

### 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



**JANUARY**

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# Mount Zion United Methodist Church

# The P<sub>int</sub>er

Friends:

For many of us, the New Year is about making resolutions. We make a promise to give up certain destructive behaviors and practice positive ones.

Of course, the resolution many of us make after the holidays is to lose weight. After indulging ourselves with too much food, desserts, and candies, the extra pounds do add up.

Keeping resolutions is indeed difficult. If you are like me, you probably have had your share of broken promises. Sometimes we come up with clever ways to sidetrack our promises.

Janice Walsh submitted a story to Christian Reader. She said that her husband had a sweet tooth. This concerned her after she just made a delicious batch of chocolate chip cookies. She was about to go on an errand but she didn't want her husband eating the cookies while she was away. To discourage him, she taped a verse from scripture on the wrapped goodies, "*Everything is permissible for me* – but not *everything is beneficial*." (1Cor. 6:12)

When she returned home, to her dismay she found half of the cookies gone and another verse attached to the plate, "*The righteous eat to their heart's content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry*." (Proverbs 13:25)

Left to our own devices, we often do find ingenious ways to circumvent our New Year's resolutions. That's why the church is important. The community of faith is needed to help us live out the promises we have made to God and to one another. As one person once said, "*I go to church to join with others in a response none of us would have made by himself or herself, a shared response to a shared Word*."

I hope you make a resolution to recommit to support Mt. Zion church by your prayers, gifts, service, presence, and witness.

Together we can do great things. I am pleased to report that Mt Zion has reduced its mortgage to a five digit figure. Five years ago, you traveled out in faith to establish the **Legacy Campaign** – part of which was the intent of paying off a \$1.2 million debt much sooner than the payment schedule which was established at the beginning. You made a promise and because of your faith and commitment, the completion of an established goal is now in sight.

[continued on page 2]



**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	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Kristin Robertson	Frances Colvin	Andrea Smolen
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Kristin Robertson	Frances Colvin	Andrea Smolen
Greeters	9:00	Louise Sehman, Shugo Tanaka, & Wayne Mullinix	Louise Sehman, Shugo Tanaka, & Wayne Mullinix	Carolyn & Lamont Baskett	Alice Ellis, Erin & Jack Island
	11:00			Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson
Liturgist	9:00	Betty Cashmark	Jon Lindberg	Lamont Baskett	Ellen McKinzie
Projection	9:00	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson
	11:00	Chuck Sehman	Carol Hill	Carol Messerly	Chuck Sehman
Sound	9:00	<i>Help Wanted</i>	Dustin Edison	<i>Help Wanted</i>	Scott Johnson
	11:00	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Bill Ray
Usher Captains	9:00	Will Scott			
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz			

(Pastor Gary's message continued:)

As the New Year is upon us, we have many blessings for which to be thankful: a loving congregation, a charge to keep, and a God who loves us so much to send us the very best . . . the One born in Bethlehem.

I am looking forward to our shared ministry and a New Year of hope and promise. Amen.

Grace and Peace,  
Gary





## Worship Spiritual Growth

### Human Relations Day UM Special Offering - Sunday, January 14

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these.” Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas’ poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that’s what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God’s children to realize their potential.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?

Will you continue to support Human Relations Day?

Will you continue nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities’ self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed?

Rev. I Maliik Safir, whose church works with those gripped by addiction in Little Rock, sums up the work of Human Relations Day by recalling Jesus’ story of the Good Samaritan: **“to meet the poor, the disadvantaged and the underserved at the places where others have robbed them and help them to recover from the wounds of social inequality.”**

### Community Developers' Program U.S. Site Map





## 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

#### VBS 2018

will be held July 23rd-27th from 9-noon!

Mark your 2018 calendar.

Please contact Jena Meredith if you would like to help!!



#### Mt. Zion Christian Preschool:

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts. We have exceeded the goal we set for the year and will be upgrading the playground in late winter/early spring.

We would also like to thank Miss Jena for all of time and effort she spent preparing the kids for the Christmas programs. Their wonderful music spread holiday cheer to all.

Registration for the 2's classes will begin on January 10th. There is still space available in the 3's and 4's classes.

