

November 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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Mount Zion United Methodist Church The Pointer

(Note: In my letter to the November Pointer, I have decided to share my report that was given to the yearly Church Conference in October.)

PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

My first year at Mt. Zion was a time of transition. Upon my arrival, I learned that Mt. Zion had gone through a period of conflict. I spent a great deal of time from July 2017 to June 2018 getting to know the congregation and working with the dedicated leadership. I have great confidence that God's grace will continue to bring healing to Mt. Zion and fill us with a hopeful expectation as we move into the future.

My second year at Mt. Zion is one of change which will be detailed in my comments below. Change is never easy and often scary. The spiritual writer Eckhart Tolle wrote: *"Some changes look negative on the surface but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge."* As followers of Jesus Christ, we know that the call for us to 'pick up our cross' and follow Jesus is not one of ease nor free of struggle. We can be thankful that through the many challenges and changes that occur in our lives, we serve a God who is able to change us – to transform our lives through God's living Spirit.

Education - In July, I taught Bible Discovery for Vacation Bible School that included one hundred sixty children in attendance. Afterwards, I sent a letter to the VBS families to invite them to visit us on Sunday morning if they are looking for a church home. I extend my appreciation to Mt. Zion's Director of Children's Ministry, Jena Meredith, and the multitude of volunteers who helped bring this ministry to fruition.

I attended the Men's Retreat held in November, 2017 at Pecometh River-view Retreat Center, Centerville, MD Theme – *"Twelve Ordinary Men"*. I preached and celebrated the sacraments on Sunday morning. I am planning to attend the Men's Retreat this November. We will be using the book by Richard Rohr, 12 Steps and Spirituality to guide our three-day retreat. I appreciate the Men's Group President, Ken Sines, for his leadership throughout the year. (You will find his full report in Church Conference Booklet.)

[continued on pages 2 & 3]



Rev. Gary Sheffield-James
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Ken Dunnington
 Assistant Pastor

Jena J. Meredith
 Director of Children's Ministries

Mark Dubbs
 Director of Music

Deb Papavizas
 Organist

Chris Fox
 Keyboard/Children's Choir
 Director

Mark J. Blough
 Facilities Manager

Moëa G. Fletcher
 Administrative Assistant

Chuck Plant
 Office Assistant

Valerie Pierce
 Treasurer

Call to Action - In 2016, the College of Bishops issued a Call to Action to challenge churches to confront racism and prejudice. I developed a five Sunday preaching series based on the William Willimon's book. We also sponsored a Speaker Series on the topic Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love - Belinda Norton gave a presentation on her mission work with the Hopi Tribe in Arizona. Edith Cord came to the church and spoke about her experience of being a Holocaust Survivor. Imam Dibba from the Ahmajedia Muslim Mosque in Baltimore came and gave an interactive presentation on the religion of Islam. I want to thank Deb Liess and the Small Groups Team for their leadership in guiding the church through this process.

Stephen Ministry - I attended a Stephen Ministry Leadership Training Event held in Pittsburg, PA in August. My training as a Stephen Leader has enabled me to capture the big picture of the 'how' and 'why' of this program and its vital role in guiding the caring ministry of the church. Mt. Zion is proud to say that we are a Stephen Ministry church. We have 19 trained Stephen Ministers and 3 people who are seeking to go through the training. The promotion of this ministry on our website states the purpose of this ministry rather succinctly –

“One-to-One Christian Care to Those in Need”.

Missions: Mt. Zion continues to be involved in many mission activities, such as feeding the hungry in Howard County through The Open Doors Food Pantry (Many thanks to Carol Hill and Laurie Norwood for their stalwart leadership), making sandwiches for the homeless in D.C., providing a place for the homeless to have food and a place to sleep for a week in the Winter Shelter Program (I appreciate Rod Barr's leadership in organizing this event. Rod is the chair of Executive Committee for the Winter Shelter Program for the Homeless (LWS) in Laurel, MD.), participating in Camp Hope in the summer, volunteering to work Ames United Methodist Church in Baltimore City. I want to thank Allison Dunn, Chair of the Mission Team, for providing leadership in keeping these mission opportunities before the congregation as a way of growing in one's discipleship.

