

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” - Psalm 121:1-2

As of late, we have had our share of cold weather – and yes, ice! If at all possible, the cardinal rule is this - do not drive or walk on ice. Despite that rule, I found myself walking on ice to get from one place to another. I moved along gingerly, slowly, and tried to keep my balance.

Walking on ice is a good metaphor for life. The stuff of life has a way of bringing us to the slippery places. The singer and songwriter, Paul Simon, wrote a song entitled, “*Slip Slidin’ Away*”. The chorus goes like this: “*Slip slidin’ away/Slip slidin’ away/You know the nearer your destination/The more you’re slip slidin’ away.*”

I don’t know about you, but I have felt like that at times. You know what I am talking about – those days when you feel as though you’re taking one step forward and two steps backward. It’s during these slippery times that I like to read the first few verses of Psalm 121. They help me regain my focus and lift my sights higher when things go awry. I thought I would share these well-known words with you again. “*I lift my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord . . .*”

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship January 14, 2018

Lesson: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon “The Future Is Now”

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

Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week. January 14th to January 20th. Contact Bonnie Luepkes.

HELP NEEDED!!!! If we want to continue KID’S ZONE at the 9:00 and 11:00 services, we must have more adult help! Please contact Jena Meredith if you can serve in this fun ministry!

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.

The Ginny White Circle will meet at 11:30 on Wednesday, January 17, in Conference Room Two. Joanne Dickson is Chairman and Louise Sehman is in charge of Devotions. Following the meeting, we will have lunch at Ranazul in Maple Lawn. Please RSVP to Joanne by Tuesday noon.

Join us for Great Date Night on Saturday, February 17, as Mt. Zion welcomes singer, songwriter, and funny guy, Mark Cable, back to the stage for a spiritual evening of great entertainment. Mark’s performance weaves a tapestry of uplifting lyrics, soulful acoustical guitar, and hilarious anecdotes in a romantic Coffee House setting. The Fellowship Hall doors open at 6:30 PM when we start serving warm winter beverages, then settle in for an amazing concert beginning at 7:00. At intermission, our delicious Valentine’s Day dessert buffet will sweeten the evening (with healthy options as well). Tickets are \$15 per person and advance reservations are suggested by contacting Jan Plant.

Seated Exercise Class will be held every Wednesday during January in the Chapel from 9:30-10am. Wear comfortable clothing. We will be jazzing up January with music from Russ Freeman. Any questions? Contact Bettye Ames.

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.

New Study in the Drop-In Class starting 1/14 in CR3: Fear the Other: No Fear in Love. Author Will Willimon invites you to look more closely at the gospel's command to love—because to genuinely love those considered to be "Other" may be the hardest thing for people of faith to do. This study supports the Call to Action committee on Racial Relations. This study will be offered again Thursday evenings in March.

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.

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.