This month, we will be collecting pajamas for needy children and boxes of Valentine's day cards for the children of our Food Pantry families. Donations can be dropped off in the Preschool office.





# UMMen Calendar

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

**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)



## TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY, 2018  
7:00 – 9:30 PM

*In the Fellowship Hall and hosted by UMM*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Get your team together now (maximum 6 per team)  
\$10 entry fee per person (to support UMM)  
Prizes will be awarded  
Sodas available for purchase  
Fresh popped popcorn

Watch for further details  
Work on your knowledge of trivia!  
Make plans to join the fun!



## Opportunities to Serve Missions



### Open Doors Food Pantry

The Fellowship Hall was bustling with activity as the doors of the food pantry opened on Saturday morning. The clients were arriving and taking their seats, patiently waiting to begin shopping. Children squealed with excitement, knowing that Santa would soon arrive.



The tables were covered in food boxes, bags, and cans, all neatly ordered and ready for distribution. Coolers were full of butter, eggs, milk and frozen meats. The bread counter overflowed with fresh breads and pastries. Lining one wall of the Hall were bags and boxes of fresh produce: apples, potatoes, onions, carrots, and cauliflower.

This month's pantry had over 75 volunteers, some of whom were there for the first time. This girls' softball team donned Santa hats and joined in on the fun, bagging produce and stacking cases of donated food.



and clothing to fulfill the wishes of the sixty-nine Angel Tree children. On this day, two additional "elves" helped to get all the toys and candy sleighs distributed.

"Santa" (Steve Dennis) arrived shortly thereafter, and, soon, children were lining up to sit on his knee and tell him what they hoped to get for Christmas. Santa's Head Elf, Karen Greiner, had been hard at work for weeks, enlisting the help of other "elves" who donated new toys, books,







The Parenting Class managed the Polar Express Shoppe where children could select free gifts for their siblings and parents. Fifteen children chose items from the Shoppe and, in all, seventy-five gifts were wrapped and bagged. The children left with big smiles on their faces, happy to be able to give on Christmas morning.



Pastor Gary came to help, distributing bagged potatoes before offering to assist a client by carrying around her two year old daughter while she shopped. All in a day's work for a hands-on pastor!



When the day was done, and almost all of the food had been distributed, the floors were swept, tables were cleaned, and the produce that remained was boxed and loaded on a truck to be taken to Grassroots in Columbia and Ames United Methodist Church in Baltimore.



Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made the day a success! See you in 2018! Carol and Laurie



## Opportunities to Serve Missions

### Open Doors Food Pantry

(continued)

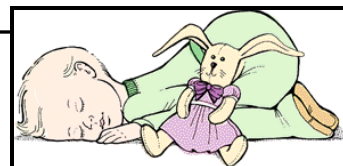
We thought we would close out the year by sharing some short stories from December's food pantry of how Mount Zion is "Touching Lives for Jesus Christ".

- Each year, Allison Dennis takes up a collection at her workplace to buy the Giant Food gift cards for the pantry families. One gentleman would save and contribute \$100 every year. This man passed away a few months ago. In learning what he had been doing, his sister wrote a check for \$500 to the food pantry in his memory.
- Steve Dennis was at his office holiday party and when asked what he was going to be doing over the weekend, he explained he was playing Santa Claus at the food pantry. He spoke of all the food, gift cards and presents that had been donated for the client families that were going to be given out. One co-worker said, "I want in on that", and proceeded to write a check for \$200 to the food pantry.
- Some client families received a gift card and tags to pick up their Angel Tree gifts when they checked in at the desk. Upon receiving hers, one woman, with tears in her eyes and staring in disbelief, said to Carol Hill, "You have no idea how much you've helped my family this year".
- One little boy named Roman comes to help at the food pantry with his aunt almost every month. He looked at Karen Greiner and asked if she was Santa's helper. Karen asked why he thought that. He pointed out that she was wearing an outfit like an elf. Karen replied that she might be Santa's helper. Roman said, "If you're really Santa's helper, how old am I"? Having just wrapped and sorted 69 Angel Tree children's gifts, she quickly searched through her mind to locate Roman's age. Karen looked at him, and said, "I think you're 8 years old". Roman's eyes got big and his mouth dropped open. That clinched it for him. He KNEW that Karen was truly Santa's helper.
- Steve Dennis has been the Pantry's Santa for the last 4 years. He loves his job! The kids love to hear him read a story, and to sit upon his knee and tell him what they want for Christmas. Funny how being dressed in a beard and red suit can fill one's heart with joy.

