

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

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 Highland, MD 20777 301-
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 Check us out on the web:
 www.mtzionhighland.com

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

The P_{ointer}

Friends:

Our church is now in the season of Advent. In a spiritual way, we are preparing our hearts to ponder God's visit to us that happened a long time ago in Bethlehem. In the quiet still of the night, absent of any media outlets issuing a "Breaking News" story, God became incarnate in a child who was given the name "Jesus"; which means 'the Lord saves.' Jesus' birth did not happen among the advent of media frenzy or pomp and circumstance. Quite the opposite, really. Because there was 'no place at the inn', Mary and Joseph took lodging in a place where animals were kept. Mary wrapped the child in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger – (a manger is an animal trough where animals feed.) In utter humility and poverty, God breaks into our world.

It is good for us to remember that in the midst of all the hoopla and glittering lights of the season, the greatest gift we can receive comes not in a package with pretty ribbons and beautiful bows. The greatest gift of Christmas comes as Emmanuel (God with us) – that God became flesh and dwelt among us.

I invite everyone to join us for worship this holy season. On page 3 is a schedule of the Advent/Christmas Season here at Mt. Zion.

Grace and Peace,

Gary



Advent & Christmas Theme

"The Road to Christmas"

[Detailed sermon titles on page 3.]



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

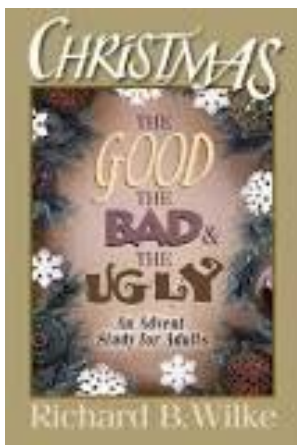
Rebecca O'Keefe
Nursery Supervisor



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 One service at 10 am	December 31 One service at 10 am
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Sandy Sehman	Santa & Mrs. Claus	Elizabeth Blough	Pastor Gary
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Sandy Sehman	Santa & Mrs. Claus	Elizabeth Blough	Pastor Gary
Greeters	9:00					
	11:00			Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson	
Liturgist	9:00	Shugo Tanaka	Carol Hill	Steve Dennis	Elizabeth Dennis	David Norton
Projection	9:00	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Jill Scott	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson
	11:00	Chuck Sehman	Carol Hill	Carol Messerly		
Sound	9:00	Al Hill, Bill Ray, Rod Messerly				
	11:00					
Usher Captains	9:00	Rob Eidson				
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz				



Advent Study - Christmas: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly Based on Richard B. Wilke's book.

- The study consists of four sessions. We currently have 3 classes:
- Monday morning at 10 a.m. in Conference Rm. 2. [Starts on Nov. 27th]
- Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., facilitated by Pastor Gary. [Starts on Nov. 29th]
- Sunday morning drop in Sunday School at 10:10 a.m. [Starts on Dec. 3]

Cost: 10 dollar book donation. A sign-up sheet will be placed at the book table.



Worship Spiritual Growth

Advent & Christmas Theme "The Road to Christmas"

December 3, 2017 **First Sunday of Advent** - Signs leading to the Road
Sermon Title: **"The World Is Coming to a - Beginning"** Mark 13:24-37

December 10, 2017 **Second Sunday of Advent** - The Preparer of the Road
Sermon Title: **"Blazing a Trail or Trailing a Blaze?"** Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2017 **Third Sunday of Advent** - The Purpose of the Road
Sermon Title: **"John's Opening Act"** John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24, 2017 **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - The Travelers on the Road
Sermon Title: **"Room For Those on the Outside"** Matthew 1:18-25
Only one service on Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

December 24, 2017 **Christmas Eve - The Road that Leads Home**
Sermon Title **"God News for You!"** 4 pm Luke 2:1-7
Sermon Title **"God's Unlikely Entrance"** 7 pm & 9 pm Luke 2:1-7



Stewardship Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for participating in Consecration Sunday. Through your faithful financial support we received 111 cards as of November 12, 2017, a 3% increase over all cards received last year and 23% higher than the same time last year. Additionally, Estimate of Giving cards received are \$51,000 higher than last year, an 11% increase over last year's total. Praise God!

