

# Mount Zion United Methodist Church The inter

August 2019 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



August 2019

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Check us out on the web:  
www.mtzionhighland.com

## Pastor's Message

### Friends,

My wife Laurie and I are traveling to China this summer. We leave on July 31st and will return to the States on August 22nd. We are both very excited about traveling to a country that in many ways we know little about. Since we are traveling with a group led by a tour guide, this will relieve some anxiety on our part. Yet we ask ourselves, "What can I learn about this strange environment that will alleviate my fears?" In preparation for our trip, we have been reading articles about what we need to know in order to be respectful and mindful of local Chinese customs and values. Now I am sure we will be met with warm hospitality and find those who will help us learn some new things about their culture and history along the way.

It's good to be a guest in a place you have never been to before. We who have worshiped in the church for most of our lives can learn from the experience of being a stranger every once in a while. Knowing how we have felt in this situation, we can become more attentive to the strangers among us by extending a welcome, sharing our name and asking theirs, and making ourselves available. The writer of Hebrews reminds of the importance of this ministry through these words: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Peace,  
Gary

**Rev. Gary Sheffield-James**  
Senior Pastor

**Mark Dubbs**  
Director of Music

**Mark J. Blough**  
Facilities Manager

**Carol Wunderlich**  
Youth and Children's  
Ministries

**Deb Papavizas**  
Organist

**Dianne Sanna**  
Administrative Assistant

**Chris Fox**  
Keyboard/Children's Choir Director

**Chuck Plant**  
Office Assistant

**Valerie Pierce**  
Treasurer

## **Youth Ministry:**

Congratulations to our 2019 Camp Hope Mission Team for completing their work in Early July! The adult counselors and youth worked hard, worshiped together, and touched the lives of three residents by completing projects through house repairs and new construction. The youth and leaders will be leading the service on September 8th when they will share their experiences and accomplishments during their week at Camp Hope.

Camp Hope Team: Jack Island, Dustin Eidson, Christian Nieto, Ben Davis, Roxy Romero, Emily Erwin, Phoebe Island, Eliza Thompson, Anand Ambrosi, Joey Squirlock, Nick Laing, Gray David, Liz Smolen, Jessie Anderson, Julia Baskett, Erin Island, Debby Klopp, Chris Davis, Ken Sines, Sarah Blough.

## **Summer Children's Ministry.**

The Nursery will remain open 9:00 am to noon. During the Sermon portion of both services, elementary age children are invited to the Children's Worship Table at the back of the Sanctuary to join in quiet activities with our Sunday School and Kid Zone leaders. If interested in providing non-prep leadership during services, contact Carol Wunderlich at [youthandchildren@mtzionhighland.com](mailto:youthandchildren@mtzionhighland.com).

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**See what was in the Pointer 25 and 50 years ago – follow Mt. Zion on Facebook.**

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

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### **Summer Break Edition**

August is a month of vacations after a busy July, with VBS and many mission trips, and before the new school year in September. Please feel free to submit content and especially pictures to [communications@mtzionhighland.com](mailto:communications@mtzionhighland.com)

### **September Pointer Deadline: Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can contribute:**

**Tag Mt. Zion on social media with @mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland.**



# Worship Spiritual Growth

*Those called to Serve and Lead Worship*

	Service Times	4 August	11 August	18 August	25 August
Greeters	0900	Lynn Jacobson & Charles McEldowney	John & Nancy Coonts; & Debra Fitzgerald	Jerry & Margaret Rose; & Larry Murdoch	Will & Jill Scott; & Olivia Yeager
Liturgist	0900	Elizabeth Dennis	David Norton	Lamont Baskett	Carol Hill
Slide Preparer	0900	Elizabeth Blough	Susan Kalbach	Carolyn Powers	Bonnie Luepkes
	1100	Diana Bandy	Diana Bandy	Sharon Waligora	Sharon Waligora
Projection	0900	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes
	1100	Carol Hill	Carol Messerly	Chuck Sehman	Carol Hill
Sound	0900	Help Wanted	Dustin Eidson	Help Wanted	Scott Johnson
	1100	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill





# Farewell From Your Organist

Dear Mt. Zion Family,

Eighteen years ago, right after Easter 2001, I accepted the position of organist for this congregation. At that time, I had young children. another job as a group fitness exercise instructor and was teaching piano to 30 students. Over the ensuing years, I have grown to love the people of Mt. Zion and truly enjoyed many wonderful services, as well as provided music for very moving life events – funerals and weddings. I was 45 years old. Now, at 62, I find it is time for the next chapter in my and my husband's lives. We will both fully retire in the Fall. Music has been my life since I started piano at age 4, and began playing for churches at the age of 16, 46 years ago! My mother was my first instructor. She and my grandmother were also church organists. Where does the time go!!!???