Facilities and Safe Sanctuaries Policy - On May 23, 2018, Bill Power (Trustees Chair) and I attended a Clergy/Laity Training Session entitled “*Safeguarding Houses of Worship*” presented by the Howard County Police. I met with Bill Powers and the Trustees for a Safety Walk-Thru by the Howard County Police on October 16, 2018. Mt. Zion has just installed a new fire and smoke detection system at the church. We also updated our Safe Sanctuary Policy. In summary, I thank Mark Blough, our Facilities Manager, for his committed attention to keeping the church's facilities in proper order and his support of the Trustees.

Changes in Staff - Mt. Zion church is an active church. We are fortunate to have a competent, dedicated staff. During the last year, however, we have had changes in our staff leadership. In March, Belinda Norton, our church treasurer for eleven years, decided to accept a new position at another church. In July, Rev. Tammi Brantley, who served as the Director of Youth Ministry for five years, received a call to provide pastoral direction with a youth program comprised of three churches situated in a multi-cultural setting. Mt. Zion benefited greatly from their service. We celebrated their contributions to our congregation and wished both God's speed in their new endeavors.

In May, Mt. Zion hired Rev. Ken Dunnington for the position of Assistant Pastor. On a personal note, I have known Ken as a colleague for many years. He brings many gifts to support the ministry and mission of our church. Ken has a great passion for teaching and preaching. He also exudes a caring, loving presence as he cares for our homebound members and those who are sick. In coming to Mt. Zion, he has lightened my load and provided much wisdom born from his years of experience serving churches located in a variety of settings.

The church hired our new treasurer, Valerie Pierce, in August. She continues to learn the various ways how the ministries of the church revolve around the budget and the uniqueness of Mt. Zion being part of a connec-tional church – such as in areas related to apportionments, audits, and reports for Church Conference. Valerie has also created some new things – such as direct deposit for the staff and current employees.

In the area of youth ministry, we are currently advertising this position by posting our ads on the Confer-ence E-Connection and Indeed.com. I would be remiss in not thanking our Youth Counselors, Jon Lindberg, Elizabeth Blough, Debbie Klopp, and Allison Dunn for their stalwart leadership. With the vacuum created by Pastor Tammi's departure, our youth counselors have provided an uninterrupted, continuous flow to the overall activities and events that occur in the youth program. Mt. Zion will need their input and insights as we will under-take the task of interviewing candidates who possess the gifts and abilities to serve as Youth Director.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee have and continue to be very involved in these changes. I thank Karyn Vice (chair) and members of the committee for their thorough and conscientious work.

The Way Forward – Pastor Ken and I have been involved in the process of informing the congregation on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. The Commission on a Way Forward completed their work in May of this year after an 18-month period of meetings and deliberations. The Commission offered three models for addressing the issue of human sexuality. They are as follows: The Traditional Plan, The One Church Plan, and The Connectional-Conference Plan. These three models were recently presented to the Judicial Council in October to determine their constitutionality as it relates to The Book of Discipline. Depending on the outcome of their ruling, the three models will then be the sole topic of deliberations that occur at the Special Session of the General Conference held in February, 2019. In October and November, Pastor Ken and I will be providing information in the weekly E-Pointer and the monthly Pointer Newsletter to keep the congregation informed of the process and the ramifications of the decisions which will be made at the Special Session. We will be holding four sessions that will be held the last two Sundays of January and first two Sundays of February. The time, place, and the areas of discussion of these sessions will be forthcoming as the dates draw near. We hope this process will be saturated by prayer and dedicated to the task of listening to each other through the lens of Christ's love and with a posture of acceptance, respect, and non-judgment.

