

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

As summer draws to a close, I hope you had times of renewal and rest. It's good to recharge our batteries and refocus our priorities on what is important in life.

God has blessed Mt. Zion in so many ways. I am greatly blessed to have been appointed here as your pastor.

I invite you to come and worship with us on Sunday morning – the Traditional Service begins at 9 a.m and the Celebration and Praise Service begins at 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes for ages will begin at 10:10 a.m. Since the children have started back to school, we will be blessing their backpacks at both services. We are asking students to bring their backpacks to church so that they may be placed on the altar. Our Director of Children's Ministry, Jena Meredith, will then welcome you back to Sunday school and together we will ask God's blessing to be upon our students throughout their school year.

This week, we will also highlight the importance of our ongoing Stephen Ministry program, and commission two people, Belinda Norton and Katherine McLaughlin, as they take on their new roles as Stephen Ministry Leaders.

As we work and worship together, I believe God will do great things through us.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

**Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week**, September 10th to September 16th. Contact Bonnie Luepkes.

**Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help!** When: Friday September 15, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to help set up dry goods and/or Saturday September 16, 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](mailto:opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com).

**This weekend's Kick-off for the Youth has been cancelled.**

**The Pioneer Sunday School** class will resume our Gospel of Luke study September 10.

**Fellowship Café returns this 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 September 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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** September 10th. Please encourage your children to bring their backpacks to church!

**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.

**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. 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**

**TAMPICO Grill from 4:00 – 9:00pm for Ted McWithey's Eagle Project:** Please come out for dinner Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> to benefit Ted's Eagle Project. Tampico will donate 35% of the evening's receipts. For his project, fencing around the recycling area by the FH kitchen at Mt. Zion will be rebuilt. For more information about Tampico Grill, please go to [www.tampicogrill.net](http://www.tampicogrill.net) We hope you come!

**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.

**Starting Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>** you can begin dropping gifts of in the West Narthex for the 2017 Secret Santa Shop. We are accepting new and items that can be re-gifted. We are in need of 100 Items. The most popular items needed are toys for siblings, pet gifts, dad gifts, mom gifts, and gifts for teachers. We will collect all items starting Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Ken Sines.

**2018 Giving Envelopes** – If you currently do not have a set of predated & pre-numbered envelopes and wish to order a boxed set of Giving Envelopes for 2018, or if you have received envelopes in the past and do not wish them to be ordered for you next year, please contact Belinda Norton, Treasurer in the church office Monday-Friday at 301-854-2324. (If you are someone who writes offering checks on a regular basis to the church, please consider using the prenumbered weekly giving envelopes as this saves our Sunday counters time and energy when completing the Sunday count.) All requests for changes need to be submitted by September 30, 2017 as the order for 2018 Envelopes will be placed the first week of October.

**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](mailto:opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com) Please also see the attached flyer for more information.

**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..

**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.