



April 2018 Edition

**Our Mission**

Touching Lives for Jesus Christ

**Our Core Values**

To be a Loving Christian Community. Providing opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, and service.

**Our Vision**

Love, Grow, Serve



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 www.mtzionhighland.com

# Mount Zion United Methodist Church

# The P<sub>✶</sub>ainter

## *“Life from a New Vantage Point”*

Friends:

The last week of Jesus’ life had been such a tragic ordeal. He was brought to trial, beaten and humiliated and put to death on a cross. After his crucifixion and death, he was prepared for burial and placed into a tomb. On the morning of the third day, the women came to the grave. They came with great sadness and grief. They must have asked themselves, **“How could this have happened to a man whose purpose was to help others to love God and to love each other?”** And in their bewilderment and fear, an angel appeared, saying, **“He is not here; he has risen.”**

The Resurrection of Christ is the corner stone of our faith. If Christ did not rise, there would be no gospel. If Christ did not rise, our faith would be in vain. The hope of the early church was in the belief that Christ had risen.

Our hope, too, is in this promise. We, like the women at the tomb, have been filled with fear and grief. We have felt the loss of a loved one. There have been those faithful servants in our church who have gone to be with the saints. Maybe some of us have felt the loss of a friend, a job or the loss of meaning and purpose in our lives. And so we come, as the women did, to find out if there is hope. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, we have been given new life now and new life eternally.

C.S. Lewis wrote these words: **“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I see everything by it.”** As Christians, we see things from the vantage point of the Cross and Resurrection. This is not to say that we will no longer feel pain and separation. We are not immune to the sorrows and tragedies of life. Yet, we view them from the promise of the empty tomb. The empty tomb means that love conquers hate, hope transcends despair, and life destroys death. That’s not only good news for this holy season, but for each and every day of our lives.

Grace & Peace,  
 Gary



**Rev. Gary Sheffield-James**  
 Lead Pastor

**Rev. Tammi Brantley**  
 Executive/Youth Pastor

**Belinda Norton**  
 Treasurer/Financial Secretary

**Mark Blough**  
 Facilities Manager

**Jena Meredith**  
 Director of Children’s Ministries

**Mark Dubbs**  
 Director of Music

**Chris Fox**  
 Pianist and Wesley Children’s Choir Director

**Deb Papavizas**  
 Organist

**Moea Futcher**  
 Office Administrator

**Rebecca O’Keefe**  
 Nursery Supervisor



## Worship Spiritual Growth

### *Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship*

	Service Times	EASTER April 1	April 8	April 15 Native Am. Sunday	April 22	April 29
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Andrea Smolen	Kristin Robertson	Jamie Humphreys	Pastor Gary
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Andrea Smolen	Kristin Robertson	Jamie Humphreys	Pastor Gary
Greeters	9:00	Lynn Jacobson	John & Nancy Coonts, Debbie Fitzgerald	Jerry & Margaret Rose, Larry Murdock	Will & Jill Scott Olivia Yeager	
	11:00		Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson		
Liturgist	9:00	Lemont Basket	Ellen McKinzie	Karyn Vice	Shugo Tanaka	David Norton
Projection	9:00	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson	Jill Scott
	11:00	Chuck Seznam	Carol Hill	Carol Messerly	Chuck Seznam	Carol Hill
Sound	9:00	<i>Help Wanted</i>	Dustin Edison	<i>Help Wanted</i>	Scott Johnson	
	11:00	All Hill	Bill Ray	All Hill	Bill Ray	
Usher Captains	9:00	John Maloney				
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz				



Praise Group Practice

*New Life for All*





# Worship Spiritual Growth

## Native American Ministries Sunday ~ April 15

This special UM offering supports the spiritual development and education of Native American seminary students. One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people “pale as birch” crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them “**The Black Book.**” However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus.

Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

### Native American Ministries Seminar – Dr. Casey Church

In observance of Native American Ministries weekend, all are invited to attend a free Native American Ministries Seminar.

