

According to many historians, turkey was not on the menu of the first Thanksgiving. In fact neither was green-bean casserole, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. It appears that our Pilgrim and Native American forebears feasted on wild fowl (probably pheasant), clams, lobster, mussels, sea bass, bluefish, squash, corn, and beans. I'll settle for my idea of a traditional Thanksgiving meal which must include turkey and all the other fixins. As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, gives thanks to God not only for the material blessings in life, but also for the many other good things that bless our lives: humor, color, beauty, and above all, God's amazing grace. Say a prayer for those whose lives are in a great deal of distress due to forest fires, poverty, homelessness, illness. We all have a lot to be thankful for; celebrate this with your loved ones and be reminded of God's love for you. And save some turkey for me! May God's Most Bountiful Blessings be Yours. Pastor Ken

Sunday Worship

November 25, 2018

Scripture Lessons: Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18-33-37

Message: "*And He Shall Reign For Ever and Ever*"

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

Shepherding Team #9 Is On Call This Week, November 25th to December 1st. Contact Bonnie Luepkes

Safeguarding Houses of Worship - In our continuing efforts to ensure that Mt. Zion is a safe, secure environment for our church community, last month we conducted a safety walk-thru of the church complex with the Howard County Police Department. As a result, there are a number of recommendations that the Trustees are reviewing for implementation. One of those security recommendation, is that during the Sunday worship hours, the rear (side) door to the church should remain locked. Therefore, **beginning Sunday, December 2nd, the rear/side door to the church will remain locked during Sunday worship hours.** We will soon be posting a sign on those doors alerting people that they will be locked. If you have any concerns, please contact the church office and one of the Trustees will contact you. Note: This does not impact the entrance to the kitchen which shares the same parking area.

Cherub Choir: The Cherub Choir is starting for any preschool aged child. We will be learning Sunday School songs. We will meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays in the month from 9:45 am to 10:00 am in the Chapel. Contact Amy Ciliberti.

Surviving the Holidays - Advent Grief Study – Beginning on Sunday, November 25th we will begin this four-week study that addresses issues that grieving people face during the Christmas and holiday season. The study is open to everyone and will run four weeks through December 16th in the Chapel during the Sunday School Hour. Topics include "What to do with your Holiday Emotions", "Having a Plan", "Tips for Surviving Social Events" and "Surviving Christmas Day" and consist of a video followed by discussion. If you have any questions contact Carol Messerly or Jenny Burtzlaff or any of the Stephen Leader team.

Program books are being sponsored by the Stephen Ministry team and there is no charge to attend. Additional information about the program, as well as, some informative videos for those struggling to deal with the emotions of the season may be found on the Grief Share web page at <https://www.griefshare.org/holidays>



Please join the annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 1st. Two seatings are available at 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. Reservations can be made by going to the following link: <https://santabreakfast18.eventbrite.com> or calling the church office then ext. 12. The Secret Santa shop will be open for the children to purchase gifts.

The Mt Zion Youth are collecting new and gently used items for this year's Secret Santa Shop. The shop will be open during the Breakfast with Santa on December 1st. We will be collecting items throughout the month of November. There will be a box in the west Narthex for you to place the items. Thank you for your support. If you have any question please contact Elizabeth Blough EBlough@comcast.net.

Join us for an Advent Study in Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 10:15 starting on 12/2 - 12/30. Pastor Gary and Pastor Ken will lead this study titled **The Gift of New Hope**. This will be an opportunity to explore the bible readings from worship service during the advent season. This study includes commentary and reflection on readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles. It offers the opportunity to understand, appreciate, and engage in meaningful and joyous celebrations of Advent and Christmas and to live each day in God's hope through Jesus Christ.

SAGE Brigade: Friday, December 14th at Noon our new neighbors from Arbor Trellis in Fulton will be sharing lunch and leading in the making of a Christmas centerpiece for you to take home. This will be a delicious and fun meeting with friends. Add to your Christmas spirit and join us. RSVP Debbie Burgio, 410-531-2271 or debbie.burgio@verizon.net.

Operation Christmas Child a BIG SUCCESS! Sincere thanks to everyone who donated filled boxes – a total of 102!! They are on their way to children around the world and Missions has given \$612 from the Missions budget to pay for The Greatest Journey lesson materials for 102 children to hear about our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Reservoir High School students with special needs complete jobs for the school system and community members. Our class is working on developing pre-work skills. We need more work to do and hope that you can help us. We can complete mailings (and drop it off at the post office upon request) We can label, collate, fold papers, fold brochures, file papers alphabetically, put together folders, hole punch, count out tickets or other items, shred documents, scan documents, stuff goodie bags and wrap gifts. This is just a sample of work we have done in the past. Please ask us if you have any other job you think we can help with-we are open to most possibilities. All of our services are **FREE**. You can drop work off at Reservoir High School (please make arrangements in advance) or we can pick it up and return it to you. We look forward to working with you! Please contact **Grace Dellinger 410-888-8850; Grace_Dellinger@hcpss.org**

Save the Date! Marriage Enrichment Retreat: February 15-17, 2019 in Ocean City, MD. Make plans now to enjoy this winter weekend getaway with your spouse! This year's theme is "Love to Last a Lifetime: Letting God Lead the Way." **Location:** Dunes Manor Hotel Ocean City, MD. **Cost:** \$350/couple (includes accommodations Friday and Saturday nights, 2 meals on Saturday and brunch on Sunday). Registration Brochures will be available in November. For more information contact Barb Jacques at barbjacques3@gmail.com. The marriage retreat is a sponsored by Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Triadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The Care Giver's Group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month between services, in the church library. Contact Judy H. Johnson at 410-309-5850 or judyjnscott@hotmail.com.

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.