I want to especially thank Mark Dubbs for being instrumental (haha) in my hire, and for being the absolutely best director I have ever worked with, as well as being a kind, caring human being. I call him my “church husband” which my “house husband” finds hysterical. Also, a shout out to our accompanist, Chris Fox, whose musical talents know no bounds. Thanks for the duets!

Also, I want to extend my love to the Chancel Choir for all the music and laughter we have shared together. Wednesday nights have been a combination of work and play, and their dedication to this volunteer “small group” is beyond admirable.

To Pastor Gary, and all the other pastors with whom I have served, I so appreciate the wisdom and insight I have gained from listening to your sermons and sharing our commitment to Mt. Zion. And finally, to the congregation of Mt. Zion, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you have given me, the gratitude you have demonstrated to me, and the love you have shown me. I will treasure you always.

I leave with complete satisfaction and pride in the work I have done here, and will miss you all more than I can ever say. I will not be far away, so you may see me sneaking in to the back of the sanctuary from time to time, for a chance to feel again, the joy of our worship. Love love love always,  
Deb Papavizas

*Deb's last Sunday will be August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*



*Notes of* **THANKS**

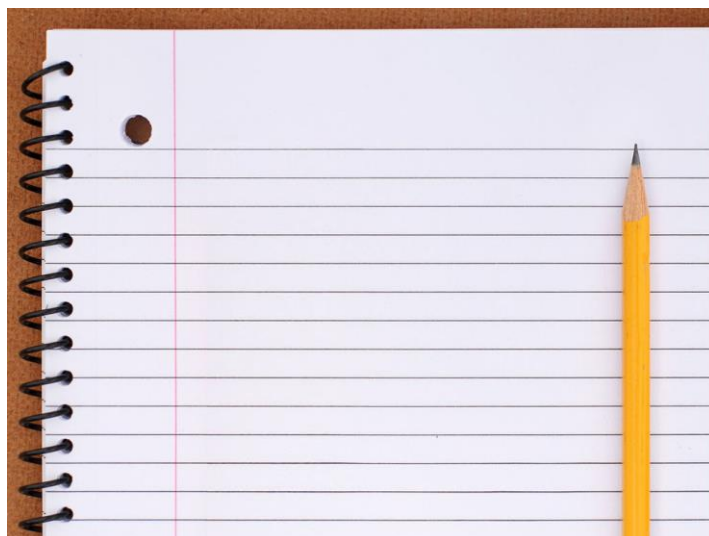


# Staff Updates

**SPRC Seeking Congregational Input for Staff Evaluations** – One of the responsibilities of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is to conduct an annual evaluation of staff performance. We will be doing these evaluations over the summer and finalizing them by the end of September. SPRC liaisons welcome your input as we prepare to meet with each staff member to evaluate his/her efforts toward meeting the overall goals of the church. Please contact us before mid-August with any comments you may like to share in this process. Below is the list of current staff positions to be evaluated with the SPRC liaison in parentheses.

- Director of Ministries for Children and Youth: Carol Wunderlich (Debby Klopp)
- Treasurer: Valerie Pierce (Steve Dennis)
- Administrative Assistant: Dianne Sanna (Susan Lau)
- Facilities Manager: Mark Blough (Karyn Vice - temporary POC)
- Nursery Supervisors: Rebecca O'Keefe and Betty Routh (Pam Ehrenfried)
- Director of Music: Mark Dubbs (Pat Saunderson)
- Pianist: Chris Fox (Pat Saunderson)

**Just a short note, but done with a grateful heart,** to say Thank You to everyone for your wonderful goodbye gifts as I leave Mt. Zion. I truly appreciated being with you for the past year, and I wish all the Mt. Zion family all the best. May God's richest blessings be with you always. ~ Pastor Ken Dunnington





# What's Next for "The Way Forward"

During February's Special Session, the General Conference voted in favor of the Traditional Plan for the United Methodist Church to address LGBTQ+ issues. This plan explicitly defines minimum penalties for clergy who perform same-sex weddings and prohibits bishops from commissioning/ordaining elders and deacons who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

This has caused significant conflict and strife across the United Methodist Church. Local churches and conferences as well as individuals need to consider the impact of this plan and if/how they should respond.