Worship - Mt. Zion is committed to the importance of worship. Over the last year, I developed preaching series based on books of the Bible, Bible readings from the lectionary, and on one occasion a book written on a timely subject. The Advent season of 2017 was built on theme: *"The Road to Christmas"*. During Lent of this year, I facilitated a study on William Willimon's book, *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love* and based a five week preaching series on theme: *"No Fear in Love"*. In July and August, our worship was built on an eight week sermon series entitled, *"No Longer Strangers"*, which was centered on the lectionary lessons from the book of Ephesians. A five week sermon series on the book of James entitled, *"A Faith that Works"* was held during September. We are planning to build a preaching series on an Advent study called *"The Gift of New Hope"* by Christopher L. Webber. The Worship & Arts Team is comprised of very creative, talented people who are committed to planning worship experiences that point to God's love and grace and how we can live grace-filled lives in our everyday tasks. I thank Steve Dennis (chair) and the team for all their hard work.

Mt. Zion has a very talented music staff. The Director of Music, Mark Dubbs, organist/pianist Deb Papavizas, and pianist/vocalist Chris Fox bring an invaluable contribution to our worship experience every Sunday.

Discipleship/Evangelism/Growth – As those who have heard the good news of Jesus Christ, we are tasked with the responsibility to grow disciples and equip them to serve the church through their gifts, prayers, presence, services, and witness. Since our last Church Conference, ten people have joined the church, three infants have been baptized, and several new families who are attending on Sunday morning. During this same time, we have celebrated and remembered 10 members and 5 constituent members who have died.

The Evangelism Team, chaired by Fred Towner, has been very faithful in seeking ways to reach out to the community. Mt. Zion sponsors a booth during Maple Lawn Days and during special occasions during the year. We had a young family join the church after visiting the booth and receiving information about the activities that occur at our church.

Related to this ministry area, I extend my deep appreciation to Jon Lindberg, Chair of the Communications Team. Jon continually seeks to help us be up-to-speed in using social media to be as a tool of evangelism in the ways that we can share the church's ministry to the community.

In summary – Mt. Zion is an active, dedicated church. I am very happy to be serving as one of the pastors of this caring and loving congregation. Pastor Ken and I were moved to be recognized for our ministry on Pastor Appreciation Sunday in October and we are thankful for your thoughtfulness. We know that God has blessed this church in so many ways and we daily witness how Mt. Zion shares those blessings by caring for others. God's grace will continue to equip us to be faithful disciples for the challenges of the present and guide us into a future that rests upon God's eternal promises.

Grace & Peace,
Gary Sheffield-James

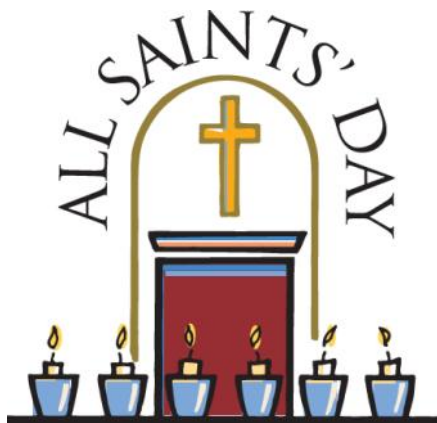




Worship Spiritual Growth

Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	November 4 All Saints Sunday	November 11	November 18	November 25
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Jamie Humphreys	Andrea Smolen	Jena Meredith
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Jamie Humphreys	Kristin Robertson	Jena Meredith
Greeters	9:00	Shugo Tanaka & Wayne Mullinix	Crystal Zimmerman & Lorene Brown	Carolyn & Lamont Baskett	Allis Ellis, Erin & Jack Island
	11:00	Marcy McAdo	Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson	Laurie Sheffield-James
Liturgist	9:00	Ellen McKinzie	Karyn Vice	Shugo Tanaka	David Norton
Projection	9:00	Carol Messerly	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson	Jill Scott
	11:00	Carol Hill	Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly	Carol Hill
Sound	9:00	Rob Messerly	Dustin Eidson	<i>Help Needed!</i>	Scott Johnson
	11:00	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Bill Ray
Usher Captains	9:00				
	11:00	Gary & Patricia Heinz			



Join us in worship on Sunday, Nov. 4 to celebrate All Saint's Day at Mt. Zion.

