



October 2017 Edition

Our Mission

Touching
Lives
for
Jesus Christ

Our Core Values

To be a
Loving
Christian
Community.
Providing
opportunities
for worship,
spiritual
growth,
and service.

Our Vision

Love,
Grow,
Serve



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

The P_{int}er

"Don't be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is."
- H. Jackson Brown

Friends:

I don't like admitting this, but I am prone to getting lost. When I arrived at Washington, D.C. to go to Seminary, I found the roads of the city to be entirely different than the roads I traveled in West Virginia. For instance, the D.C. is known for its circles (DuPont & Ward Circles to name a few.) So anxious was I in driving in these circles, that I often kept circling around and around them before realizing how to negotiate my designated turn. Fortunately for me, however, I eventually began to understand the travel patterns and therefore my anxiety lessened considerably.

Even with a GPS I still can get lost. I have a GPS on my phone and for the most part it has been helpful as I find my way around Howard County and visit people's homes. Since I pay for the service, they usually update their maps periodically. But change is fluent; it is happening all the time. You see, without getting regular updates, we begin to rely on outdated maps. So even those who provide plans need to update their data base. Yesterday's maps often fail to keep us with today's changing traffic patterns.

This truism can be applied to the church. We in the church can get locked into to seeing our community using the same lenses we used 40 or 50 years ago. In doing so, we inadvertently overlook the changing patterns around us, the unfolding dynamics of population and demographic change. Old maps keep us from really understanding and knowing the surrounding 'territory' and the best way for us to navigate in its midst. Inevitably, new maps need to be redrawn.

As your pastor, I have witnessed many wonderful ministries that happen at Mt. Zion church. For instance, the Open Doors Food Pantry is an example of how the church is adapting to a changing reality. We all know that Howard County is the fourth wealthiest county in the United States. We also know that 5 per cent of its

[continued on page 3]

12430 Scaggsville RD * Highland, MD 20777 * 301-854-2324 * 410-531-5137
(301) 854-2326 (fax) office@mtzionhighland.com
Check us out on the web: www.mtzionhighland.com

Rev. Gary Sheffield-James
Lead Pastor

Rev. Tammi Brantley
Executive/Youth Pastor

Belinda Norton
Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Mark Blough
Facilities Manager

Jena Meredith
Director of Children's Ministries

Mark Dubbs
Director of Music

Chris Fox
Pianist and Wesley Children's Choir Director

Deb Papavizas
Organist

Moea Fletcher
Office Administrator

Rebecca O'Keefe
Nursery Supervisor



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	October 1	October 8 One service at 10 am	October 15	October 22	October 29
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Andrea Smolen	Elizabeth Blough	Jamie Humphreys	Pastor Gary
	11:00	Pastor Gary		Elizabeth Blough	Jamie Humphreys	Pastor Gary
Greeters	9:00	Lynn Jacobson & Jackie Derr	John & Nancy Coonts & Debra Fitzgerald	Jerry & Margaret Rose & Larry Murdock	Will & Jill Scott & Olivia Yeager	Sue Loomis
	11:00		Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson		
Liturgist	9:00					
Projection	9:00	Bonnie Luepkes	Carol Messerly	Chuck Sehman	Jill Scott	Bonnie Luepkes
	11:00	Chuck Sehman		Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly	Jill Scott
Sound	9:00	<i>Your Name Here</i>	<i>Why Not You?</i>	<i>Why Not You?</i>		
	11:00	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Bill Ray		
Usher Captains	9:00	Will Scott	Will Scott	Will Scott	Will Scott	Will Scott
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz				





Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" There will be one worship service at 10:00 am on Consecration Sunday, October 8. During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship, our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Grace and peace,

David G. Norton
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

population live below the poverty line. And when the Food Pantry began its ministry to the community, the church reached out to people who were hungry and who needed help. Carol Hill, one of our members, had a vision to begin this ministry several years ago. She went out on a limb in faith and she discovered a ministry that was needed in our midst.

It's been a delight getting to know you in the last few months. I am looking forward to working together to strengthen our current ministries and exploring ways that might lead us to other new ways of serving others. Life is about change. The community around changes as well. Sometimes we get disoriented and we need to find our way. But with the help of God's grace, you and I can navigate the territory together and find ways to grow and serve others.

