

THE JOURNEY

JULY 2017



Dear Zion,

Worship is the easiest thing to do in the world. We can sing, rally around images and slogans, tell whoever will listen of our faith, and gather on Sundays and feel good about our commitment to the church. To follow in the footsteps of the Rebel Jesus demands something wholly different from us. The distinction means everything in this moment, and we no longer have the luxury of simply telling people we are Christian. We are called to live in a way that exposes the dominant culture as exactly what it is, a farce.

I am honored to stand with you on Sundays, and I am humbled to be in a position to speak of this distinction. Our call is to an inner transformation, an utterly new way of being in the world. This transformation is made more difficult because there are few outer markers to show we are doing the right thing. It involves paying attention to those things and people ignored or intentionally hidden by the dominant culture. This inner work yields little to put on a resume, gain popularity, or garner success as we've known it our whole lives.

As Jesus began to move among the villages of ancient Palestine following forty days and nights in the desert, He understood well how He would be received. Crowds would gather early on, but as the gravity of God's call on our lives would become clear, Jesus would stand alone. No wonder we'd rather worship, buy bumper stickers and T-shirts with a catchy slogan, and post on Facebook.

We need not go back 2000 years to see how God's truth is received. Martin Luther King drew huge crowds early in his own public life. His final years were quite different as God's call left him no choice but to speak truth to power. Crowds diminished, money dried up, and the sanction of the dominant culture had gone. Hear Dr. King's words during this time:

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." [We approach a time of endless war, when the U.S. is trapped in one overseas entanglement after another while the gap at home between the rich and poor grows ever larger.]

We are utterly in the midst of the predicament the beloved prophet warned of in 1967. Worship is no longer sufficient. We have to actually follow or there is really no point in calling ourselves Christian anymore.

Love,

Erik

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ZION

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

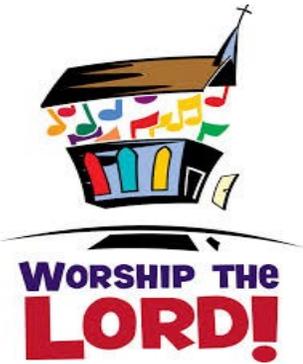
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

July Lectionary

<p>July 2 Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42</p>	<p>July 9 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalms 45:10-17 Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Romans 7:15-25 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</p>	<p>July 16 Genesis 25:19-34 Psalms 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</p>
<p>July 23 Genesis 28:10-19 Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</p>	<p>July 30 Genesis 29:15-28 Psalms 105:1-11, 45 Psalms 128 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</p>	

Attendance
2017 YTD
1717

2016 –1819



The Journey
Prints
July 28 for
August

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.”
Romans 8:26-30

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$48.05 in June. YTD \$395.56

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.

MILK FOR HEALTH IN TANZANIA

HELP DELIVER FRESH MILK FROM EADD FARMERS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NEED.

Your gift sets in motion a chain of events that gets nutritious milk to students who need it most.

- Milk will be collected from farmers in the East Africa Dairy Development project, then processed into 8-ounce packages.
- Packaged milk will then be distributed to school children ages 9 and younger.
- Delivery will occur each day of the 200-day school year to 10,000 children in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

Just \$75 can provide one student with fresh milk for a school year (that's just 40 cents a day). Nourish two children for an entire school year for just \$150.

Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of June the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **30lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 271 lbs 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. July's date is the 16th.



Consistory Highlights

2017 Consistory Minutes

May 3, 2017

The regular monthly meeting for the Consistory was called to order by President Wayne Gfeller at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Wayne Gfeller, Tau Osa, Vern Steffens, and Jill Schmutz & Pastor Nikki Woolsey. Steve Green and Deniece Carlson were not in attendance.

Nikki opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written by Vern seconded by Jill.

Treasurer's report: April Ending Bank Balance of 2,378.46. Income of 9,089.72 expenses for the month of April 7,134.64.

Memorial report: balance of 12,660.59

Financial Secretary's report: Attendance for April was 394. Monthly income of 9,089.72. General Fund YTD income 33,054.62. Budget shortfall of 12,890.38 ytd.