United Methodist Student Day Special Offering

The goal is to help educate students so they can make a difference in the world. Specifically, this fund helps UMC young people, who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all. Your gift helps send them into the world God loves better able to continue His work. - Sunday, Nov. 25th





Opportunities to Serve in Missions



The Open Doors Food Pantry gave out food to 108 families in October. When our numbers increase, our food budget increases too. If you're looking for a place to donate to a non-profit, please remember the Open Doors Food Pantry this year. We serve on average 85 families each month, and the number is a lot higher in the colder months. Over the course of the last year, we helped feed over 2,000 kids.

At Thanksgiving we offer our clients a **Thanksgiving meal** consisting of a Turkey, and all the fixings they would need for a dinner.

At Christmas, we have the **Angel Tree** and we hand out canned hams for Christmas dinner. The Angel Tree kids this year are 12 yrs old or younger and their gift tags will be available Sunday, November 18th.



Happy Thanksgiving



If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Our email address is opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com. Thank you for all that you do to keep families fed each month!

Potato Drop (through Society of St. Andrews)

On 6 April 2019, UMM will be picking up 50 lb. bags of potatoes at Oakdale UMC, Olney, MD. These potatoes are "rescued" by the Society of St. Andrews for distribution to anyone in need of them. If they are not "rescued", the potatoes find their way to a landfill because they are not glamorous for the grocery shelves.

In the past, the UMM of Mt. Zion has requested so many bags with the intention of dispersal afterwards. Faith has prevailed and we have never had a leftover 50 lb. bag. This year we would like to know an exact count of bags to pick up because you have said, "I want 'x' amount of bags and I'll be giving them to.." It is not imperative that you give a 50 lb. to one group or person. As a family project, break a bag or 2 into 5 lb. bags and distribute them locally in your neighborhood. You can give the bags to a local food pantry or soup kitchen. The choice is yours.

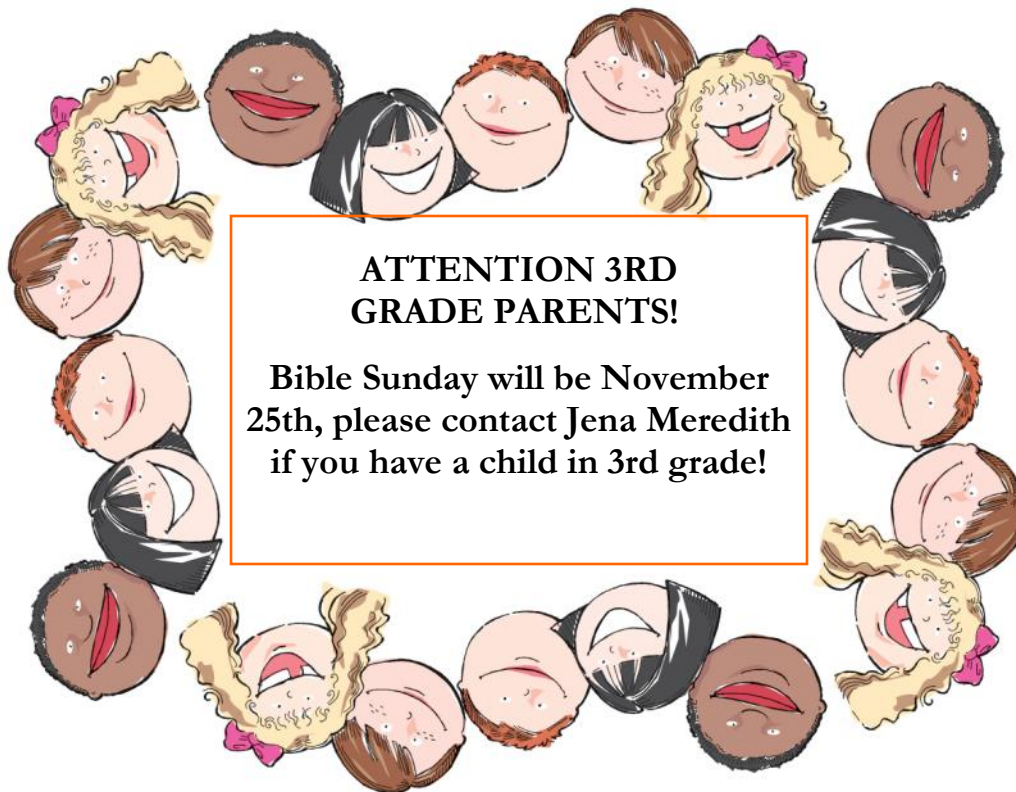
You have a couple of months to plan for this event. Please send an email to Ken Sines to place your order for potatoes. You'll be feeding someone.





Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Children's Ministry



ATTENTION 3RD GRADE PARENTS!

Bible Sunday will be November
25th, please contact Jena Meredith
if you have a child in 3rd grade!

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH....."

DON'T WORRY THAT YOUR CHILDREN
NEVER LISTEN TO YOU; WORRY
THAT THEY ARE
ALWAYS WATCHING YOU!!

KID'S ZONE

ATTENTION PARENTS- KID'S ZONE
TAKES PLACE AFTER CHILDREN'S TIME
IN BOTH SERVICES ON THE 2nd, 3rd and
4th SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH.

AFTER CHILDREN'S TIME, PLEASE AC-
COMPANY YOUR CHILDREN TO CON-
FERENCE ROOM #3 NEXT TO THE
NURSERY ROOM.

KID'S ZONE MAY OR MAY NOT BE AN-
NOUNCED IN THE SERVICE!

**'FAMILY GINGERBREAD
HOUSE MAKING'** WILL BE
HELD ON SUNDAY DECEM-
BER 9TH AT 4:00!!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALEN-
DARS NOW FOR THIS AN-
NUAL EVENT!!





Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Youth Ministry

November Calendar

November 4 - Regular Meeting

November 11 - Regular Meeting

November 18 - Regular Meeting

November 25 - No UMYF, Thanksgiving

Looking Ahead: Lock-in followed by Breakfast with Santa, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

“THE LIVING NATIVITY” IS BACK!!



Mark your calendars for the evening of Sunday December 16th!!
Details to follow in the December Pointer.



Discipleship Spiritual Growth

UMW Women:



UMW Thanksgiving Bake Sale
Sunday, November 18 10:00 am - 12:15 pm
Fellowship Hall

Calling all bakers and buyers! Enjoy your Thanksgiving.....the desserts are done!!

Your cupcakes, pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, scones, muffins, candy, and any creation you would be kind enough to donate would be so appreciated to help our UMW meet it's Mission Pledges!!

Questions or to donate, please contact
Joyce Saunderson

Grateful for your generous participation!!!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Filled boxes need to be brought to Mt. Zion on Sundays Nov. 11 or 18. During the service on Nov. 18th, all boxes will be blessed before they are sent on their way to children around the world. Mt. Zion Missions Fund will provide \$6 for each filled box to help pay for the Greatest Journey Bible lessons, 12 weeks of showing God's love for the children and teaching them about Jesus. The boxes provided have all been taken but you may fill a REGULAR size shoe-box. Instruction booklets and papers are in each narthex. Any questions, call Margaret Rose

BWC UMC Disaster Response to Hurricanes:

- 1) Donate to UMCOR (<http://ow.ly/rhau30lP5ec>)
- 2) Build a Cleaning Kit (<http://ow.ly/EcJd30lP1f7>)
- 3) Build a Hygiene Kit (<http://ow.ly/HXkj30lP59F>).



