

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

This has been a tough week for many of us as we watch on television the people of Texas struggling to find refuge in the midst of surging waters caused by the huge amounts of rain generated by Hurricane Harvey. Our prayers go out to them. While some folks have been able to find a place to remain safe and dry, others have been trapped in their own houses, trying to stay above the rising waters. And of course, our hearts break for those who have lost loved ones in the midst of this natural disaster.

We also have witnessed tremendous courage from people who are helping to save the lives of others. We, too, are pulled in some way to help. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) has set up a **Domestic Disaster Advance #901670**. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with relief efforts, please write your check payable to Mt. Zion UMC and earmark the memo section "Domestic Disaster Relief advance - #901670. You can send your check to Mt. Zion UMC, 12430 Scaggsville Road, Highland, MD 20777 or you can place your donation in the offering basket on Sunday morning. As donations come into the office, our treasurer will then send the full amount of all donations to UMCOR on behalf of the Mt. Zion congregation.

Early in my ministry, the small church that I was serving at the time sent a check to help with the relief efforts underway because of the fury of Hurricane Andrew. Later, we received a certificate of thanks. It read: *"Though Mother Nature is strong, we are reminded that human nature is stronger – Thanks for Your Gift!"*

I encourage you to respond in some way.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

Shepherding Team #8 Is On Call This Week, September 3rd to September 9th. Contact Joyce Saunderson.

The Pioneer Sunday School class will not be meeting September 3rd but will resume our Gospel of Luke study on September 10.

Fellowship Café returns on Sunday, September 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to stop by between the two Sunday morning services for food and fellowship. We hope you will join us often and we always appreciate donations of food or cash so that we can nourish everyone's mind, body, and soul.

Fall programs for children resume on September 10th. Sunday School at 10:10 and Kid's Zone during the 9:00 service and the 11:00 service after Children's Time in our new room down the hall from the Chapel. (Formerly Conference Room #3)

"BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS" will occur during Children's Time at both services on September 10th. Please encourage your children to bring their backpacks to church!

A BIG "THANK YOU" to Jamie Humphreys for using her God-given talent to paint an AMAZING underwater mural in our new Nursery room, formerly Conference Room #3. Please check it out!! You will love it!

Trinity Choir's first rehearsal will be Sunday September 24th, from 5:00 - 6:00pm. We rehearse in the choir room every Sunday afternoon. Trinity choir is for young people in grades 6 - 12. Come try it out, no audition necessary. For more information, contact Lynne McWithey.

Hello friends! My brother, Steve, in western PA is looking for help. His daughter is having a baby girl in late September. They are looking for support to complete the baby's room. If you could help in any way with the following items (financially or material donations), please contact me, Ken Sines.

Items are 7 rolls of R-13 15"x32' insulation, Jeld-Wen 30x80 pocket door and hardware (or similar), 50 cfm exhaust bath fan/light, 16 sheets of 1/2x4x8 drywall, 4 sheets of 7/16x3x5 Wonderboard Lite, Glacier Bay round toilet (or similar), 30-36"x 48" shower stall, and 2 windows (1 @ 24"x12", 1 @ 48"x48").

Please dress comfortably for Sunday Services: Mt.Zion's Sanctuary A/C unit is being repaired. The fans in the wall units in the Sanctuary will continue to operate, but will only circulate room air. Please bare with us as we 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.

Sunday, October 1, 2017, we will host a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop from 2:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M. This half-day, three-session workshop is designed to help congregations catch a vision for strengthening their caring ministry through equipping laypeople as caregivers. During this event, participants will also develop caregiving skills they can use right away. This is an excellent means for members and their friends who are interested in Stephen Ministry to learn more about what Stephen Ministry involves. The cost of this workshop is **free to members of Mount Zion** or \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation. There is a signup sheet for members to register on the hallway bulletin board. **Deadline for sign-up is September 12th**

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.

Don't forget to Register for Hawaiian Luau: Advance reservations are required with full payment due by Sunday, September 10. To pay by credit card and to print registration form go to: <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.

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.

For those desiring to assist the Cashmark family: 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.