Pastor's Report: This is Nikki's last consistory meeting. Her last Sunday will be the 21st of May with a farewell potluck following services. Her last day in the office will be May 24th. With the remaining week of May taken as vacation. Pension Board and Insurance will need to be notified of her final date. There will be a festival of music on May 7. Gift cards for Graduates.

What to do for the Sunday school teachers. Youth ropes course at White Memorial Camp the Saturday May 6. God Squad lock in scheduled for May 12.

Gift cards for graduates: \$50

Gift cards for Sunday school teachers: \$25

Jill has volunteered to get the gift cards.

Pastor Parish: no meeting

Formation: no meeting

Old Business: Basketball goal: Vern will get with the kids and Aaron Jacobsen on getting it put up. He will also contact dig safe when they know when and where. Hopefully we can get it install in June.

New Business: Advice for supply minister-supplying what he needs. In terms of the search for new minister read through other listings online, when writing the bio go beyond the form and make it stand out (personalize it). Do we want to engage a consultant for visioning the future of the Church.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: June 7, 2017 at 7pm

"Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice."

Psalms 105:2-3



Zion News

Zion at Work in the World: July Giving Opportunities

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

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

July 9: Quarter collection for Heifer International

July 16: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

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 the church office at 785-238-5732



"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Matthew 10:40-42

Zion News

"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. We will host for 2 weeks starting July 3 through July 14 with July 4th being excluded. Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex.

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.

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:18-25



News from K-O Conference

THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

From Edith Guffey, Conference Minister, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference

It's annual meeting season...for some! Many, actually most Conferences in the UCC have their annual meetings in the Spring and they are generally in the months of May and June. KO is among a small number of Conferences that has an annual meeting in the Fall. That means several things for us as a Conference. For instance, when the General Synod votes changes to the UCC constitution, with a fall annual meeting, KO is one of the first Conferences to accept or reject proposed changes that must be agreed on by 2/3 of the Conferences. You may recall that when Rev. John Dorhauer was elected as the General Minister and President back in July of 2015, KO was the first annual meeting he attended as the General Minister and President. So while a fall meeting makes us first in some ways, there are times that a Spring meeting at the same time as other Conferences might be more beneficial. This is one of those times and is the impetus for this information to you.

Last week, I attended the annual meeting of the Missouri Mid-South Conference (MMS). In her report, the Conference Minister, Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel announced that the MMS Board of Directors had authorized the MMS Conference to begin formal conversations with the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference about federation possibilities. While this may have been a surprise to many in the MMS Conference, it was of course not a surprise to me. We have intentionally been working more closely with MMS for several years and at the July meeting, the KO Conference Council will be asked to take a similar action and discuss the possibility of proposing such an action at our upcoming annual meeting as well.

Given that it is four months until the KO Conference annual meeting, after speaking with our KO President Nikki Woolsey, we decided to announce this in eNEWS. There are many relationships between people in KO and MMS and we didn't want this news to come to KO from other sources. At last year's annual meeting, some will remember Phil Friedman raising the question of when or if there were plans to talk with other Conferences as he was aware that Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota have entered a Tri-Conference agreement. Recently, the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have also entered a working relationship and in 2013, the General Synod took an action that encouraged these kinds of conversations.

It may be helpful to say a few clarifying things:

First, no decisions have been made and there are no hidden agendas. As has been my practice, I and the Council leadership will be completely transparent about any conversations that the Council may or may not authorize. The action to be discussed at Conference Council is about authorizing formal conversations only. No possible models are on the table for consideration. To my knowledge, should conversations be authorized, no one is coming with a model already designed or discussed.

There is no timeline; given that our Council has not formally discussed this, if there is a decision to go in a new direction, there is not an established timeline. Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska have been working toward this for many, many, many years.

Any decisions (yes or no) about federation, merger, sharing staff or uniting (call it what you like) would require an action of the Conference and would be clearly presented and discussed long before a vote was anticipated.

