



# THE JOURNEY

## AUGUST 2017



Dear Zion,

We all know by heart the story of Moses and his encounter with a bush burning brightly, yet not being consumed by the fire. The very description speaks of the apparent paradoxical nature of a mystical encounter. These moments, when we feel the presence of the Living God in our midst, defy description precisely because they are beyond anything or any experience we are able to quantify with words. Father Richard Rohr reminds us, "God is not only stranger than we can think, but stranger than we are capable of thinking." If we are not careful, it is easy to forget that part and parcel of Moses' encounter with God was a call to seek justice for a vulnerable and exploited people.

The impossibility of a description seems to mirror the impossibility of God's call to speak truth to power. Moses cannot believe himself capable of going where God calls him to go, so he imagines every excuse in his arsenal to avoid the call, including deceiving himself in to believing it all never happened. For us, Moses' reaction to witnessing the burning bush could not be more important. He could have started a program to feed the slaves. He could have started a school to educate their children. He could have sought funds to build a medical clinic. All of these things would have been worthy, and all of them would have been exponentially easier than confronting Egyptian power with the demand to "let them go."

The vulnerable and exploited among us need to be fed, need to be educated, and need to have access to medical care. No human being would argue otherwise absent an unhealthy amount of self-deception. Resources are not the issue, those we have in abundance. Exploitative power might not be as easy to identify as Pharaoh anymore, yet God's call to us remains the same. *Why in the midst of plentiful resources do people not have enough to eat? Why are people systematically coerced in to a life of debt peonage in order to be educated? Why is our health care system constructed to serve profit and not people's health?* There are answers to these questions, and our sanctuary needs to be a place where these answers can be seen clearly. Our commitment to one another and to the risen Christ serves as the corrective lens we need to see them. Still, Moses was frightened, and so are we. Moses answered God's call, and so will we.

Love,

Erik

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**ZION**

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd  
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

## August Lectionary

<b>August 6</b> Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21 <b>Face to Face</b>	<b>August 13</b> Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33 <b>When All Seems Lost</b>	<b>August 20</b> Genesis 45:1-15 Psalms 133 Romans 11:1-2, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28 <b>Bold Moves</b>
<b>August 27</b> Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalms 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20 <b>Be Transformed</b>		

**Attendance**  
**2017 YTD**  
**2047**  
  
**2016 –2136**



**The Journey**  
**Prints**  
**Sept 1 for**  
**September**

## 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.

✂

**#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.**

✂

Let's help Marvel Dalton celebrate her 99th  
 birthday on Aug 6 with cards.

Marvel Dalton  
 1417 W. Ash, Rm 58  
 Junction City, KS 66441

## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$71.44 in July. YTD \$467.00

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

#### **SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FARMING**

We believe that caring for the Earth is vital to ending hunger and poverty, whether it's through reforestation, organic gardening or adoption of fuels that reduce the ill effects to the environment. Help families care for their environment with your sustainable gift.

#### **EARTH GIFT BASKET NOURISHES THE ENVIRONMENT**

A hive of bees and seedlings of trees are included in this earth-friendly package. Every Earth Gift Basket gives back by:

- Providing more efficient crop growth through pollination
- Preventing soil erosion and providing fodder for livestock
- Contributing to a better environment with cleaner air

The benefits from the bees in this basket are twofold. The wax and honey they provide can be sold at market for extra income, and their pollination can create more and better fruits and vegetables. As the tree seedlings grow, their roots prevent soil erosion and create shade for animals. Mother Nature would certainly appreciate this thoughtful gift.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of July the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **60lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. YTD **331 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. August's date is the 20th. 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 Minutes for the Consistory Meeting - June 7, 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, Tau Osa and Pastor Erik Graefe.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: \$12,661.35

The minutes were approved by Vern, seconded by Steve

Treasurer: Income of \$9205.00 for the month of May, expenses were \$8811.57

Communication: There were 3 Thank you cards received from Zach Heiman, Molly Schoendaller and the Kansas Livestock Foundation

Pastors Report: Erik asked for a list of parishioners to visit. A covenant was given to Erik for the part-time position of supply minister, 20 hours a week with housing and salary.

Pastor Parrish: This committee will meet quarterly: 3 members of Steve Altwegg, Keith Henry and Deb Heiman.

Old Business: The scholarship was given to Condeleezza Osa and will be presented Sunday 6/11. The basketball goal will be installed around one of the lights in the parking lot.

New Business: Wayne suggested we put the whole minutes in the newsletter. Nikki will be removed from the checking account. Jill will contact Lindsey Snider about an account card with Central National. Jill will be taking her vacation the end of August. Wayne will announce the need for volunteers for the search committee in church. Jill and Janette have already volunteered.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: July 5, 2017 at 7 p.m.

*"O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works."*

*Psalms 105:1-2*



## **Zion News**

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

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

August 6: Food donations for the Food Pantry of Geary County

August 13: Quarter collection for Heifer International

August 20: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

### **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.

The Journey for September will be printed September 1st as I will be on vacation August 21 through the 28th. I will be back in the office August 30th. Also there will be no Good News sent out Aug. 25. If there is news, events or other information that needs to be shared for this time period please get to me by Aug. 18th so that I can get it out ahead of time.  
Thanks Jill.