Through the work of the Holy Spirit and your faithful commitment Mt. Zion is Touching Lives for Jesus Christ. I see the Holy Spirit at work through Mt. Zion at the Open Doors Food Pantry and at Winter Haven in the faces of the volunteers and those in the community who are helped. I see it in the Camp Hope mission team and the Rebuilding Together volunteers as they repair homes and actively witness to God's grace and mercy. I see the Holy Spirit at work as sandwiches are made for Martha's Table and in West Baltimore at Ames UMC as their neighborhood is fed and clothed. I see it in our Sunday worship and through the choirs, sound and video technicians, musicians and pastors who help to make our worship services a celebration of God's love and grace. I see the Holy Spirit at work in our Sunday School classes, study groups, Vacation Bible School and the Mt. Zion Pre-School. I see it at work through the maintenance and provision of the buildings at Mt. Zion and her staff and pastors who support and equip the laity to carry out the mission and ministries.

I see the Holy Spirit at work as the Mt. Zion community reflects on what portion of their God given blessings to return to our creator for God's work. Through your giving you have made both a personal spiritual step forward and have empowered Mt. Zion's many ministries and missions.

On behalf of Mt. Zion I sincerely thank you for your faithful support.

Your brother in Christ,
David G. Norton, Stewardship Chair



Discipleship Spiritual Growth



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMC CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS

Migration Sunday is Dec. 3: The Council of Bishops is calling on all United Methodist churches to observe Global Migration Sunday on Dec. 3. "From Asia and Europe to Africa and the Americas, the plight of more than 65 million men, women and children forced to leave their homes and migrate to places unknown calls all Christians to remember what God requires of us," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough. Funds collected on this day should be marked Migration Advance No. 3022144 and sent to the BWC Treasurer. A number of resources are available to help you celebrate this special Sunday.

Bishop's Day on the CM District - December 11, 2017; @ Bethany UMC, Ellicott City, MD. Clergy will gather from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and Laity will gather from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please [click here to RSVP](#) by Wednesday, December 6th.

**** All CMD Clergy** are expected to attend the clergy session from 2 - 4 p.m.. Please contact Rev. JW Park if you have an emergency that will prevent you from being able to attend.**

**** ALL Laity** are invited to attend the Laity session from 6 - 8 p.m. Please share information about this event with your congregations **

Children's Books for children of incarcerated women:

Patricia N. Marks and the conference Committee on Justice Ministries are collecting books at the BWC Mission Center, between now and Dec. 1, to give to 257 children whose mothers are currently incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Center for Women in Jessup. For more information, contact her at 703-304-8030.

Between Dec. 1 and Dec. 23, children's book will be collected at the Mission Center, by the BWC's Young Adult Council, to be used by **Project Transformation** at their summer camps in Washington D.C. Each day this summer, children entering grades 1-6 will read one-on-one with community volunteers and participate in activity-based literacy intervention. Workers at Project Transformation have developed an Amazon gift list, for anyone needing assistance with their selections.

The Mission Center, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, is located at 11711 E. Market Place in Fulton. **Give a child a book. Give a child a future.**

Prayers for the People

We continue to pray for our partners in Zimbabwe as the country undergoes political changes.

Desperately Seeking Work

Reservoir High School students with special needs complete jobs for the school system and community members. Our class is working on developing pre-work skills. We need more work to do and hope that you can help us. We can complete mailings (and drop it off at the post office upon request). We can label, collate, fold papers, fold brochures, file papers alphabetically, put together folders, hole punch, count out tickets or other items, shred documents, stuff goodie bags and wrap gifts. This is just a sample of work we have done in the past. Please ask us if you have any other job you think we can help with-we are open to most possibilities. All of our services are **FREE**. You can drop work off at Reservoir High School (please make arrangements in advance) or we can pick it up and return it to you. We look forward to working with you!

Please contact **Grace Dellinger**



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

Children's Ministry

ALL ARE INVITED

"FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING"

Mt. Zion Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December, 10th at 4 pm

Important: Please bring an empty, clean **1pt milk container** per gingerbread house and a **bag of candy** to share.

Refreshments will be served and a special story will be told.
Children are welcome to wear their pajamas.