*Christmas is truly a time of giving, and stories like these would not be possible without the generous donations of those at Mount Zion, and of our community. My heartfelt thanks to each of you who help keep the food pantry going. Next month, we would like for you to meet our Board of Directors that make decisions for this mission. Until then, have a blessed New Year! Peace, Carol*

### 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](http://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







## Discipleship Spiritual Growth



Jammie day at the preschool.

Annual Gingerbread House Making night





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## 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.

To register for the sessions, please email office





## Mt Zion Mt Zion, Mt Zion Staff

Jan 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>21</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>12-2pm - 5th group</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div> <div>4pm - Fellowship</div> <div>5pm - Trinity</div> <div>6pm - Youth</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>2:30am - Fellowship</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Bullcain</div> <div>7pm - Finance/CEB</div> <div>7pm - Worship and</div> <div>7:30pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>3</div> <div>2am - CEB/Fellowship</div> <div>3am - Fellowship</div> <div>2:30am - School Chair</div> <div>1:30pm - Dedications</div> <div>4pm - BS Troop</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Girl's Sabbath</div> <div>10am - Fellowship</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Terrence's Sabbath</div> <div>2:30pm - COT</div>	<div>6</div> <div>2:30am - COT/Sanc</div> <div>2:30am - Camp Meeting</div> <div>2pm - Service/Prayer</div>
<div>14</div> <div>10am - BP</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Sandwich</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>15</div> <div>2:30am - Fellowship</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Bullcain</div> <div>Terrence's Sabbath</div> <div>8am - Fellowship Food</div> <div>7:30pm - BS T-702</div>	<div>17</div> <div>11:30am - Eirene</div> <div>1:30pm - Dedications</div> <div>4pm - BS Troop</div> <div>4:30pm - Chancel</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Girl's Sabbath</div> <div>10am - Fellowship</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>19</div> <div>1pm - Food Fellowship</div> <div>2:30pm - COT</div>	<div>20</div> <div>2:30am - COT/Sanc</div> <div>2am - Food Fellowship</div> <div>2pm - Service/Prayer</div>
<div>21</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>12pm - 5th group</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div> <div>4:30pm - BS Troop</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Terrence's Sabbath</div> <div>2:30am - Fellowship</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Bullcain</div> <div>7pm - Church</div>	<div>24</div> <div>2:30am - School Chair</div> <div>1:30pm - Dedications</div> <div>4pm - BS Troop</div> <div>4:30pm - Chancel</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Girl's Sabbath</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Terrence's Sabbath</div> <div>2:30pm - COT</div>	<div>27</div> <div>2:30am - COT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Service/Prayer</div>
<div>28</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>10am - Young Adult</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div> <div>3pm - Fellowship</div> <div>4pm - Trinity</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Terrence's Sabbath</div> <div>2:30am - Fellowship</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Bullcain</div>	<div>31</div> <div>2:30am - School Chair</div> <div>1:30pm - Dedications</div> <div>4pm - BS Troop</div> <div>4:30pm - Chancel</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>





### 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.



### WINTER SHELTER IS COMING TO MT. ZION

We will begin signups in the West Narthex on **Sunday, January 28.** We also hope to have an on-line signup option this year.



### 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.

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



Thank you to all our friends who have kept Dave in your prayers. Thank you for the cards and calls. He continues in his therapy and there have been some good signs of improvement. We especially thank all who give blood and platelets, without you, Dave would be in real trouble. The gift of "life" is truly appreciated.

Sue, Nathan & Liz Ball



### *Pointer...*

- Page 1 - Letter from Pastor Gary
- Page 2 - Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 3 - Human Relations Day - Sun., Jan. 14
- Page 4 - Youth & Children's Ministry
- Page 5 - UM Men
- Pages 6-8 - Open Door Food Pantry December
- Page 9 - Children's activities in pictures
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- Page 11 - January Church Calendar
- Page 12 - 2018 MTZ News

[Feb. Pointer Deadline: Wednesday, Jan. 24]