Dr. Casey Church, a nationally known leader in Native American ministries, will lead us in a lively afternoon seminar to include:

- A brief historical view of Native American history in our area that leads to our current environment
- Native American perspectives on meaningful ministries
- Ministries that are active in other United Methodist churches
- Discussion of how congregations may participate in meaningful ways to join the United Methodist Church 2012 General Conference action to heal past relationships with Native American and Indigenous peoples as we grow into the future

#### Location:

Covenant United Methodist Church  
20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886  
(Gaithersburg)

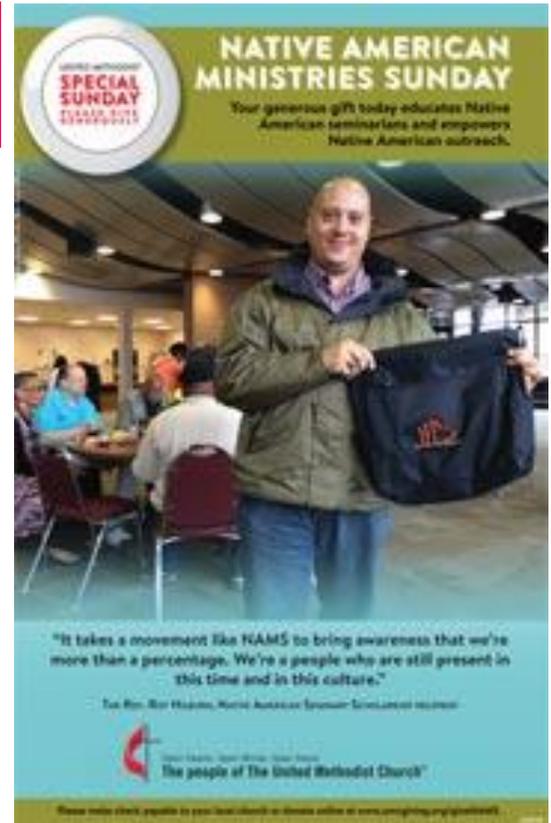
#### Date and Time:

Saturday, April 14, 2018  
1 to 4pm

*Refreshments will be served*



Dr. Casey Church is Executive Director of Wiconi International ([www.wiconi.com](http://www.wiconi.com)) and is based in Albuquerque, NM. He is an elder in the Pokagon Band Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan. Casey's journey led him to study traditional spiritual teachings under his Anishinaabe elders. He investigated culturally-appropriate (contextual) approaches to Native evangelism and ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA where he earned a Doctor of Intercultural Studies. Casey and his wife, Lora, pastored a Native church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1996 to 2000. Their church was one of the first Native American contextualized congregations in the country. Casey is a United Methodist member and has served as a consultant and interim staff member for the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church's Office of Native American and Indigenous Ministries. He has recently authored two books, *Holy Smoke: The Contextual Use of Native American Ritual and Ceremony*, and *Native American Contextual Ministry: Making the Transition*.



If you are interested in attending or obtaining further information please contact Belinda Norton



## Worship Spiritual Growth



### BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMC CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS

**Camp Clean-up:** Manidokan Camp and Retreat Center, near Harper's Ferry, will hold its annual spring clean-up Saturday, April 7, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Projects include clearing trails, cleaning windows, scrubbing the bathhouse, power-washing, repairing the outdoor chapel benches, and more.

**Come, let us rebuild together:** Mission trips are rolling out of the Baltimore-Washington Conf. and there is room for you on one of them. We are sending out and leading United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams, both near and far, to help respond to disaster. Check out our [Mission page](#) where you can see some of the mission trips that are planned and sign up to join one. Trips are planned to Texas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Florida, and Louisiana. You will find trips from one day to one week; trips for youth and adults; trips that include construction, re-building and yard work; and trips where you will assemble flood buckets, including health, layette, and school kits. Space is limited on each trip so register soon.

**A Volunteers in Missions Leader Training** will be held Saturday, April 28, at noon. This is a four-hour class, led by the Rev. Joan Carter Rimbach, to prepare you to lead an UMVIM Team locally, nationally, or globally. The topics covered include: Best Practices, Cultural Awareness, Health and Safety, Team Orientations, Useful Forms, and Fundraising. The training will be held at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center, 11711 E. Market Place in Fulton. The cost is \$10. [Learn more and register.](#) A second, VIM Leader Training will be held Saturday, April 21, from 10 am. to 1 p.m. at Otterbein UMC in Hagerstown. The trainers will be Eldon Baldwin and Lori Willis. The cost is \$10. [Learn more and register.](#)

**Nominate your hero:** United Methodist Communications is launching #amazingUMCheroes, a campaign featuring United Methodists who are doing extraordinary things -- either as difference makers in the community or through courageous or selfless acts. To make a nomination, send a few sentences about your #amazingUMChero, or the link to pre-published content.

