



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

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Pastor's Message

Friends,

After the end of a long, hot summer, we find ourselves again at the advent of a busy fall season – in our lives, our work, and the church. On a personal note I was able to get some vacation time, read some good books, and catch up on some work that needed to be done around the house. Now that we are poised to start another busy year, I wondered what pithy words I could use to motivate all of us in the task of serving others, within the church and outside the church. Then I remembered this article written by Erma Bombeck many years ago and decided to share it with you.

—————
So Long, Volunteers
 by Erma Bombeck

I had a dream the other night that every volunteer in this land had set sail for another country. I stood smiling on the pier, shouting, "Good-bye, phone committees. Good-bye disease-of-the-month. No more getting out the vote. No more playground duty, bake sales, rummage sales, thrift shops, and three-hour meetings."

As the boat got smaller, I reflected; "serves them right, that bunch of 'yes' people. All they had to do was to put their tongues firmly against the roofs of their mouths and make an 'O' sound--no. It would certainly have spared them a lot of grief. Oh, well, who needs them?"

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September 2019 Edition

Our Mission

Touching Lives for Jesus Christ

Our Core Values

To be a Loving Christian Community, providing opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, and service.

Our Vision

Love, Grow, Serve



September 2019

12430 Scaggsville RD
 Highland, MD 20777

301-854-2324

410-531-5137

301-854-2326 (fax)

office@mtzionhighland.com

Check us out on the web:
www.mtzionhighland.com

Rev. Gary Sheffield-James
 Senior Pastor

Mark Dubbs
 Director of Music

Mark J. Blough
 Facilities Manager

Carol Wunderlich
 Youth and Children's
 Ministries

Deb Papavizas
 Organist

Dianne Sanna
 Administrative Assistant

Chris Fox
 Keyboard/Children's Choir Director

Chuck Plant
 Office Assistant

Valerie Pierce
 Treasurer

Church Conference Schedule (Updated): Saturday, Sept. 28 at St. Paul's UMC, 7538 Main St, Sykesville, MD 21784. This annual business meeting is open to all members of Mt. Zion UMC. Committee Reports are due in Arena by September 6.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline, paragraph 247.1 states – *“The Charge (Church) Conference shall be the connecting link between the local church and the general church and shall have general oversight of the church council.”*

“The primary responsibilities of the Charge Conference (Church) in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church.” (BOD, 247.3)



The following reports are received at the conference: Clergy Compensation, Nominations and Leadership Development, Pastor's Report, Accessibility Audit, Finance Report, Trustees Report, List of Candidates for Ordained Ministry, Inactive Membership Report, and others.

See what was in the Pointer 25 and 50 years ago – follow Mt. Zion on Facebook.

Pointer...

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Back to School Edition

As we return from summer break, many longtime programs at Mount Zion are starting back up for the new year and need your help! Please consider whether the various opportunities highlighted here might be a good fit for you.

As always, feel free to submit content and pictures to communications@mtzionhighland.com

October Pointer Deadline: Monday, September 23rd

Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can contribute:

Tag Mt. Zion on social media with @mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland.



Pastor's Message (cont)

The hospital was quiet as I passed it. The reception desk was vacant. Rooms were devoid of books, flowers, and voices. The children's wing held no clowns, no laughter. The home for the aged was like a tomb. The blind listened for a voice that never came. The feeble were imprisoned in wheelchairs that never moved. Food grew cold on trays that would never reach the hungry.

The social agencies had closed their doors--unable to implement their programs of scouting, recreation, drug control; unable to help the mentally and physically challenged, the lonely and abandoned. Health agencies had signs in their windows: "Cures for cancer, birth defects, multiple sclerosis, heart diseases, etc., have been canceled because of lack of interest."

The schools were strangely quiet, with no field trips and no volunteer classroom aides. Symphony halls and the museums that had been built and stocked by volunteers were dark and would remain that way. The flowers in churches and synagogues withered and died. Children in day nurseries lifted their arms, but there was no one to hold them in love.

