



# THE JOURNEY

## SEPTEMBER 2017



Dear Zion,

We have witnessed incredible human compassion in the form of volunteer rescues, the opening of homes, and sharing of resources down in Texas this week. It is impossible to not be moved when we are confronted with the capacity of our brothers and sisters to rise in these kinds of crises. Images of human tenderness move us to be sure, yet the possibility to be moved to action of a different sort must not be ignored.

Most homeowners in the path of Harvey along the Texas gulf coast in and around Houston are not insured for flood damage. About 2 of every 10 homes destroyed are insured for water damage. The cost of insurance is simply too much for people already paying for their home loan, auto loan, etc. It is likely that the best these uninsured homeowners can hope for is to receive low interest loans from “compassionate” lenders once the waters recede. Essentially, one more monthly payment, one more layer of debt peonage.

For those displaced from their homes, banks and other lenders may offer them as much as a 90 day “grace” period known as “forbearance.” Wells Fargo announced on Monday that they will suspend foreclosures, collection calls, and all negative reporting to credit bureaus for up to 90 days. The very same Wells Fargo, along with Citicorp, AIG, Bank of America and countless others who received over \$700 billion in public money after suffering a “hurricane” of their own making in 2008. Corporate compassion.

The insurance industry has lobbyists who apparently have the ear of the Texas legislature. It seems that if people are not able to file their claims by as early as Friday of this week, they may have difficulty receiving a check from their insurance companies. It is obvious why this provision was so quickly and easily passed.

Who will lobby for the eight of ten homeowners who’ve lost everything? Who will lobby for the countless citizens who don’t have direct access to elected officials in the Lone Star State? Who will be the voice of the most vulnerable, those who’ve lost what little they had, and those whose lives have been destroyed with no hope of rebuilding? Followers of the risen Christ. Us. We are His body.

Amen.  
*Erik Graefe*



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**ZION**  
United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd  
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

# September Lectionary

<p><b>September 3</b>          Genesis 2:4-22          Psalm 139:13-16          Acts 17:22-28          John 3:1-16</p>	<p><b>September 10</b>          Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16          Psalms 139:7-12          Romans 5:12-17          Matthew 12:38-40</p>	<p><b>September 17</b>          Joel 1:8-10, 17-20          Psalms 18:6-19          Romans 8:18-27          Matthew 3:13-4:2          Mark 1:9-13</p>
<p><b>September 24</b>          Genesis 8:20-22;9:12-17          Psalms 104:27-33          Revelation 22:1-5          Matthew 28:1-10</p>		

**Attendance**  
**2017 YTD**  
**2327**  
  
**2016 –2481**

## Kids Sunday School

With School fast approaching, Sunday School for the kids of Zion is looking to start Sept. 10, 2017. Our teachers are looking forward to seeing the kids in class again. We will be using the “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum again this year.



**The Journey**  
**Prints**  
**Sept 29 for**  
**October**

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**#God Squad**

**Be on the lookout for news of events and meetings in the near future. Things are in the works and it should be an exciting time this fall.**

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*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*  
  
*John 3:16*

## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$43.00 in August YTD \$510.00

**THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.**

### **GIFT OF STOVES FOR A VILLAGE**

#### **COOK UP HEALTHY SOLUTIONS WITH BIOGAS STOVES**

This gift allows you to purchase a biogas stove for one of our project families, or you can show your generosity by buying 20 stoves – enough for an entire village.

Your gift of a biogas stove:

- Trains families in using biogas equipment
- Provides a cleaner, healthier living environment

For most families in the places where Heifer International works, cooking usually means gathering firewood by hand, which often depletes the soil and robs the environment of its trees. In addition, smoke inhalation in poorly ventilated homes often leads to chronic lung and eye diseases.

A biogas stove is a better option. It runs off methane gas captured from animal waste, and burns cleanly, reliably and efficiently. This is not only better for the environment, it is more sustainable and healthier for families feeding their children.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of Aug the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **40 lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 371 lbs of food**

In 2016 we gathered 719 lbs of food, can we in 2017 increase that amount? If we want to meet last years amount we need 78 pounds of food each of the next 5 months.



**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. Septembers date is the 17th. 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

Zion United Church of Christ  
Minutes for the Consistory Meeting - July 5, 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, Tau Osa and Pastor Erik Graefe. Steve Green was unable to attend

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: \$12,662.12

The minutes were approved by Vern, seconded by Tau.

Treasurer: Income of \$6326.37 for the month of June, expenses were \$7415.19 average attendance is 56.

Pastors Report: Erik is in the office on Monday and Wed. Ruth Gfeller went with him for visitation. He visited the Samoan church and helped out with the free lunch summer program, also visited the vacation bible school at the Presbyterian Church. Great experience and people involved. He will meet with the music committee each month.

Old Business: Edith Guffey will be speaking on July 16 to present to the congregation about the consultation and the search idea of "who we are". Erik will visit with David Jones from Manhattan. Wayne will provide a copy of the last profile from the last search committee. Some flags are put up for dig safe for the basketball goal in the parking lot. New cards from Central National Bank for signatures. Lindsey Snider will open a debit card for foreign transactions for Jill.

