



THE JOURNEY

MAY 2017



Preparing to Say Goodbye

The next few weeks will be bittersweet for me. I am saying goodbye to a church that I have loved and looking forward to an unknown future. I am thankful for your support and care over these past months as we have moved toward my departure. I hope that we will have a chance to celebrate with one another before my formal departure on May 24.

My final Sunday preaching and leading worship will be May 21, and at that time we will join together in releasing one another from the vows and commitments we made 4 years ago at my installation. You will be asked, 'Do you, the members and friends of Zion, release Nikki Woolsey from the duties of pastor?' One of the questions addressed to me will be, 'Do you, Nikki Woolsey, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?' These vows of release remind us that our bond within the Church of Jesus Christ will never change, but the nature of our bond will indeed undergo significant change. The vows mean that I will no longer be performing pastoral services for you, nor leading any worship services, nor discussing any church matters with you. The vows mean that you will not expect me to perform such services nor make such requests of me.

I am blessed to have served in ministry with you, members and friends of Zion. Go in peace as you discern God's will for the next chapter.

*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 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$80.01 in April. YTD \$255.18

THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

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.

GIVE A BASKET OF HOPE

The Hope Basket includes a gift of rabbits and a starter flock of chickens. Families also receive training and education in the animals' care to make sure their hope becomes a reality.

The gift of a Hope Basket:

- Provides eggs and protein for nourishment
- Boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring
- Passes on the Gift to others, since livestock can multiply quickly

Rabbits are easy to care for and can reproduce in a short amount of time. Chickens lay eggs and provide manure for vegetable gardens. Your livestock donation provides hope for struggling farmers looking for a way out of poverty.

Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of April the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **50lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 206lbs 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. May's date is the 21st.



Women's Fellowship

April 7, 2017

Women's Guild met April 7 with six ladies attending. Janette and Rosemary served a delicious lunch with an Easter theme.

Janette presided over the meeting. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurers report was given with a balance of \$1,282.77 recorded as of April 1, 2017.

There were no communications.

Judy read a poem, "Rain", written by her mother, Ruth Schultz.

Committee Reports: Outreach: Judy sent St. Pats cards to our two adopted children in St. Louis. Easter cards will also be sent. Cards: Lane has the April birthday cards ready to send out.

Old Business: Leona reported that the gift card that was returned in the mail last month had been sent again and received.

New Business: There was discussion if the Women's Guild should continue to remain active as there are so few that attend. The consensus was "yes" even though we are low in number. The Guild is a vital function of Zion.

Rosemary moved and it was seconded to retain the officers we have for another year.

Sally suggested that the Guild look into having stickers with our church emblem on it that could be put on our vehicles. It could be a money making project and be a subtle advertisement for our church.

575 Easter eggs were stuffed with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Announcements for upcoming events include: The Formation Team, Lane, Deb Heiman, Tammy Altwegg, Janette, and Ruth will prepare a meal to be served to the congregation on Maundy Thursday. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 15 at 11:00 and is coordinated by Kev and Deb Heiman. April 23 will be the baptism of Jackson Junghans. May 7, "Just Us" will bring special music to Zion during the worship service. May 14, baptisms of Lillian Fielder and Olivia Beasley. May 21, will be the Sunday School Recognition and recognition of graduation seniors, Condoleezza Osa from JCHS, and Zach Heiman and Molly Schoendaller from Kansas State. A potluck dinner will be held following the worship service honoring Nikki for her time serving Zion.

The meeting adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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.





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: May Giving Opportunities

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

May 7: Food donations for the Food Pantry of Geary County

May 14: Quarter collection for Heifer International

May 21: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

#God Squad End of Year Activities

- Saturday, May 6: **Challenge Course** at White Memorial Camp
See additional information below
- Friday, May 12: End of Year **Lock-In** at the Church
You know the drill! All are welcome for a night of food, fun, worship and games.

“So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

John 10:7-10

Zion News

TOPEKA, Kan. — An 87-year-old Kansas man who has donated 32 gallons of blood over more than six decades credits his father for his award-winning generosity.

Harold Facklam Jr. of Topeka recently was recognized by the Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living for the 259 pints he has donated through the American Red Cross, the Topeka Capital-Journal (<http://bit.ly/2o1p4Lo>) reported.

Facklam, who donated until health reasons caused him to stop in April 2015, said he doesn't think about how his donations have affected others or even saved lives.