Alcoholics cried out in despair, but no one answered. The poor had no recourse for health care or legal aid. I fought in my sleep to regain a glimpse of the ship of volunteers just one more time. It was to be my last glimpse of a decent civilization.

What Erma Bombeck called a dream would actually be a nightmare if people did cease to reach out and help others. The good news, however, is that we hear God's call to be God's hands and feet of compassion and love in the world. Whatever gifts we bring to the task of sharing God's love, whether they are small or large, they do make a tremendous difference in the world and even in our own lives. This will offer times for us to share our gifts. Sunday School teachers and aids are always needed. Youth Group will resume Sunday evening, a great opportunity to invest in our young people and have some fun as you do. The Chancel Choir, Trinity Choir, and Praise Band always welcome additional voices and instrumentalists to the musical family. We will be asking for people to serve on various committees and will be implementing our stewardship campaign in October. On and on the list goes. It's all easier than you think it will be, and in the end, many find they receive so much more than they give. The question for each of us as we begin this busy year is this: What gift can I bring? Let us work together to make this one of the best years yet!

Grace & Peace,
Gary



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	1 Sep	8 Sep	15 Sep	22 Sep	29 Sep
Greeters	0900	Shugo Tanaka & Wayne Mullinix	Crystal Zimmerman & Lorene Brown	Lorene Brown	Alice Ellis & Erin & Jack Island	
Liturgist	0900	Jon Lindberg	Ellen McKinzie	Karyn Vice	Shugo Tanaka	Betty Cashmark
Slide Preparer	0900	Elizabeth Blough	Susan Kalbach	Carolyn Powers	Bonnie Luepkes	Elizabeth Blough
	1100	Diana Bandy	Sharon Waligora	Sharon Waligora	Sharon Waligora	Diana Bandy
Projection	0900	Jill Scott	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson
	1100	Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly	Carol Hill	Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly
Sound	0900		Dustin Eidson		Scott Johnson	Rob Messerly
	1100	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Rob Messerly





Ames UMC Back to School Backpack Ministry

Mt Zion members contributed two deliveries of school supplies for the annual back-to-school backpack event at Ames UMC in Baltimore, on August 24th.



Mt Zion donated the equivalent of 39 fully supplied backpacks.

8 Mt Zion volunteers went to Ames to help out: Mike and Lynn Jacobson, Betty Cashmark, Karen Greiner, Carrol Messerly, Karen Moser, Debby Klopp, and Fred Towner.

Multiple churches collected backpacks and over 100 backpacks were distributed.





Youth and Children's Ministry

September 8 is "Back to Church" @ Mt.Zion. School-Year Children's & Youth Ministries will resume with Kidzone Worship during both services, Sunday School @ 10:10- 10:50 AM between services, Trinity Youth Choir @ 5:00 PM and Youth Group from 6:15 - 7:30 PM. We will also be "Blessing the Backpacks" at both worship hours as we celebrate children, young people and teachers embarking on a new year of learning & growth!

The Youth Group kick off will be a pizza party.

Carol can be reached at youthandchildren@mtzionhighland.com



Camp Hope Service

The 2019 Camp Hope youth and leaders will be leading worship service on September 8th and will share their experiences and accomplishments.

Camp Hope Team: Jack Island, Dustin Eidson, Christian Nieto, Ben Davis, Roxy Romero, Emily Erwin, Phoebe Island, Eliza Thompson, Anand Ambrosi, Joey Squirlock, Nick Laing, Gray David, Liz Smolen, Jessie Anderson, Julia Baskett, Erin Island, Debby Klopp, Chris Davis, Ken Sines, Sarah Blough.



Supporting Mt. Zion Ministries

Many longstanding Mt. Zion programs and Ministries are in need of help! Please consider volunteering so these activities can continue.

The Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominating Committee) meets monthly to explore how we can match people's skills to engage in ministry and serve Christ's Church. Please reach out to us so you might be engaged in Christ's ministry here at Mt. Zion, in our community, and around the world.

A Wonderful Opportunity to Serve. The Shepherding Ministry is a wonderful way to become involved in reaching out and serving others. It is a ministry that provides meals, transportation, a phone call, cards, and coordinates and serves refreshments and meals after a memorial service. A team member can be involved in only one area or all of the ministries. There are nine teams and each has a team leader and several members. Each team is on call for one week at a time – Monday through Sunday and it is a revolving system. The team leader is advised of a need and coordinates with team members to fulfill that need. For a large event, such as a meal after a memorial service, all teams will be involved. We would love to have you join us in this deeply rewarding ministry, Betty Cashmark, Lead Shepherd and Team Coordinator. For more information, contact Betty Cashmark

Script Program Coordinator Wanted - Since approximately 2012, Mt. Zion has been participating in the Scrip Gift Card Program. Each card purchased for use at local retailers through the Scrip Program helps to raise income (through commissions) for Mt. Zion's Mission Programs. Up until now, Debbie Burgio has been organizing and running this program almost completely on her own, and we are so grateful for her efforts. But the time has come to pass the baton, and we are now seeking a new Program Coordinator. If we are not able to find a new coordinator, the Missions Committee has made the decision to sell off all remaining inventory and discontinue the program. If you are interested in being the coordinator for this program, please contact Debbie (debbie.burgio@verizon.net) or Belinda Norton, Chair of Missions (belinda.norton@veriozn.net) if you have any questions or would like to find out more about what this entails. Of course, training would be provided.

Mt. Zion Librarian Wanted - Our library is one of the many resources available to members of Mt. Zion. However, we are currently without, and in desperate need of, a Librarian. If you are interested in helping to maintain the library and keep it organized for our members by volunteering an hour or two of your time each week, please contact Pastor Gary in the church office or by email at pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com.



Supporting Mt. Zion Ministries

Fall Children & Youth Ministry Leadership

Accompanying young people on their journey of discipleship and spiritual growth is some of the most awesome work we get to engage in as the Church. Mt Zion has opportunities for you to answer God's call to serve in ministry with kids through Sunday School, KidZone and Sunday Evening Youth Ministry. Leadership is team-based and schedules are flexible. Contact Carol Wunderlich at youthandchildren@mtzionhighland.com to find out more

Sandwich Ministry

Mt. Zion will re-start our **Sandwiches for the Homeless** at 10 AM on Wednesday, September 11, and will thereafter make sandwiches on the second Wednesday of each month. This change from Sunday morning resulted from the inability of Martha's Table to accept deliveries on Sunday and our lack of adequate refrigerated space to hold sandwiches made on Sunday for a Monday delivery. Many of our regular helpers cannot help on weekdays but we hope that others will be able to step up to help us continue this mission to the homeless of DC. Every day of the year Martha's Table serves a meal of two sandwiches and a cup of soup to 1000 and 1500 homeless people. Since we started this mission more than 26 years ago Mt. Zion has delivered almost 350,000 sandwiches to Martha's Table. That's enough sandwiches to provide 1000 meals per day for almost one-half year! Please come to the Fellowship Hall and help on any Wednesday when you can. Set up will begin at 9:15 AM, sandwich making at 10 AM.

