

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Webster's Dictionary describes the origin of the word Advent as "Middle English, borrowed from the Medieval Latin *adventus*, going to Latin, 'arrival, appearance', from *adven*, variant stem of *advenire* 'to arrive' (from ad-AD- + *venire* 'to come' . . ."

It is wonderful to gain insights from Etymologists who help us understand the root meaning of words that we use in everyday language. Yet how does the word "Advent" relate to our understanding of the Christian year? The answer to that question is rather simple. The Christian Church has set aside four Sundays named appropriately 'Advent' Sundays to help us prepare for 'the coming of Christ' into the world.

The Advent season is all about anticipating again how to embrace the full mystery of the unique way that God enters into our world through the birth of Jesus.

Let us join together to worship on this First Sunday of Advent.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Worship

December 2, 2018

Communion Sunday

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 33:14-16/1 Thessalonians 3:9-13/Luke 21:25-36

Message: "A Light of God in Fearful Times"

Here are some [events and opportunities](#) for you to get connected in the church:

Shepherding Team #1 Is On Call This Week, December 2nd through December 8th. Contact Jill Scott .

We will be having live Nativity on December 9th. 5 pm

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. Or email youthministry@mtzionhighland.com. 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.

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.

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.

Bishop Easterling will provide several updates including the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. Sunday Dec. 2, 2018 from 3-5pm. North Bethesda UMC, 10100 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD 201814.

The UMW is sending out a really huge "thank you" to all "bakers and buyers" who participated with our Annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale!! All \$700.00 plus raised is used for our Mission Pledges!!

Ladies Night Out. Come for a lovely evening of fellowship, gift exchanging, refreshments and Christmas music on Friday evening, December 7 at 7 pm in our chapel. All are invited! Please bring a wrapped unlabeled \$10-\$15 gift to share in an always fun game!!(it's ok if you don't do this part) The lovely and spirited ladies of Hopkins UMC are also invited, and as always add so much joy to our celebration! Please join us you'll be "jingle bell happy" you did!

The Monday Morning Bible Study Class invites you to participate in this "season of giving" by donating to the International Heifer Project , a non-profit organization that works with others to alleviate hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. HPI helps impoverished families become self reliant by providing food and income producing animals and training Last year your kind and generous donations added up to \$940.00 and we were able to purchase **Two Water Buffalo, Three Goats and Four flocks of Chicks!** Thank you in advance for your gifts of the heart Cash or checks to Mt. Zion UMC marked Heifer donation will be gratefully accepted!

UMM Christmas Social. Sunday December 9, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Will & Jill Scott's house. UMM plus spouses/partners invited. Eat some dinner before arrival, then bring snack/appetizer to share; Will & Jill provide dessert. Also, suggest bringing unwrapped children's gift for charity. .

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.

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.

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**

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. 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.

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.