**Innovation Hub focuses on young adults:** Wesley Theological Seminary is seeking 15 partner congregations within a 40-mile radius of the U.S. Capitol to engage in a two-year innovative learning and design process - the Wesley Innovation Hub - to build relationships and create ministries with young adults both within and beyond the walls of the church. At the end of the first year, each congregation will receive up to \$20,000 to utilize in their experimentation and implementation. Apply by April 30 to join the Wesley Innovation Hub this summer. The application and further information are available at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/).

The BWC is celebrating discipleship with a series of awards to be announced at the Annual Conference Session in May. Nominations are now being sought for five awards. They include:

- The Harry Denman Evangelism Award; for one youth, one clergy and one lay person,
- Youth Worker of the Year Award,
- Young Adult Leader of the Year Award,
- Advocacy and Action Award for faith communities,
- Abundant Health Award for faith communities.

The two awards to faith communities come with a \$1,000 prize. Applications and nominations are due April 30. Information on the awards and nomination forms are [online](#). Share the stories of those you know doing exceptional ministry. Submissions: Melissa Lauber, Dir. of Communications,



## Discipleship Spiritual Growth

### A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.....”

It takes tremendous strength and resolve to allow your kids to suffer the consequences of their decisions. If not, they will become adults believing that nothing is ever their fault!”

There will be no children’s Sunday School on Easter Sunday!  
We want all the children to have breakfast with their families!

Mark your calendar for Sunday June 10th after church for a  
“SCHOOLS OUT PICNIC”! Bring a side dish to share!

## Children’s Ministry

If you would like to volunteer again, and I have not yet spoken to you about **VBS 2018**, this year please let me know soon!

Don't forget, children of volunteers are free and you get to register your children first!!

**ATTENTION DADS!!!** We need 4 Dads to run games at VBS Monday-Thursday! It is so much fun and please consider if you have a child at VBS! We have a dad helping on Friday who does not even attend our church!! If he can do it, so can you!!

We also need more **CREW LEADERS** from **MT ZION!!** What a wonderful week of witnessing for our church!!

**Vacation Bible School**  
at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
12430 Scaggsville Rd. Highland, MD 20777

**SHIPWRECKED**  
RESCUED BY JESUS

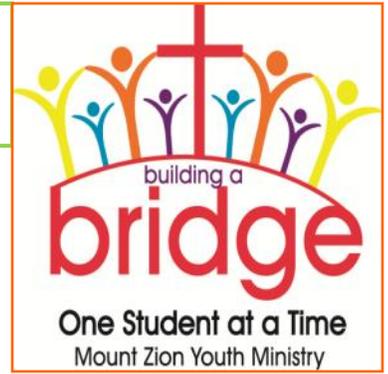
**July 23-27 - 9am to noon**  
with a picnic on the 27th at noon

Registration begins May 1st- June 25th  
(or until VBS is full)  
at [mtzionhighland.com](http://mtzionhighland.com)

Cost is \$45 per child but the fee is waived if you volunteer to help,  
Contact Jena Meredith  
[jenameredith@hotmail.com](mailto:jenameredith@hotmail.com)  
if you wish to help  
Ages 4 - 5th grade



## Discipleship Spiritual Growth



### Youth Ministry

- Sunday Morning Youth Gathering ~ 10:10 am
- Students 6th - 12th Grade in Youth Center
- Youth Choir Rehearsal ~ Sundays at 5 pm
- Youth Ministry ~ Sundays at 6:15 pm in the Youth Center

### March Schedule

**May 2018:** May 20th Recognition of All Graduates High School, College, and Graduate Level candidates at our worship services.

5p.m. Youth Ministry Food and Fellowship for Parents, Leaders, and all youth to celebrate our seniors



### CAMP HOPE (June 24 - 30)

Participants perform renovation projects and home repairs in the surrounding Appalachia area for homeowners needing financial or physical assistance. Campers are housed at Frostburg State Univ. with other churches throughout the Baltimore Conference.