Rebuilding Together 2020 - Mt. Zion UMC is currently looking for a House Captain for Rebuilding Together Day 2020. We have participated in this vital ministry for many years, which helps to meet the needs of homeowners right here in Howard County. The Missions Committee supplies the registration fees for our church to participate. However, in order to participate we need someone from our congregation to step up to be our Captain! Being a House Captain involves attending just three meetings with the Rebuilding together organization and visiting the home/work site once prior to Rebuilding Day on April 25, 2020. We are required to register for Rebuilding Day by the end of this November. If we do not have a House Captain, we will not be able to participate. If you are interested, or would like to discuss further what is required of the House Captain, please contact the Chair of Missions, Belinda Norton at belinda.norton@verizon.net. Further information on Rebuilding Together Howard County can be found at <http://www.rebuildingtogetherhowardcounty.org/>



Mission to Tanzania

Missionary Support for Matthew and Jennifer (King) Wilke. The Missions Committee of Mt. Zion is very excited to share that our own Jenny (King) and Matthew Wilke are settling in for their missionary work in Tanzania, Africa. To learn more about the organization, Angel House, that they will be working with please check out this link: <http://grassrootsangelhouse.org/> As they have been approved as Missionary Volunteers through the General Board of Global Ministries, you are able to help support them in this exciting opportunity by giving through the Advance. Please follow these instructions to ensure that your donations go directly for their support as all mission volunteers have the same advance number.

Please use: <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-642-mission-volunteers-individual-volunteers.aspx>

The Advance Number for mission volunteers is 982465. Donors should:

1. Search 982465 in the search box.
2. Scroll down and open the Mission Volunteers Advance Page.
3. Under Designate Your Gift is a drop-down list. Matthew and Jennifer Wilke are listed at the bottom of the drop-down list.
4. Donors will select your name and determine how they'd like to give to complete the steps to donate.

If you are not able to donate at this time, we ask that you continue to support them with your prayers and words of encouragement. Contact information will be shared when it becomes available. If you would like additional information or to be included on the e-mail newsletter chain during their trip, please contact Belinda.norton@verizon.net, Acting Chair of Missions Committee.





Other Events

Rick Johnson Missions Fund. A special missions fund has been established to honor Rick Johnson's many varied and major contributions to the Mt. Zion missions program. This fund will be used to support Volunteer In Mission (VIM) trips, such as Camp Hope which involve Mt. Zion youth, with an emphasis on helping Mt. Zion members, family and friends who may need financial support to participate in the mission trip. Contributions can be made to Mt. Zion UMC clearly identifying that the contribution is for the Rick Johnson Missions Fund. If you have any questions, please contact Rod Barr (rodkbarr@gmail.com), Wayne Mullinix (xinillum@icloud.com). Questions concerning how to apply for a grant of these funds can be referred to Rod, Wayne or Belinda Norton, Chair of Missions (belinda.norton@verizon.net)

SAGE Brigade. On Friday, Sept. 13, from 12 – 2 pm, Barb Jacques will present Dignity Memorial's "Your Life, Your Legacy" seminar. This interactive and informative program addresses the importance of making final arrangements in advance and outlines the steps involved in the preplanning process. While most of us plan for major life events such as weddings, vacations, and retirement, few of us have thought through how we would like our lives to be remembered and celebrated. Losing a loved one is one of life's most stressful events. Prearranging is one of the greatest gifts you can give your family and ensures that your final wishes are honored. Come and learn just how easy preplanning can be!

The Educators' Luncheon (60-70 ladies) served by the UMW is coming up on September 14th and I am requesting help for Friday, the 13th, from 1 to 3 pm, and on Saturday from 8 - 11 am, and 11 am to 2 pm. If you are willing to help, please email Margaret Rose at gcrose@aol.com.

Refugee Project Coming soon! Mount Zion will be supporting a "Welcome Home" project with the International Refugee Committee to fully furnish and set up a home for a refugee family arriving in Maryland. We will be collecting donations of gently used household goods and furniture as well as donations to purchase new items for this family. Look for the kick off to this project and learn more about refugees in Maryland in October. If you want to get involved now, please contact Debra Leiss at dleiss2003@yahoo.com.

Do you know how
Mt Zion's facility is
used to Touch Lives
for Jesus Christ?





