

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

As we enter into this season that we call the Season of Easter (Eastertide), we as the church explore during worship the various times the Risen Christ appeared to his disciples after they had received news from the women that the tomb was empty. The church has also referred to this time as the “*The Great Fifty Days*” since Eastertide is the period of fifty days from Easter to Pentecost Sunday.

It’s a time for the community of faith to be joyful in knowing that we are recipients of the Easter promise – that new life can be experienced now and that we have the promise of eternal joy. It was the custom of some churches for their worshipers to stand up for prayer at worship during Eastertide as a way of honoring their Risen Lord.

I would like to end my comments with a prayer written by Augustine. Maybe you can find his prayer useful to you during this Season of Easter.

*“O God, our true life, to know you is life, to serve you is freedom, to enjoy you is a kingdom, to praise you is the joy and happiness of the soul. I praise and bless and adore you. I glorify you. I give thanks to you for your glory. I humbly beg you to live with me, to reign in me, to make this heart of mine a holy temple, a fit habitation for your divine majesty.”*

Grace & Peace,

Gary

**Sunday Morning Worship**

**April 15, 2018**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:36b-48

**Message:** “When Jesus Shows Up”

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

**Shepherding Team #4 Is On Call This Week**, April 15th to April 21st. Contact Margaret & Jerry Rose.

**Seated Chair Exercise** – Next Classes: 4/18 & 4/28.

**Drop In Class** : Please join us on 4/15 as we continue the ALPHA study.

**Open Doors Food Pantry** needs your help! **When:** Friday April 20, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM to help set up dry goods **and/or** Saturday April 21, 2018 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM to unload lots of fresh produce, serve others and help clean up. Any time you have to help is a blessing. Don’t forget to drop your loose change in the offering basket! Questions, email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood: [opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com). Thank you!

**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 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](mailto:smallgroups@mtzionhighland.com)

**Interested in Golfing?** Join UMM at Willow Springs Golf Course on May 5<sup>th</sup> (Approx. tee time 9am). Contact Ken Sines by April 29<sup>th</sup> if you are playing.

**Tickets are now on sale for Mt. Zion's murder mystery dinner theater** production of "*Traller Park Tragedy*" on **Saturday, May 5** at 6PM. The cost is **\$25 per person**. Get ready for a politically incorrect night of mystery, scandal, and fun! Tickets will be sold between services in the Fellowship Cafe each Sunday until April 29. This event will have limited seating (80 max) and advance reservations are required since a final count is due to the caterer one week prior to the show. For details, contact Jan Plant.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month between services**, in the church library. Contact Judy H. Johnson.