

# Mount Zion United Methodist Church The P✶inter

December 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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## “What Difference Does Christmas Make?”

Friends,

Rum-spiced eggnog, friends and laughter, the warmth of the fireplace, family gatherings and the sound of carolers outside singing joyous songs; such experiences as these and more capture our memories of holiday's past and bring us the anticipation of those to come. As a boy growing up in West Virginia, I remember a few white Christmases which prompted the kids (and adults) in the neighborhood to sandpaper the rudders of their sleds and head out to find the steepest hill. When I became a parent, I could relive those experiences again as I joined my kids in sledding, making snow angels, and returning home for some delicious hot chocolate. Christmas was indeed a time to be thankful for our blessings and enjoy being with our loved ones.

Holding on to cherished memories of the past also exposes us to the reality of the present. For some, the family will gather around the Christmas table only to notice the absence of a loved one who recently died. And for some parents, the brightness and cheeriness of the holiday will only serve as a stark reminder of losing a child. We also know some people who will receive their Christmas meal in a homeless shelter or at a food kitchen. Our service men and women will gather around mess halls half way around the world, separated from family and finding themselves in harms way.

As pastor of Mt. Zion, I am looking forward to observing Advent and celebrating together the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve night. I am fully aware, however, that when we gather to worship that night we will bring forth cherished memories and wounded hearts. When we join to sing the familiar Christmas carols, one particular tune may bring a tear to someone's eye. As we see children laughing and excited as they read the scriptures, wear costumes, and play instruments, we might be reminded of those times when we had young children of our own. As we hear these words of scripture *“And there was no room for them at the inn”*, our hearts might be directed toward hungry and homeless people who have no place to stay.

[continued on page 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

## **Mt. Zion UMC Highland Inclement Weather Policy:**

Please adhere to this policy in cases of inclement weather. Always call the church first at (301)854-2324, to be advised of all openings and closings. Monday through Friday we follow the Howard County Government inclement weather policy. If there is a snow state of emergency for Howard County our services will automatically be cancelled.

During inclement weather, there is a high probability that our early morning worship service at 9 a.m. will be cancelled. Please call the church or check the church website, Facebook, or twitter page to be certain.

If the early morning service is cancelled, it does not mean that our 11 a.m. worship service will be cancelled also. Please call the church or check the church website, Facebook, or twitter page to be certain.

If both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services are cancelled, we will have worship service the following Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. This worship service will be ordered as a normal 11 a.m. worship service.

### **Our Christmas celebration at SAGE Brigade**

will be on December 14th at Noon in CR1. Kathy Tucker from Arbor Terrace in Fulton will be bringing lunch plus all of the supplies for creating Christmas centerpieces. I hope you all will join us for this festive event.

Please RSVP by email to me or text or leave  
a message  
Blessings, Debbie Burgio

### **Save the Date:**

**Trivia Night**  
**hosted by UMM will be held**  
**Friday, February 22, 2019 at 7:00pm**  
**in the Fellowship Hall.**  
**More details in January.**

### ***Pointer...***

Page 1 & 3 - Message from Pastor Gary  
Page 2 - Emergency Closure Policies &  
Current Church info  
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### **January Pointer Deadline: Friday, December 21**

Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can contribute:

Tag Mt. Zion on social media with

@mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland.

[pastor's message continued:]

Christmas is a time of family to be sure; but it's even more than that. It's about God's divine love entering the human drama in a unique way. And Christmas is not only God's gift for us, but God's gift lived inside of us and through us. Jesus' birth means new birth for us. Listen to the words of the great mystic:

*What is to me if  
Mary is full of grace  
and I am not also full of grace?  
What good is it to me  
for the Creator to give birth to his/her Son  
if I do not also give birth to him in  
my time and my culture?* -  
Meister Eckhart

The question of 'what difference does Christmas make for us?' is answered by how the meaning of Christmas is lived through us. The good news is that God gives us the very One who will show us the way and show us how to do it. This is a gift that lasts a life-time and then some.

