



# THE JOURNEY

## MARCH 2017



### Lent: Wilderness Time

*Selections from Seasons of the Spirit, 2017*

During the Season of Lent we travel with Jesus on a journey. We start in the wilderness – away from the things that normally comfort and sustain us – and continue in the steps of Jesus’ ministry and through to the last days of his life. At this – like maybe no other – time of year, we are invited to examine our spiritual lives and identify those parts of ourselves that need improvement. Where are we falling short? What relationships need attention? How do we dig deeper into our relationship with God? What parts of our lives have become too much about us and not enough about God?

As we begin Lent, we find ourselves at the edge of “wilderness time,” at the edge of total and complete dependence on God for everything we need. Scary? Yes. Completely and totally fulfilling in the spiritual sense? Absolutely. In the wilderness, we needn’t despair when we don’t get everything right. But we are called to put an intense focus on our relationship with God and how we show God to others in our lives. Our progress on this journey won’t be measured in success, but by how empty we become, how much room we are able to make for God in our lives.

- What scares you the most about depending completely on God to provide in your life?
- What parts of your life do you try to control – instead of letting God control them?
- What one spiritual practice will you take on this Lent that makes more room for God in your life and less room for your personal desires?

I invite you to join with the Zion congregation as we journey through Lent together.

*Grace and peace on the journey.*

*Rev. Nikki Woolsey*

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 1, 7:00 p.m.

### Lenten daily devotions

The booklets are available for free to all members and friends of the church.

Copies can be picked up in the foyer.

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Date and time TBA

### Lenten Study

Wednesday evenings beginning March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we gather for coffee and dessert as we work through the book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*.

### Holy Week Dinner and Worship

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

### Easter Celebration Worship

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

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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

## March Lectionary

### March 1

Ash Wednesday  
Joel 2:2-2,12-17  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalms 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10  
Matthew 6:16, 16-21

### March 5

1st Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalms 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11  
*Abundant Grace*

### March 12

2nd Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 12:1-4  
Psalms 121  
Romans 4:1-15, 13-17  
Matthew 17:1-9  
John 3:1-17  
*Bold Blessing*

### March 19

3rd Sunday in Lent  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalms 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42  
*Thirsty Voices*

### March 26

4th Sunday in Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalms 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41  
*Restored*



**The Journey  
Prints  
March 24 for  
April**

## Consistory Highlights

Jan 11, 2017

Treasurers and Financial secretary's reports page

Pastors Report: KO Conference-faith & giving meeting April 7-8, church reserved for April 29 in case of rain for a wedding, #GodSquad is looking for a short spring break adventure, Lent begins March 5, Easter is April 16, Individual Giving Reports in the works.

Old Business: Basketball goal has arrived. Thank you to Anson for mowing and to Tim Jury for the cabinet

New Business: 2 new consistory members needed.

Next meeting Feb. 1

## Women's Fellowship

The Women's Guild met at noon on Feb. 3 in Fellowship Hall. Ruth and Jill hosted. There were seven members present.

Janette presided over the business meeting. Judy shared a poem by her mother.

The minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasurer reported the balance and the income from the soup/chili dinner.

Cards: Lane sent our cards for the February Birthdays.

Old Business: Reports on the soup/chili dinner.

New Business: Honest Abe potluck preparations.

Our next meeting will be on March 3 with Leona and Judy hosting.

*"O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"*

*Psalms 95:1-2*

## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$62.06 in February. YTD \$122.36

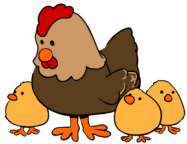
#### **THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.**

The Kids had \$370 dollars to donate at Heifer International. They chose one Llama, 2 rabbit packages and 5 chickens packages.



Llamas are sometimes called “camels of the clouds” because they are essential to indigenous people in the mountains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Besides being hardy pack animals, they supply wool, hides, fat for making candles and manure pellets for fuel.

Rabbits are good choice families with small amounts of land. Rabbits can live in small, confined areas and eat available grass. And they can be moved in a basket if necessary.



Chickens are easy to care for and come with plenty of perks. Families in Bangladesh raise flocks for protein-packed eggs and meat. When sold at market, the chickens and their eggs can also boost income.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of February the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **60lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 96lbs 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. March's date is the 19th.