To help Mt Zion discern what our response should be, Church Council has asked the congregation for volunteers to be members of a task force. This Task Force will recommend and execute a process by which Mount Zion's Congregation can determine its response to the Special Conference regarding LGBTQ+ issues.

The Task Force will be charged with the key responsibilities of:

- Educate and inform the congregation of the issue and consequences
- Gather information, opinions and direction from the congregation
- Research options
- Recommend a response to Church Council and any other organizations needed

Church Council is working with Pastor Gary to ensure the Task Force represents the current and future congregations of Mt Zion in both age and range of thought. The Task Force members will be finalized in August and will be commissioned in a church service in September.

This is an extremely difficult issue and our response will define our "Way Forward" on many fronts. The Task Force is going to need everyone's prayers to ensure our response is right for the congregation. Please consider participating in any/all education activities; communicate your thoughts on the issues and pray for the Task Force.





# BWC leaders affirm Baltimore

*The following letter from BWC Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent Rev. Wanda Bynum Duckett and BWC Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling was posted on the UMC Baltimore-Washington Conference website on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

Greetings Beloved of God,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

As servant leaders in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, including one of us who is a life-long resident of Baltimore, we have come to know and appreciate this great city as part of our ministry vineyard. We are deeply saddened by our president's disparaging and one-sided characterization of this part of our Annual Conference. As is our biblical mandate, we pray for President Trump and all of our elected officials.

However, we are convinced that we must not rest in a place of offense - or even defense - over the comments made by the president about Baltimore. As followers of a Christ who spoke truth to power and held both religious and political leaders accountable for the care for all God's people, we likewise must speak out against injustice in all of its forms. This is the prophetic work to which we are all called, regardless of personal or political leanings. And, we must work to ensure a brighter future for all of God's people. We hope you will join us.

This latest series of tweets about Baltimore are not simply commentary about a city's issues with rodents, crime, or leadership. They contribute to the diminution of the worth and humanity of her citizens and their community. More significantly, they are a strategic diversion from a plethora of critical conversations around race and class disparities in this country, and an unfair attack on a public servant who has the character, track record, and integrity to lead locally and nationally.

(Continues, Next Page)



## Affirmation of Baltimore (cont)

We are fully aware that the complexity of Baltimore's reality runs deeper than one leader. We are also aware that her struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12) This is evidenced through the systemic barriers that ensure generational perpetuation of an underclass of white and non-white people upon whose backs the wealthy and elite enjoy luxury, comfort, and access to rich resources in Baltimore and beyond. It is evidenced through the convict leasing program and the preschool to prison pipeline of Black and Brown people. It is evidenced through the practice of redlining segments of Baltimore, and many cities like it, into pockets of poverty on the one hand, and pillars of privilege on the other hand.

We summarily reject the notion that Baltimore is a place or a people to be pitied. Rather, it is to be celebrated for all its beautiful diversity, creativity, and resilience. It is to be identified for resources that do more than put a band-aid on the crime, violence, homelessness, and social nihilism that plagues too many of its communities. What is needed are programs, policies, and prayerful people committed to leveling the playing field for all of God's children and standing ready to applaud and affirm them when they rise to the full reality of their potential.

To the clergy and laity of the Baltimore Metropolitan District, we stand among you with pride and affirmation of the hard and joyful work you do in often difficult circumstances. You serve this great city with vision and purpose, fully aware of her challenges, but also cognizant of her potential. It is the ongoing work of resurrection and God is with us.

Prayerfully, we call upon United Methodists to resist reactionary responses in the wake of the many issues we see and hear around us, but to prophetically choose: Community over Chaos (Jeremiah 29:7); Courage over Cowardice (2 Timothy 1:7); and Calling over Conflict (Luke 4:18).

Let the ministry and mission continue.