But he gave a nod to his late father, Harold Facklam Sr., who he said encouraged him to donate when the younger Facklam was almost 21 in 1951. Facklam's father gave blood for about 11 years, stopping at age 60.

"My father was giving; he certainly had a great influence on me. He was very, so pleased to give and that's why I started, of course," Facklam Jr. said.

For years, the younger Facklam sprung to action every time a newspaper or radio announcement said the Red Cross would be in his area accepting blood donations. After each visit to the donor center, Facklam made his next appointment to do it again.

He donated a pint of whole blood four times a year, ultimately winning Kansas American Red Cross recognition with 38 pins as he reached specific gallon markers.

The generosity is **running** in the family; one of Facklam's two daughters, a granddaughter and son-in-law have donated blood over the years.

Facklam also has been honored for his volunteer work with the United Church of Christ in Kansas' Geary County, where he spearheaded the committee that rebuilt the church after lightning destroyed it in 2001.

"Church was a very important part of our life, always," said Facklam, who has been married for 66 years.

Join Us for a Potluck Sunday, May 21

**We will have a big farewell Potluck for Rev. Nikki and Dave.
We wish Rev. Nikki the best in her next position .
She and Dave will be greatly missed.**



Zion News



Congratulations Graduates!

The Zion family congratulates three graduates this year.

- Condoleeza Osa is the daughter of Tau and Sina Osa. She is graduating from Junction City High School.
- Zach Heiman is the son of Kevin and Deb Heiman. He is graduating from Kansas State University.
- Molly Schoendoller is the daughter of Brenda Gfeller and step-daughter of Rod Gfeller. She is graduating from Kansas State University.

Please join us on Sunday, May 21 to celebrate our graduates.

"Kids Eat Free" Returns to Junction City

The summer lunch program "Kids Eat Free" will be launching soon in our community. Our participation in the program is sponsored by Wheels of HOPE and the Kansas Food Bank. Volunteers from Zion will be needed to staff several weeks. Zion's coordinators are Deb Heiman and Marvin Hornbostel.



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.

*“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever.
Amen.”*

The Work of the Church: Articles of Note

Small Is Big Again: Reclaiming Small Church Ministry The Parish Paper: Ideas and Insights for Active Congregations April 2017

Although megachurches garner a great deal of attention, these supersized congregations comprise only a small fraction of all worshiping communities in the U.S. The current estimate is that only about 1,650 megachurches (worship attendance exceeds 2,000) dot the landscape out of a total 330,000 congregations across America. In fact, most churches are small: two out of three Protestant churches attract less than 100 worshipers in a typical week. Some scholars predicted that megachurches would essentially put small churches out of business. But the percentage of large churches as part of all churches is growing slowly while the number of small churches has remained stable. While the church's larger mission continues to be carried out by many small worshiping communities, small churches may get locked into self-criticism. However, more congregations are embracing the strengths associated with their small size. As one congregation proclaims: "We're not just any small church. We're the small church that's here!" *What Do Small Churches Need?*

Lewis Parks, a champion of small congregations, claims that they can do big things with "a little cooperation with the Spirit on the part of those gathered, a little striving for excellence, a little freedom to express local religious creativity, and all things sprinkled with lots of hospitality" A few other suggestions include the following:

A compelling story about their history, purpose, and mission. Members often possess a common narrative about when and why the church was established and some specifics of that particular historical period. But fewer members know the chapters in the church's history. For example, which pastors or lay leaders exerted a major influence in embracing new mission or overcoming risks? What community events (such as rapid population growth, departure of a major employer) affected the church in a major way? How do members describe the current chapter in the church's narrative? Too often, the church's story that clearly reveals the congregation's ongoing ministry remains implicit. When members share greater awareness of the church's mission and history (how did we get here?), they gain greater clarity about the congregation's unique identity. Consider engaging members in an exercise that surfaces the church's history, experiences, traditions, and untested assumptions. Then, create a vision statement that captures these insights and use it on your website, with social media, and other church communications.

Intentional efforts to increase visibility. Effective approaches are size-specific. Every small church can creatively send the message to newcomers and the community—"we are here, we care about you, and we welcome you!" An electronic presence (website, Facebook, Instagram) establishes a virtual welcome mat. A well-maintained and lighted church building signals a physical "home" that anticipates visitors. Participation by members and leaders in community events suggests commitment to the well-being of neighbors. Hosting community events, speakers, workshops, and the arts indicates that the church is a willing partner in promoting their neighbors' quality of life. Form a team of six members to test the congregation's visibility by instructing them to approach five people they do not know. Next, have these members inquire:

Cont'd

The Work of the Church: Articles of Note

“Have you ever heard of (the name of your church)? What do you know about it (for example, location, programs, etc.)?” Reconvene these volunteers and share the results. Based on what you learn, devise one or two new action steps to increase the congregation’s community profile.