Grace and Peace, Gary





Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Dear Mt. Zion Family and Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the **Call To Action Team**, however, I am writing on a very personal level as well. In the aftermath of the national tragedy that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia last month the Call to Action team thought it helpful to remind the congregation that we are continuing in our efforts to establish a program and a process for facilitating conversations on racial bias and insensitivity. The United Methodist General Commission On Religion and Race (GCORR) has determined that conversations are one way to change minds and build community. Recently, someone on CNN said, "You can't reason away beliefs that weren't created rationally." To this I say, "You must be the change you hope to see." (Actually, Mahatma Gandhi said it first.)

This is a synopsis of what the Call to Action Task Force has done and why we organized. In November 2016, there were several incidents of negative racial speak on social media. At SPRC's request, Pastor Joan Carter-Rimbach contacted the UMC's General Commission On Religion and Race (GCORR) which sent Rev. Giovanni Arroyo to meet with us. I am proud Mt Zion's response was to act in faith.

Rev. Arroyo led us through team building activities involving issues of race. This helped members get to know each other and helped create a safe space for people to have an honest dialogue. We compared Debate, Discussion and Dialogue. We were provided an Emotions Wheel to help us identify what we are feeling. We considered Needs, Concerns and Opportunities.

As a part of our work with the Task Force, we were asked to take the Harvard University Implicit Bias test online. We were invited to review a Ted Talk series (w/ study guides) and 5 different talks "Vital Conversations" on the GCORR website. Following that review, we decided to use videos in the Vital Conversations series.

We discussed ideas such as inviting Hopkins UMC to come and talk with us over the series. We decided to do some internal work before inviting other churches to join us. We acknowledged that "there may be a disconnect between who we think we are and who the community sees", and, "the bigger reality is racism is still alive". We decided we would form Grace Groups with stand alone meetings. We decided to use different avenues to reach a broader number of people to engage in the process guided by the covenant: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in Love with God. Listen Respectfully. Use "I" statements. Stay away from politics. Do not condemn. Do not judge. Forgive. Love one another in Kindness.

You are invited and encouraged to take the Harvard Implicit Bias test online. It costs nothing. You can find the test at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

As our Mt Zion Faith Community puts Christian beliefs, into action, I believe we will become leaders in the change that we all want to see.

Please continue to hold in prayer the members of the Call to Action Task Force.

Peace of Christ be with you!
Bettye Ames





Discipleship Spiritual Growth



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMC CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS

World Communion Sunday is Oct. 1.

Volunteers in Mission leader training will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the BWC Mission Center in Fulton. The training, led by the Rev. Joan Carter Rimbach, is \$10. VIM provides people with the opportunity to be short-term missionaries. Volunteers go out in teams to do construction and spiritual formation projects for people and places in need. They are people of all different skill levels, serving as the hands and eyes of Christ. [Learn more and register.](#)

Early Response Team (ERT) refresher training, for people who have attended ERT training and received a badge that is now expired, will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Mission Center in Fulton. The cost for the training, which will be led by the Rev. Jay DeMent, is \$25. Early Response Teams fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster: to clean flood-damaged homes; remove debris; place tarps; and prevent further property damage while providing a caring, Christian presence. [Learn more and register.](#)

The Future of the 21st Century Church: The Rev. Olu Brown, pastor of Impact in Atlanta, which is one of the fast growing United Methodist churches, will provide insights into leadership at two locations in October: at the BWC Mission Center in Fulton, Friday, Oct. 27; and at Jackson Chapel UMC in Frederick, Saturday, Oct. 28. Both sessions, which are \$35, will have the same content and run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Oct. 23. [Learn more and register.](#)

Prayers for the People

We continue to pray for people affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and Maria. United Methodists are urged to support UMCOR and its relief efforts.

Our prayers also continue for immigrants and those affected by the repeal of DACA. United Methodists are encouraged to support Justice for Our Neighbors, which provide legal assistance to immigrants and to contact their legislators (especially those from West Virginia) about passing the Dream Act. Learn more about this issue.

A Call to Action

The United States, thanks in part to NFL players taking a knee during the National Anthem, is having a renewed conversation about racism. And so is the church. **The ReCall Summit** is an opportunity for courageous conversations that re-imagine, re-design, and re-position your thoughts and actions on issues of race and multiculturalism.

The summit, Oct. 20-21 at the BWI Marriott Hotel in Linthicum, [Registration is \$99 and includes meals.] will feature several special speakers including:

- The Rev. Zach Kerzee, pastor of Simple Church in Boston, who gathers people around the dinner table for faith experiences;
- The Rev. Jeffrey Hooker, a young adult who creatively ministers to other young adults at Grace UMC in Newburgh, NY;
- The Revs. Ianther Mills and Matthew Wilke, pastors of Asbury UMC in D.C., an historically black church creating a new worship experience to reach out to multicultural neighbors; and
- The Rev. Joseph Daniels, pastor of Emory UMC, a D.C. church of 26 nationalities that's building a \$53 million affordable housing complex with worship center, retail space and community centers.