Please contact Jena Meredith with any questions at
Childrensministry@mtzionhighland.com



Mt. Zion Christian Preschool:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Claire's Gourmet fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed your delicious goodies. The preschool children are working hard to prepare for their Christmas programs. Registration for the 2018 - 2019 school year began in November.

Please contact the preschool office with any questions.

We hope your family had a great Thanksgiving holiday and we wish you a Merry Christmas.





Opportunities to Serve Missions

Mt. Zion UMMen

Quarters for Society of St. Andrews

The little collection that could. With the support of the congregants of Mt. Zion this little container, weighing in at 6.6 pounds, will go a long way to help others. The quarters inside, collected for the Society of St. Andrews will offset costs to distribute food to approximately 5,140 people. Without this money, the excess food would have been disposed of at a landfill or left to rot in the fields.



Potato Drop

Potatoes destined for the landfill in Maine were rescued and distributed through the Society of St. Andrews and Baltimore-Washington Conference UMM Central District at Emory UMC, Olney, MD on November 4, 2017. A truckload (900 - 50 pound bags) of potatoes were dispersed locally in Howard, Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties. Potatoes distributed through Mt. Zion included the following: 10 bags - Ames UMC, Baltimore, MD (Fred Towner), 10 bags - Open Doors Food Pantry (Carol Hill), 1 bag - Soup Kitchen, Baltimore, MD (Mark Coffin), 5 bags - Swansfield Elementary School, Columbia, MD (Mark Coffin), 5 bags - Salvation Army, Howard County (David Norton), 3 bags - Salvation Army, Annapolis, MD (Bruce Hair), 3 bags - Food Pantry, Chesapeake Christian Center, Pasadena, MD (Diana Bandy), 2 bags - Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville, MD (Ken Sines), 12 bags - Unity Church of Christ, Shanksville, PA (Steve Sines), 7 bags - Elkridge Food Pantry, Elkridge, MD (Ken Sines).

Get involved with the Society of St. Andrews. Food that is normally destroyed is distributed to those in need.



Dear Ken,

This day before Thanksgiving, I'm thinking of you and the role you played to **support Rebuilding Together Howard County in 2017**. I am so grateful to you for your help and support! Thank you so much for bringing in Mt. Zion UMC as a sponsor again in 2018. Plus, thanks for coordinating our meetings at the church. Because of you, your team and others like you, **Rebuilding Together was able to supply free home repairs to 80 homeowners in 2017 compared to 25 in 2016**. More low income homeowners received free home repairs than ever before.

You and Mt. Zion UMC are to be congratulated for providing aid to low income homeowners living in Howard County! As we gear up for next year, I thank you and your team for returning in 2018 to help even more low income homeowners.

Happy Thanksgiving! Sincerely,
Ann Heavner
Executive Director





Opportunities to Serve Missions



The **Open Doors Food Pantry** served 128 families [553 people] in **November**, providing all with the trimmings for holiday dinners. In addition turkeys and trimmings were provided to Ames UMC in Baltimore, including 100 Thanksgiving gift bags, and extra produce. A coordinated effort of local churches provided coats for Ames UMC and these were given along with a prepared spaghetti dinner. Fun was had by all.



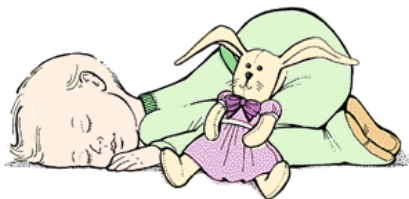
For the **Christmas holidays** the Food Pantry is collecting gifts for 59 children, as well as the regular holiday party and food distribution on Saturday, Dec. 16.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD A BIG SUCCESS!

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated filled boxes – a total of 90!! They are on their way to children around the world and Missions has given \$540 from the Missions Legacy Fund to pay for The Greatest Journey lesson materials for 90 children to hear about our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Well done, good and faithful servants!



PAJAMAS NEEDED!!