Other Events

Seated Exercise Class. Our next class will be Wednesday, September 4 at 9:30 am. Text or call Bettye Ames.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. Join us on September 11 at 10 am. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, text or call Bettye Ames.

Jewelry Booth a Success! Dear Church Family, thanks so very much for your kind jewelry donations for the Women's Board of Montgomery General Hospital's (MedStar Montgomery) 99th Annual Picnic and Bazaar. Our Jewelry Booth total for the event was \$11,223.07! This money and the profits from the rest of the Picnic/Bazaar will be used for future Hospital projects and scholarships! Couldn't have done it without you!! Peace, Joyce Saunderson.

The Pioneer Class is on vacation until September 22. Please join us beginning September 22 at 10:10 am in Conference Room 1 as we begin an in-depth study of the Old Testament book of Exodus. Bring your Bible or use one of ours. No previous Bible study experience is necessary!

UMM has scheduled a men's retreat for November 22-24 at Pecometh Riverview Retreat Ctr. I would like to have a headcount by September 1. Please contact Ken Sines at ksines57@gmail.com if you plan to attend. If interest is not shown, the event will be canceled.

Stephen Ministry Annual Retreat

Stephen Ministry Retreat at Bon Secours, October 6th 12:30- 5:30 PM - Calling all Stephen Ministers! In lieu of our regular Continuing Education for October, we will be having an offsite retreat at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD. The topic of the program is Self-Care and will be led by Barb Jacques. There is no cost to our Stephen Ministry Team, but an RSVP is required by September 18th. The retreat will run from 12:30 - 5:30 PM and lunch snacks will be provided. Please contact/RSVP to Belinda Norton, Stephen Leader at belinda.norton@verizon.net to reserve your spot or for further information. (Also, if you are signing up to participate in this year's Stephen Ministry Training, you are also welcome.)



mtzionhighland@gmail.com

Sep 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10am - Pioneer 12:30pm - Stephens	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 2pm - Winter Grace 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9:30am - Preschool 9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6:30pm - BS Troop 6:30pm - Busy	9am - Sanctuary 5pm - Preschool 7pm - Praise 7pm - UMW/CR2	8:30am - Preschool 6pm - Preschool 6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Papavizas/San 6:30pm - CBT/Sanc
9am - Children's 10am - BP 10am - Pioneer 12pm - Youth and 4pm - Pack 702 Bear 6:30pm - Stephen 6:15pm - Youth 7pm - CBT/Sanctuar	10am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Stephen 7pm - CBT/Sanctuar 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - CBT/Sanctuar 7pm - Evangelism&H 7pm - Missions 7pm - Trustees/CR2	9am - Sandwiches 9:30am - Seated 10am - Prayer 11am - Retired 12pm - Deadline - 6:30pm - BS Troop 6:30pm - Busy 6:45pm - Chancel	7pm - CBT/Sanctuar 7pm - Praise	12pm - Sage 1pm - UMW 6:30pm - CBT	8am - UMW 8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Papavizas/San 8pm - Pack 702
9am - Children's 10am - Pioneer 12pm - Stephen 6:15pm - Youth	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - SPRC/CR1 7:30pm - BS T-702	9:30am - Seated 11:30am - Ginny 12pm - Deadline - 6:30pm - BS Troop 6:30pm - Busy	7pm - Praise	1pm - Food Pantry 6:30pm - CBT	7am - Food 8:30am - CBT/Sanc 9am - Food Pantry 2pm - Papavizas/San
9am - Children's 10am - Pioneer 6:15pm - Youth	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Church	9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6:30pm - BS Troop 6:30pm - Busy 6:30pm - Rebuilding 6:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Papavizas/San 4pm - Hammond
9am - Children's 10am - Pioneer 6:15pm - Youth	10am - Bible Study 6pm - Rebuilding 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 9am - Tiny 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9:30am - Preschool 9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - BS Troop 6:30pm - Busy	7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Papavizas/San 7pm - UMW/CR2