

THE JOURNEY

NOVEMBER 2017



Dear Zion,

Following the initial meetings on Thursday at the KO Conference annual meetings in Wichita, I walked through the lobby of the Marriott to retrieve something in my vehicle and was met with a friendly voice from behind the front desk, "Have a great evening!" The voice came from a young woman glancing up and smiling from behind a computer terminal. I recall thinking it kind of her to take a moment from her work, and offer a heartfelt expression to a stranger. Moments later, I realized I'd forgotten something back in the meeting room and headed back by a different route. Having retrieved what I'd forgotten, I walked back through the lobby following the identical path I'd walked only moments earlier. Approaching the front desk again I heard, "Have a great evening!" It was the same friendly voice, coming from the same smiling face, looking up briefly from the same computer terminal. Though the words, tone, and content were identical, it didn't sound the same to me this time.

I took the second wish for my evening to be insincere, a perfunctory exercise guided only by the obligations of her job. It could have been a desire to spare me the embarrassment of acknowledging the fact that I had just come by the desk only moments before, but more than likely, the employees of the Marriott in Wichita greet guests as a part of their work. This is not a bad thing to be sure, but I perceived both gestures from the front desk differently than I would have if I'd not heard them both so close together in time. I've become more cynical in recent years, I'm afraid, but sometimes there is good reason to be guarded. Greetings given because people are compelled, or because they want something in return, or even simply out of a kind of automated habit can serve to dull all of us to the point where we are unable to even recognize an authentic human response when we are a part of one.

We've been entertaining notions of how Zion can become more vital to our community, and how we might engage in more meaningful outreach. These are good notions, yet we must be mindful of our intent. We must not go to the Laundromat with the idea in mind that those with whom we spend time will likely join our community one day. They might, but if that is our intention, they will recognize it. I have no corner on the cynicism market. We must empty ourselves, and recognize that we do outreach because we are drawn to it by the Living God. This is not easy to do, it requires silence, prayer, patience, and a community committed to listening differently than perhaps we have in the past.

When my daughter Mary and I visited Pine Ridge, South Dakota last spring, the very first thing we did was to visit a place in Badlands National Forest that is utterly desolate. We were told to let go of anything we thought we knew or understood about the Lakota People, and leave it there in the desolation. We were made to lie down on the stark ground in silence for hours. It was prayer at its simplest and most real; merely a way to let go.

We are here to point to the truth, and often the first step in that process is to get our egos out of the way. From there, our cynicism and our anxiety about the future life of our beloved fellowship disappears.

Love,
Erik

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ZION

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccj@yahoo.com

November Lectionary

<p>November 1 All Saints' Day Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12</p>	<p>November 5 Joshua 3:7-17 Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12 <i>What Should I Do?</i></p>	<p>November 12 Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 Psalms 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13 <i>Be Ready</i></p>
<p>November 19 Judges 4:1-7 Psalms 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30 <i>Investing What Is Offered</i></p>	<p>November 23 Thanksgiving Day Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalms 65 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19</p>	<p>November 26 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalms 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46 <i>Christ Is Among Us</i></p>

Attendance
2017 YTD
2830

2016 – 2985

The Journey
Prints
Nov 22 for
December

Questions to Ponder?

What do you think that God is calling our church to do/become over the next five years?

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

What do you see as our church's most important need?

What are potential areas of growth for this church?

As we move through the search process we have some hard questions to answer and it will take involvement from all members of the church. Watch and listen for more information in the coming weeks.





Lord
I pray
to be *Led* to
and by you

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$51.99 in October. YTD \$605.74

November 12 is Heifer International Sunday.

THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

Sharing and Shearing with Sheep

Warm the heart of someone special this holiday season with the gift of a sheep and training in its care. You'll provide a struggling family with the help they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Warm in winter, cool in summer, and waterproof, wool helps parents clothe their children and keep them warm in cold months. It also gives them a product they can sell at market for valuable, extra income. Heifer International families raise sheep to improve their lives and futures. And since sheep often give birth to twins or triplets, your gift today of a Heifer sheep will have a huge impact on even more families for years to come.

NITTER'S GIFT BASKET

Our Knitter's Gift Basket provides a llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an angora rabbit to a family, along with animal care training. Sweaters and scarves from the wool will keep families warm and milk will nourish them. Also, the sale of clothing and blankets will provide income. Your gift will create a real opportunity for people in need to fashion a better future.

Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of October the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **45 lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 466 lbs of food**

In 2016 we gathered 719 lbs of food, can we in 2017 increase that amount? We have 2 months left to fill the cart and a long ways to go to match last year.

Please add a few items to your weekly shopping list. cereals, canned goods, macaroni and cheese, canned meat



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. November's date is the 19th. Thank you to all who helped supply Wheels of Hope with Helper meals in July. Reminder: 1 Tuna Helper requires 2 small cans or 1 large can of canned tuna. Chicken Helper requires a lot of chicken, so you may choose to purchase the Complete Chicken Meal instead.



