

E-Pointer for Mt. Zion UMC – May 2, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Mt. Zion,

In the last two Sundays we have moved from celebrating the Resurrection with the promise of new life and then to the tradition of Holy Humor Sunday, reminding us that new life in Christ is one of joy and laughter. As people of faith, we gather each week to share a message that is much needed in our world.

As most of you know, churches in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday were targets of terrorism and violence causing death and heartache. It seems that these acts of violence happen on a regular basis. Just in this past week alone, we have heard the tragic news of places of worship and learning being targets of violence and hate. Our prayers go out to those families who have lost loved ones at the deadly shooting that happened at the synagogue in San Diego during Passover and at the University of North Carolina while students were finishing their last day of classes.

How does news such as this impact our response to evil in our society? That is a great question for us to address and the time needed to do this goes beyond my few words written in the E-Pointer.

What I can say, however, is that it's important for you and I to remember we are bearers of a message that seeks to bring healing and wholeness to the world. We are instruments of healing in how we live and by the words we use. I am often drawn to Proverbs 10:12 which states, "Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."

When we fight hatred with hatred, then we begin to lose our own sense of humanity. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "An eye for eye only ends up making the whole world blind."

May the words of this popular hymn be our prayerful aim - "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

Peace,

Gary Sheffield-James

Sunday Worship May 5, 2019 3rd Sunday of Easter Communion Sunday
Scripture Lessons Acts 9:1-6, 7-20/John 21:1-19
Message "An Unlikely Friendship"

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:

TOMORROW, Friday, May 3rd: Winter Grace Senior Ministries (non-profit founded by Mt. Zion member, Debbie Burgio, to serve Older Adults in our community) is hosting a 50+ Resource Fair at Mt. Zion UMC in Highland. The Fair is for everyone who is or cares about an Older Adult. Learn the answers to the hard questions you do not even know you need yet. You want to know before you need to know. There will be 20 Vendors, Expert Speakers throughout the day, Door Prizes, Free Admission, Blood Pressure Checks. See you there! Call or email Debbie Burgio with any questions.

Shepherding Team #5 Is On Call This Week, May 5th through May 11th. Contact Frances and Roger Colvin.

Monday Morning Bible Study Please join us any Monday at 10 am for ongoing Bible Study.

Bible Study on 1st Thessalonians. Join Pastor Dunnington in looking at the first recorded piece of Christian biblical literature, Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica. Learn how the early Christians were called to live as a new faith community in a Roman world, even as they eagerly anticipated the full expression of God's kingdom to break forth in their lifetime. This 4 week study will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on May 16, 23, 30 and June 6.

Mother & Daughter Banquet will be held on May 11th, 2019 from 6 pm – 8:30 pm. All women (mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, etc.) are invited to join us for an evening of fun, fantasy, entertainment, & fellowship. Our theme for this year is "Into the Woods . . . Grimm's Fairy Tales". Please feel free to come dressed as your favorite Fairy Tale character. There will be plenty of photo opportunities throughout the night! Our dinner buffet will have a variety of options related to our theme. There will be gluten free choices. Reservations are open until April 7th. The cost is – adults \$12.00, children 3-8, 2 and under are free. Questions, please contact Elizabeth Blough.

*****We are looking for help to setup and decorate the fellowship hall – Friday any time after 2:00pm or Saturday any time after 9:00am. We need help in the kitchen on Saturday any time after 10:00am. And we need gentleman to help serve dinner buffet and clean up. Please contact Elizabeth Blough.*****

Pointer Editor Needed After many years of dedicated service Sue Ball has decided to step down from editing the Pointer. We are seeking someone to permanently take over that role. The task requires 2-4 hours near the end of each month to perform. The Communications Committee can provide guidance. Please contact us if you are able to help with this important part of Mount Zion's communication program.

Know Any Recent Graduates? We will be recognizing recent graduates in June, high school, college, grad school, or any other program. If you are or know a student who is graduating this Spring or has graduated anytime in since last June please send us the following information:

- Name
- School
- Approximate date of graduation

- Next step after graduation if known, i.e., college, new job, etc.
- Picture to show to the congregation

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 10:00am in CR1. Join us to create shawls, blankets, new baby 'blankies' etc. for those who might need one: Those in hospitals, nursing homes, mending at home or new borns.

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.

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.