

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

I am a pet lover. Laurie and I have a dog named Chloe and a cat named Charlie. Chloe is a Shar Pei (the dog with many wrinkles) and Charlie is your basic domestic cat with black and white markings (which looks like a tuxedo).

Dogs and cats are so different when it comes to their personalities and disposition. Dogs are loyal and remain by your side. You can count on them to be by your side no matter how your day went. Cats, on the other hand, are fiercely independent and eventually will grace their presence upon you, but on their time.

I sometimes look at them as representing two aspects of the Trinity. My dog reminds me of the Holy Spirit that stands alongside us in the day to day struggles of life. My cat reminds me of the mystery of God, a God that we can't direct or manipulate to bend toward our wishes.

And so, when my cat catches me off guard and jumps on my lap, I thank God for revealing a presence to me that is a mystery beyond my ability to intellectually grasp with words and concepts.

If you have a pet or pets, I hope that they can remind you to celebrate the mystery of God's love and mercy and assures of God's presence that never leaves us in the journey of faith.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship

February 25, 2018

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

Sermon "Remembering Our Roots"

A Lenten Study based on William Willimon's book, **Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love** (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016) is being held. The first class met on Wednesday, February 21, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The final class ends on March 21, 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 pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com and let him know that 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 #6 Is On Call This Week, February 25th to March 3rd. Contact Crystal Zimmerman.

Reminder: **EASTER FLOWER** orders are coming in –Thank You to those who have ordered already. This Sunday February 25th will be your last opportunity to order flowers.

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.

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 or the church office to let us know you are coming.

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.

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.

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.

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.