New Business: The Samoan Heritage Church Church choir will sing on Sunday July, 9.  
Wayne ask Erik to repeat the prayer requests from the pulpit, so the everyone can hear the requests.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting : August 2 , 2017 at 7 p.m.

*"And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."*

*Romans 5:16-17*



**Zion News**

**Fall Picnic**

Come one, come all and join the fun. As we kick off the new school year with a picnic. Zion will provide hot dogs and buns, please bring a side dish and/or a dessert. It will be a great time of food, fellowship and fun. The fun starts at 5:30 pm Sunday Sept. 10th.



**Women's Fellowship**

Come join us for food, fellowship and fun. We will start meeting again Friday, Sept. 8 at 12:00 pm for lunch and a meeting. All women of Zion are invited. I'm sure that they will be planning some fun stuff for this fall.

**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:  
September Giving Opportunities**

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

September 3: Food donations for the Food Pantry

September 10: Quarter collection for Heifer International

September 17: "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 will need 2 delegates to attend the annual meeting. If you are interested in being a delegate to the annual meeting please let the Consistory know. Information about the meeting will be published in the newsletter and sent out in the Good News as it is available.

## OFFICIAL CALL TO THE FIFTY-SIXTH KO ANNUAL MEETING

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, United Church of Christ

October 20-21, 2017

Marriott Hotel, Wichita, KS

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting will convene on Friday afternoon October 20<sup>th</sup> and will adjourn no later than 4:00 on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Annual Meetings.** The regular business of the Conference, the election of its officers, the determination of priorities for its programs and budget and such other business as shall be determined shall take place at the Annual Meeting. (KO Bylaws)

**Voting Membership.** The voting membership of the Conference shall consist of **the lay delegates selected by and representing each local church which has membership in the Conference, all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers who have membership in the Conference, the members of the Conference Council and all such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide.** (KO Bylaws)

**Each local church having standing** in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference **shall be entitled to two voting lay delegates** and each such **church having a membership of more than 200 shall be entitled to an additional voting lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.** No delegate or official representative at the meetings of the Conference shall be entitled to more than one vote. The control of the Conference shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Conference or, between meetings of the conference, through and by a Conference Council elected by the 49 Conference. (KO Bylaws)

**Registration will open on September 1<sup>st</sup> and close on October 5<sup>th</sup>.** The Registration amount will be \$150.00 per person and includes Friday dinner; breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Detailed information on the Agenda will be published in the weeks ahead.

*“Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”*  
*Revelations 22:3-5*

## News from K-O Conference

### THREE GREAT LOVES: LOVE OF CHILDREN

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017

Edith Guffey, Conference Minister



It was just about this time of year; many years ago, Jerry and I were on vacation with our two sons. It was almost the end of a summer, filled with lots of activities as we tried to keep two young boys engaged and entertained. It was the end of a long day, the kids were tired, and finally in bed, and Jerry and I were sitting around watching TV in our rented place in the Poconos. A commercial came on featuring two parents gleefully going through the aisles of a store picking up school supplies, throwing them in the shopping cart and gleefully singing “*It’s the most wonderful time of the year..they’re going back; they’re going back!*” Jerry and I looked at each other, and laughed so hard we almost cried!

And so, it’s that time of year again! Jerry and I are far beyond, the time that our calendars and days are marked by the rhythm of the school year; the times where we were a bit sad to lose a more relaxed schedule and at the same time yearned for more structure that often comes with the school and kids. Today, I can hardly believe the summer is almost at an end, but the reminder comes as school supplies are in stores, back to school sales are on, school busses are on the streets so I am reminded that that they are indeed “going back”. I am not focused today on all it means to get kids ready to go back to school, but I do wonder what many of “our kids” are going back to? In Kansas and Oklahoma, schools are struggling as funding has been cut over and over again. In Kansas, the cuts so severe that court battles have been going on for years about school funding.

It’s easy to turn a blind eye to the reality of our schools, especially if we don’t have kids actually in school these days, but education is a key indicator to success in this country and yet our schools are woefully unequal and underfunded. I remember youth who spoke at General Synod about the experiences in their schools in Chicago; many of our schools and not just in cities like Chicago are not safe. They are not safe from bullying and violence. The battle over school choice and public education is real; school choice does help to assure that those in select schools are receiving a good education, but this leaves public schools with less and less to do more and more.

***Love of Children is one of the Three Great Loves program featured several weeks ago in eNEWS and it was announced at General Synod by Rev. John Dorhauer, the UCC General Minister and President.***

In the article, John states, “discover ways in which you can engage the members of your faith community in mission that serves the needs of children...” I support this whole heartedly, collect school supplies, provide money for the unexpected emergencies that teachers and counselors often face in schools, serve as a tutor or aide in a class; volunteer time with an agency that works with children, teach Sunday school or work with a youth group; the ways we can embody our love of children are too numerous to name. But I encourage us to go a step further. I hope we will look for ways that challenge the system that keeps schools unequal and underfunded. What are the questions we can ask in our congregations and our communities that will help us to identify the underlying systems that foster poverty in our communities and subsequently poor children? Three great loves and the love of children isn’t limited to mission projects, they are directly related to creating a Just World for All; perhaps especially for the children. Look for more information about Three Great Loves in the weeks ahead.