Blessings,

Rev. Wanda Bynum Duckett  
Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District  
Baltimore-Washington Conference

Bishop La'Trelle Miller Easterling  
Baltimore-Washington Conference





# Ames School Supply Drive

We are collecting new book bags and school supplies for a back to school event at Ames Memorial United Methodist Church benefiting the kids of the Sandtown area of Baltimore City. We will deliver all the materials to Ames on Saturday August 24th.

Here are the items Ames has requested for children aged 4 to 18 years old. Feel free to contribute either a backpack filled with supplies, or just some of the items listed below. Place contributions in the bin located in the West Narthex. The parents and kids of Sandtown thank you for your generosity!

Pre-k through 3rd grade:

- Book bag
- Pack of pencils
- 2 composition notebooks
- Ruler
- Flashcards
- 2 folders
- Crayons

4th - 7th grade:

- Book bag
- Pack of pencils
- 2 compositions notebooks
- Ruler
- Flashcards
- 2 folders
- 3-ring binder
- Calculator

8th - 12th grade:

- Book bag
- Pack of pens
- 1 composition notebook
- 2 spiral notebooks
- Protractor
- 2 folders
- Calculator
- 3-ring binder





# Mission Updates

**Missionary Support for Matthew and Jennifer (King) Wilke.** The Missions Committee of Mt. Zion is very excited to share that our own Jenny (King) and Matthew Wilke will be leaving in early August for Missionary Work in Tanzania, Africa. To learn more about the organization, Angel House, that they will be working with please check out this link: <http://grassrootsangelhouse.org/> As they have been approved as Missionary Volunteers through the General Board of Global Ministries, you are able to help support them in this exciting opportunity by giving through the Advance. Please follow these instructions to ensure that your donations go directly for their support as all mission volunteers have the same advance number.

Please use: <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-642-mission-volunteers-individual-volunteers.aspx>

The Advance Number for mission volunteers is 982465. Donors should:

1. Search 982465 in the search box.
2. Scroll down and open the Mission Volunteers Advance Page.
3. Under Designate Your Gift is a drop-down list. Matthew and Jennifer Wilke are listed at the bottom of the drop-down list.
4. Donors will select your name and determine how they'd like to give to complete the steps to donate.

If you are not able to donate at this time, we ask that you continue to support them with your prayers and words of encouragement. Contact information will be shared when it becomes available. If you would like additional information or to be included on the e-mail newsletter chain during their trip, please contact [Belinda.norton@verizon.net](mailto:Belinda.norton@verizon.net), Acting Chair of Missions Committee.





# Mission Updates

## VIM Trip to North Carolina

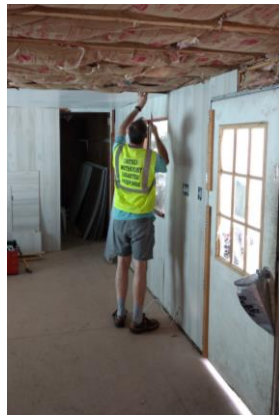
During the week of 14 July, a team made repairs on 2 houses in the Newport, NC area. Damage was caused by Hurricane Florence during the storms of September 2018. The crew consisted of Ken Sines, Debby Klopp, Rod Barr, Charles McEldowney, Will McKinzie, Carol and Rob Messerly.

One house in Newport involved the installation of drywall and joint compound (mudding). We began painting a few walls. The second house (a trailer) involved the installation of insulation, ceiling board and floor repairs in Down East (Beaufort). One of the homeowners visited the house while we were still working. Her comments, "I can't believe how wonderful this looks. I was just expecting to get my roof damage repaired. Thank you so very much!"

Mid-week after working the day, the group visited Fort Macon at Atlantic Beach, then had dinner at Clawson's in Beaufort, NC. It was a wonderful evening and experience on the water (Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway).

Many thanks to NC Disaster Relief Center and St. James UMC for their hospitality and support.

The team included 3 people that had never been part of a mission trip. Hopefully, they had a heart warming experience. Thank you to Mt. Zion for your prayers and support.







# Song and Shows

## A Night at Toby's

A group of us spent the evening at Toby's Dinner Theater for a presentation of Grease. Dressed in poodle skirts and leather jackets, the actors, members and family of Mt Zion, sang and enjoyed the sounds of Summer Nights, Greased Lightnin' and Beauty School Dropout. This all happened on Sunday, June 23rd. Make plans to join us for the next visit to Toby's.