November



Discipleship Spiritual Growth

Mt. Zion UMMen

UMM/BWC Upcoming Events

9-11 November 2018 – Men's Retreat at Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville, MD

17 November 2018 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast (8-10am), Asbury UMC, Germantown, MD

9 December 2018 – Christmas Social (630pm), at the house of Will & Jill Scott

18 December 2018 – (PET) Mobility Worldwide Carts, Mt. Holly Springs, PA

12 January 2019 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (9-930am), Roma's on Shaker Drive

19 January 2019 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast (8-10am), Oakdale UMC, Olney, MD

9 February 2019 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (9-930am), Roma's on Shaker Drive

21 February 2019 – (PET) Mobility Worldwide Carts, Mt. Holly Springs, PA

22 February 2019 – Trivia Night in the Fellowship Hall (7-930pm)



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.

"Let's Roll", a Road trip to Pennsylvania



Wayne Mullinix, Larry Athey, Charles McEldowney and Ken Sines spent a wonderful, cool (literally) in Western PA. A road trip to the **Flight 93 Memorial, Shanksville, PA**, after breakfast with Ken's brother, Steve, and his local men's ministry. The awe inspiring tribute to the Americans of Flight 93 that sacrificed their lives for our freedom and others to live. Visited the crash site with the marble tribute wall, listened to last calls made by passengers in the plane (in the visitor center) and viewed the newly, dedicated Tower of Voices in the National Park.

Visited Ken's family at the house of his brother, Steve, in Stoystown. We attended (Steve's granddaughter) Emma's 1 year birthday celebration, ate lots of food and enjoyed the fellowship. Spent the evening in Somerset, PA (Ken's home growing up). Early Sunday service at Unity Church of Christ, Shanksville, PA (Steve's church) and then a stop at Brantview Farms Maple Camp. A video was shown on how maple syrup is made from the sugar water extracted from tapping the trees. Local syrup was brought back to Maryland.

We'll probably plan another trip in the near future, let us know if you care to join us.



The UMM hike took place at "Soldiers Delight" near Owings Mills on October 13th.

Cars and Coffee (& Hot Dogs)



A small group turned out for the recent Cars and Coffee. The small group attending enjoyed the cars, fellowship and hot dogs. Thanks to Bryan Meredith and Evan Saunderson for cooking. Everyone is looking forward to next spring for the next car show.



Even the Sines's grandson, Walker Eugene, enjoyed the bright colors.



November

Mt Zion Mt Zion

Nov 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Pioneer 12:30pm - Stephens 4pm - Scout Pack	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland 7pm - UMW/CR2	Bulletin 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7pm - Adult 7pm - GS-2108/132 7:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Pioneer 12:30pm - Stephens 4pm - Scout Pack	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland 7pm - UMW/CR2	Bulletin 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7pm - Adult 7pm - GS-2108/132 7:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	UMM Men's Retreat/Off site 12pm - Sage 6pm - Setup for Girl 6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Girl Power'd 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
UMM Men's 7pm - CBT Week of Prayer/Sanc	10am - Bible Study	Bulletin	9:30am - Preschool	8am - Preschool/FH	1pm - Food Pantry	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 9am - Food Pantry 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
10am - BP 10am - Pioneer 10am - Sandwich 4pm - Pack 702 Bear 4pm - Preschool 5:30pm - BS 5:30pm - Stephen	5:30pm - Stephen 7pm - Fellowship 7pm - Maryland	10:20am - Preschool 7pm - Evangelism&H 7pm - Missions 7pm - Trustees/CR2	9:30am - Seated 10am - Prayer 11am - Retired 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel 8pm - Pack 702	1pm - Jacks Eagle 7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am - UMW Bake 10am - Pioneer 12pm - Stephen 6pm - Cub Scout	8am - UMW 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - SPRC/CR1 7:30pm - BS T-702	9:30am - Seated 11:30am - Ginny 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel	Thanksgiving - 7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Pioneer	10am - Bible Study 10am - Christmas 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Church	9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	12pm - Breakfast 6:30pm - CBT	