Discipleship Spiritual Growth



Youth Ministry

- Sunday Morning Youth Gathering ~ 10:10 am
- Students 6th - 12th Grade in Youth Center
- Youth Choir Rehearsal ~ Sundays at 5 pm
- Youth Ministry ~ Sundays at 6:15 pm in the Youth Center

Breakfast with Santa
at Mount Zion United Methodist Church
12430 Scaggsville Rd. (Route 216), Highland, MD
Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Lead Pastor

Saturday, December 2nd

Two Seatings:
8:30am & 10:00am

The cost is:
\$5.00 for Adults
\$3.00 for children
ages 3-10. Children
under 2 are free.

Reservations can be made online at:
www.mtzionhighland.com/upcoming-events
by phone: 301.854.2324 ext. 12
by email: youthministry@mtzionhighland.com

Include in reservations total # of seats, # of adults, # of children, children's ages, which seating time you would like and a phone number to confirm your reservation.

Seating is limited.

Visit the Secret Santa Shop!
Children can purchase gifts for their family and friends. All gifts are priced at \$2.00.

For more information:
phone: 301.854.2324 ext. 12
email: youthministry@mtzionhighland.com
website: mtzionhighland.com

A percentage of sales generated will benefit field trips, mission trips and opportunities for youth when families can't attend every week-end activities outside of church.

Follow us at:
  



ROCK is coming - Registration begins soon.



Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Children's Ministry



Bible Sunday will be
November 12th!!
If you have a 3rd grader please
email Jena Meredith!



Mt. Zion Christian Preschool:

In September we welcomed back all of our staff and students. We are looking forward to many exciting things for the 2017-2018 school year! In October the students will be going on one of our favorite field trips: to the Pumpkin Patch at the O'Keefe farm. We also look forward to the Halloween celebrations and activities. Throughout the year the preschool will be sharing information about several fundraisers we will be having to raise money for new playground equipment. There are still a few spots left in our Pre-K class, so contact the Main Preschool Office if you are interested (301-854-2387).



Opportunities to Serve Missions



In the wake of Hurricane Harvey & Irma - How You Can Help

Financial contributions can be given directly to Mt. Zion, just mark the check or envelope for **Hurricane Harvey or Irma**. Also, you can keep the people involved in prayer and make up UMCOR Flood Buckets/Relief Kits and Health Kits. For details about specific immediate needs and instructions for Relief Kits and Health Kits, visit <http://missioncentral.org/how-can-i-help/donate-items/>.

In response to hurricanes Harvey and Irma, UMCOR is in great need of flood buckets. Missions plans to assemble at least 10 flood buckets from materials donated by members. Signup sheets for contributions of specific items required in the buckets will be in the West Narthex by next Sunday and perhaps by this Sunday, September 17. Please sign up to help fill our buckets.



September Report

The Open Doors Food Pantry had 89 families come through to receive food in September. The Grateful Gobbler is complete with all of his feathers back on! It is truly amazing to see a church come together to provide 112 Thanksgiving dinners to the food pantry families. Thank you so much! We will really need help on Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th to help get all the fresh produce in the Fellowship Hall and the Thanksgiving dinners ready for distribution. If you have any questions or suggestions, just email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood at opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com



OPERATION CHRISTMAS



The Mary Martha Circle is spearheading the Operation Christmas Child program this year, which involves filling Christmas boxes to be distributed to children in the USA and around the world. We encourage every Mt. Zion family to donate a box. Religious material in the language of the child is placed in each box by Samaritan's Purse and classes are held in many countries to share Christ with the children. Boxes and information pamphlets will be available in both narthexes by mid October. Fill them with toys, health items, hard wrapped candies, school supplies, (no toothpaste or candy) etc. A \$9 check payable to Samaritan's Purse is to be included in each box to cover shipping costs or you can go on the internet, pay the \$9 and receive a special label that will track your gift box as to its destination. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Rose. Please help us exceed last year's total of 99 boxes. **The filled boxes may be brought to Mt. Zion on Sunday, Nov. 12th but no later than Sunday, November 19th.**



Discipleship Spiritual Growth

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2017 FALL/WINTER EVENTS

Oct 13 – UMW/UMM Coffee House, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall). Brave the open mic to share your talent sometime during the evening!

OCT 28 – Breakfast with Bob, 8:30 a.m. (Bob Evans on Rte. 100) Join us for a morning of fun, fellowship and brainstorming for 2018!

