

Dear Mt. Zion Friends and Family,

It's hard to imagine this Sunday is the last Sunday in 2017. This Sunday, New Year's Eve we will have one worship service at 10 a.m. One of our Certified Lay Speakers David Norton will be bringing the message.

It is usually around the end of the year we begin the process of taking inventory looking at things to change and improve for the upcoming New Year. I was reminded of a recent devotion I read entitled End of Season. This devotion helped me see coming to the end of a season/year is a blessing. Feel free to read this devotion as we prepare to embrace 2018.

<https://lthomason.wordpress.com/2014/08/26/end-of-season-a-devotion/>

We look forward to all God is and will be doing in the upcoming New Year!

Happy New Year,

Tammi

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 #7 Is On Call This Week, December 31st to January 6th. Contact Jan Plant.

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 3rd 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:** 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). Let's not let the season of giving end when the nights are the coldest! Contact: Karen Williams.

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.