The nights are getting colder and the need for new pajamas is getting greater for children without the security of a stable home who are living in shelters, long term foster care and group homes. As we know the winter is the coldest from January thru March but, unfortunately, this is when the PJ Program receives the lowest number of donations. Let's help these kids in need with our **donations of New Pajamas and/or new storybooks** which will be collected at Mt Zion from January 1 thru January 15, 2018. These will be distributed to children in Maryland by the Pajama Program (www.pajamaprogram.org) All sizes of new PJs are needed from Infants through Teens. Let's not let the season of giving end when the nights are the coldest! MZ Contact Person: Karen Williams.



Calling all cooks and those who like to eat!

We are starting a cooking group, to enjoy an opportunity for fellowship and fun. We hope to meet on a weekly basis, cook a meal to eat and enough extra to **freeze for use by the Shepherding teams**. If you are interested, contact Debra Leiss. We plan to meet on Thursday evenings at 5:30 pm.



UMM Men's Retreat

The weekend of 10-12 November was spent by fifteen men on the shoreline of the Chester River. The men's retreat was held at Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville, MD. Based on the book *Twelve Ordinary Men*, by John MacArthur, we learned of the backgrounds and characteristics of the twelve disciples.

These men chosen by God were not of wealth, royalty or extremely educated. They were simple men including some fishermen, a tax collector, despised by many, and even a man that would come to betray Him. Why were these 12 particular men chosen to become followers of God? They were simply ordinary people like you and me that God could teach and mold to be leaders. The retreat was focused on only 6 of the disciples due to time constraints. Each one had some unique characteristics. Have you ever thought which disciple you are most like? Well, we have decided to continue a book study of *Twelve Ordinary Men* to answer that question. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Participation by all of the attendees and leaders teaching on an individual disciple, brought us together as a group. The men that were asked to lead the sessions were inexperienced in teaching yet they accepted the challenge. In other words, they became disciples and they were just ordinary men.

The temperature did not allow us time on the river to kayak but we could enjoy the peace and tranquility of the surroundings. We even attempted to watch a rocket launch from Wallops Island (a mission to replenish supplies for the space station). Saturday's launch cancelled by an unauthorized plane in the fly zone with less than 2 minutes to launch led to being rescheduled for Sunday morning. But cloud cover that morning impacted our view. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday night was provided by Chuck, Brian, Mark and Pastor Gary playing guitars and singing songs. It was wonderful.

An excerpt from the ePointer dated 16 November 2018 from Pastor Gary, "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 chose to follow him. And in that process, we also learned some things about ourselves."

Save the date of 9-11 November 2018 for the next retreat. Your room is being held at Pecometh.



Discipleship Spiritual Growth



Flick or Treat event! Over 60 kids had fun!



The preschool had 2 extra visitors
[or is that turkeys] for their
Thanksgiving celebration.

UMMen Calendar

15 December 2017 – Christmas Social at Ken & Jo's house (6:30pm).
Spouses are welcome.

**13 January 2018 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast (8-10am),
Mt. Gregory UMC, Cooksville, MD**

20 January 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (8-9:30am),
Roma's Pizzeria on Shaker Drive

11 February 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Social Meeting (6:30-8pm)
Ken's house

**23 February 2018 – Trivia Night (hosted by UMM)
in Fellowship Hall**

10 March 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (8-9:30am)
Roma's

17 March 2018 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast (8-10am)





6



35 Ways to Celebrate the Season - from BWC

Sometimes, for a hundred different reasons, it's easy to misplace the joy of Christmas. This year, we invite you to follow along with a daily post on Instagram that combines a sense of generosity, playfulness and the spirit of the season. Rejoice at [instagram.com/bwcumc](https://www.instagram.com/bwcumc)