Mid OCT – Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes) Due: NOV 12 or 19

NOV 11 – Women's Retreat, 9:00am – 2:00pm. (Fellowship Hall)
WOMEN OF ZION ~ "Day of Hope"
cost \$25.00 includes breakfast, lunch, activities, and speaker.
Child care will be provided.

NOV 19 – Thanksgiving Bake Sale, between services (Fellowship Hall)

DEC 2 – Breakfast with Santa, Seating 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

DEC 8 – Gift Exchange & fellowship with Hopkin UMC. 7-9 p.m. (Chapel)



The UMW/UMM are hosting a
COFFEE HOUSE
October 13th 7:30-9:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Barista, Ken Sines will be serving coffee and tea.
Cold drinks and desserts will also be provided.

Open mic for anyone wishing to entertain. Come share your talent!

Last minute brave souls are fine, but if you know you'd like to participate,
please either email or call Joyce Bickerton
jbickerton@verizon.net
or 410-461-2237



Come and enjoy the fellowship and good times.

Looking for new ideas and events for 2018. We will have a suggestion box at the bake sale on November 19th for you to drop in your ideas!





Discipleship Spiritual Growth



MtZ Library News -

“The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me” Remember that song? This month we will highlight the Bibles and Bible-related materials available for you to borrow from our library. It is an opportunity for you to deepen your relationship with God through embarking on an individual study on a topic in the Bible of concern to you, furthering your understanding of the scripture readings and sermons presented at Church on Sundays, or finding complementary materials to Bible study groups.

Section 220.5 is the location of the Bibles—there are King James, Revised Standard, New Life, New American, and New International to name a few of the versions in the library. It’s an interesting study to see the different phrasing of particular verses in the Bible. There is a large print Bible (220.5 NEL) and an audio New Testament edition for those with sight limitations or, for the latter, those who want to listen while commuting or doing household chores (220.5 NEL). Two Bibles are found in the Folio section, one being the Washburn College Bible which is beautifully illustrated and housed in a slip case—be forewarned that your biceps may grow carrying this one around, but it is well worth it! Some concordances (books you go to to find where specific topics, places, etc. are mentioned throughout the Bible) and some versions with the Apocrypha are also in the 220.5 section.

To dig deeper into the vocabulary or context of a passage, check out one of the 11 dictionaries (220.3), 5+ Bible studies (220) or one of the 12 volumes of *The New Interpreter’s Bible* (covered in a previous Pointer article). We have a Bible companion (220.6 ABI), 3 Bible handbooks (220 ALE, 220.6 BLA & 220.9 THO), 1 Biblical archaeology (220.93 CLI—a personal favorite), 5 Atlases (mainly in the 220.9 section), and many individual volumes that focus on particular sections or topics found in the Bible (like mysteries (220.6 REA), great verses (220.7 MEY), nature (220.8 KAL), who’s who (220.9), and more). Most of the Biblical reference books can be found in the 220 section, but browsing through other sections in the Dewey Decimal 200s, the Religion section, may lead you to a serendipitous find. And just think, these are books that can be checked-out — they don’t have to be used in the library!

Lastly, if you have children at home, don’t forget the Bibles found in the Youth library section. For those with young ones that need to be read to, the Pre-Reader section (Pre-Read) has: *Bible Stories to Grow By* (BAT, 1980), *Pray and Play Bible for Young* (GRO, 1997), *The Bible Read-to-Me ABC Book* (MAC, 1988), and *The Bible Read-to-Me 1,2,3 Book* (MAC, 1988). In the Beginner Reader’s section (Begin), check out: *My Little Bible* (BRI, 1991), and *Tell Me about the Bible* (JON, 1945). The Elementary section (Elem) has: *What the Bible Is All about for Young Explorers* (BLA, 1986), *The Baker Book of Bible People for Kids* (DAY, 1998), *The Bible Story* (in 3 volumes: The Book of Beginnings, Might Men of Old, and Trials & Triumphs—MAX1-3, 1975), and *International Children’s Bible Dictionary* (WAL, 1987). For older readers (grade 5 or 6+), there’s the *Children’s Bible* (Col, 1973), *The Children’s Illustrated Bible* (HAS, 1994), *Bible Stories* (PEA, 1973), and *The Children’s Living Bible Paraphrased* (TYN, 1971).

Dig deeper this Fall!

