

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

As I type these words, I am listening to the weather reports of Hurricane Florence bearing down on the east coast with the Carolina's and Georgia in its direct path. For the last several days, FEMA along with national and local news stations have been asking residents who live in the impact zones to evacuate and move to safer locations. The emergency workers also have the task of supporting those who live alone, the elderly, and those who find themselves as residents inside health care facilities.

I urge you to keep this situation in your continued prayers. Pray also for those who are first responders to such natural disasters. They are called to go into harm's way in order to rescue others and save lives.

In the days ahead, I also invite us to seek God's wisdom as to how we might follow our prayers with compassionate acts that will help those adversely effected by Hurricane Florence.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Worship

September 16, 2018

Scripture Lessons:

James 3:1-12/ Mark 8:27-38

Message:

"The Tongue – Trolling or Extolling"

NEW MEMBER SESSIONS – For those interested in joining Mt. Zion Church, new member classes will be held on the following Sundays - September 16 & 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, 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 #8 Is On Call This Week, September 16th to September 22ND. Contact Joyce Saunderson.

All Sunday Morning Children's Activities have Resumed! Sunday School each Sunday, Kid's Zone during the services on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays, and the Nursery open for children 5 and under all morning!

The Open Doors Food Pantry will need help setting up on Friday, September 14th at 12:30pm, and with distribution on Saturday, September 15th from 7:30am - 11:30am. Any amount of time you can come to help, is very much appreciated. If you have questions, emails Carol or Laurie at opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com

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*. 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. 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!

Understanding 'the Way Forward' with Tom Berlin Sept.15. The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads as it lives into a season of discernment and choosing. In February, a special session of the General Conference will be held to consider the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and how the denomination will address homosexuality. It is a time, some say, for the church to decide if we will walk together loosely or part with a blessing.

On Sept. 15, the Rev. Tom Berlin, a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, will discuss the different options facing the church in a session, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Nichols-Bethel UMC, 1239 Murray Road in Odenton. The final reports of the Commission and a video of Rev. Berlin' presentation to the BWC in May is online. [Learn more.](#)

Chair Exercise Class is held in the Chapel every Wednesday morning from 9:30-10. All are welcome! Please note that due to scheduling conflicts there will be no Chair Exercise on September 19. Any questions? Contact Bettye Ames .

Pastor Ken is seeking 2-3 individuals from each worship service to give a few minute presentation on how prayer has been an important part of your life: either you received blessings from being prayed for, or blessed to offer prayer for others, or how God's presence and direction is made known to you in prayer, etc. You will be a part of Pastor Ken's sermon on prayer on September 30. Please indicate your willingness to participate by ticking the appropriate box on the back and writing your name and phone number on the front of the yellow information sheet in your bulletin.

Stephen Ministry: A new class for training Stephen Ministers will be starting on October 7th. Have you found yourself thinking that Stephen Ministry is a ministry that you would like to be a part of? Do you find yourself drawn to caring for others and wanting to improve your skills? Please contact any of the Stephen Leaders or Pastor Gary to let them know that you are interested in joining this year's class of Stephen Ministers. Applications are available on the Bulletin Board or from a Leader. Contact Debbie Burgio,

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