

# THE JOURNEY

## SEPTEMBER 2016



### The Season of Creation

The liturgical calendar takes a long pause between Pentecost (May 15) and the beginning of Advent (September 27). The in between time is known as “ordinary time” or the “season after Pentecost”. The rest of the church year follows the life and ministry of Jesus. Ordinary time focuses on broader theological themes: God’s steadfast love, the work of justice, faithful discipleship, the prophets.

Because ordinary time is such a large chunk of the calendar year, I like to mix things up. Our July series at Round Table Worship was a great way to stretch our theological minds while keeping our hearts fresh for worship. Like we did for the first time last year, September will provide us another opportunity to work outside the box as we observe the Season of Creation. We will focus our worship and Sunday School lessons around the following themes.

### Season of Creation: A New Perspective

What parts of God’s natural world do you see around you right now? As children of creation, we are called to love and care for all its many elements. The Season of Creation is a time to focus on the beauty and intricacy of God’s creation and be sure we don’t take it for granted.

It’s appropriate that at the same time we are cultivating an outlook of creation that is holistic and not human-centric, we explore God’s divine wisdom in creation. God created a world that is interconnected, joined together in a complex web of related parts. God holds all these things together – and expects us to help. We live in a world affected by global warming, overconsumption, and pollution from fossil fuels. Our actions have had dire consequences for our planet. We should work with creation to protect and conserve it, not ignore or abuse it.

We sometimes lose sight of the importance of creation in our lives. We take for granted God’s divine wisdom in creation – the elements of creation that work together perfectly to sustain all life. During this season we can adapt a new perspective and practice – honoring and caring for all creation. (*Seasons of the Spirit: Resources for Worship and Faith Formation for Communities of Practice*, Wood Lake Publishing, 2016.)

Join us for worship, education and fellowship. You are always welcome in the community that is Zion United Church of Christ.

*Grace and peace on the journey,  
Rev. Nikki Woolsey*

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**ZION**

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd  
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

# September Lectionary

## September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalms 1  
Philemon 1:1-21  
Luke 14:25-33  
*A New Identity*

## September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
Psalms 14  
Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalms 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10  
*Growing in God's Love*

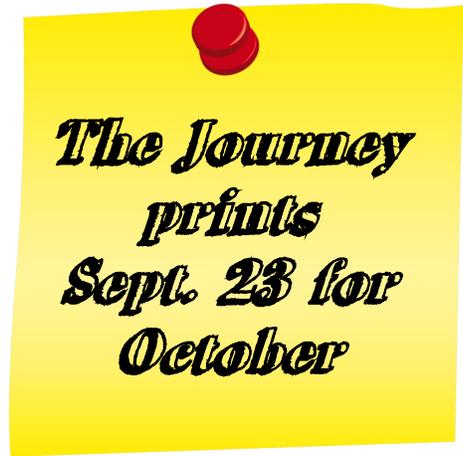
## September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalms 79:1-9  
Amos 8:4-7  
Psalms 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13  
*Prayerful Living*

## September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15  
Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16  
Amos 6:1, 4-7  
Psalms 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31  
*Surprising Investment*

Attendance YTD
34 Weeks
2016 - 2,397
2015 - 2,401
2014 - 1,877



## Consistory Highlights

Aug. 3, 2016

Treasurers and Financial secretary's reports page 7

Memorial fund june balance 12,883.83

Pastors report: reflections on round table worship, soup and chili dinner 2017, communion stewards, disaster preparedness and response plan, KO annual meeting, upcoming calendar events and future events

Pastor Parrish no report

Building team no report

Outreach team no report

Communication team no report

Growth team: welcome center progress

Old business: new vacuum donated by Deniece Carlson

## Women's Fellowship

Womens' Fellowship will meet the Friday Oct. 7, at 12:00pm.



### Address Change:



Marvel Dalton



Valley View Estates



1440 Pearl Dr., Apt. 105



## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of July we collected quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$52.05 in August. YTD \$513.31

#### **THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.**

For the first half of this year Outreach wrote a check for \$320 to Heifer International on behalf of the children of Zion. The children decided with this money to buy 1 goat, 1 sheep and 4 flocks of chicks.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of July the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **50 lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. YTD **394 lbs of food**

*I'd like to challenge Zion to bring an average of 100 pounds of food each month of 2016.*

Do you think we can do it? We only can with your help! Please add a few items to your weekly shopping list.



### Helper Sunday

We collected boxes and cans of Chicken and/or Tuna Helper to support Wheels of Hope on August 21. Our next date for Helper Sunday collection will be Sunday, September 18 so please remember to bring a box of Chicken and/or Tuna Helper with a can of chicken or tuna.



## Zion News

### Zion's New Youth Program

After the success of the youth lock-in, our program year begins with a gathering on Sunday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m. Our plan is to meet every other week on Sunday afternoon. All youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to attend. Our study focus for the year will be on social issues that are important to the youth and how they intersect with the Christian faith tradition. We will pray, eat, play, adventure, and explore God's creation together.

*"Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? Says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.*

*Jeremiah 18:6-8*

### Pastoral Visitation

If you would like to request a home visit from Rev. Nikki Woolsey, please contact the church office to schedule a date. Also, please contact the church if you have an upcoming scheduled hospitalization. You can also reach Nikki on her cell phone at 913-221-7700.

