

Shout praises to the Lord!
Shout the Lord's praises in the highest heavens,
all you angels, and all who serve him above,
come and offer praise.

Sun and moon, and all of you bright stars,
come and offer praise.

Highest heavens,
and the waters above the highest heavens,
come and offer praise.

- *Psalm 148:1-4*

Greetings to all!

The psalmists of old offers words of praise to a God who creates the universe. The first few verses of Psalm 148 remind us that creation itself brings forth celebration and wonder in reverent worship of God, even the sun, moon, and stars offer praise.

On Monday, our office staff had the wonderful opportunity to view the solar eclipse thanks to a member of Mt. Zion who brought us a pair of certified, NASA approved glasses. We all agreed that we felt like a kid who was seeing something for the first time. We stood in awed silence as we witnessed the dark curvature of the moon made pronounced by the brilliance of sun behind it. It was a thrill of a lifetime.

The psalmist reminds us that we are created to be worshipping beings. Just as we witness the heavens radiate their beauty and splendor, we too are called to reach out to a power greater than ourselves. In our worship we draw closer to God, and in turn, we are connected to the wonder and beauty of all creation.

This week, the moon and sun participated in a wonderful, cosmic dance. Through the hard work of the scientific community, we had the opportunity to watch their dance steps along the way.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

Shepherding Team #7 Is On Call This Week, August 27th to September 2nd. Contact Jan Plant.

Please dress comfortably for Sunday Services: Mt.Zion's Sanctuary compressor has failed after 29 years of age. This unit supplies A/C for the Sanctuary, West Narthex and the classrooms below the Sanctuary (132-139). All other areas are supplied by different systems. The fans in the wall units in the Sanctuary will continue to operate, but will only circulate room air. Whether we find a replacement compressor or are obliged to purchase a new unit. Please bare with us as Trustees strive to fix the situation.

The Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help with putting feathers on our Grateful Gobbler! The feathers represent a Thanksgiving meal for a food pantry client, and they cost \$30 each. Please help dress our Grateful Gobbler! We'll be in the West Narthex or the Fellowship Hall after/between services. Any questions, ask Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood at opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com. Please also see the attached flyer for more information.



UMM is hosting a bike ride along the BWI Trail on Friday, 15 September. The ride is open to all. The entire route is approximately 12 miles around the airport. We will meet at the observation parking area along Route 176 (airplane landing/takeoff viewing). It is important that all riders are on their bikes and ready to ride by 6:30 pm. This will allow time for completion of the ride without darkness. Come on out and join the fun.

Help transport Food Pantry leftovers to Ames UMC in west Baltimore. Every third Saturday, the Food Pantry has leftover produce which is taken to Ames UMC. We need people to join the pool of drivers as we set up a regular rotation throughout the year. Loading starts at 11:15 AM, and you should be back by about 1:30 PM. You will have plenty of help loading and unloading. Contact Fred Towner.

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.

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.