

Dear friends of Mt. Zion,

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2*

As we near July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to have been born in this country and to enjoy the many blessings that living here affords. Yet I am also reminded of Apostle Paul’s understanding of spiritual freedom and who reminds us not to use our freedom as a license to do as we please and harm ourselves and others. Paul’s reminds us God’s love in Jesus Christ. It is this kind of love that enables us to “love God and love others as we love ourselves.” The love ethic is a hallmark of what it means to be the church. I would like to offer this prayer in closing my comments:

O God of love, who has given us a new commandment through thine only-begotten Son, that we should love one another, even as thou did love us, the unworthy and the wandering, and gave thy beloved Son for our life and salvation; we pray thee, Lord, give to us, thy servants, in all time of our life on the earth, a mind forgetful of past ill will, a pure conscience and sincere thoughts and a heart to love our brethren; for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord and only Savior. Amen. *Copic Liturgy of St Cyril*

Grace & Peace,

Gary

**Sunday Morning Worship - July 1, 2018**

**Only One Service – 10 a.m. Communion**

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Title: “Messages of Hope” Camp Hope Speakers

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

**Shepherding Team #6 Is On Call This Week, July 1st to July 7th.** Contact Crystal Zimmerman.

**Rings n' things....lots of bling....**donations of great, good or even not so good jewelry needed for The Jewelry Booth at the 98th Annual Montgomery General Hospital (Montgomery Medstar). Also come and enjoy the festivities of the day. July 24th 10 am-8 pm, there will be 6000 lbs of the best fried chicken ever, and so much more including a fabulous Kiddieland, Profits all go toward hospital improvements (Our Women's board paid for the recently opened Hospital Lobby, and awards 70 + scholarships every year for students pursuing a medically related profession. There is a box in the East Narthex for any jewelry that you would be kind enough to donate! Thank SO much. Joyce saunderson.

**Bible Study offered for Adults during Vacation Bible School** Mt Zion is excited to offer adults 2 opportunities to grow in faith and love of God in July. Pastor Ken will be facilitating a short term bible study based on the video study *In The Dust of the Rabbi*. Filmed in Israel and Turkey, these powerful DVD sessions explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. This study requires no prep work or homework – just show up and join the discussion. The study will be presented in Conference Room 1 from 6-8 pm on 7/22 - 27/26. You are welcome 1 day or all 5 days. Please Let us know you will be coming at <http://evite.me/wVuCH8sQG>. Collection will be made to order light dinner/snacks for those attending. The study will also be presented in Conference Room 1 from 9:30 – 11am on Monday 7/23 – Friday 7/27. You are welcome 1 day or all 5 days. Please Let us know you will be coming at <http://evite.me/8zaNP2kve1>

**Man on the Street Videos** - The small groups committee is putting together a video to highlight all the things we do with and for Mount Zion. We will be looking for volunteers to provide a 10 second answer to the questions - what do you do with the church and why that is important after services during July. We want to hear from everyone! Please see Debra Leiss or any member of the Small Groups committee in the West Narthex or the library.

**Family Movie Nights** - Finish your summer out with Family Movie nights. The Small Groups Committee is sponsoring family movies Saturday evenings in August starting at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring the kids and a snack to share. The movies include:- 8/4 Zootopia,- 8/11 CoCo,- 8/18 Wrinkle in Time.

**Drop In Class in August** - Movies today have wonderful plots, turns and twists. Many touch on biblical themes and values. The Sunday following Family Movie Night - the Drop In Sunday School class will discuss the previous nights movie and how film can be a medium for spreading the gospel message.

**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.