**YOUTH SIGN-UPS** were in March. Eligible youth must be age 14 by June 24th. If you have questions regarding the Camp Hope program, please contact Debby Klopp



See your Mt. Zion Camp Hope Team pictured in an article in a recent BWC Newspaper:  
[http://78455c2ccb400d517780-dac10a94c714bbb9d8050040bb216432.r90.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/m/0e7085058\\_1520525962\\_mar-2018-issuefinalfinal.pdf](http://78455c2ccb400d517780-dac10a94c714bbb9d8050040bb216432.r90.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/m/0e7085058_1520525962_mar-2018-issuefinalfinal.pdf)



## Opportunities to Serve Missions



### WINTER SHELTER AT MT. ZION 2018

Was a great success. Thank you to all who served, cooked, shared and gave of your time and talents.



### Rebuilding Together, All Day, Saturday, April 28

Rebuilding Together House Captains Meeting #1 was on 15 February in the fellowship hall. As of this evening, 24 organizations have committed to working on Rebuild Day on 28 April throughout Howard County. For more information or to sign up, please indicate on the bulletin attendance sheet or contact Ken Sines

### Volunteers needed:

**Blood Pressure Screening:** The Health and Wellness Committee would like to offer blood pressure screening and education to the folks at **Open Doors Food Pantry**. Our committee is small and we need help. We will be offering training on the correct way to do blood pressure. For this we will use manual cuffs which are easier to use and learn. This is a commitment. Open Doors Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We would like to offer this from 9:30 to 11:30 am and someone from the Wellness committee will always be present during the time at Open Doors. You would not be expected to be present every month. This is open to High School seniors as well and you will receive community service hours when you are present. Please consider helping us. You will meet people and learn a new skill. Please contact Sharon Hill



**Love the Other:** A speaker series inspired by the Will Willimon's book **Fear of the Other : No Fear in Love**. Join us to learn about different cultures that may seem strange or foreign. This opportunity is a first step to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be outside mainstream Christian culture. Series is located in the Fellowship Hall and includes:

- 4/15 at 12:15 - **Native** Americans with Belinda Norton
- 4/22 at 12:15 - **Holocaust Survivors** with Edith Corde
- 5/7 at 7pm- **Muslims** with Iman Dibba

All events will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Mt Zion

### Help with Potluck:

The Call to Action committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Love the Other Speaker Series by bringing a casserole, salad to desert to share. If you are able, please let Bettye Ames know or email smallgroups @mtzionhighland.com



## Open Doors Food Pantry

On Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Open Doors Food Pantry began the day unloading 6000 pounds of fresh produce and frozen meat from the



Maryland Food Bank delivery truck. Volunteers bagged cantaloupes, onions, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, apples and frozen chicken. Tables were filled with canned goods and boxed items, most of which was provided by several local Boy Scout troops, the result of a successful



food drive.

In addition to the food distribution, the pantry also handed out 150



Easter baskets filled with lollipops, gummi candy, and plastic eggs to families with children.

By day's end, 83 families were served, which fed 354 people. Another successful day, thanks to the help of the many wonderful volunteers!



Ken, wearing his lucky St. Patty's Day pants!



## Discipleship Spiritual Growth



UMMen  
hike



Good Friday Service

Ready



Set



Go



2018  
Mt Zion  
Easter  
Egg  
Hunt &  
Extravaganza





Discipleship  
Spiritual Growth

# Mt. Zion UMMen

## UMMen Calendar

8 April 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Social Meeting (7-8:30pm), Mark C's house

**5 May 2018 – Golfing at Willow Springs Golf Course (9am-1pm), West Friendship, MD (K. Sines)**

12 May 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (8-9:30am), Roma's

19 May 2018 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast, Mt. Calvary UMC, Mt. Airy, MD (8-10am)

**26 May 2018 – Biking the B&A Trail (10am-2pm) towards Annapolis, MD**

10 June 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Social Meeting (6:30-8pm), Pat's house

**15 June 2018 – Mt. Zion Night at the O's game vs. Miami Marlins at Camden Yards (D. Norton)**



### Who We Are:

The United Methodist Men (UMM) of Mt. Zion

### What We Are:

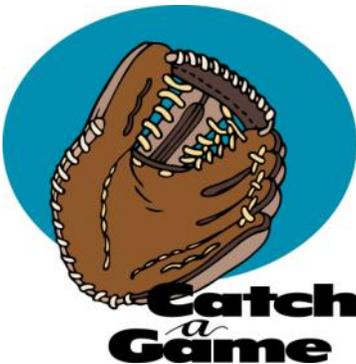
A group of men that have come together to assist those in need – elderly; shut-ins; etc. that need assistance “around the house”

