

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

As I share these words with you, I am getting excited about participating in the Men's Retreat at Pecometh, Maryland this weekend. Eighteen men will be attending the three-day-event. This will be a time of fellowship, learning, praying, sharing, and growing spiritually.

The focus of the retreat is based on John MacArthur's book, Twelve Ordinary Men: How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do with You. We will learn more about each disciple – both their strengths and weaknesses. A great number of disciples were simply fishermen and others came from small towns and villages. Through these ordinary people, God did great things through them.

It is reported that President Lincoln once said, “*God must love common people; he made so many of them.*” That basically describes most of us. We are common people. Yet the Good News is this: God chooses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship November 12, 2017

Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon “God's Maintenance Plan”

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

Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week, November 12th to November 18th. Contact Bonnie Luepkes.

Free potatoes!!! Please contact Ken Sines.

Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday November 17, 2017 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM to help set up dry goods and/or Saturday November 18, 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.

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

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.

Winter clothing and food drive for Ames UMC in West Baltimore: We are collecting winter items for those in need in Baltimore City. Drop off gently used clothing, coats, hats, gloves and scarves in the collection bin located in the West Narthex. We are also accepting nonperishable holiday food items. The collection will continue through Friday Nov. 17th. Items will be distributed during the community outreach event at Ames UMC on Sat. Nov. 18th.

Help with the Winter Clothing Giveaway and Community Fellowship Meal at Ames UMC in West Baltimore: We are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve a meal and to distribute winter clothing during the community outreach event taking place on Sat. Nov. 18th. Contact Fred Towner.

Deadline for Poinsettia Orders is November 19th– Help us adorn our church for Christmas and order your poinsettia's in honor or memory of loved ones. The cost is \$11.00/6" and \$16.00/7" pot. Red or white poinsettias may be ordered. Please print names and dedications clearly. Checks should be made to Mt. Zion UMC – memo

poinsettias. And orders/checks placed in the offering baskets, the Treasurer's mail box or handed to Belinda Norton in person.

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 discussing resources that are available through their program. Light snacks and beverages provided. Contact Judy Johnson or Debbie Burgio.

Operation Christmas Child- Thanks to everyone who is preparing boxes. All boxes must be brought to church next Sunday, Nov. 19th to be placed on the altar and be blessed before they are sent on their way to children around the world.

Calling all cooks and those who like to eat! We are starting a cooking group. This will be an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and have fun! We will meet on a monthly basis and cook a meal to eat as well as enough to freeze for use by the Shepherding teams. If you are interested, please let Debra Leiss know. Our first meeting will be the week of 11/27.

Third Quarter/Year to date Giving Statements – Please remember to pick-up your September 30th quarterly and year-to-date giving statements which are now available in the West Narthex. Questions regarding your regular giving statements, or if you desire additional information regarding stock donations or electronic giving, please contact our Treasurer, Belinda Norton at x14 or by email.

This years Advent Study is Christmas: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. Staring Dec. 3rd. Author Richard B. Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. There are those we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas—the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. Yet the author reminds us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately needed - and **need** - a Savior. We are looking for a few people to help host a couple of small groups on this study. If you are interested, copies of the books are available in fellowship hall for the next 3 weeks.

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 the following dates:** 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.