

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

Every so often in the church's calendar, *Christmas Eve* falls on a Sunday. And this Sunday is one of those times. Therefore Sunday morning we will observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent with only one service at 10 a.m.

The Christmas Eve Services are scheduled as follows: Children & Family Christmas Service is at 4:00 p.m.; Contemporary Christmas Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m.; Traditional Candlelight Service at 9:00 p.m.

Christmas is often a hectic and frantic time for many of us. It is only fitting that we, as people of faith, will gather together to worship and celebrate the Good News of that first Christmas morning – of God entering into our world in a unique way through a babe born in a manger.

I am looking forward to celebrating this good news with you.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

**Sunday Morning Worship** Dec. 24, 2017 **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - One-Service at 10 a.m.

**Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Sermon** “Room for Those on the Outside”

#### **Advent & Christmas Theme**

*“The Road to Christmas”*

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

**Children & Family Christmas Service** at 4 p.m.

*Pastor's Message “Good News for You!”* Luke 2:1-7

**Contemporary Christmas Candlelight Service** at 7:00 p.m.

**Traditional Christmas Candlelight Service** at 9:00 p.m.

Sermon Title *“God's Unlikely Entrance”* 7 pm & 9 pm Luke 2:1-7

December 31, 2017 One Service – at 10 a.m.

Pastor Gary will be on vacation from December 26 to December 31. Rev. Tammi Brantley will be covering any pastoral emergencies during that time.

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

**Shepherding Team #6 Is On Call This Week**, December 24th to December 30th. Contact Crystal Zimmerman.

**Longest Night Service:** Please join us Thursday evening at 7:00 PM in the chapel for The Longest Night Service, a quiet service of scripture, song and prayer sponsored by the Stephen Ministry Team. Following the service, you are invited to join us for refreshments and fellowship in Conference Room 1. Please find flyer attached.

**UPCOMING NEW MEMBER SESSIONS** – For those interested in joining Mt. Zion Church, new member classes will be held on the following Sundays, January 14, 21, & 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Calling all cooks and those who like to eat!** Join our Cooking Group once a month and cook a meal to eat as well as enough to freeze for use by the Shepherding teams. If you are interested, please contact Debra Leiss.

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

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

**Pajamas Needed!!** 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. Winter is the coldest January thru March but, unfortunately, this is when the PJ Program receives the lowest number of donations. Please donate New Pajamas (sizes Infants through Teens) and/or new storybooks. Collection at Mt Zion January 1 thru January 15, 2018. Distribution in Maryland is by the Pajama Program ([www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org)). Let's not let the season of giving end when the nights are the coldest! Contact: Karen Williams.

**End of Year Donations** - Donations for the 2017 giving year must be received in the church office no later than 3:00 PM on Friday, December 29th. Mail-in donations must be postmarked on or before December 31st to be counted for 2017.

**2017 Expenses or Reimbursements:** If you have church expenses related to 2017 that you need to be reimbursed for, other invoices to be paid by the church from 2017, these vouchers, receipts or invoices must be submitted to the church office by close of business on Wednesday, December 27th. If you have any questions, please contact the church Treasurer on x14. Reimbursement forms are available in the Treasurer's hallway mailbox. Submissions may also be made via email.

**2018 Offering Envelopes:** 2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the West Narthex. If you did not order Offering Envelopes, but still wish to have a box for the upcoming year, a limited number of extra sets were ordered. Please contact the church Treasurer at x14 if you are interested.