

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

Happy Belated Valentine's Day! We usually celebrate this occasion by sending cards, handing out boxes of chocolate, and taking someone to dinner. It's a day to recognize the importance of love. Certainly, what the world needs more of is love.

Sadly, on February 14th, Valentine's Day, you and I received horrible news of another school shooting in Florida. Our nation is again filled with numbness and shock at the news of more deaths due to gun violence. We can only imagine the pain and grief the families are experiencing at this time. Our hearts and prayers go out to them.

On this very same day, Christian churches around the world observed Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. It's a time to reflect on God's love for us. Through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, scripture reading, almsgiving (service to others), and reflection, we seek to allow God's love to mold us, move us, and direct us so that we may be instruments of healing and hope in a broken world.

Lent is a journey that reminds us of Divine Love, God's love – a love that offers the world healing, reconciliation, and hope.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship

February 18, 2018

Lesson: 1 John 4:16-21

Sermon "Remembering Our First Love"

A Lenten Study based on William Willimon's book, **Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love** (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016) will be offered. The first class will meet on Wednesday, February 21, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The final class ends on March 14, 2018. The cost of the book is 10 dollars. You will be able to pick one up at the church office. Please contact Pastor Gary at and let him know you will be joining the class.

Lent & Easter Theme

*"No Fear In Love"**

February 18, 2018 First Sunday in Lent - Saved by the Other

Sermon Title: "Remembering Our First Love"

Scriptures: 1 John 4:16-21; Romans 5:6-11;

February 25, 2018 Second Sunday in Lent - The Other, My Enemy

Sermon Title: "Remembering Our Roots"

Scriptures: Leviticus 19:33-34; Matthew 25:31-46

March 4, 2018 Third Sunday in Lent - Learning to Fear Like Christians

Sermon Title: "Remembering to Fear the Lord"

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Luke 18:11

March 11, 2018 Fourth Sunday in Lent – Loving the Other in Church

Sermon Title: "Remembering Our Connectedness"

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-12; John 3:16

March 18, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Lent – Jesus, the Other

Sermon Title "Jesus – the Other Who Helps Us Remember"

Scriptures: Luke 10:25-37

March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday - *Sermon Title* "No Greater Is This"

March 29, 2018 Maundy Thursday *Sermon Title* "Sharing in Suffering"

March 20, 2018 Good Friday – Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

April 1, 2018 Easter Day *Sermon Title* "Easter: God Gets the Last Laugh"

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

9:00 – Traditional

11:00 – Praise and Celebration

*Lenten Sermon Series based on William Willimon's book, Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love.

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

Shepherding Team #5 Is On Call This Week, February 18th to February 25th. Contact Frances and Roger Colvin.

Reminder: Please don't forget to order your **EASTER FLOWERS by February 25th**, we know this seems early, however, this is the deadline the Nursery has given the office, so please understand that late orders cannot be accepted. Thank You.

A BIG Thank You to all who helped with last minute logistics for the Bishop's Lenten Day Apart.

The Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday February 16, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM to help unload and organize **lots** of food **and/or** Saturday February 17, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:30 to serve those in need and help clean up. Any time you have to come on out and help is a blessing. Don't forget to drop your loose change in the offering basket! Questions? email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for 2/24 at 6pm in the fellowship hall. If you haven't already RSVP'd - we have some space left. Please contact Debra Leis 301-535-1319 or the church office to let us know you are coming.

GIVE LOVE FOR EASTER!!! Please give a bag or two of small individually wrapped candy for our Easter Egg Hunt on March 25th! Each piece of candy represents love from our church to a child in the community!! A box will be placed in the west Narthex and another in the office hallway!! Please bring in your candy by March 11th! We will be filling more than 2500 eggs!! THANK YOU!!

Cooking Group: The cooking group will meet again on 2/27 at 5:30. We will meet at Gail Coffin's house for this meeting. Our purpose is to get together, prepare a meal for ourselves and enough for the Shepherding ministry or other mission needs. We would love to have you join us for fun, fellowship and food! Please let Deb Leiss or Gail Coffin know if you are interested.

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.

Trivia Night!!! Friday February 23, 7-9:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hosted by UMC for ALL AGES. Get Your Team Together Now! (Maximum 6 per Team). Entry fee \$10:00 Supports UMM. Save money by registering your team early February 2nd (Groundhog Day) and save \$10:00 per team. Prizes will be awarded – Free Fresh Popcorn – Sodas available for purchase. Register now with Mark Coffin or Ken Sines.

Signups continue this week for Winter Shelter, March 4-11. You can sign up via Signup Genius (link is on home site of Mt. Zion web site) or on Sunday in the West Narthex. We are in particular need of people to stay overnight, to be kitchen coordinators and to clean bathrooms after guests leave. For more information contact Rod Barr.

Advertisement for Assistant Pastor part-time position:

The SPRC met during the last week of January and discussed the vacant position that had been Pastor David's, which as you all know has been open since his departure last July. We made the decision after much discussion to advertise for a retired Methodist minister with experience similar to Pastor David's to fill a part time Assistant Pastor position. The ad came out in Monday's e-Connection classified section. The SPRC is supportive of this based on both the composition and mix of the current staff we have, the needs of the church at large from their meetings with Pastor Gary, and what Pastor Gary is looking for to support him in his senior pastor position. We believe

a retired Methodist minister who will bring a wide and varied background of past church experiences is what we are looking for right now to help the church and Pastor Gary make disciples for Jesus Christ. (Submitted by Karyn Vice, Chair, SPRC)

Rebuilding Together, All Day, Saturday, April 28 – Plan to participate in the Rebuilding Together day of service helping a local homeowner with home repairs and being in fellowship with each other. All skill levels welcome. Your commitment to join us is needed by Feb 4. For more information or to sign up, please indicate on the bulletin attendance sheet or contact Ken Sines or Kathy Dunn.

CAMP HOPE (June 24 - 30) Participants perform renovation projects and home repairs in the surrounding Appalachia area for homeowners needing financial or physical assistance. Campers are housed at Frostburg State Univ. with other churches throughout the Baltimore Conference. YOUTH SIGN-UPS will be Sunday, March 4th, 11th, and 25th after the 9 am service in Fellowship Hall. Eligible youth must be age 14 by June 24th. If you have questions regarding the Camp Hope program, please contact Debby Klopp

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.

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