

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

As your pastors, Pastor Ken and I truly appreciate your response in attending the sessions on the Way Forward. For Session 2, we had 10 more people attending. Moreover, we are moved by the way you have engaged in having these courageous conversations. You have been thoughtful, respectful, honest, open, and willing to listen to each other. These are deep conversations that we know people will not be of one mind. Yet by the grace of God, we are people bound together by one Spirit. And you have heeded that call. The Apostle Paul reminded the early church, *“I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of us all, who is over all and through all and in all”* (Ephesians 4:1-6 NIV). Both Ken and I thank all of you for living out that calling.

This Sunday, we will hold Session 3 in the fellowship hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This will cover the *“Connectional Conference Plan”*. On February 10th, at Session 4, we will have conversations on the *“Traditional Plan”*; then we will end by celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion together.

Grace & Peace,
Gary

Sunday Worship

February 3, 2019

Communion Sunday

Scripture Lessons:

1 Corinthians 13/Luke 4:21-30

Message:

“Looking for the Perfect Preacher?”

The Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominating Committee) will be meeting each month to be engaged in conversations and to explore how we can match people’s skills to the various ways that they can be engaged in ministry and serve Christ’s Church. (This will include such areas as administration, mission, education, fellowship, stewardship, evangelism, worship, trustees and other opportunities to serve.) I invite you to keep the work of this committee in your prayers and to be in prayerful reflection in thinking of ways that you might be engaged in Christ’s ministry here at Mt. Zion, in our community and around the world.

- Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Chair of Lay Leadership

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

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 Leiss

Shepherding Team #1 Is On Call This Week, February 3rd through February 9th. Contact Jill Scott.

Sunday February 3, 2019 @ 1:00 – 2:00 pm Stephen Ministers Continuing Education: Abby Dixon will speak on Stress Management. Conference Room 1. All are welcome.

Camp Hope 2019 (week 1) is scheduled for 30 June - 6 July. Sign-ups will be the first two Sundays in March.

SAGE Brigade: Friday, February 8th. The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services will present, "Fire and Fall Prevention." Noon for Lunch and 12:30 for the presentation. We will be having a sweet and baked potato bar. Please bring your favorite potato toppings or a dessert to share. RSVP to Debbie Burgio

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

Trivia Night in the Fellowship Hall. Join the fun with a night of trivia on 22 February 2019 (7-9:30pm) in the fellowship hall. Register a team (up to 6 players per team) at \$10/player. If you register a team of 6 prior to 2 February (Groundhog's Day), pay only \$50. Space is limited but the excitement is not. Contact Mark Coffin

Apply until Friday March 15, 2019 @ 5pm for the Women's Board Scholarship Program – Each year, the Women's Board supporters of MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, awards, scholarships to students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in the healthcare field including associate, bachelor's master's and doctorate degrees. Scholarships can range from \$500 – \$4,000. Scholarships may be applied to a student's tuition, room, board, books and fees. Apply online: www.medstarmontgomery.org/scholarship

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 There will be no Cherub choir on January 13th. There will be choir on January 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.