Grace & Peace,

Gary



## Advent – The Gift of New Hope

December 2, 2018 – First Sunday in Advent

Sermon Title: *"A Light of Hope in Fearful Times"*

December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday in Advent

Sermon Title: *"Hope for Walking the Straight Path"*

December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday in Advent

Sermon Title: *"A Time of Joyous Hope"*

December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

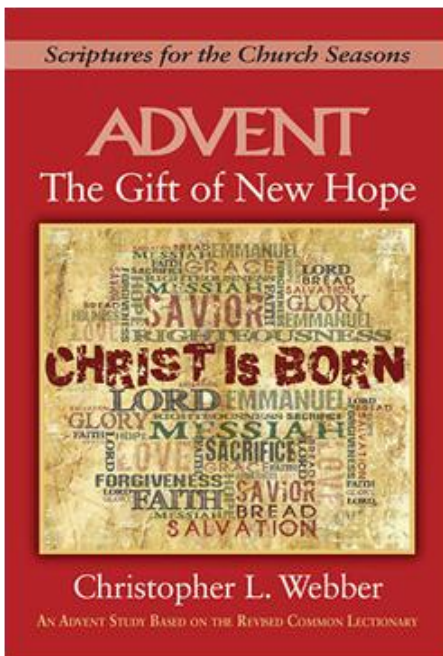
Sermon Title: *"Hope in Unexpected Places"*

December 24, 2018 - *Christmas Eve Services*

4:00 p.m./7:00 p.m./9:00 p.m.

Sermon Title: *"The Wonder of this Night"* 4 pm

Sermon Title: *"The Light Is With You"* 7 pm & 9 pm



Mt. Zion will be offering an Advent Study on Sunday mornings in December from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the following dates – December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. The classes will be held in the fellowship hall. The study is based on the book written by **Christopher L. Webber, Advent: The Gift of New Hope.**

We invite you to join the study. Call the Church office at 301-854-2324 or email to let us know of your interest in attending.





# Worship Spiritual Growth

## *Those Called to Serve and Lead Worship*

	Service Times	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30 10 am One service
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Elizabeth Blough	Carol Messerly	Santa & Mrs. Clause	Pastor Ken Pastor Ken
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Eric O'Keefe	Carol Messerly	Santa & Mrs. Clause	
Greeters	9:00	Lynn Jacobson, Charles MdEldowney	John & Nancy Coonts, Debra Fitzgerald	Jerry & Margaret Rose, Larry Murdock	Will & Jill Scott, Olivia Yeager	TBD
	11:00	Marcy McAdo	Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson	Laurie Sheffield-James	
Liturgist	9:00	Steve Dennis	Jon Lindberg	Carol Hill	Betty Cashmark	Elizabeth Dennis
Projection	9:00	Bonnie Luepkes	Jill Scott	Jill Scott	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes
	11:00	Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly	Chuck Sehman	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				

Baptism of  
Daughter, Christina Ann  
and  
Father, Christopher Michael  
By Rev. Ken  
On Sunday, Nov. 25.





# Discipleship Spiritual Growth

## Children's Ministry

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH....."



The **magic of Christmas** is not in the presents but **joy in his presence!**

### 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 ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILDREN TO CONFERENCE ROOM #3 NEXT TO THE NURSERY ROOM.

KID'S ZONE MAY OR MAY NOT BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SERVICE!

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

PLEASE MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS NOW  
FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT!!



**Registration for the 2019-2020 school year** has begun for church members and existing preschool students. Please contact the preschool office at 301-854-2387 for more information.

Join the Mt. Zion UMC Staff, the Pioneer Sunday School Class, the Ginny White Circle, and the Monday Morning Bible Study by giving to the Heifer International!!



Last year this group along with members of the congregation collected \$940.00 for **Heifer International**. (\$200.00 more than 2016!) They purchased 2 water buffalo, 3 goats and 4 flocks of chicks!! Your kind donation of cash or a check made out to Mt. Zion UMC marked **Heifer Project** can help in 2018.

Thanks for sharing the love of Christ!