### Glen Mar Summer Concert Series

Glen Mar Church will hold the second of its two-part Summer Concert Series on **Thursday, August 8 at 7 p.m.**, when the Quantico Marine Corps Brass Band and Jazz Combo perform. This free event will be held in the Spirit Center at Glen Mar Church, 4701 New Cut Road, Ellicott City. Refreshments will be served, and childcare for preschool-age children and younger will be provided. For more information, visit <http://glenmarumc.org/summerconcerts/>.



## Other Events

**Church Conference Schedule (Updated):** Saturday, Sept. 28 at St. Paul's UMC, 7538 Main St, Sykesville, MD 21784. Arena deadline for Church Conference materials due Monday, Sept. 16, 3:30 p.m.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry (knit & crochet) on hiatus July & August.** Our next get together will be September 11, 2019 at 10 am. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, contact Bettye Ames 410-227-9257.

**The Mount Zion Garden Club is harvesting herbs for the Open Doors Food Pantry.** If interested in helping, contact Debra Leiss at 301-535-1319 or meet Deb at the herb garden on July 21 at 7 am before the Pantry opens. This month Deb harvested 50 bags of herbs from our garden.

**Chair Exercise Class meets Wednesday mornings 9:30-10 am.** Note: No class July 24 during Vacation Bible School. If you have questions, please text or call Bettye Ames at 410-227-9257.

**Those jewels you are no longer wearing are SO needed** to make the Jewelry Booth at The Women's Board supporting Montgomery Medstar Hospital 99th annual Picnic and Bazaar on July 23rd, a success!! I am happy to pick up! Joyce Saunderson 301.854.2378 / [jjsaunder@verizon.net](mailto:jjsaunder@verizon.net)

**The Small Groups committee is sponsoring a book study** of *Faith Unraveled* by Rachael Held Evans. In a changing cultural environment where new ideas seem to threaten the safety and security of our faith, *Faith Unraveled* is a fearlessly honest story of survival. The book follows Rachel's evolving spiritual journey that leads to an unshakable faith. We will meet Wednesdays throughout August, 7 pm at Mad City Coffee in Columbia. See Debra Leiss in CR 3 between services to obtain a copy of the book and to sign up, or contact Debra at 301-535-1319.

Do you know how  
Mt Zion's facility is  
used to Touch Lives  
for Jesus Christ?





mtzionhighland@gmail.com

Aug 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>11am - Memorial</div> <div>4pm - Annual</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div> <div>8pm - Scouts Board</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Bulletin</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6pm - Rebuilding</div> <div>6:30pm - BS Troop</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>1</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Papavizas/San</div>
<div>4</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>12:30pm - Stephens</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>6:30pm - Rebuilding</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div> <div>7pm - UMW/CR2</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - Finance/CR2</div> <div>7pm - Worship and</div> <div>7:30pm - Mary</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6:30pm - BS Troop</div> <div>7pm - Adult</div> <div>7pm - GS-2108/132</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>8</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>10</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Papavizas/San</div>
<div>11</div> <div>10am - BP</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>4pm - Pack 702 Bear</div> <div>5:30pm - Stephen</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>5:30pm - Stephen</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - Evangelism&amp;H</div> <div>7pm - Missions</div> <div>7pm - Trustees/CR2</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6:30pm - BS Troop</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div> <div>8pm - Pack 702</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1pm - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>17</div> <div>7am - Food</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>9am - Food Pantry</div> <div>2pm - Papavizas/San</div>
<div>18</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div> <div>12pm - Stephen</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - SPRC/CR1</div> <div>7:30pm - BS T-702</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>11:30am - Ginny</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6:30pm - BS Troop</div> <div>7pm - Winter</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>22</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1pm - Private Party/FH</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Papavizas/San</div>
<div>25</div> <div>10am - Pioneer</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Maryland</div> <div>7pm - SPRC/CR1</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Bulletin</div> <div>7pm - Church</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:30am - Seated</div> <div>12pm - Deadline -</div> <div>6:30pm - BS Troop</div> <div>7pm - Lay</div> <div>7:45pm - Chancel</div>	<div>29</div> <div>7pm - Praise</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6:30pm - CBT</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8:30am - CBT/Sanc</div> <div>2pm - Papavizas/San</div>