

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

Mt. Zion is a church where good things are happening. We have a vibrant music ministry. I thank our excellent music staff for their leadership. We had a successful Stewardship Campaign that resulted in an 11% increase in pledged giving over last year. I would like to thank the Stewardship Committee for their wise planning and hard work. The Worship and Arts Team is working hard in our preparation for the Advent/Christmas Season. The theme for this year will be “*The Road to Christmas*”.

Last weekend, I, along with 14 other men from the church, participated in a retreat at the Pecometh Retreat Center in Centreville, MD. We spent time learning more about the various disciples that Jesus choose to follow him. And in that process, we also learned some things about ourselves. I would like to thank Ken Sines for his leadership in planning this event.

During this special season, we have much to be thankful for. I know that many of you are making plans for your Thanksgiving celebration. I would like to take this time to wish each of you a very Blessed Thanksgiving.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship November 19, 2017

Lessons: Habakkuk 3:16-19/ Luke 18:9-14

Sermon “Giving Thanks, Even When It Hurts”

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

ADVENT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

An Advent Study will be offered this year based on Richard B. Wilke's book, Christmas: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly. The study consists of four sessions. The Monday morning study meets at 10 a.m. in Conference Rm. 2. The first session for the morning begins on November 27th. Another study is offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Gary will be facilitating the class. The first session for the night class begins on November 29th. The study books will be available down stairs in the fellowship hall between the two services. Cost: 10 dollar book donation. A sign-up sheet will be placed at the book table.

Shepherding Team #1 Is On Call This Week, November 19th to November 25th. Contact Jill Scott.

Cakes, cookies, brownie, and pies...oh my....follow the fresh baked aroma to the Fellowship HallThe UMW BAKE SALEis happening THIS SUNDAY!! Delightful and delicious treats await you! Help us meet our mission obligations, and help yourself to some wonderful holiday baked creations!!

Thank You Mt. Zion for all the tokens of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation month. Mt. Zion UMC Highland ROCKS! Sincerely, Pastor Tammi

Thank You from all the Mt. Zion staff for your appreciation during Staff Appreciation Sunday as we strive to continue to work hard for Mt. Zion UMC.

Thank you for all the Secret Santa Shop donations. We are only in need of pet gifts and gifts for dad. Last day for donations is Sunday November 26th.

Breakfast with Santa reservations are now being accepted please don't forget to make your reservations no later than Wednesday Nov. 29th

The Care Giver's Group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month between services, in the church library. Contact Judy H. Johnson.

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 this Sunday: November 19th Help us adorn our church for Christmas and order your poinsettias 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 this 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.

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. 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.