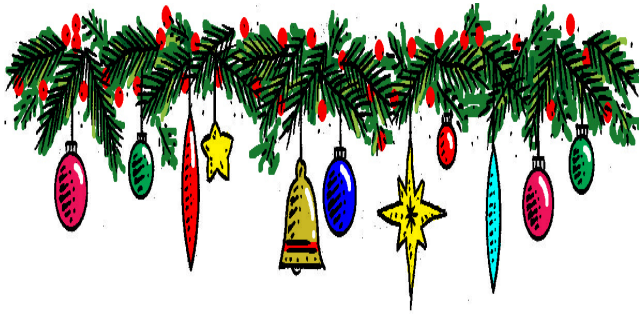


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>12:30pm - Stephens</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:30am - Playgroup/</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - Finance/CR2</div> <div>7pm - Worship and</div> <div>7:30pm - Mary</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - Clean up/Sanc</div> <div>9am - CR1/Preschool</div> <div>9am - Preschool</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>1</div> <div>11am - Pastor Joan</div> <div>5pm - Setup for</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT/Sanc</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7am - Breakfast</div> <div>8am - -12:30p</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Sanc/Papaviza</div>
<div>3</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>12:30pm - Stephens</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - Playgroup/</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - Finance/CR2</div> <div>7pm - Worship and</div> <div>7:30pm - Mary</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9am - Clean up/Sanc</div> <div>9am - CR1/Preschool</div> <div>9am - Preschool</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div>	<div>7</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9am - Brookville</div> <div>12pm - Sage</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div> <div>7pm - UMW</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>8:30am - Girl Scout</div> <div>2pm - Sanc/Papaviza</div>
<div>10</div> <div>10am - BP</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Sandwich</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div> <div>3:30pm - Ginger</div>	<div>11</div> <div>9:30am - Playgroup/</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>5:30pm - Stephen</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>8am - Maryland food</div> <div>10:20am - Preschool</div> <div>7pm - Evangelism&H</div> <div>7pm - Missions</div> <div>7pm - Trustees/CR2</div> <div>7:30pm - Troop</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>10am - Prayer</div> <div>10:30am - Retired</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6pm - BS Troop</div> <div>6pm - Winter Grace</div> <div>6:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div> <div>8pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>8pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am - Brookfield</div> <div>1pm - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>9am - Food Pantry</div> <div>2pm - Sanc/Papaviza</div> <div>5pm - GS Holiday</div>
<div>17</div> <div>10am - Care Giver</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>12pm - Stephen</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>18</div> <div>9:30am - Playgroup/</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Church</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>SPRC Mtg/CR1</div> <div>7:30pm - BS T-702</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30am - Preschool</div> <div>11:30am - Ginny</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>12pm - Preschool &</div> <div>6pm - BS Troop</div> <div>6:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Polisettia Delivery</div> <div>9:30am - Preschool</div> <div>9:30am - Preschool</div> <div>7pm - Longest Night</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div> <div>7pm - UMW/CR2</div> <div>8pm - Refreshments</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:30am - Preschool</div> <div>10am - Christmas</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8am - CBT/FH</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Sanc/Papaviza</div>
<div>24</div> <div>Christmas Eve</div> <div>Christmas Eve pm</div> <div>10am - Christmas</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>25</div> <div>-- Office Closed --</div> <div>Christmas Day</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Bulletin</div>	<div>27</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6pm - BS Troop</div> <div>6:45pm - Chancel</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Sanc/Papaviza</div>
<div>31</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>3pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>



MT. ZION UM WOMEN

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

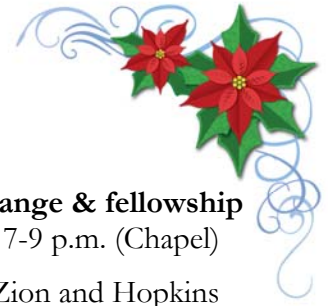


SAGE Brigade: December 15
Christmas Lunch at Noon



Pointer...

Page 1 - Letter from Pastor Gary
Page 2 - Sunday Worship Schedule
Page 3 - December Worship Schedule &
Stewardship Committee Report
Page 4 - BW Conference Info
Page 5 - Youth & Children's Ministry
Page 6 & 7 - Mission Projects
Page 8 & 9 - UM Men & Pictures
Page 10 - December Birthdays
Page 11 - December Church Calendar
Page 12 - UM Women & Dec. Activities



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

All women of Mount Zion and Hopkins UMC are invited to this annual event. Please come and enjoy refreshments, Christmas music, and good fellowship. Bring a gift to share in the lively gift exchange.

Please, gifts should be \$10 or less,
wrapped and unlabeled.

Great holiday fun.



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 Dec. 20, Dec. 27*, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, June 20. *Class vote. Contact: Bettye Ames 410-227-9257 or Front Office.]

[Jan. Pointer Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 21]