## 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.

### **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.

### 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.

*“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?”*

*Joel 2:12-14*

## Zion News

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

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

- March 5: Food donations for the Food Pantry of Geary County
- March 12: Quarter collection for Heifer International
- March 19: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

### **Tax Documents for 2016**

If you would like a document to confirm your 2016 giving to Zion for tax purposes, please contact Tammy Altwegg who serves as the Financial Secretary on behalf of the Consistory.

## News from K-O Conference

### **KO Resources Available to Local Church**

#### **The Parish Paper**

For several years now the Conference has had a subscription to the Parish Paper; one attempt to support congregations and provide an outside resource on a number of topics. The Parish Paper is published monthly and they are all on the website. While the issue for the current month that appears in eNEWS may not seem relevant, we hope you occasionally go to the website and take a look at back issues. It could be that you will find a subject addressed that pertains to exactly what your congregation is asking or exploring. [Review past issues of the Parish Papers here.](https://kocucc.org/resources/the-parish-paper/), <https://kocucc.org/resources/the-parish-paper/>.

### **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.

*"For God so loved the world he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

*John 3:16*

## *News from K-O Conference*

### **Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity: a KO Conference Seminar**

Last year, KO Conference Minister Edith Guffey was asked by a local church pastor about resources for stewardship. She discovered that our denomination was planning to pilot a program, and offered to use KO as a test conference. As a result the national offices of the UCC will partner with KO and extend the following invitation.

*The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving in collaboration with the UCC Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship invites you to participate in the Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity (CCCG) seminar.* CCCG is an interactive seminar demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation. CCCG will map the new landscape of religious giving, provide tools to help you navigate the new landscape and help you build a culture of generosity unique to your congregation's needs and challenges. The seminar is designed for congregational teams – clergy, lay people, administrators and stewardship committees. [Here is a link to the Lake Institute's website about the seminar](https://philanthropy.iupui.edu/institutes/lake-institute/courses/congregational-generosity.html), <https://philanthropy.iupui.edu/institutes/lake-institute/courses/congregational-generosity.html>.

#### **How do you inspire generosity?**

We invite you and your ministry team to participate in a seminar experience that could change the way you and your congregation approach giving and generosity. Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity (CCCG) is an interactive seminar—offered on a contract basis—demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation.

Interactive segments of CCCG explore theology, the role of adaptive leadership, fiscal transparency and the importance of donor care, with action steps to impact the generosity exploration and experience for both laity and clergy. This course can be tailored for any faith tradition or demographic, as the essential practices of generosity are universal.

<https://philanthropy.iupui.edu/institutes/lake-institute/courses/congregational-generosity.html>

### **UCC Mental Health Network Conference in Nebraska**

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey." Your congregation may wonder how to fully embrace and include persons with mental illness into the ongoing life and ministry of your congregation. The Conference of WISE Congregations (Welcoming Inclusive Supportive and Engaged) may be a place for information and support.

#### ***WISE Congregations for Mental Health***

***Friday, March 31, 2017***

***First Central Congregational Church in Omaha***

Welcome to this UCC WISE Conference for Mental Health. We are glad that you have chosen to be here as together we can reduce the stigma about mental illness in our society, in our congregations, and even in ourselves. "



## *News from K-O Conference*

Do not fear; for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isa. 43:1  
Isaiah reminds us to live not in fear, but in the personal, restoring and renewing relationship with the loving presence of God. Each one of us.

Affirming this faith, we meet to address a part of our experience which is sometimes painful and which also often leads to a deeper appreciation of the gift that we call life. While we know that 1 out of 4 people are directly affected by mental health challenges, we also know that we can be a resource in responding to these challenges. We will learn about action steps for individuals and our congregations to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) about mental health.

At this conference, participants will:

- Experience stories by persons who have been affected by mental health issues
- Offer practical steps to engage in a mental health ministry in our congregations
- Introduce the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Covenant for congregations for mental health

## *News from the United Church of Christ*

### **UCC seeks help from churches to replenish CWS storm supplies**

Written by Anthony Moujaes

In preparation for this year's heavy storm season, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is turning to church congregations to help overcome a shortage of much-needed cleanup buckets, stocked with essential supplies that are used after a natural disaster strikes.

UCC Disaster Ministries is offering congregations matching grants of up to \$250 as an incentive to assemble Church World Service kits — in particular, the CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets in short supply. A heavy demand for buckets in 2016 has brought CWS's stockpiles down to only 900 to begin the year.