# Worship Spiritual Growth

## *A Way Forward 2*

As mentioned in our last update, the Commission on a Way Forward is submitting three plans to the special session of General Conference to be held on February 23 to 26, 2019 in St. Louis. This meeting will determine the future direction of our UMC. We have enclosed a summary sheet of the three plans provided by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the UMC. Although each plan is very complex, these summaries will provide you with a good overview of each plan.

The Small Groups Committee of Mt. Zion has decided to wait until January and February before beginning any church-wide discussion on these plans for one major reason: the Judicial Council of the UMC (our Supreme Court) was asked to review the constitutionality of the plans and offer its ruling prior to the General Conference. The Judicial Council can declare any or all of the plans in whole or in part to be unconstitutional within the structures of the UMC. Meeting on October 26, the Judicial Council made the following conclusions about each of the three plans:

Plan 1-the One Church Plan was, for the most part, deemed to be “largely” constitutional.

The Judicial Council found the 17 petitions in the One Church Plan to be constitutional, except for one individual sentence each in Petitions 4, 8, and 13, each dealing with the authority granted to bishops to determine clergy appointments. The Council of Bishops is recommending the One Church Plan for approval by the General Conference.

Plan 2 -the Connectional Conference Plan contains proposed constitutional changes required for implementation. The Council ruled it has no authority to scrutinize the plan at this time since any changes to the UMC Constitution must first be proposed by and voted on by General Conference and then presented to each Annual Conference for a vote. Plan 2 may still be brought before the special session of General Conference and, if voted in the affirmative, would then begin the process of presenting it and the required constitutional amendments to the various Annual Conferences for action.

Plan 3-the Traditional Plan. The Council found that of the 17 petitions presented with this Plan, Petitions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 violated the Constitution of the UMC, and portions of Petitions 10 and 14 were also unconstitutional. Many of these dealt with “fair and due process” for both bishops and clergy deemed to have violated provisions in the *Book of Discipline*.

Your pastors are committed to learning as much as we can about each plan and look forward to our time of mutual learning and discussion at our sessions this coming January-February. We will keep you informed as to any additional major updates regarding a *Way Forward*.

Continue to pray for our church and our denomination. Even in the midst of differing opinions, may Christ’s love for us all bind us with a love for each other.