# [THE UCC RESPONDS AND INVITES YOUR SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017

Written by Connie Larkman, UCC News

The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with long term recovery following Hurricane Harvey—a monster storm that has already displaced thousands of Texans and left five people dead.

“We are asking for prayers, for donations, and, as the long-term recovery takes shape, we will also ask for volunteers,” said the Rev. Jim Moos, a UCC national officer. “Donations can be made to the ‘Emergency USA Fund’ and marked for Hurricane Harvey.”

Harvey made landfall Friday night in southeast Texas, becoming the first major hurricane — classified as Category 3 or above — to hit the U.S. since Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

The hurricane, a huge Category 4 storm fueled with 130-mph winds, brought mammoth storm surges and torrential rainfall as it roared ashore at 10 p.m. CT about 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi. Since then, Harvey has lingered as a massive tropical storm, flooding Houston, sending scores to shelters and bringing monumental downpours, measured in feet instead of inches. Heavy rain is reaching as far west as Austin and Dallas. In Houston, the country’s fourth largest city with a sprawling metropolitan area, neighborhoods are cut off by floodwaters. More than a thousand people have been rescued, with more awaiting assistance. The Red Cross, planning for as many as 30,000 who will have to seek shelter in the next few days, estimates about a half-million homes have been impacted by the storm.

“I can’t overemphasize how dangerous the situation remains throughout the region as flood waters continue to rise,” said Zach Wolgemuth, executive, UCC Disaster Ministries. “Evacuations, search and rescue are still underway and volunteers living outside the region are being advised to not travel.”

The National Weather Service, saying the storm was “beyond anything experienced” is predicting parts of Texas could see nearly 50 inches of rain, the largest recorded total in the state’s history, with flooding becoming even more severe late in the week. And as Harvey heads toward Louisiana, where the forecast calls for as much as two feet of rainfall in some areas, the state is preparing for the worst, already designated an emergency disaster area by President Trump.

“As I’ve been participating on conference calls with partners, the word catastrophic has become synonymous with Harvey,” Wolgemuth continued. “I fully expect recovery will take a minimum of five or more years. UCC Disaster Ministries has always walked with the communities for the duration, focusing on holistic community recovery for the most vulnerable by filling gaps in services and helping rebuild house and home. In order to carry out such a response we are going to need everyone’s support now and throughout the next several years.”

The UCC Global Sharing of Resources team has created a [Hurricane Harvey disaster page](#) that will be updated as the storm continues, with suggestions on ways people in the wider church can help going forward. In a comment on that page, Terry Martinez Esquibel writes, “So many areas in and around Houston are completely under water. This storm is going to leave behind such devastation. But in the middle of it all, I see God’s love through Her children. People are coming to the aid of their neighbors, regardless of religion, politics, race, identity or who they love. It’s a beautiful thing to see people helping people, period. Prayers for all in the wake of Harvey, and many thanks and blessings on those who will volunteer and/or give to help others in need.”





## Monthly Financial Reports

### Financial Secretary

2017 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall) \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Att.	Giving
July 2	67	
July 9	88	
July 16	65	
July 23	85	
July 30	48	
Online		
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	

	July	Cum. YTD
Rent		
BOB		
Building		
Specials		
Dillons rebates		



### Treasurer's

#### July Bank Balance

Beginning  
Balance

Ending  
Balance

#### July 2017 Profit & Loss

**Month**

#### Total Income

#### **EXPENSES**

Advertising & Promotion

Bank Service Charge

Benevolence

Conference & Meetings

Groups & Orgs

Endowment

Insurance & Pension

Misc.

Pastoral Expense

Pulpit Supply

Payroll Exp.

Repairs & Maintenance

All Supplies

Utilites

#### Total Expenses

#### July NET INCOME



- 9/1 Sylvia Ehlers
- 9/7 Joyce Woodard
- 9/8 Kenny Gfeller
- 9/11 Doug Vogelsang
- 9/12 Anson Jacobsen
- 9/15 Susanne Altwegg
- 9/23 Roger Garrison
- 9/24 Norma Horner
- 9/27 Keith Henry



- 9/17 Jill & Gary Schmutz
- 9/21 Scott & Tammy Altwegg

*\*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.*

## 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!

*“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 day that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”*

*Psalm 139:13-16*

# SEPTEMBER

# 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
<b>3</b> <i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>4</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Fall Picnic 5:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pilot Club 5:00 pm	<b>27</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Sept 3	Marvin & Janice Hornbostel	Jill & Gary Schmutz	Hillery Martin
Sept 10	Henrietta Withee & Judy Gardner	Lane & Harlan Bitterlin	Denise Tabb
Sept 17	Keith & Jolynn Henry	Wayne Gfeller & Rod Gfeller	Lyn Green
Sept24	Selesa & Panisia Valoaga	Tau & TJ Osa	Susanne Altwegg



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