

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

In the past few months, we have as a church explored the task of learning how to love, especially those that we might call the 'Other'. We have done this through group study and discussions, through corporate worship, and through the various presentations offered during our Speaker Series. I thank you for your participation and willingness to journey together in learning ways that we can love others at a deeper level. I would like to share the words of 1 John 4:7-12. We started our journey by reading this text. This text is from "The Message" – The New Testament in Contemporary Language by Eugene H. Peterson.

"My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love – so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about – not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

"My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us – perfect love!"

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, said that to be a disciple is to be "on the road to perfection." Wesley would agree that this perfection does not come about through our own merits and works, but that we are perfected through God's grace and love.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Morning Worship

April 29, 2018

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Message: "Staying On-Vine"

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

Shepherding Team #6 Is On Call This Week, April 29th to May 5th. Contact Crystal Zimmerman.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has decided to hire Rev. Ken Dunnington to serve as Assistant Pastor at Mt. Zion. Rev. Dunnington, a retired Elder in the Baltimore/Washington Conference, has served churches located in various ministry settings; rural, suburban, and metropolitan. He has a passion for preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. During his extensive years in ministry, he also has been very involved with the VIM (Volunteers-In-Mission) program; traveling with mission teams to central Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and Texas. Rev. Dunnington will begin his ministry with Mt. Zion on May 1st. On Sunday, May 6th, we will officially welcome Rev. Dunnington and his wife, Sandy, during worship. Please find more information on Rev. Ken Dunnington in May's Pointer, soon to be published.

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!

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:

4/22 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

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

Tickets are now on sale for Mt. Zion's murder mystery dinner theater production of "*Trailer 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.

May 20th we will celebrate the 2018 Graduates with a luncheon immediately following services. If you will be attending, please RSVP on the back of the info stub. This will be a potluck event. We will be recognizing our Senior High, College, and Graduate school graduates during our worship experience. Please send a graduation photo/recent photo, name of graduate, name of school they are graduating from, and the school they will be attending in the fall if applicable to pastortammi@mtzionhighland.com no later than Sunday May 13th. Any submissions after the 13th we cannot guarantee they will be included in the video presentation.

Come join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, food, and music as we "Dance Through the Decades" at this year's Mother Daughter Banquet May 12th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the fellowship hall. We will be serving a buffet dinner with selections that follow our theme (Gluten free options available). All ladies are welcome to join us the cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 children 3 -10 and free for those under the age of 3. We will be selling spots between services on Sundays or you can contact Elizabeth Blough. We hope to see you there.

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.