Honestly, I think it's time for such a conversation. Long before I came to KO, I noted that the UCC had a repetitive structure doing many of the same things in 38 different places. Even before knowing the pattern of work in Conferences I wondered about the financial and human resources this repetitive structure requires. However, I also know that Conferences have identities, I know the challenge of geography, I know about equal and unequal partnerships, and how important history is. So there are many questions and concerns. On the other hand, KO and MMS have done many things together over the years. While their Conference Minister, Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel is new, KO members will have the opportunity to meet her as she is the opening preacher at our meeting in October. MMS is a natural partner for this possible conversation.

Cont'd pg 8

News from K-O Conference

I preached at the closing worship of the MMS Annual Meeting and my sermon was on the familiar passage in Isaiah chapter 43; “Thus says the Lord. Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old, I am about to do a new thing. Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” In the last few years, KO has been open to the new things God has placed before us, but that doesn’t mean the scripture is any less relevant for us than it is for MMS. Perhaps we need to be open and ready for yet another new thing God might be already be working among us.

Our Past Shapes the Present

Today historic relationships are being renewed. On May 4, 2017 the worshiping communities of the New York Collegiate Reformed Church became part of the NY Conference of the United Church of Christ, embracing dual standing in the UCC and the Reformed Church in America. In the 1720s when Reformed German-Swiss colonists migrated to North America and settled in Pennsylvania, they turned to New York City Dutch Reformed settlers for help. The earliest Pennsylvania German Reformed settlers had no pastors. By 1725 church members in Falkner Swamp, Skippack and Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania convinced a much beloved schoolteacher, named John Philip Boehm, to preach and lead their worship. Boehm, the son of a pastor, was initially reluctant. He was not ordained. Finally he consented to serve them if the churches organized themselves, developed constitutions and voted as confirmed members. With that grass roots “congregational authorization” he began to lead communion services. It was not long, however, before later arriving German Reformed pastors attacked Boehm and refused to support his ministry. Boehm’s congregations did not give up. They asked the Collegiate Dutch Reformed ministers in New York to seek authorization from the Classis of Amsterdam to ordain Boehm. The Dutch Reformed leaders saw that the people “earnestly and unanimously desired” Boehm’s services, and in 1729 Boehm traveled to the very same Collegiate Dutch Reformed church that is now dually affiliated with the UCC and was ordained.

For a time Dutch churches in New York and German churches in Pennsylvania worked together to organize Dutch Reformed and German Reformed churches into two regional Coetuses (what we call Conferences). Later geographic, language, cultural, and economic differences separated the two groups. The Dutch Collegiate churches became part of the Reformed Church in America. The German churches evolved into the German Reformed Church in the United States, and eventually the United Church of Christ. History sometimes yields delightful surprises.

Contributor: Richard H. Taylor

News from the United Church of Christ

When local congregations or individuals give dollars to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), they are supporting the ministry of the United Church of Christ in the Conference and around the world. We are closer to the work in our own Conference, but those dollars change lives around the world as well. See the **2016 UCC Annual Report first in video** (http://www.ucc.org/ucc_annual_report_2016) and then **take a look at the numbers** (<http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/2016AnnualReport.pdf>).



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

Treasurer's





- 7/9 Jack Martin
- 7/12 Steve Roesler
- 7/19 Don Garrison
- 7/26 Emmy Gfeller
- 7/27 Dilon Altwegg



- 7/10 Mike & Karen Malec
- 7/22 Eric & Amy Altwegg
- 7/25 JR & Sarah Reynolds
- 7/28 Caleb & Lindsey Snider

**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!

“He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Matthew 13:36-43



2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 <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	3	4 	5 Consistory 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	24	25	26 Choir 6:00 pm	27	28 <i>"The Journey"</i> prints for August	29
30 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	31					

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
July 2	Don & Leona Garrison	Tammy & Scott Altwegg	Jill Schmutz
July 9	Karen & Mike Malec	Doug Vogelsang & Wayne Gfeller	open
July 16	Tim & Renee Jury	Gary & Jill Schmutz	open
July 23	Russ & Sally Altwegg	Ronnie & Lennie Gfeller	open
July 30	Judy Gardner & Henrietta Withee	Dave Butler & Steve Altwegg	open



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