### Thank You to Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Congregation of Zion UCC,

During 2016 your church supported Our Church's Wider Mission (\$8100), One Great Hour of Sharing (\$250), Neighbors in Need (\$70), Strengthen the Church (\$80), and the Christmas Fund (\$1122). This is an increase from 2014 of \$875 in giving to OCWM. This support helps to fund programs in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and provides financial stability so that the United Church of Christ can work for social justice in Kansas and Oklahoma.

OCWM funds helped to develop a lay leadership program, an exploring Open and Affirming workshop for churches to ask questions about the process, and helped train leaders in the Our Whole Lives program for youth to learn about faith and human sexuality in an appropriate forum.

In 2016 and 2017, the KO Conference will continue to offer programs for the local church while supporting them and acting as a bridge to the larger UCC. Please consider continuing or increasing your support to OCWM and other UCC funds as your budget allows.

Morning Pruitt

Stewardship Commission of the KO Conference of the UCC  
St. Paul's UCC, Eudora



**Zion News**

**Church Office Schedule**

The church office will have revised hours while Jill Schmutz and Nikki Woolsey are on vacation. The office will be closed Friday, September 2 and Monday, September 5 (Labor Day). Normal office hours will resume on Wednesday, September 7.

✂

**Madge: Women’s Fellowship for 2016-2017**

Madge is a women’s fellowship group for members and friends of Zion. We meet once per month at a members to home to chat. If you are interested in hosting the group, a sign-up sheet is available at the church for the months of September through May. The group traditionally meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at a time to be determined by the hostess.

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**Birth Announcement**

Linnie and Ronnie Gfeller welcomed their first grandson, Jackson Wayne Junghans, born July 12, 2016 to Ashley & Jared Junghans .

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them yet existed. “*

*Psalms 139:13-16*

## News from K-O Conference

### **For the Sake of the Gospel : KO Conference Annual Meeting**

Sometimes we get so focused on the business of the church, we can lose sight of the importance of the message. We do what we do for a reason; we are indeed a community of care and support for each other, but our call as the church is to spread the good news of the gospel. The upcoming Annual Meeting will call us again to that mandate and will challenge us to stretch beyond our comfort zones, remembering that everything we are and seek to do and be as the church of Jesus Christ is indeed "For the Sake of the Gospel."

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting will meet October 14-15 in Wichita. The full call letter is [here](#) and will give you all of the details you need to register and to begin planning to attend. Please read the call letter carefully. In the weeks to come, the KO eNEWS will feature information on the speakers and workshop leaders and will also prepare you for the business that will be on the agenda. The Annual Meeting book will be available online approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. We look forward to being together in October.



## KO eNews

### **Are you up to date with KO news?**

The weekly KO eNews is full of stories and events from across our two state area. You can sign up to receive the weekly message at <https://kocucc.org/ko-e-focus-signup/>.

*"This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."*

*1 Timothy 2:3-7*



- 1-Sep Sylvia Ehlers
- 7-Sep Joyce Woodard
- 8-Sep Kenny Gfeller
- 11-Sep Doug Vogelsang
- 12-Sep Anson Jacobsen
- 15-Sep Susanne Altwegg
- 23-Sep Roger Garrison
- 24-Sep Norma Horner
- 27-Sep Keith Henry



- 14-Sep Jill & Gary Schmutz
- 21-Sep Scott & Tammy Altwegg

## Online Giving at Zion UCC

Members of the congregation have the ability to donate online through a secure portal. Donating online eliminates the need to write a check to the church. Online giving is an easy process to establish, and gifts September be changed as desired. Online giving can be accomplished in single payments or as repeat scheduled payments. Below is the link

<https://smartpay.profitstars.com/express/zionuccpp>

If you have any questions or need the additional instructions, please contact the church office at 785-238-5732. Thank you for your ongoing support of Zion United Church of Christ!

## B.O.B. 2016 Challenge

Birthday Offering Bonus:

**Aug. 14 2016 YTD \$ 798.00**

Comparison Aug. 16, 2015 \$1,280.00

As of now we are behind in the BOB for the year and may not reach the goal.

**Can we do better?**

Harold and Venice Facklam are challenging all Zion members to give to B.O.B. This year the challenge is to meet \$2000. Also they will donate an additional 16% of the dollar amount over the \$2000.

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”*

*Psalm 51:10*



# 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Jill on vacation Nikki on vacation	2 Office Closed  Jill on vacation Nikki on vacation	3 Jill on vacation Nikki on vacation
4 <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am  Jill on vacation Nikki on vacation	5  <i>Happy Labor Day</i>  <b>Office Closed</b>	6	7 Clergy of Practice, Council Grove  Choir 6:00 pm	8 Wheels of HOPE Board meeting, 12:00 pm	9	10
11 <i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Youth Group 4:00 pm	12	13	14 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	19 Pastor Relations Team 5:30 pm Formation Team 6:15 pm Outreach Team 7:00 pm	20	21 Choir 6:00 pm	22	23	24
25 "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Youth Group 4:00 pm MADGE 7:00 pm	26	27 Pilot Club 5:30 pm	28 Choir 6:00 pm	29	30	

## Serving Zion

\*\* Note the change in the layout\*\*

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Sept. 7	Doug Vogelsang & Richard Hobaugh	Henrietta Withee & Deniece Carlson	Ruth Gfeller
Sept. 14	Keith & Jolynn Henry	Condoleeza & Evergreen Osa	Janette Vogelsang
Sept. 21	Ronnie & Linnie Gfeller	Fred Wachsmuth & Henrietta Withee	open
Nov. 27	Lacey & Kasey Fielder	Wayne & Ruth Gfeller	open

Deacon for September: Steve Green



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