Consistory Highlights

2017 Consistory Minutes
September 6, 2017

The regular monthly meeting for the Consistory was called to order by President Wayne Gfeller at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were: Wayne Gfeller, Vern Steffens, Deniece Carlson, Jill Schmutz, Steve Green and Pastor Erik Graefe. Tau Osa was unable to attend guest David Jones

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: \$12,663.58

The minutes were approved by Steve, seconded by Vern.

Treasurer: Income of \$6772.00 for the month of August, expenses were \$5874.99 average attendance is 71.

Pastors Report: With school starting Erik has a schedule change. He attended the Sunday school meetings.

New Business: A check was received from Vena Rowbothem for \$437.18. Vern made a motion to put that money in the God Squad account. Jill seconded. Motion carried.

Delegates for the KO conference will be Keith Henry and Erik. There is an opening for another member to attend.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting : Oct. 4 , 2017 at 7 p.m.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

1John 3:1-3



Zion News

Women's Fellowship

October 6, 2017

Women's Guild met at noon on Oct. 6 with six ladies in attendance. Judy Gardner served a delicious pizza casserole dinner with peach cobbler dessert. The tables were decorated with a colorful Halloween theme. Judy made each lady a set of two quilted Halloween placemats.

Judy Heintz, vice president, presided over the meeting. Ruth read a devotion from "Lighten Up & Live". The minutes were read and approved with the change from Carlton to Carlson.

Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$737.29 as of Oct. 1.

There were no communications.

Committee reports: Lane reported sending out the birthday cards for October.

Kitchen supplies: It was noted what items were needed.

There was no old business.

New business: The Halloween potluck will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29 following worship. Ruth will purchase prizes to be awarded. Please bring any Halloween decorations you might have along with the placemats made by Judy to decorate the tables.

Sally showed decals with our church logo that Kasey Fielder designed. It was moved and seconded to purchase 150 decals with the price to be decided at a later date. The decals would be displayed on our vehicles and would be a small money making project for the Guild while advertisement of Zion.

Leona will check with the Geary County Museum to see if a few of our church cookbooks could be displayed in their shop.

Jill will host the November 3 meeting.

The meeting closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Consistory Seats

The end of the year is fast approaching. We have 2 empty seats and we will have people going off in January.

Making 5 seats needing to be filled. Please prayerfully consider stepping up and serving the church.

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

Zion at Work in the World:

November Giving Opportunities

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

November 5: Food donations for the Food Pantry

November 12: Quarter collection for Heifer International

November 19: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

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 the church office at 785-238-5732

Zion News

Office Hours

Pastor Erik's office hours will be changing here in Nov through High School Basketball season. He will not have set office hours unless needed. He will be available by email at erikgraefe@mac.com or cell phone at 785-280-0852. If you need to speak with him call or text him. If he cannot answer at the moment he will get back with you as soon as possible.

Advent

Advent is fast approaching. The church has again this year ordered the Advent Devotionals from UCC Resources for the families of Zion. These will be available one per family before the start of Advent.



Decorate the Church

We will decorate the church for Advent Nov. 26 after the service. Watch the bulletins and good news for information concerning the ordering of Poinsettias to decorate the church. This will come out around mid November.



#GodSquad

Will meet Nov. 5 at 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."

Ephesians 1:15-19

News from the United Church of Christ

October 23, 2017

Written by **Connie Larkman**

UCC Board talks transformation, innovation and privilege

What does it mean to be the church in a rapidly changing world? That question was the premise of the United Church of Christ Board Fall Meeting, Oct. 18-21.

Board Chair Frank Bolden set the tone for the gathering Thursday morning, when he charged the group to be more nimble. He used the pending changes to the Pattern of Giving as an example. The work to be less dependent on dwindling OCWM dollars began in 2008, a new Pattern of Giving was approved by a Board task force in 2015, with the formal [resolution passed by General Synod this summer](#). But it will be 2023 before the transition to a more donor-based financial support system is complete.

"We have to find a way to do things quickly," Bolden said. "There's a real need for urgency in what we must do." The Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC general minister and president, spoke in detail about changes in progress at the national setting. Following the Board's mandate to realign church resources with the future needs and mission of the denomination, the Cleveland office has been restructured and re-imagined.

Dorhauer outlined "significant losses" as part of this time of "enormous transition and transformation," living into a new model of governing, with a commitment to clarify the form and function of the Cleveland office.

"On Oct. 5, two weeks ago today, 14 employees of the National Setting were given notices of release from employment," he said. "We have all experienced some pain and grief as a result of that."

