

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

As some of you might know, I have had some car problems lately. So I just bought a compact car with a fire-house red color. I am now driving with a little less anxiety and with a greater trust that my car will take me to where I need to go.

My old car was 11 years old and had 110,000 miles on the odometer. But I really wanted to put another 100,000 miles on it. I was faithful in taking the car to my mechanic for regular maintenance check-ups and oil changes. When a part needed to be replaced and the cost wasn't too much, the repairs were made. I treated it well, so to me it should have lasted a little longer. However, I finally realized that the cost of fixing it would exceed the cost of buying a new car. And so, I did what was needed.

We live in a world of planned obsolescence - things that are built eventually will become obsolete and therefore replaced.

As physical, biological human beings, we too will wear down and someday we will die. Yet, we are more than just physical, biological beings. We are also sentient, thinking, and spiritual beings. God creates us, not to someday replace us, but to renew us and to transform us. The Easter proclamation that follows the season of Lent is this – despair is turned into joy and death is defeated by life.

My new car has a limited warranty but as people of the resurrection – God's promise comes with life-time warranty.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

**Sunday Morning Worship**

March 4, 2018

**Lessons** 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Luke 18:9-14

**Sermon** "Remembering to 'Fear' the Lord"

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 and let him know that you will be joining the class.

### **Lent & Easter Theme**

#### *"No Fear In Love"\**

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"*

7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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 #7 Is On Call This Week**, March 4th to March 10th. Contact Jan Plant.

**The Open Doors Food Pantry will be distributing Easter goody bags for the kids in March.** We have all the treats and toys to go in the bags, but we are looking for donations of gift bags (used is fine). The size we are looking for is about 10 1/2 inches tall, and the base is about 4 3/4" x 7 3/4". It's a little smaller than a pack of notebook paper but anything about this size would work. Plain color or springy/kid-friendly patterns are best. There will be an extra-large gift bag in the West Narthex on March 4th to collect any bags you can donate.

**Reminder:** Daylight Savings is on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to move your clocks forwards 1 hour!

**Signups continue this week for Winter Shelter, March 4-11.** You can sing 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month between services,** in the church library. Contact Judy H. Johnson.