May Christ’s Peace be For Ever Yours,

Pastors Gary and Ken





Overview of Proposals for General Conference	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan (CCs)	Traditionalist Plan
Points included in this document are provided as a summary of the recommendations to the special 2019 General Conference. For more information, please read the entire report from the Commission on a Way Forward.	Summary: This plan, preferred by a majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-gender weddings in UMC properties and ordination of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals." It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.	Summary: This plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. All 3 would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.	Summary: This plan, developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process, broadens the definition of "self-avowed, practicing homosexual"; puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.
Local Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Most likely would make no changes in practice at the local level. <input type="checkbox"/> May rewrite wedding policies to explicitly allow or forbid same-gender weddings. <input type="checkbox"/> Will covenant with bishop on whether congregation will accept LGBTQ pastor.	<input type="checkbox"/> Can choose affiliation. <input type="checkbox"/> Still will set wedding policies with churches in the "unity" CC able to set parameters for building use and/or wedding policies in either direction.	<input type="checkbox"/> No vote unless the church disagrees with annual conference's choice to stay in UMC. <input type="checkbox"/> Churches can leave as a partner in ministry but not as part of the UMC if they disagree with annual conference's decision to adhere to Discipline.
Clergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Can exercise individual conscience. <input type="checkbox"/> Bishop & Cabinet would take theological convictions into account for appointments. <input type="checkbox"/> Ends potential for church trials. <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ candidates can be ordained and appointed to local churches that approve and can request transfer of candidacy if conference Board of Ordained Ministry or clergy session chooses not to ordain LGBTQ persons.	<input type="checkbox"/> Will choose a CC. <input type="checkbox"/> Transfers subject to approval by Board of Ordained Ministry. <input type="checkbox"/> Ordination would be recognized across all 3 CCs. <input type="checkbox"/> Security of appointment determined by CC, with emphasis on protecting women and minorities. <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons and full-time local licensed pastors may see fewer opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Must maintain Discipline or leave for "autonomous, affiliated or concordat church." <input type="checkbox"/> Just resolutions from complaints must include commitment not to repeat offense. <input type="checkbox"/> First offense results in one-year unpaid suspension. <input type="checkbox"/> Second offenses result in surrendering credentials.
Annual Conferences	<input type="checkbox"/> No vote is needed. <input type="checkbox"/> Boards of Ordained Ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons. <input type="checkbox"/> General Conference can craft a way for churches to exit with grace.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jurisdictional conferences will vote to join a CC on simple majority vote (50%+1). <input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences who want to join a different CC than their jurisdiction chooses may do so on a simple majority vote (50%+1). <input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences could revote every 4 years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Must certify that it will uphold the Discipline. <input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences that won't certify are urged to form "autonomous, affiliated or concordat" church, and churches that leave can't use United Methodist name or logo past 2020.
Overview continued from other side	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan (CCs)	Traditionalist Plan
Council of Bishops	<input type="checkbox"/> Council continues as one body providing spiritual leadership. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences. <input type="checkbox"/> Bishops will be protected if their consciences will not allow him or her to ordain LGBTQ persons.	<input type="checkbox"/> Funded by connectional conferences at comparable levels. <input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each CC. <input type="checkbox"/> Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a CC. <input type="checkbox"/> New bishops would be elected at organizing conference in 2022.	<input type="checkbox"/> Active and retired bishops must certify they will adhere to Discipline. <input type="checkbox"/> Bishops who will not certify adherence no longer receive compensation of expenses as of 2021 and will be encouraged to leave for "autonomous, affiliated or concordat" church.
General Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to operate as they do now. <input type="checkbox"/> Have to adjust to potential declines in funding, as sustainability issues are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward's task.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jointly funded boards include Wespeth, GCFA, UMCOR, Archives, parts of GBGM and the Publishing House. <input type="checkbox"/> Task force would evaluate each general agency and propose new model for UMC by 2025. <input type="checkbox"/> Program agencies would only serve CCs that desire participation. <input type="checkbox"/> Justice ministries structures would be determined by CCs, with expected emphasis on sexism and racism.	<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to operate as they do now. <input type="checkbox"/> Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC.
Related Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Likely no changes. <input type="checkbox"/> Commission conversations with members of these organizations indicate this plan makes it more likely for most institutions to maintain their affiliation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Properties owned by annual and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new CC. <input type="checkbox"/> Institutions can choose to relate to one or more CCs, as their bylaws allow.	<input type="checkbox"/> No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their own bylaws.
Finance & Pensions	Two petitions are recommended for any of the three plans: <input type="checkbox"/> Any church that leaves would have to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference. <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawing clergy would be removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and have accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account.	<input type="checkbox"/> Same 2 petitions as One Church Plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Legal fees to navigate legacy connections. <input type="checkbox"/> Wespeth stays intact and extends to CCs. <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference. <input type="checkbox"/> Wespeth will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go to another CC. <input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Same 2 petitions as the One Church Plan.
Episcopal Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Salaries and benefits would be paid by each episcopal area in the United States. <input type="checkbox"/> Other expenses would be shared via apportionments. <input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.	<input type="checkbox"/> Salaries and benefits would be paid by each U.S.-based CC. <input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.	<input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.



# Discipleship Spiritual Growth

## Youth Ministry

### December Calendar

- Next weekend is the lock-in on Friday night 11/30 into Saturday morning 12/01. Meet at the youth center at 6:30 Friday evening. We will have dinner then spend the night. In the evening we will prepare for the secret Santa shop. In the morning the youth will help serve at Breakfast with Santa and help the children in the shop.
  - There is no youth group Sunday 12/02 because of the lock-in.
- Sunday 12/09 the youth will be putting on the live nativity after the family gingerbread house event. Youth should arrive by 4:00 to prepare.
- Sunday 12/16 we will meet at the regular time for Christmas party and gift exchange.
  - Sunday 12/23 and 12/30 there will be no youth group because of the holidays.
  - Looking Ahead: Lock-in followed by Breakfast with Santa, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

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## “THE LIVING NATIVITY”

Sunday, December 9th  
after the family gingerbread house event.