"We knew the course we were setting for ourselves would be an arduous and sometimes painful one. We knew at some point we would be transitioning some of our current employees out as we created space for new positions needed for the future success of our faith communities," Dorhauer said. "We find ourselves in the heart of that transition."

He underscored the two key functions that now face the streamlined National Setting, just one-third the size of the 300 employees that staffed the office after the move from New York.

Those would be branding and capacity-building.

"Casting the meta narrative that establishes an identity that we all own, articulating a mission we are living into, willing to share. That sets us apart from our ecumenical and interfaith partners, a clear purpose and reason for being.

"Capacity building," he continued, "the realignment of the national staff is also a refocus of the work of the staff, a paradigm shift from a collection of experts, to facilitators connecting resources to help the churches build their own future."

That means, as Dorhauer told the Board, as the office works to figure out how to redistribute the product of labor, decisions have to be made about what can no longer be expected from the national setting. New practices, new duties, new tasks will become more clear during this time of transition, which will continue into the New Year.

"I remain convinced that we are guided by the Holy Spirit to embrace a mission in which our commitments to love, to peace, to justice participate in the transformation of the world," Dorhauer said. "She is doing a new thing and we are invited to perceive it."

On Friday morning, Cheryl Joseph Williams, the UCC Chief Strategy Officer, asking the question, "How do we measure our progress as we work to obtain a just world for all?" continued the discussion about focusing the form, function and organizational culture of the realigned National Setting to be better able to do that.

She also shared plans for a UCC innovation summit which she hopes to launch in 2019. Putting out a call for planning team volunteers at the morning session Oct. 20, Williams said the hope for the summit is to "leverage early stage ministry ideas, and develop practices to launch and learn from them."

Thursday afternoon, former Chicago Theological Seminary President the Rev. Alice Hunt offered a thought-provoking session on privilege, by starting with a question — "Why is talking about privilege so difficult?"

She talked about the "invisible and unnamed systems that give privilege to some of us and not the other," by offering simple but effective examples. Like being right-handed. Hunt pointed out all the systems in place that benefit right-handed people, and how this one group's way of looking at the world has become the standard because of their accepted and unnamed value. An idea that can be extrapolated around privilege of all types. "We so don't want to feel guilt and shame, so I find if you can disarm people around simple examples, it's easier to start the conversation," Hunt said. She encouraged her fellow Board members to join her on a journey to accept responsibility to "walk into awareness about our privileges, and allow ourselves to be self-reflective."

Facts and figures from the UCCB Fall Meeting:

- On Friday afternoon, the United Church of Christ Board approved a 2018 combined budget for the national setting, with \$20,717,580 in revenues (a \$200,000 reduction from 2017) and \$20,599,709 in expenses (a \$300,000 reduction from 2017).

- The Board was advised that \$2.6 million dollars has been raised for the General Minister and President's Shaping Our Future Campaign, which will fund mission and program initiatives.

- Cheryl Joseph Williams also reported that the UCC donor base is growing, with 2,000 more donors as of Sept. 2017 compared to the year previous.



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

Treasurer's





- 11/6 Deb & Kevin Heiman
- 11/7 Aaron & Deb Jacobsen
- 11/20 Steve & Angie Roesler
- 11/24 Marvin & Janice Hornbostel

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!



- 11/2 David Butler
- 11/5 Lacey Fielder
- 11/8 Avery Jacobsen
- 11/12 Kaitlyn Butler
- 11/17 Ray Kruse Jr.
- 11/21 Debby Gfeller
- 11/21 Wayne Gfeller
- 11/21 Judy Heintz
- 11/23 Sina Osa

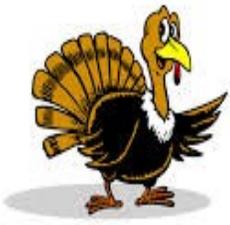
**If we have missed a birthday or anniversary we are sorry. The reason for that would be that we do not have that birthday or anniversary in our information. If you would like it included please give the information to the office.*

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he give to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:7-15



November



2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	4 Choir 5:00 pm
5 Celebration of Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am #GodSquad 4:00 pm	6	7	8 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Heifer International Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	13	14 Pilot club 5:00 pm	15 Choir 6:00 pm	16	17	18
19 "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	20	21	22 Newsletter prints be sure to have items into the office by the 21st.	23 	24 	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Decorate the church for Advent after service 11:30 am	27	28	29 Choir 6:00 pm	30		

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Nov 5	Don & Leona Garrison	Keith & Jolynn Henry	Lyn Green
Nov 12	Marvin & Janice Hornbostel	Caleb Snider & Casey Fielder	Hillery Martin
Nov 19	Rus & Sally Altwegg	Ronnie & Linnie Gfeller	Ruth Gfeller
Nov 26	Gary & Jill Schmutz	Kevin & Zach Heiman	Jill Schmutz



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