

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

As I write these words, I see snow flurries falling to the ground from my office window. As I step outside, the wind that hits my face seems colder and more blistering. Yes - winter is upon us.

I then go the weather app on my phone so I can check the weather forecast for today and for the next several days that follow. The weather reports call for snow to fall on Saturday and end on Sunday. The question that immediately comes to mind is *"How will this effect our worship services on Sunday?"*

Therefore, I have decided to include the **Mt. Zion Inclement Weather Policy** in this week's E-Pointer. If there is a dusting of 1 to 3 inches of snow, my intention is to drive to church and lead our services. If there is to be considerable more snow, then we will cancel services.

My advice to you is to be smart and be safe.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Sunday Worship

January 13, 2019

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Message:

"Glory to God in the Lowest"

On Sunday, January 13, Pastor Gary will leading a **Facilitator's Training Event** at 12:30 p.m. in Conference Room 2 at Mt. Zion Church. (**Note:** This is a reminder only for those who have agreed to be facilitators for the four sessions designed to help us understand the work of the "Commission on the Way Forward".)

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 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 at 9 a.m. will be cancelled. Please call the church office or check the church website, Facebook, or twitter page to be certain.

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

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

Shepherding Team #7 Is On Call This Week, January 13th through January 19th. Contact Jan

Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help! When: Friday Jan 18, 2019 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM to help set up dry goods **and/or** Saturday Jan 19, 2019 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM to unload lots of fresh produce, serve others and help clean up. Any time you have to help is a blessing. Don't forget to drop your loose change in the offering basket! Questions, email Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood: opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com. Please note that if there is anyone that may need food from the pantry, they can always contact Carol Hill privately

Signups for Winter Shelter, to be held March 3-10 at Mt. Zion this year, begin this Sunday in the West Narthex before and after both services. You can also sign up using Signup Genius - see the Mt. Zion website for a link to the Signup Genius. If you have any questions contact Rod Barr

Church-wide Discussion on the Way Forward. Starting January 20 from 2pm - 4pm; Mt. Zion will hold a 4 week series of discussions on the Way Forward. This series will review the 3 plans The United Methodist Church has identified, each as a potential "way forward" regarding the church's policy on human sexuality (including the issue of same sex marriage and ordination of homosexuals). For more information, please see the December Pointer article. This discussion series is an introduction to a conversation that may well affect the future of The United Methodist Church as we know it. The United Methodist Church will hold a special General Council session in February to address this issue and determine how we go forward or whether we go forward as a denomination. We invite everyone to join us to understand the direction of the church and explore what it means on a personal and corporate level. To ensure we have room for everyone, please RSVP to Debra

Brrr Cold Nights ... Warm Pajamas needed for better bedtimes! In January, our Mt Zion Family will have the opportunity to reach out to children served by the Pajama Program (www.pajamaprogram.org) Many of these children are in group foster homes, shelters and dealing with unfortunate situations in their young lives. We can help provide a happier bedtime with our donation of New pajamas and story books for a cozier ending to their day. New Pajamas and Books will be collected **January 6 through January 20, 2019.** All sizes are needed from Infants through Teens. These will be distributed to children in need in our local Maryland/Delaware/DC area. On behalf of the kids your donation will be helping thank you, thank you, thank you! Contact: Karen Williams, PJ Program Coordinator

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! Questions:

Hearing Aid? If you have a hearing aid with the "telecoil" feature you can pick up a telecoil at the West side of the A/V booth. We only have one at this time, but if there is enough interest we can expand. If you're not sure, talk to a sound tech and we'll do our best to help.

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 at vvuy2k@aol.com. There will be no Cherub choir on January 13th. There will be choir on January 20th and 27th. Thank you for your assistance.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat: February 15-17, 2019 in Ocean City, MD! Looking for that perfect Valentine's Day gift? Register now to enjoy this special 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:** \$450/couple (includes accommodations Friday and Saturday nights, 2 meals on Saturday and brunch on Sunday). Registration Brochures available in the East Narthex. For more information contact Barb Jacques. The marriage retreat is a sponsored by Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Triadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church, Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church, Middletown 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.