# Discipleship Spiritual Growth

## UM Women:

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



### 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!**



### The Women's Christmas Gift Exchange & Fellowship with Hopkins UMC

**Friday, December 7th  
in the Chapel from 7-9 pm**

All women of Mount Zion and Hopkins UMC are invited to this annual event. Please come and enjoy refreshments, Christmas music, and good fellowship. Bring a gift to share in the lively gift exchange.

Please, gifts should be \$10 to \$15,  
wrapped and unlabeled.

Questions: call or email joyce  
saunderson

### Youth Service Project ~ stuffing stockings for veterans





# Opportunities to Serve in Missions



November 2018 Update:

**The Open Doors Food Pantry** gave out food to **156 families**, and over **120 Thanksgiving Dinners**. Because of your great generosity, we were able to buy extra turkey's and hand out more than our goal of 120 Thanksgiving Dinners were. All of our tables were full of food when we opened, but they were bare at the end of the day.



**The Open Doors Food Pantry keeps on doing good all the way to Baltimore.** Every month, leftovers of fresh produce and canned food are delivered by volunteers to **Ames Memorial UMC in Baltimore**.

Handing out Jobs fliers at Ames UMC.

Wayne and Cindy Monroe, Carol Messerly and Deborah Towner went up to help with **Ames' grand Thanksgiving basket give-away by organizing the clothing and coats and food baskets, and handing out turkeys**. Pat Saunderson and Fred Towner brought up Open Doors leftovers this month. If you would like to volunteer to deliver food, please contact Fred Towner at





On Sunday, November 18th Karen Greiner started with 64 Angel Tree kids, and about half were taken. On Sunday November 25th, the remaining ones were all taken! Hallelujah! Our congregation is so supportive of the food pantry and all that we do to help people, it's truly amazing!



In January we will be announcing our **Board of Directors** so be on the lookout! Thank you all so much for everything you do to support the Open Doors Food Pantry. If you have any questions, or suggestions, just email

Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood at [Opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:Opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com).

We're also on Facebook, so like our page to get the latest updates.



Produce and sides for turkeys delivered to Ames UMC in Baltimore





# Discipleship Spiritual Growth

## Mt. Zion UMMen

### UMM/BWC Upcoming Events

9 December 2018 – Christmas Social (630pm), at the house of Will & Jill Scott  
\*\*\*\*\*Please bring an unwrapped children's gift\*\*\*\*\*

18 December 2018 – (PET) Mobility Worldwide Carts, Mt. Holly Springs, PA  
Leave Oakdale UMC at 7am, return by 4pm

12 January 2019 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (8-930am), 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 (8-930am), Roma's on Shaker Drive

21 February 2019 – (PET) Mobility Worldwide Carts, Mt. Holly Springs, PA  
Leave Oakdale UMC at 7am, return by 4pm

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.



Chester River Sunrise

Woodsy Campground Cabin



## United Methodist Men's 2018 Retreat

Twelve Mt. Zion men travelled to the Pecometh Retreat Center and Campground near Centreville, MD from November 10-12 for the annual UMM spiritual retreat.



Pecometh Retreat Center Building



Retreat study, based on the book *Breathing Under Water, Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*, by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan Priest, considered how to increase one's spirituality even in the most difficult times such as those caused by personal addictions, and the essential role of spirituality in the success of the 12 Step Programs used to overcome personal addictions. Discussions of sections of the book were led by Pastor Gary, by Ken Sines, retreat organizer and UMM President, and a guest leader, Chick Rhodehamel. Between study sessions there was lots of time for eating (great meals), discussions, games and a lively Saturday songfest led by the guitars of three Praise Band members and Pastor Gary. Despite chilly weather, strong winds and Sunday morning frost, many attendees explored much of the beautiful Center grounds on the Chester River. The retreat culminated with a Sunday morning worship service following the themes of the book.



Discussion Leader,  
Chick Rhodehamel



### 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. You have a couple of months to plan for this event. Please send an email to Ken Sines at [ksines@mtzion.org](mailto:ksines@mtzion.org) to place your order for potatoes. You'll be feeding someone.





