

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

I arrived at my office this morning and noticed that I had two large, bright colored cards tapped to my office door. They were made by the children of the preschool. The children's names appeared on the card, along with these printed messages to me – *“Thank you Pastor Gary!!”* and *“You Touched Our Hearts.”* I must say that their kindness really touched my heart.

It's great to have a Christian preschool here at Mt. Zion. We have wonderful teachers and our Preschool Director, Jennifer Fieni, does a great job handling the day to day operations. I also appreciate hearing the sound of the children's voices outside my office as they have fun playing outside.

I look at the Preschool as an extension of the church's ministry. The children's excitement is contagious and their natural curiosity prompts us all to see the world around us in a new way.

I like what Jesus said about the children: *“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”*

When it comes to growing in our faith, I would say that we are all children of God.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship October 29, 2017

Lessons: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28; Matthew 5:17-18

All Saints Sunday – November 5, 2017

We will remember church members and loved ones 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 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 remember 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 #7 Is On Call This Week, October 29th to November 4th. Contact Jan Plant.

On Saturday, October 21st the Open Doors Food Pantry gave out food to 120 families, 523 people total. That is a record for our food pantry, and the next 3 months will be our busiest months. Please don't forget to drop your loose change in the offering plate, as this is how we are able to buy food for the families. If you have any suggestions, or questions email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood at opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com. Thank you so much for all of your support to help feed hungry families!

Church Conference Saturday 9:00 – 11:00am October 28, 2017. Members are encouraged to attend.
Location: Oakdale UMC - **3425 Emory Church Road, Olney, MD 20832.**

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!!

Thank the Mt. Zion Staff Sunday: On 5 November we will recognize and celebrate the staff of Mt. Zion with refreshments and a cake in the Fellowship Hall between the two services. Please plan to stop by and thank them for their dedication and many contributions to our church.

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.

Evaluation for Pastor Gary: As you know, each SPRC member is a liaison to one or more staff members/ministers, and each is available for the congregation to contact throughout the year to discuss any SPRC

topic. Once a year though, all staff at Mt Zion receive evaluations, and these provide an additional opportunity for the congregation to give feedback to the SPRC. Pastor Gary's evaluation is due 1 December. If you have comments you would like to ensure are considered, please feel free to contact any SPRC member on or before 5 November. Thanks for being involved throughout the year.

SAGE Brigade: 2nd Annual Friends-Giving: Friday, November 10th at noon we will be celebrating Friends-Giving. I will bring Turkey and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. Following lunch we will hear from a guest speaker, Judy Pittman, from The Village in Howard. I do hope you will join in the celebration. Please RSVP Debbie Burgio.

Last week to commit to UMM Men's Retreat: November 10-12, Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centerville Md. Contact Ken Sines.

UMW Events 2017:

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

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

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.

The Mt. Zion Christian Preschool is looking to add a new climbing structure to our playground this year through our fundraising efforts. We kicked off the school year selling Kidstuff Coupon books and, for the first time, are now offering a selection of gourmet desserts, popcorn, pizza, and other treats from Claire's Gourmet. Orders will be accepted through the end of October and delivery of these items will take place on Friday, November 17th in the fellowship hall. Please contact the preschool office (301-854-2387) if you are interested in placing an order.

Sunday, November 19, the Caregiver and Stephens Ministry groups are sponsoring a presentation by Kathy Wehr from Howard County Office on Aging. The presentation at 12:15p, in Conference Room 1, and the focus will be on managing caregiving stress and discussing resources that are available through their program. Light snacks and beverages provided. Please contact Judy Johnson or Debbie Burgio if you are interested in attending or having any questions.

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 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.