

Greetings to all!

I am in full swing meeting with the people of Mt. Zion in small groups. I am excited to hear about your connection to the church, the circumstances that led each of you to become part of the church, and your hopes and dreams for our faith community in the future.

Currently, I am reading a book co-authored by Kenneth H. Carter Jr. and Andrey Warren, entitled, "*Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not in Church*". The authors point us to look for '*fresh expressions*' to help ourselves and others explore our relationship with God at a time when society is no longer church-centered. It's a good read.

Carter and Warren also mentions John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, as one who can help us understand the process of spiritual growth. Wesley was quick to say that there was no such thing as "*solitary holiness*"; instead, he believed that spiritual growth came about through "*social holiness*." In other words, we grow deeper in our faith when we become aware of how connected we are to one another.

As I continue to meet each of you through our group meetings, I sense a greater connection to God's presence in our journey together and I have a greater connection to you and give thanks for your faith and commitment as we seek to do God's ministry here at Mt. Zion.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Here are some **events and opportunities** for you to get connected in the church:

Shepherding Team #5 Is On Call This Week, August 13th to August 19th. Contact Frances and Roger Colvin.

Prayer request and assistance for the Cashmark Family: David, Janis and Carlee Cashmark, Carlee's boyfriend Ryan, and for their families. The family is recovering from a devastating house fire last week.

For those desiring to assist, there is a Go Fund Me page that has been set up for David's family (and Ryan) at <https://www.gofundme.com/cashmarkfamily> - donations through the Go Fund Me Page may be made anonymously. Or, if you would prefer to assist by check, a check may be given directly to Kathy or Betty Cashmark or mailed to Kathy's attention at PO BOX 89, Simpsonville, MD 21150-0089.

One of our generous members has also donated an empty tool box in the hopes we can fill it with some tools to help support David's trade. **The toolbox will be located in the main office this Sunday before and after services**, so please give a tool gift if you can, to show our love, support and prayers are with the Cashmark family.

Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday August 18, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to help set up dry goods and/or Saturday August 19, 2017 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM to unload lots of fresh produce, serve others and help clean up. Any time you have to help is a blessing. Don't forget to drop your loose change in the offering basket! Questions, email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood: opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com.

How to Register for Hawaiian Luau: The buffet dinner will be catered by the Hawaiian Entertainment Company of Baltimore and must be paid in full prior to the event on Sunday, September 17. As a Result **advance reservations are required with full payment due by Sunday, September 10.**

Please follow this link to pay by credit card and to print registration form:
<http://mtzionhighland.com/upcoming-events>

To confirm your reservation by check, please complete the registration form which can be found on the community bulletin board outside the front office or print from the website and place your form, with check made payable to Mt Zion United Methodist Church, in an envelope in the **Fellowship Mail Box** in the main Hallway.

The Pioneer Sunday School class will not be meeting in August nor on September 3rd but will resume our Gospel of Luke study on September 10.

First Corinthians In-Person Group Study: We will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM for an hour. "Living Love When We Disagree" by Melissa Spoelstra. Books are available at church. To make sure we have enough, please let Debbie Burgio or the office know you will be joining in by 8/9. Books are \$10. The meetings will be on Aug **16, 23, 30, Sept 13, 20, 27, Oct 4th**. Please join in the study. This group has NO computer or Facebook component. **See you on August 16th.**

Seated Chair Class Summer Schedule. We take seriously the need to care for this wonderful God given body throughout the summer, too; so, Seated Chair Exercise class will continue at its regular time through August. All are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. There is no fee. Wednesday mornings 9:30 -10am in the Chapel on the main floor EXCEPT THERE WILL BE NO CLASS AUGUST 16. Any questions, please contact Bettye Ames.

Mt. Zion UMM Upcoming Events 2017:

November 10-12 Mt. Zion UMM Men's Retreat, Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centerville Md.

PowerPoint Team needs more volunteers to help prepare and project the slides for both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services. Training will be provided. Please contact Jill Scott if you would like to serve or for more information.