Customized methods for outreach. Context is everything when developing strategies to welcome newcomers. Would your community be described as active or sedentary, family- or career-focused, a stable or mobile population? A family-focused and stable community is more likely to respond to family and friend networks. If a population is career-focused and mobile, investments in electronic and social media will likely pay dividends. Have leaders discuss the key characteristics of the church’s community five years ago, currently, five years from now, and ten years in the future. Refine the church’s strategies based on these observed changes. Purposeful efforts to pass along the faith to future generations. Following the words of Robert Schuller, congregations should view faith development as planting seeds: “Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed.” Research shows that when congregations value nurturing faith in children and young adults, that emphasis and their hard work bears fruit. How does the church measure success in this ministry area?

Seed-planting congregations in this way also make ministry with millennials a priority. Parks makes a convincing argument that small churches are best suited for reaching out to this age group—adults born between 1981 and 1996. Millennials’ life experiences differ greatly from previous generations and one in three are religiously unaffiliated. They were more likely to be raised in a nontraditional family and are more culturally diverse than past cohorts. Despite growing up in an online world, they place a high value on friendships and relationships. Small churches offer them the unique opportunity for intimacy and caring relationships. They are looking for safe spaces for themselves and their children. Review the demographics within a fifteen-mile radius of the congregation to determine the age profiles of residents and to create updated strategies to reach unrepresented groups.

Accept reality and build on strengths. Garrison Keillor famously said: “I believe in looking reality straight in the eye and denying it.” Small churches cannot afford to deny reality. Leaders can accept the things that cannot be changed while identifying the advantages that small size affords. Sometimes, cherished programs or even the church building have to be sacrificed in order for the congregation’s future mission to thrive. Consider a four-session group study to discover new insights for small-church ministry.

Making Small Big Again

Margaret Mead’s statement inspired many in earlier generations: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” A parallel truth applies to congregations. Never doubt that small churches have changed the world and they will continue to do so.





News from K-O Conference

Calling All KO Churches: What Does Your Church Need at Annual Meeting?

The KO Conference Council has begun work on content planning for the 2017 KO Annual Meeting, which will meet October 20-21 in Wichita, KS. We would like to hear from you and your local congregation. What workshops and content can we provide to best serve your local church? What does your church need this year to help it thrive? Please send any and all ideas to [Rev. Nikki Woolsey](#), KO Conference President.



“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will not longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

John 14:15-21



- 5/1 Rose Mary Roesler
- 5/5 Rod Gfeller
- 5/7 Alex Altwegg
- 5/8 Ryan Malec
- 5/9 Janice Hornbostel
- 5/11 Patsy Gfeller
- 5/12 Ron Gfeller
- 5/12 Vern Steffens
- 5/14 Nate Green
- 5/16 Molly Schoendaller
- 5/19 Lucian Tabb
- 5/25 Deniece Carlson
- 5/26 Kacey Butler
- 5/27 Trey Reynolds
- 5/29 Scott Altwegg



5/18 Russel & Sally 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!

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

John 14:1-7



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 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	4	5 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm Committee on Ministry training, Prairie Vilage Bldg. rented 5pm	6 #GodSquad at Camp White, 12 pm
7 <i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	8	9	10 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	11	12 #GodSquad end of Year Lock-in 7:00 pm	13
14 <i>Celebration of Baptism</i> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am 	15	16	17 Clergy Meeting, Topeka Choir 6:00 pm	18	19	20
21 <i>Graduation & Sunday School</i> <i>Recognition Day</i> <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Pot-luck & Fellowship 11:30 am	22	23	24 Choir 6:00 pm	25 Bldg. rented, 5 pm <i>Ascension Day</i>	26 <i>"The Journey"</i> prints for June	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	29 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	30	31 Choir 6:00 pm			

Serving Zion

** Note the change in the layout**

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
May 7	Dave & Karla Butler	Richard Hobaugh & Alex Lee	open
May 14	Steve & Susanne Altwegg	Aaron & Deb Jacobsen	open
May 21	Steve & Angie Roesler	Denise & Payton Tabb	Potluck
May 28	Judy Gardner & Henrietta Withee	Condelezza & Evergreen Osa	open



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