### What Assistance Can We Provide :

1. Yard Work - mowing, trimming (yards, hedges), maintenance, etc.
2. Fixin' of Stuff – light painting, repairs inside/outside the house, etc.
3. What do you really need help with? (hint...just email us)

### How Do I Contact the UMMen@Work Team:

Contact Bryan Meredith and we will go from there to ensure that needs are met.



**HOLD THAT DATE!!!!**

Friday night, June 15 Orioles v the Marlins at 7:05 pm. Join the United Methodist Men for a night at Camden Yards. We have 40 seats reserved. \$16 per ticket. All are welcome. See David Norton or email him

## Trivia Night answers from March Pointer:

- 1) What was the name of the first space shuttle to be launched by NASA in 1981?

**Columbia of STS-1**

- 2) What baseball cap did Tom Selleck wear during his episodes of "Magnum P.I."?

**Detroit Tigers**

- 3) In the Bible, how many books comprise the New Testament?

**27**

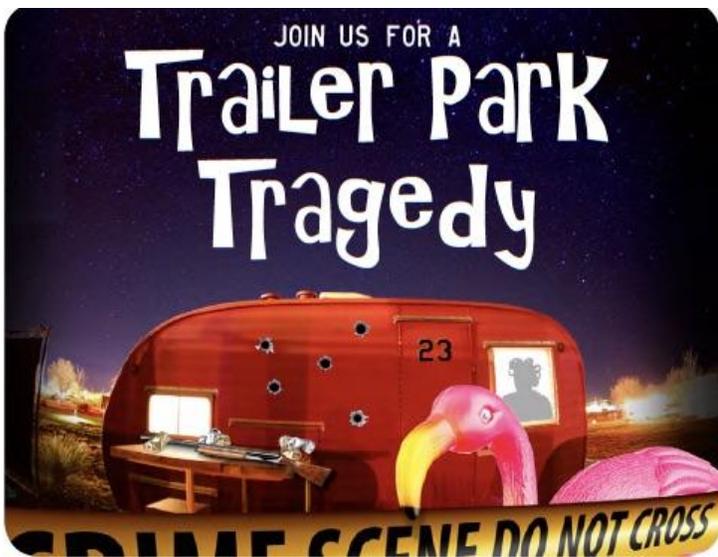
- 4) Who played the part of Shoeless Joe Jackson in the movie, "Field of Dreams"?

**Ray Liotta**



An evening at **Toby's Dinner Theater** on 4 March to see "Young Frankenstein" (hosted by UMM). Twenty-four people from Mt. Zion enjoyed the meal and presentation of Mel Brook's classic movie, including a couple from Emmanuel UMC.





**Save the evening of Saturday, May 5 for Mt. Zion's dinner theater production of Trailer Park Tragedy.**

Considered by local law enforcement to be a recipe for disaster, the annual Trailer Park BBQ is always a blast and this is going to be one to remember! As the night unfolds, you will have to figure out which one of your rotten, no-good neighbors is to blame for this murderous misadventure!

Get ready for a politically incorrect night of mystery, scandal, and fun!

Ticket sales will begin in April after Easter.

In the meantime, **if you are interested in portraying an avid outdoorsman, a crazy cat lady, a high school dropout, or a parolee who will do anything to avoid going back to jail, please contact Jan Plant** to ask about being in our crazy cast of characters!





*of all ages!!!*

# Let's Go Fly A Kite!

**Sunday,  
April 29th  
at 12:15pm**

Bring your kites and a picnic lunch for an afternoon of fun!

(right after the 11:00am service)

- Prizes • Fellowship • Desserts
- GaGa Ball • Basketball
- Kite making table for children

**Mount Zion United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Lead Pastor

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Follow us on  

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[May Pointer Deadline: Saturday, April. 21]

*Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can contribute:  
"Tag Mt. Zion on social media with @mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland."*