



# THE JOURNEY

## APRIL 2017



### For Such a Time As This

The season of Lent has a different tone for me this year. I am accustomed to the routine of six weeks of spiritual renewal, fasting from certain things, and re-centering my spiritual walk toward Easter. This year, however, has brought a season of relief, sadness, and anxiety.

As you know, I will be departing Zion at the end of May. I have greatly enjoyed the four years that I have been in ministry with you. I strongly believe Zion is one of the strongest congregations in our conference. You have more potential to grow than you realize! I am grateful for the time that we have walked together, and am excited about your future as a congregation. There is hard work to be done, and I pray that God will call you into leadership on behalf of your own congregation.

My future is uncertain. I will be moving back to Olathe in June. I do not have a church call in place, but am oddly at peace with that. I will continue in my role as president of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. Otherwise my energies for the remainder of the year will be focused on selling the house in Junction City, reorganizing the house in Olathe, and helping to plan Dusty's wedding. Beyond that, I will remain open to the Holy Spirit as I always have. God calls when we least expect it.

Over the next few weeks, I hope to celebrate with you the time we have shared together. While I will no longer serve as your pastor, I will remain your friend and advocate.

*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.  
zionuccj@yahoo.com



## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$52.81 in March. YTD \$175.17

**THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.  
SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FARMING**

**We believe that caring for the Earth is vital to ending hunger and poverty, whether it's through reforestation, organic gardening or adoption of fuels that reduce the ill effects to the environment. Help families care for their environment with your sustainable gift.**

### **IMPROVING THE WORLD STARTS WITH IMPROVING FAMILIES**

A donation of a Family Farm Care Package provides Heifer families with the training and tools they need in order to:

- Boost the productivity of their small farms
- Conserve soil, irrigate crops and sell goods for income
- Market their products, meeting demand and increasing wealth

These benefits will allow families and communities to transform their failing farms into dependable livelihoods. Thanks to your gift, Heifer International gives people the helping hand they need to overcome hunger and poverty.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of March the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **60lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 156lbs of food**

In 2016 we gathered 719 lbs of food, can we in 2017 increase that amount?

The shelves are getting bare at the Food Pantry, they really need our help!

Please add a few items to your weekly shopping list.



### Helper Sunday

On the 3rd Sunday of the month we collect Chicken and/or Tuna Helper with a can of chicken or tuna to help feed the hungry in our local community. April's date is the 16th.



## Zion News

### Women's Fellowship

Women's Guild met March 3 with six members attending. Leona and Judy G. served a delicious lunch with a St. Pat's theme.

Janette presided over the meeting. The minutes were read and approved with the suggestion to include the following in the next newsletter. The Guild sponsors two families monthly with \$30 gift cards and two children quarterly that reside at Every Child's Hope in St Louis. This amounts to \$1,130 yearly for these two mission projects. Lane, treasurer, reported a balance of \$1,372.77 as of March 1, 2017.

Communications: A thank you was read from the Emmaus Home for the donation of \$200. Church World Service sent an information packet of services offered by them. A gift card was returned and Leona will check on the status of that person.

Hospitality: Lane thanked all who helped with the February potluck. It was lots of fun and many stayed for the dinner.

Cards: Lane has 13 cards ready to be sent out for March birthdays. She ask that any new friends of Zion to please let Jill know your birthdays so that you will be included to the birthday list.

There was no old business.

New business: It was moved and seconded to purchase stamps and cards. A motion was made to purchase a book in memory of Beth Miller. Janette volunteered to do this.

Under announcements: April 2 will be an all church potluck. One Great Hour of Sharing will be the theme. March 8-April 4 will be a Lenten Study led by Pastor Nikki. April 7 will be the next Guild meeting with Rose Mary and Janette hosting. We will stuff the plastic Easter Eggs with candy. April 13 is Maundy Thursday service. April 15 will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt. April 16 is Easter and the congregation is invited to share Easter Lilies for that service. May 5 the Guild will travel to Topeka to visit the Facklam's and have lunch with them.

The meeting adjourned by praying The Lord's Prayer.

For the program, Lane shared a story of "The Towel" and gifted everyone with their own special towel.

### 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 an upcoming scheduled hospitalization. You can also reach Nikki on her cell phone at 913-221-7700.

### **Are you interested in joining Zion?**

One of the tenets of Zion's mission is to be a welcoming congregation for all people. If you would like to formalize your relationship with Zion through membership, please contact Rev. Nikki Woolsey. You can speak with her any Sunday morning, call the church office, or contact her by email at [ndswoolsey@yahoo.com](mailto:ndswoolsey@yahoo.com).

.....  
: "We're Not Fooling" potluck lunch Sunday , April 2. More  
: food, fun and fellowship. If you were not here for the  
: "Honest Abe" Potluck you missed out on some great food  
: and fellowship. So be sure to mark you calendar for April 2.  
: .....



## Zion News

### **Consistory Seats Remain Open**

Two leadership positions are available on the Consistory which is the primary board of the congregation. This group meets monthly to receive reports and discuss ideas and directions for the life of the church.

If you are interested in serving Zion in this way, please contact Wayne Gfeller.

