

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

I just finished my first Lenten/Easter season with you as your pastor. I really need to share a word of thanks to the many people who made this a special time in the church's life. So many people and ministry teams contributed in the planning and participation in the Sunday morning worship services and additional holy services during this time. If I would try to mention each person's name, I know that I would miss someone. And so I thank the following ministry teams; such as the various choirs, the music staff, the power point team, the ushers, the greeters, the sound team, the readers, the presenters of the children's message, the worship committee, the fellowship team, the United Methodist Men and Women, the communications team, the evangelism team, the mission team, the nursery team, the small groups ministry team, the fellowship team, and the entire Mt. Zion Staff.

Please forgive me if I have failed to mention any other ministry areas that have contributed this season to help others to worship God, grow in their relationship with God, and inspire others to serve the community and world.

Finally, I ask that you join with me in thanking God for the many gifts that we have received because of God's grace, mercy, and love. We joyfully serve the living God who has blessed us to be a blessing to others.

Mt. Zion is a special place to serve as your pastor.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship

April 8, 2018

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Message: "Is There A Faith Without A Doubt?"

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

Shepherding Team #3 Is On Call This Week, April 8th to April 14th. Contact Betty Cashmark.

Blood Pressure Screening will take place in the Library this Sunday between both services.

Seated Chair Exercise – There will be no class on April 11, 2018. Classes resume 4/18 & 4/28.

Drop In Class will not meet Sunday. Please join us on 4/15 as we continue the ALPHA study.

The Open Doors Food Pantry is able to buy food and other necessities from the loose change we receive. Please deposit any loose change in the offering plate to help feed those in need. We have volunteer opportunities on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 7:30am - 11:30am. To contact us, please email opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com. Thank you!

UMM sponsors a hike for Mt. Zion members and friends, male and female, 10 AM on Saturday, March 31. 6-mile round trip on Patuxent Branch Path with optional lunch at Rams Head Tavern, Savage. Meet at trail parking opposite [9175 Guilford Road](#). Register w/ Will Scott.

Native American Ministries Observance at Covenant United Methodist Church (CUMC) will observe Native American Ministries this year through a special program open to all, Saturday April 14, 2018, from 1 to 4pm, at the Covenant United Methodist Church, Montgomery Village, Maryland. Refreshments available. Dr Casey Church, a nationally known leader in Native American Ministries will lead us in a seminar that will provide (1) brief historical

view of Native American history in our area that leads to our current environment, (2) examples of ministries that are active in other United Methodist churches, (3) how congregations may participate in meaningful ways to join the United Methodist Church 2012 General Conference action to heal past relationships with Native American and Indigenous peoples as we grow into the future. For RSVP's or questions contact Belinda Norton at Belinda.norton@verizon.net also see attached flyer.

Love the Other: A speaker series inspired by the Will Willimon's book *Fear of the Other : No Fear in Love*. Join us to learn about different cultures that may seem strange or foreign. This opportunity is a first step to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be outside mainstream Christian culture. Series is located in the Fellowship Hall and includes:

4/15 at 12:15pm - Native Americans with Belinda Norton

4/22 at 3:00pm - Holocaust Survivors with Edith Corde

5/7 at 7pm- Muslims with Iman Dibba

All events will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Mt Zion

Help with Potluck: The Call to Action committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Love the Other Speaker Series by bringing a casserole, salad to desert to share. If you are able, please let Bettye Ames know or email smallgroups@mtzionhighland.com

Save the evening of Saturday, May 5 for Mt. Zion's dinner theater production of Trailer Park Tragedy.

Get ready for a politically incorrect night of mystery, scandal, and fun! Ticket sales will begin in April after Easter. In the meantime, if you are interested in portraying an avid outdoorsman, a crazy cat lady, a high school dropout, or a parolee who will do anything to avoid going back to jail, please contact Jan Plant to ask about being in our crazy cast of characters!

CROP Walk - CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Howard County CROP walk . (<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamd/>) is scheduled for 5/20. Anyone interested in joining a team from Mt Zion, please contact Deb Leiss.

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