

*“Let God love you through others and
let God love others through you.” – D. M. Street*

Greetings to all!

Each day is filled with troubling news – of political arguments that cause polarization and mean-spiritedness, of voices of hate which foster prejudice and racism, and of war cries from leaders that could lead to death and destruction.

Where is God in the midst of all these strident voices? I came across the quote placed at the beginning of my remarks. These words remind me that God is active in and through us. We become connected to God through the love that is demonstrated by others around us. And we share God’s love by becoming instruments of that love in the way we live out our lives. Through God’s love, we become voices of compassion and love in a broken world that sorely is in need of healing and hope.

The writer of 1st John reminds us that “. . . *we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life.*”

Let us strive to be a different voice, one of understanding and acceptance, in these troubling times.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

Shepherding Team #6 Is On Call This Week, August 20th to August 26th. Contact Crystal Zimmerman.

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.

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.

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 is located in the main office**, 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.

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.

Name Tag requests: Please check both the **West and East Narthex's** before requesting new nametags from the office as we've had many duplicate requests. Thank You kindly.

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.