### **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 August 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.

*"Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth."*

*Psalms 124:8*





## News from K-O Conference

### SYNOD REFLECTIONS: RESISTANT TO CHANGE; ME?

From Edith Guffey,

Conference Minister, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference

If there is one thing I have written about more than anything in eNEWS, it is probably about change. And I am learning a very hard lesson, accepting change is easier said than done. It's easy to write week after week about how our churches need to change and be open to new ideas and new ways of being the church. It's harder when change is smacking you in the face, like it or not! I worked for 20 years in the national setting of the church and from 1995 through 2011, I was the Administrator of the General Synod. I knew the ropes, I could cite a paragraph of the UCC Constitution and Bylaws at the drop of a hat and I knew the General Synod Standing Rules almost by heart. The part of my job in the national offices that I miss the most is planning the General Synod as I loved putting the puzzle together every two years with new people in new places.

So, you can imagine what it was like being at General Synod some six years later. Yes, I was at the 2013 and 2015 Synod, but this past Synod seemed like a huge shift in who the national setting of UCC is, how it operates, etc. I felt like that former pastor who comes back to their much-loved local church to find so much has changed. That often doesn't go well for so many reasons and I am now that former person going back! For me this Synod was huge, for the first time I realized how resistant to change I can be...yes me! I'm all good with including and welcoming new voices, new ways of worship, new ideas, new people, etc. But I find I am a stickler for our covenantal polity and the shared leadership that has been the hallmark of the national setting of the UCC as there were three officers at its inception in 1957. Over the years, I have been a strong voice for a single governing body in the national setting as any organization with five different boards of directors has a very difficult time planning. But I grieve going from a Collegium of Officers to a single CEO model and this model was affirmed at this General Synod. Perhaps I grieve that loss as I know how much and how often having peer officers both encouraged me and served as a part of the accountability I needed. Maybe I grieve it as it was one way multiple voices were heard as part of the leadership of the UCC, and as a woman, a person of color and at the time I served as an officer of the church, a lay person, multiple voices mean more to me than it might mean to others. So, while I can go on and on about how important it is to embrace change, I confess to knowing now in a gut wrenching way, how hard it is to accept changes that shift some fundamental values. There is a sense of loss and grief for what was, for what was good and valued and for many years productive. I found myself out of step with the majority and with key leaders whom I both respect and value. I understand in a way that I haven't before how important it is to leave when you leave. I also know that is not always possible as my role in KO often takes me back to the place and space where I previously served. The quandary for me is how to accept change with grace even change I personally may not agree with; trusting that in some way what is being built and seen by many is the church, a denomination of the future. And in some ways, I am part of the past. Maybe this is the same quandary that many of you and some in our local congregations experience as well. It is hard to let go of the comfortable ways of being church to make room for something new to grow and flourish. I've said that all along, but now I feel it too. I loved many parts and experiences of this Synod, I especially loved introducing new KO delegates to the wider church that is embodied in the General Synod. It was a wonderful experience of the church gathered and you will hear much of that in the reflections that delegates have written for this edition of eNEWS. I still love the UCC, and am grateful for all it has been and is becoming. And I am grateful (I think) for the lessons I continue to learn through the experience of this church; the latest one being about myself and change. If I have ever given you the impression that change is easy or that I didn't get how hard it is for you or your congregation, let me say I'm sorry. I get it; it's hard! But that doesn't mean it isn't necessary.

And I end with my personal prayer, *Please God, help me NOT to be that person who always recalls "how it used to be".*



8/6      Marvel Dalton  
 8/10     Lindsey Snider  
 8/10     Condoleezza Osa  
 8/16     JR Reynolds  
 8/18     Judy Gardner  
 8/21     Linnie Gfeller  
 8/24     Evergreen Osa  
 8/26     Harlan Bitterlin  
 8/29     Cody Bitterlin



8/3      Ray Jr. & Angela Kruse  
 8/22     Carl & Sylvia Ehlers  
 8/25     David & Karla Butler  
 8/28     Kenny & Debby Gfeller

*\*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/zionucccpp>

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!

*"But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim"; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in you heart that God raised him form the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is not distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."*

*Romans 10:"8-15*





# 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Baptism</i> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Retired school personnel breakfast 9 am	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>School Starts</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<i>21</i> Jill out of office	<i>22</i> Jill out of office	<i>23</i> Jill out of office	<i>24</i> Jill out of office	<i>25</i> Jill out of office	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<i>28</i> Jill out of office	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Choir 6:00 pm	<i>31</i>	<i>The Journey</i> prints for Sept	

## *Serving Zion*

	<u><i>Greeters</i></u>	<u><i>Ushers</i></u>	<u><i>Coffee Fellowship</i></u>
<i>August 6</i>	Wayne & Ruth Gfeller	Marvin Hornbostel & Tau Osa	Selesa & Panisia
<i>August 13</i>	Steve & Angie Roesler	Nate Green & Tj Osa	Sally Altwegg
<i>August 20</i>	Steve & Lyn Green	Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman	Ruth Gfeller
<i>August 27</i>	Keith & Jolynn Henry	Alex Lee & Doug Vogelsang	Susanne Altwegg



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