

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

As summer comes to close, we know that the busy season of September will be soon be upon us. This past year has been one of transition, bringing about many changes. We have hired two new people to join the Mt. Zion staff: Rev. Ken Dunnington as Assistant Pastor and Valerie Pierce as Treasurer. We are now in the process of searching for a candidate to lead and provide direction for our youth program. I would like to offer a few ways that you can be helpful in this process of change.

First, you can go onto the following address to take the Mt. Zion Youth Program Survey! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q5G85GG> As of now we have received 45 responses with 10 participating in the program. We encourage you to complete this questionnaire. Your input will greatly help us to undertake this task thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with wise discernment.

Secondly, we are in the process of recruiting Sunday school teachers for the fall. Three teachers have left the rotating roster – two have stepped down after serving faithfully for many years and Rev. Tammi Brantley, who taught regularly each Sunday, will no longer be with us. Prayerfully consider serving as a teacher. If you need further information, you can contact me on my cell - #410-963-8618 or send your email to me at pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com

Thirdly, I ask you to please keep Mt. Zion and The United Methodist Church in your prayers. The report of from The Commission on the Way Forward has been completed. The full report will go to the Judicial Council in October of this year. What happens there will determine what actions will occur at the Special Session of The General Conference held in February of next year. You can log onto the following web addresses for further information – wayforward@umcom.org or bwcumc.org

These are certainly times of great transition. I am confident that God's grace will lead us and sustain us in the way ahead.

Grace & Peace,
Gary

Sunday Worship

August 19, 2018

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 5:15-20/ John 6:51-58
Message: "Melodies of the Heart"

UPCOMING NEW MEMBER SESSIONS – For those interested in joining Mt. Zion Church, new member classes will be held on the following Sundays - September 9, 16, 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. To register for the sessions, please email pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com or speak to Pastor Gary on Sunday mornings.

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

Shepherding Team #4 Is On Call This Week, August 19th to August 25th. Contact Margaret and Jerry Rose.

Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday Aug 17, 2018 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to help unload lots of fresh produce and set up dry goods **and/or** Saturday Aug 18, 2018 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM to 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.

Our Camp Hope site homeowners have had a difficult month. The Frenzel's refrigerator just stopped working. If anyone knows of someone getting rid of a refrigerator please contact Debby Klopp. Thank you for keeping Courtney in prayer. He was taken off the respirator, returned home and feels better than he has in a very long time.

Family Movie Night. Family Movie night (A Wrinkle in Time) for 8/18 will be rescheduled for September. We apologize for the inconvenience

On Sunday, Sept. 2 after church, join us for a Pot Luck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall featuring delicious Greek cuisine. The main entrees will be provided, but please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Think Greek! Try a new recipe like Tzatziki, Spanakopita, Greek Salad, Rotini Pasta Salad, or Baklava! Family favorite dishes are always good, too!

FALL BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK. Join with Pastor Ken Dunnington as he begins a series of studies entitled *There Has to Be a First*. The first in our series of firsts is the Gospel of Mark. We will take an in-depth look at the first written gospel and discover its meaning for us today as the followers of Jesus Christ. In addition, you will gain insight as to how the Bible is ordered and why Mark isn't placed first among the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. So bring yourself and your Bible and join us on 8 Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm starting Thursday, September 13 in CR1.

SAGE Brigade September 14th at noon for lunch and a speaker. Bryan Miller from VitaScript will be sharing his knowledge on the **Connection Between Your Brain and Gut Health**. Please join us for lunch. Everyone is welcome. I will bring the Chicken and Salad Greens. Please bring another topping for the salad or something else to share. RSVP to Debbie Burgio. See you on September 14th!

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 McAdoo.

Book bags and school supplies for children in West Baltimore living in poverty.

Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, along with Little Flowers Early Childhood Development Center (located 2 blocks from Ames), are collecting new book bags and school supplies for children in the area. We will deliver all the materials to Ames on August 25th. Here are the items Ames has requested for children aged 4 to 18 years old. Feel free to contribute either a backpack filled with supplies, or just some of the items listed below. Place contributions in the bin located in the West Narthex.

Pre-k through 3 rd grade:	4 th - 7 th grade:	8 th - 12 th grade:
Book bag	Book bag	Book bag
Pack of pencils	Pack of pencils	Pack of pens
2 composition notebooks	2 composition notebooks	1 composition notebook
Ruler	Ruler	2 spiral notebooks
Flashcards	Flashcards	Protractor
2 folders	2 folders	2 folders
Crayons	3-ring binder	Calculator
	Calculator	3-ring binder