

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

We had a memorable worship experience last Sunday. We celebrated the ministries of Rev. Tammi Brantley as our youth pastor for five years and Belinda as our treasurer for eleven years. As one member of the congregation said at one service, *"For me, this is a bitter sweet time."* And it would be fair to say that this is true for us all. We are saddened that they are no longer part of our staff, but we rejoice in the many opportunities that await them in their new endeavors. More importantly, we take comfort in the knowledge that we will always belong together since God's grace claims us as members of a wider family.

I would like to thank Rev. Tammi Brantley for sharing the message with us on that day. She began our preaching series entitled, *"No Longer Strangers."* From now to the end of August, we will be taking an adventure together through the book of Ephesians. Eugene Patterson, of The Message, says this on his introduction to Ephesians: *"Paul's letter to the Ephesians joins together what has been torn apart in our sin-wrecked world. He begins with an exuberant exploration of what Christians believe about God, and then, like a surgeon skillfully setting a compound fracture, 'sets' this belief in God into our behavior before God so that the bones – belief and behavior – knit together and heal."*

Rev. Tammi Brantley started us off well with a powerful message entitled *"It's a Family Affair."* She stated how Paul reminds us, all of God's creatures great and small, that we are adopted into God's family through God's reconciling grace and love.

Each Sunday during the summer we will come to understand how and why we are knit together and what it means to embrace the healing power of God. I look forward to worshipping together.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Worship

July 22, 2018

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 2:11-22/ Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Message: "Tearing Down Walls"

I would like to Thank the entire Mt. Zion Staff, Leadership, and Congregation for the tokens of appreciation and for the wonderful brunch celebration on July 15th. I am grateful to have a piece of your hearts with me as I enter my new position. Again thank you Mt. Zion for all you have done for me in the past five years. Love, Tammi D. Brantley.

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

The Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! **When:** Friday July 20, 2018 from 12:30 to 2:30 to help unload and organize **lots** of food **and/or** Saturday July 21, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:30 to serve those in need and help clean up. Any time you have to come on out and 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

Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week, July 22nd to July 29th. Contact Bonnie Luepkes.

Snacks needed for VBS Volunteers during the week of July 23rd! Please bring to the kitchen. Thanks so very much!! Jena Meredith.

A Shoe box to collect Box Tops for Education is being placed in the church entry way. The local elementary school collects them to earn money to purchase items for their school. They will be collected and donated. Thank You, Marcy McAadoo.

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 to either session by signing your name on the 'Welcome to Worship' information sheet in your bulletin.** 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.

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 night's movie and how film can be a medium for spreading the gospel message.

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

SPRC Seeking Congregational Input for Staff Evaluations:

One of the requirements of the Staff Parish Relations Committee is to conduct an annual evaluation of staff performance. We will be doing these evaluations over the summer and finalizing them by the end of September. SPRC liaisons welcome your input as we prepare to meet with each staff member to evaluate his/her efforts toward meeting the overall goals of the church. Please contact us before mid-August with any comments you may like to share in this process.

Assistant Minister: Ken Dunnington: SPRC Liaison is Karyn Vice.

Director of Youth Ministries/Executive Pastor: Vacant

Office Administrator: Moea Fatcher: SPRC Liaison is Bettye Ames.

Treasurer: Valerie Pierce: New in July: SPRC Liaison is Steve Dennis and Pam Ehrenfried.

Director of Children's Ministries: Jena Meredith: SPRC Liaison is Carol Messerly.

Facilities Manager: Mark Blough: SPRC Liaison is Frank Lineberger.

Nursery Supervisors: Rebecca O'Keefe and Betty Routh: SPRC Liaison is Debbie Klopp.

Director of Music: Mark Dubbs: SPRC Liaison is Patrick Saunderson.

Organist: Deb Papavizas: SPRC Liaison is Susan Lau.

Pianist: Chris Fox: SPRC Liaison is Patrick Saunderson.

Wesley Children's Choir Director: Chris Fox: SPRC Liaison is Patrick Saunderson.