

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

Last week I shared with you words of concern for the people of the Carolinas and Georgia as they prepared for Hurricane Florence as it was making its landfall. By now, you and I have been watching the new reports showing us the scenes of destruction and allowing us to hear the real life conversations of people whose lives have been tragically altered. And the horrible news of how much destruction this hurricane has caused, and will cause in the future, grows every day. As of today, the death toll has climbed to 36 people. And that number could grow higher. Our hearts go out to those who grieve the loss of loved ones. Beyond the tragic loss of human life, we also hear reports about those who have lost their homes, of millions and millions of people who are without power. We have become aware of how people's livelihoods have been effected. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has been counting the loss of livestock in the field. As of Thursday, September 20th, they report that 3.4 million chickens and turkeys have died so far, along with 5,500 pigs. Whatever happens to the farming industry has dire effects for all of us. We can now have a greater understanding how the Americans in Puerto Rico are trying to deal with the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria a year ago.

Again, I ask that we keep this situation in our prayers and 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. I was greatly touched in last week's worship service when Chad Hawthorne shared with us how the Scout Troup of Mt. Zion would be meeting that same day to put together 100 relief buckets to send to the Carolinas. That is God's love in action.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Worship

September 23, 2018

Scripture Lessons: James 3:1-13 to 4:3, 7-8a/ Mark 9:30-37

Message: "The Good Life"

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

Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week, September 23rd to September 29th. Contact Bonnie Luepkes

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.

UMM Fall Hike. All are invited to join the United Methodist Men for our Fall Hike Saturday, October 13 th 8am-12. We will be hiking approx. 3 miles in the Soldiers Delight NEA. Meet in the church parking at 8:00 a.m. to carpool or at the Visitor Center 8:45, 5100 Deer Park Rd. Owings Mills, 21117. Contact Brian Cornell

UMM Men's Retreat on November 10-12th. Contact Ken Sines

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.