that we actually do what is important. There is a difference between knowing better and doing better. Knowing what we value, without making it a priority for action, just sets us up for defeat.

Continued on next page

Sunday Worship

8:15 Traditional

9:30 Contemporary

11:00 Blended

12:30 Korean Sermon - Online Only

*The 11:00 AND 12:30 are
livestreamed to our website at
mountzion-umc.org. View the stream
by clicking the "Watch Live Here" tab.
You can also view the livestream
on Facebook.*

WE ARE CALLED

To "love God with all your heart" is to WORSHIP
To "love your neighbors as yourself" is MINISTRY
To "go...make disciples" is EVANGELISM
To "baptize" is to incorporate into FELLOWSHIP
To "teach them...all things" is DISCIPLESHIP



mountzion-umc.org

Jesus tells his disciples: "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

– John 13:17 (NIV)

James writes: *But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.* – James 1:22-25 (NLT) Someone told me a long time ago that there is never enough time to do everything that you want to do or that other people want you to do, but there is always enough time to do what God wants you to do.

Third, let's eliminate complexity in our lives. Life tends to become increasingly complex unless we intentionally resist it. Eliminating complexity involves ruthlessly cutting out clutter, especially calendar clutter. It is refusing to let the bad, the neutral, or even the good to crowd out the best. We can't live successful lives if we do it the way I have planted container gardens. I try to plant more than the space can handle, so I end up being unproductive. Less can truly be more.

As the RPMs of life begin to increase, please consider these questions: What do you value as a household? What will it take to give those values the priority they deserve? What clutter needs to be eliminated for that to happen? We have a rare opportunity to not refill our family's schedule with activities that do not accomplish what is most important.

What will still matter 50 years from now?

Your fellow servant, Pastor Leonard

FINANCE

2020 Financial Summary

We finished 2020 very strong. Although people weren't always able to attend in-person church like they had in the past due to the pandemic, the people of Mount Zion continued to find ways to make their contributions. We finished the year with general fund contributions just \$428 short of what we had set as our 2020 Budget. The giving from individuals and families who had turned in Estimate of Giving Cards for 2020 was 90% of what they had indicated they would give, which is excellent. God continues to bless Mount Zion. Thanks be to God!

Total Contributions to General Fund	\$562,520
Interest Income (Gen Fund)	\$ 541
Less Total Budgeted Expenses	(\$506,551)
Income Exceeds Expenses	\$ 56,510
<u>Building Fund</u>	
Building Fund Carryover from 2019	\$413,398
Money Moved by Finance Comm from Bequests	\$ 50,000
Interest Earned on Building Fund CD's in 2020	\$ 1,282
Harvest Day Proceeds	\$ 10,379
Individual/Family 2020 Contributions	\$ 14,562
Total of Building Fund	\$489,621
<u>Fundraisers</u>	
Ole Fashion Supper (100% to Missions)	\$ 7,822
Harvest Day (100% to Building)	\$ 10,379
<u>Endowment</u>	
Endowment Principal 1/1/20	\$ 10,900
Money Moved by Finance Comm from Bequests	\$ 50,000
Unrealized Gain (Subject to market conditions)	\$ 9,048
Market Value 12/31/20	\$ 69,948
<u>Estimate of Giving Update 12/31/20</u>	
Estimate of Giving Pledge through 4th Quarter	\$458,472
Amount Given through 4th Quarter	\$414,111
Giving Rate 90%	

1st Quarter Happenings

Spring Clean-Up

The spring clean up day on March 13th, was a tremendous success! We had lots of weeds to pull, mulch to spread, grass to cut, edging, and blowing to get the church yard looking spiffy for spring. We really appreciate the hard workers that volunteered to help!



New Equipment

We are pleased to announce that we started off 2021 with new sound and livestream equipment! You may have seen and heard the difference both in-person and online during our worship services.

Sound

The 2 large square speakers are the new sub-woofers, they control the bass sound, and the 2 narrow long speakers are the main speakers that distribute the sound throughout the sanctuary. These items replaced the old sound system that was overhead. You may have also noticed that there are fewer little black boxes on the floor by the musicians, that's because we also acquired in-ear monitors, which means, that the musicians can hear what they are playing right in their ear.

Livestream

In the picture to the right, you can see our new computer software based livestream equipment. Included with the software, three cameras were purchased for the sanctuary. This has provided us with a more stable stream, and better visual quality. You can also now watch our livestream at mountzion-umc.org!