—Robin Emrich, Librarian

email: library@mtzionhighland.com



Men's Retreat (sponsored by UMM)

PECOMETH Riverside Retreat Center – Centreville, MD (on the Chester River)
10 November – 12 November 2016



Come and enjoy the fellowship and the spiritual excitement of a men's retreat on the Chester River for \$210 per person (check payable to UMM, give to Ken Sines). The center is approximately 1 ½ hours from Mt. Zion UMC, Highland, MD.

BWC / Mt. Zion UMM Upcoming Events

22 October 2017 – Fire Ring MT Zion UMM Meeting in Ken's Backyard with hot dogs (7-9pm)

10-12 November 2017 – Mt. Zion UMM Mens Retreat,
Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville

Potato Drop sponsored by Central District UMM scheduled early November 2017, watch for details

Have any projects for UMMen@Work contact Bryan Meredith

Interested in an evening of bowling, contact Ken Sines

Pictures from the Luau



During the Luau, we enjoyed a live performance of traditional Hawaiian tunes sung to ukulele music.

The Mt Zion men chased off the evil spirits with their warrior chants and dance!



Lots of ladies participated in a Hula lesson and learned how to let their hands tell the story.

The Tiki Bar was a popular spot to fill up with drinks such Tropical Infused Waters, Iced Tea, and specialty punches like Strawberry-Orange-Kiwi, Creamy Hawaiian Punch, and “Blue Hawaii”.



Paki Allen, the narrator, explained that for thousands of years, the history, genealogy, and legends of the Pacific Islands have been passed down through music and dance.

With the setting sun, the exciting fire and drum dances were thrilling as we learned how Hawaiians have long feared the lava and fire from the very volcanoes that created their islands.



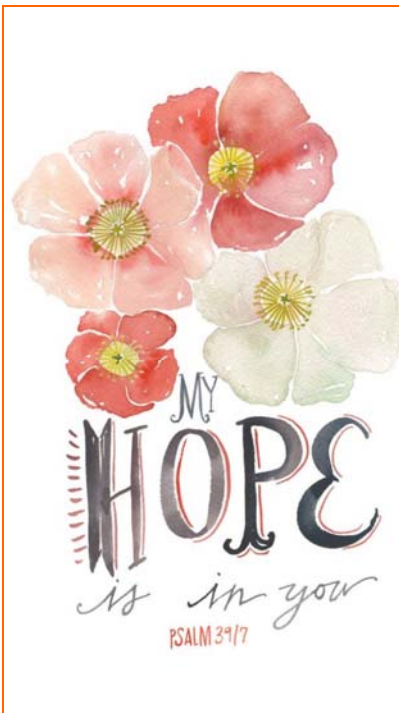


**SAGE Brigade Fall 2017
Speaker Calendar**

October 6, 2017, 12:00 * - Abby Dixon, Nutrition and the Older Adult
November 10, 2017, 12:00 * - Judy Pittman, The Village in Howard
December 8, 2017, 12:00 - Christmas Luncheon

* Lunch at 12, Speaker at 12:30





WOMEN OF ZION "Day of Hope"

All women of Mt Zion are invited to this one day event on Saturday November 11th from 9:00-2:00! It will be a day to uplift and enjoy! Breakfast and lunch will be served along with a message from a very "special surprise guest"! Details will follow but mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this special day!! Babysitting will also be provided!



[Nov. Pointer Deadline:
Mon., Oct. 23]

Opportunity to Participate
For more information, contact Belinda Norton.



In recognition of *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* and in support of
Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse,
Hopi Volunteers in Mission is hosting...



5K Domestic Violence Awareness Prayer Walk

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

(Rain Date – Sat., Oct. 21)

Walk begins at **9AM** in the first parking lot of **Damascus Regional Park**

Look for the purple balloons!

23723 Kings Valley Rd
Damascus, MD 20872

WHY DO WE WALK?

"Over 85% of all Native women have experienced domestic violence
in their lifetime." – *Futures Without Violence*

We Walk in SUPPORT

Walkers are asked to donate **\$20*** and to consider raising additional funds.

ALL donations go directly to Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse
in support of the important work they are doing for Native women and families.

***Cash or checks payable to "Mt. Zion UMC" with "5K Prayer Walk" on the memo line.**

We Walk in SOLIDARITY

Every half mile a statistic or story of domestic violence will be read
followed by a moment of silent prayer.

No need to pre-register... just show up and consider wearing purple!



Hopi-Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse

is a tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalition that provides education, technical assistance
and training to the Hopi community and the tribal organizations that provide direct services to
victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Questions?

Jill Maisch – Hopi VIM Prayer Walk Coordinator – JillMaisch@comcast.net
Or Belinda Norton (Mt. Zion UMC) – Belinda.norton@verizon.net



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