## Stewardship Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, New Revised Standard Version)

Thank you so much for participating in Consecration Sunday. Through your faithful financial support, we received 92 Estimate of Giving Cards as of November 19, 2018 compared to 107 received in 2017 at the same point in time after Consecration Sunday. Based upon the Estimate of Giving Cards returned to date, the estimate of giving per unit in 2018 is down 2% compared to 2017. If you have not returned your Estimate of Giving Card it is not too late. Please direct them to the attention of Valerie Pierce our Treasurer.

I want to thank all the members of the Stewardship Committee that gave their time to help plan the campaign, prepare letters and mailings, and coordinate the leadership dinner and Consecration Sunday luncheon. The members of the Stewardship Committee are Jeff Dunn, Art Jacques, Chris Maynard, Pastor Gary and our treasurer, Valerie Pierce. I also want to thank all those who shared their testimonies during the Stewardship moments. They were Elizabeth Dennis, Carol Hill, Art Jacques, and Shugo Tanaka. Lastly, I want to thank Reverend Rachel Cornwell for her leadership and her inspiring message on Consecration Sunday.

**Through the work of the Holy Spirit and your faithful commitment Mt. Zion is Touching Lives for Jesus Christ.** I see the Holy Spirit at work in Mt. Zion through the Stephen's Ministry, the Open Doors Food Pantry and at Winter Haven in the faces of the volunteers and those in the community who are helped. I see it in our Sunday worship and through the choirs, sound and video technicians, liturgists and Children's Time leaders who help to make our worship services a celebration of God's love and grace. I see the Holy Spirit at work in Vacation Bible School and the Youth Fellowship. I see it at work through the maintenance and provision of the Mt. Zion facility and its use by the community. And I see it at work in the staff and pastors who support and equip the laity to carry out the mission and ministries.

I see the Holy Spirit at work as the Mt. Zion community reflects on what portion of their God given blessings to return to our creator for God's work. Through your giving you have made both a personal spiritual step forward and have empowered Mt. Zion's many ministries and missions.

On behalf of Mt. Zion I sincerely thank you for your faithful support.

Your brother in Christ,  
David G. Norton

**The Holy Spirit at work  
at Mt. Zion:**







More Holy Spirit  
at work  
at Mt. Zion:

# DECEMBER



Mt Zion Mt Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						7am - Breakfast 8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Bible Study 10am - Pioneer 10am - Stephens 12:30pm - Stephens 4pm - Scout Pack 5pm - Wolves Pack	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9am - Preschool 9:30am - CR1/Presch 9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel	9am - Praise 7pm - Praise	9am - Brookfield 6pm - Girl Power'd 6:30pm - CBT 6:30pm - Gift	8am - Girl Power'd 8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza 4pm - Memorial 7pm - UMW
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Bible Study 10am - BP 10am - Pioneer 10am - Sandwich 10am - Stephens 3:30pm - Family 4pm - Pack 702 Bear 5pm - Live Nativity	10am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Stephen 7pm - Fellowship 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Evangelism&H 7pm - Missions 7pm - Trustees/CR2	9:30am - Seated 10am - Prayer 11am - Retired 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6pm - RTHC 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel	5pm - GS Daisy 7pm - Praise	9am - Brookfield 12pm - Sage 1pm - Food Pantry 6:30pm - CBT 8pm - Pack 702	7am - Food 8:30am - CBT/Sanc 9am - Food Pantry 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza 3pm - Eagle Scout 4pm - Eagle Scout
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Bible Study 10am - Pioneer 10am - Stephens 12pm - Stephen 5pm - Girl Scouts	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - SPRC/CR1 7:30pm - BS T-702	9am - Preschool 9:30am - Seated 11:30am - Ginny 12pm - Deadline - 6:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	5pm - Longest 6:30pm - CBT 7pm - Longest Night	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Bible Study 10am - Pioneer	10am - Bible Study 4pm - Christmas Eve 7pm - Maryland	-- Office Closed -- Bulletin 9am - Tiny 7pm - Church	9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza
30	31					
10am - Bible Study 10am - One Service 10am - Pioneer	10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland					



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him