Members of the denomination can assist disaster relief efforts by pre-assembling various kits that are warehoused by CWS, ready to be shipped at a moment's notice when the need arises. The Disaster Ministries team is hoping the financial aid offered to congregations will kick start a church-wide effort to restock these much-needed supplies.

"For families that have lost everything, CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets and other CWS Kits are more than just relief supplies, they are an expression of love and symbol of hope for the future," said Zach Wolgemuth, UCC Disaster Ministries executive. "It's energizing to see congregations engaged in hands-on ways, reaching out to people they will likely never meet."

## *News from the United Church of Christ*

Celesta Bridgeforth of Athens, Ala., remembered the grief of losing her home to a tornado in 2011.

"We received a CWS Emergency Cleanup Bucket at that time," she said. "It wasn't a million bucks but it was nice, convenient and timely and sure did help when I'd lost almost everything and didn't know what was going on."

The need for cleanup buckets was substantial last fall in North Carolina, where the UCC ordered 1,000 CWS buckets for the Red Cross to help the residents of Lumberton and Warsaw affected by flooding. Those supplies helped families clean out their homes enough to assess the damage, muck out and tear out ruined drywall.

CeCe Williams, a Red Cross warehouse manager, said, "It's a crucial stage in their recovery from the flood. We are so grateful to our partners who are supporting our communities. Without them, we would not be able to help the great number of people in need."

This is the third year UCC Disaster Ministries has offered the matching grants. The ministry will fund participating and qualifying congregations up to \$250 per congregation on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 200 congregations that raise \$250 in cash and in-kind gifts for kits.

Emergency Cleanup Buckets are the most challenging buckets to assemble, because they are larger, more expensive (about \$75 worth of items), heavier and more costly to ship. But they have the highest demand, especially when storms and floods are more prevalent in the spring and summer.

One possible way to offset the cost of shipping is to drop off completed kits and buckets at one of 50 [drop-off locations](#) in the eastern part of the U.S. Attendees to this summer's General Synod in Baltimore are also encouraged to drop off their buckets at a nearby CWS warehouse in New Windsor, Md.

Of the 14,000 buckets distributed by CWS last year, UCC congregations provided 2,500 of those. "Working together has always been at the heart of who we are and when we are able to share resources across the denomination it strengthens us and our witness in a hurting world," Wolgemuth said.

More information about directions, how-to videos, a list of supplies that each bucket must contain and the list of CWS kit depots is available [online](#).

To apply for a grant, visit the [UCC website](#).

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your will be also."*

*Matthew 6:19-21*





*Monthly Financial Reports*

*Financial Secretary*

*Treasurer's*



*"For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those share the faith of Abraham."*

*Romans 4:16*



## *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!

*2-Mar Henrietta Withee  
3-Mar Harold Facklam  
9-Mar Ruth Gfeller  
10-Mar Karen Malec  
10-Mar Janette Vogelsang  
11-Mar Mary Hall  
14-Mar Doris Steffens  
20-Mar Steve Green  
21-Mar Dick Gfeller  
24-Mar Deb Jacobsen  
27-Mar Mike Malec  
28-Mar Lawrence Kientz*



*12-Mar Lacey & Kasey Fielder  
16-Mar Steve & Lyn Green  
24-Mar Dave & Nikki Woolsey  
29-Mar Patty & Roscoe Maycroft*

*“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:20-21*



# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Choir 6:00 pm <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Service 7:00 pm</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm World Day of Prayer	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Celebration of Holy Communion</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Clergy meeting, Topeka  Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Heifer International Sunday</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am #GodSquad 4:00 pm	<b>13</b> KO Conference Call 1:00 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> <b>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>20</b> Pastor Relations Team 5:30 pm Formation Team 6:15 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	<b>23</b> <i>Articles due for the April Journey</i>	<b>24</b> April <b>"The Journey"</b> prints	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## Serving Zion

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

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
March 5	Tim & Renee Jury	Ronnie & Linnie Gfeller	Judy Heintz
March 12	Cleo Jones	Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman	Osa Family
March 19	Wayne & Ruth Gfeller	Dave & Karla Butler	Leona Garrison
March 26	Gary & Jill Schmutz	Caleb Snider & Kasey Fielder	Jill Schmutz

Deacon for March:



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