

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

We have been heartbroken by so many events in the last few weeks; the mass shooting that happened in Las Vegas that brought about death and brokenness to so many, the unfolding tragedy and struggle in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria, and the wildfires in California which has taken life and destroyed homes. And I know that you are praying for those who are personally affected by these unimaginable events, whose lives have been shattered and who are in need of so much help and support.

And of course, we find ourselves dealing with our own personal struggles. There are things in life that test our faith and try our souls. What do we do and where do we go when life seems to crumple beneath us? How do we trust in the goodness of God when we look around and witness unexplained suffering and when evil seeks to overcome the good? This is a big question without many easy answers.

I believe that it is in community that we can support each other in the struggles of life and help each other in a journey of faith that is not always easy.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship October 15, 2017

Lesson: Psalm 40:1-11

Sermon "Trust in God"

All Saints Sunday – November 5, 2017

We will remember all of our Church members who have gone to be with the Lord over the past year (November 6, 2016 – October 29, 2017). If you have a loved one who was a member of Mt. Zion and passed away during this time, please contact the Church office by October 31st so that we may get a picture. On Sunday, November 5th, we will lift up each name during the worship service as we our loved ones in the hope of the Resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Shepherding Team #5 Is On Call This Week, October 15th to October 22nd. Contact Frances and Roger Colvin.

Seated Chair Class CANCELLED on October 18th. For exact dates, please contact Bettye Ames or Front Office.

The UMW/UMM are hosting a Coffee House on October 13 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be coffee and tea served by our own Barista, Ken Sines. We will also have cold drinks and desserts. There will be an open mike for anyone wishing to entertain. Any type of entertainment is accepted. Last minute brave souls are fine, but if you know you'd like to participate, please either email or call Joyce Bickerton to RSVP. Come and enjoy the fellowship and good times. Please see attached brochure.

Folks needed to help assemble Flood Buckets for hurricane victims on Sunday, October 22 between Church Services in Fellowship Hall! Rod Barr will be directing this project! Thanks to all who donated items, and funds!

Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday October 20, 2017 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM to help set up dry goods and/or Saturday October 21, 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.

Are you caring for your aging parent or for another loved one at home or from a distance? Mt. Zion's Caregivers Support Group can help to support you in sharing needs and concerns with one another, also offering resources that help to ease some of the stress while you're providing either physical, emotional, medical and/or financial support for your loved one. Group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month between services, in the church library Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17. Please contact Judy H. Johnson.

Your help is needed to pass out candy on 10/29 at 4:30 in our parking lot for children who are Trunk or Treating! We want at least 25 cars! Please email Jena Meredith or sign the yellow sheet if you can help!!

Operation Christmas Child Kickoff – Will you fill a box this year and make a child happy, as well as introduce them to Christ? Boxes, information sheets and BOY/GIRL labels are in the East and West Narthexes. Filled boxes need to be brought to Mt. Zion on Nov. 12th and Nov. 19th. For each box filled this year, Mt. Zion's Missions Committee has agreed to provide \$6.00 from the Missions Legacy Fund to provide A Greatest Journey Bible lesson to enable teachers in local churches to instruct the children on how to be faithful followers of Christ.

Girl Scout Bronze Project – Troop 2008. To benefit the Howard County General Hospital Pediatric Unit. Donations needed by Nov. 5th: Boys & Girls – New socks and underwear (Ages 3-18 years). Please contact Beth or Victoria Salmans for more information. Please see attached brochure.

Emmanuel UMC is organizing a VIM trip to the Houston, TX area to help with hurricane recovery efforts and is inviting members of Mt. Zion to join them on this trip. They are currently planning to go during the second half of January, 2018 but have not yet set specific date for the trip. If you are interested in joining the trip or in getting additional information please contact Rod Barr.

Seated Chair Class in the Chapel on Wednesday mornings 9:30-10:00. Join us as we build strength, increase flexibility and balance in 30 minutes. No class on Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Nov. 22*, Dec. 20, Dec. 27*, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar.21, Apr. 18, May 16, June 20. *Class vote. Contact: Bettye Ames or Front Office.

Secret Santa Shop Gifts can be dropped off in the West Narthex. 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 until Nov. 26th.

Mt. Zion UMM Upcoming Events 2017:

November 10-12 Mt. Zion UMM Men's Retreat, Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centerville Md.

UMW Events 2017:

November 11, 9:00am – 2:00pm Mt. Zion Women's Retreat in the Fellowship Hall.

November 19, 10:00am -12.15pm Thanksgiving Bake Sale in the Fellowship Hall.