### **Zion at Work in the World: April Giving Opportunities**

Zion participates in several mission opportunities throughout each month. Here are the ways you can make a difference during the upcoming weeks.

Donate dollars to help fund candy purchases for the Easter Egg Hunt

Donate dollars toward wildfire relief in Kansas

April 2: One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering through the UCC

April 2: Food donations for the Food Pantry of Geary County

April 9: Quarter collection for Heifer International

April 15: Volunteer to help with the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

April 16: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

### **Wildfire Relief**

Members and friends of Zion have made contributions to assist with the wildfire relief efforts in the state of Kansas through the Kansas Livestock Association. However, did you know disaster relief grants are available from both the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and the United Church of Christ? Did you know a member from our church could complete the process to have funds donated toward fire relief efforts in both Kansas and Oklahoma? Would you be interested in working on this project on behalf of those effected in our states? It takes one member from one local congregation to help move the process. Please see Rev. Woolsey if you are interested in embodying this outreach effort.

*“Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”*

*John 13:16-17*

**Celebrate Easter with Zion**



# Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt



**Saturday, April 15, 2017**  
**11:00 am**



## **Holy Week Dinner and Worship**

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.

The meal will be hosted by the Formation Team with a round-table worship service led by Rev. Woolsey. Please RSVP for the meal ahead of time.

## **Easter Celebration Worship**

Sunday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.

We will gather to sing, worship and pray to celebrate Easter in our faith community. Join the celebration!

*"The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of you prayers.  
Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins."*

*1 Peter 4:7-8*

## News from K-O Conference



"I was naked and you gave me something to wear."

*Matthew 25:36*

Words cannot capture the anguish of people when they lose everything in a disaster or have to leave it behind while fleeing war or conflict. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more.

### **1. What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?**

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

### **2. Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?**

Seven Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

### **3. How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?**

Almost 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 4 OGHS supported missionaries and 2 Global Mission Interns working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

### **4. Where and how are OGHS funds shared?**

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. Funding decisions are made by asking our worldwide mission partners, "What would you have us do with you?" The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-third of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

## *News from K-O Conference*

### **5. How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?**

In 2015, the OGHS offering received just over \$2.2 million. Nearly sixty-five percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

### **6. What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?**

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming, and the remaining 5 cents is used to create interpretation materials. Administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

### **7. How are decisions made to fund the various projects?**

Currently, the Special Funds committee meets to review expenditures and to oversee large dollar grants for disaster relief efforts. In addition, a new system was implemented to gain more transparency between funding and program/project initiatives for all levels of support.

### **8. How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?**

*The OGHS special mission offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way.*

[www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs)

## **Save the Date for 2017 Annual Meeting**

The KO Annual Meeting in 2017 will be a bit like 2016- same place, same time! We will meet at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita and the dates will be the third weekend in October. The meeting will be called to order on Friday afternoon at 1:00pm October 20 and adjourn no later than 4:00pm Saturday, October 21. More details to come throughout the year.

*“When he had gone out, Jesus said, Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

*John 13:31-35*





*Monthly Financial Reports*

*Financial Secretary*

*Treasurer's*

*"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."*

*Romans 8:11*



- April 2 Leona Garrison
- April 15 Chase Altwegg
- April 17 Aaron Jacobsen
- April 19 Cindy Ullmer
- April 21 Lane Bitterlin
- April 22 Steve Woodard
- April 23 Marvin Hornbostel
- April 24 Jolynn Henry



April 19 Steve & Susanne 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 November 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!



*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for the salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

*1Peter 1:3-9*



# April

# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Lawrence Keintz 90th Birthday Party 1–3 pm
<b>2</b> 5th Sunday of Lent Celebration of Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing special offering Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am "We're not Fooling Potluck" & Fellowship 11:30 am #GodSquad 4:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Clergy meeting, Topeka KO Executive team, 5:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm  KO Stewardship Seminar , Wichita	<b>8</b> KO Stewardship Seminar , Wichita
<b>9</b> Palm /Passion Sunday Heifer International Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>13</b> Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> Good Friday	<b>15</b> Holy Saturday  Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am 
<b>16</b> <b>EASTER Sunday</b> "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am #GodSquad 4:00 pm	<b>17</b> Consistory & Pas- tor Relations Team 5:30 pm Formation Team 6:15 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Earth Day 
<b>23</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>24</b>  Bldg. rented, 5 pm	<b>25</b>  Bldg. rented, 5 pm	<b>26</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> KO Council Meeting  Bldg rain reserved for a wedding
<b>30</b> 3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am						

## Serving Zion

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

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
April 2	Kenny & Debby Gfeller	T.J. Osa & Nate Green	"We're Not Fooling" Potluck
April 9	Russ & Sally Altwegg	Dave Woolsey & Vern Steffens	Sally Altwegg
April 16	Harlan & Lane Bitterlin	Doug Vogelsang & Wayne Gfeller	Easter Sunday
April 23	Mike & Karen Malec	Don & Leona Garrison	Lyn Green
April 30	Tim & Renee Jury	Josh & Kenny Gfeller	open



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