



# THE JOURNEY

## OCTOBER 2017



Dear Zion,

How have those people who've spoken truth to power been received in human history? Our answer to this question need not be a speculative one as we have our Bibles to reference. Jeremiah, Elijah, Amos, Micah, Zechariah, Hanani, Uriah, John the Baptist, and certainly Jesus of Nazareth stand as vivid answers to the above question about those courageous enough to expose hypocrisy and injustice inherent in human systems of power. To hear the prophetic voice makes us uncomfortable at best, and leaves us furious and violent at our worst.

I am heartened by the discussion of race being forced upon our culture by professional athletes. I pray that our discomfort, our capacity to repress those aspects of our history that leave us humiliated upon an honest examination, and our blindness where the other is concerned are not so readily dismissed. In Matthew's telling of Jesus' first sermon, we are alerted to be aware of our anger and to reconcile all that leaves us at odds with others lest we remain in "prison" forever. "Paying the last penny" refers to the truth that nothing, absolutely nothing is to be ignored or repressed in our seeking to be reconciled with God and with one another. This country's DNA contains strands of ethnic cleansing, genocide, racism, and slavery. Absent an honest examination of the wounds that remain from this history, and the truth that much of this DNA continues to guide our present, we will remain in "prison."

To kneel in silence and respect as our country is being celebrated ought not arouse our anger, but challenge us to ask of ourselves and our country the question of whether or not we truly are the land of liberty and justice *for all*. If not, how can we be?

A comparison of professional athletes and the prophetic voices in our Bibles makes me uncomfortable as I've never been able to abide by a conflation of my faith and my country. As people of faith then, let us strive to see beyond flags, songs, and patriotic rituals. Let us pray to see how it would be to live as others live in our communities. Let us dare to pray for a visceral understanding of the experience of the African-American, the immigrant, and others in our communities. Let us dare pray for the courage to heed the prophetic voice of the One we claim to follow.

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

# October Lectionary

<p><b>October 1</b>          Exodus 17:1-7          Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16          Philippians 2:1-13          Matthew 21:23-32  <i>God's Sustaining Presence</i></p>	<p><b>October 8</b>          Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20          Psalms 19          Philippians 3:4-14          Matthew 21:33-46  <i>Wisdom for the Way</i></p>	<p><b>October 15</b>          Exodus 32:1-14          Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23          Philippians 4:1-9          Matthew 22:1-14  <i>Praiseworthy Living</i></p>
<p><b>October 22</b>          Exodus 33:12-23          Psalms 99          1 Thessalonians 1:1-10          Matthew 22:15-22  <i>Living Messages</i></p>	<p><b>October 29</b>          Deuteronomy 34:1-12          Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17          1 Thessalonians 2:1-8          Matthew 22: 34-46  <i>The Compassionate Life</i></p>	

**Attendance**  
**2017 YTD**  
2327  
  
**2016 –2684**

**The Journey**  
**Prints**  
**Oct 27 for**  
**November**

**Questions to Ponder?**

What do you think that God is calling our church to do/become over the next five years?

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

What do you see as our church's most important need?

What are potential areas of growth for this church?

As we move through the search process we have some hard questions to answer and it will take involvement from all members of the church. Watch and listen for more information in the coming weeks.




  
*Lord*  
 I pray  
 to be *Led* to  
 and by you

## Outreach



### Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$40.75 in September. YTD \$553.75

October 8 is Heifer International Sunday.

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

#### **BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS**

Heifer farmer often turn their talents and skills into money-making enterprises. Some entrepreneurs sell good. Others like animal health workers, sell services.

#### **EDUCATION**

For many families, limited resources make it hard to send their children to school. Girls are often denied an education when money is tight. Heifer helps families find a way to educate all of their children.

#### **PASSING ON THE GIFT**

Each time you give, your gift doesn't stop with the recipient. Each family enjoys the dignity of becoming a donor by passing on the gift on one or more of its animals' offspring to a neighbor in need. This chain of life reaches thousands of families, as animals continue to grow and multiply.

### Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of October the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **50 lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 421 lbs of food**

*In 2016 we gathered 719 lbs of food, can we in 2017 increase that amount? We have 3 months left to fill the cart and a long ways to go to match last year.*

**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. Octobers date is the 15th. 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

Aug 2, 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, Steve Green & Pastor Erik Graefe. Deniece Carlson was not in attendance.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting with David Jones in regards to consulting with us on the visioning process to provide the answers to: who we are now, who is our neighbor, who is God calling us to become? Long Range planning, clarifying ones values and mission. Strengths, weaknesses, what it looks like, format and how do we get the input

Minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

Treasurer's report: July Ending Bank Balance of 4,905.25. Income of 11,036.77 expenses for the month of July 6,358.78.

Memorial report: balance of 12,662.83

Financial Secretary's report: Attendance for July was 353. Monthly income of 11,036.77. General Fund YTD income 59,622.76. Budget shortfall of 19,504.74 ytd.

Pastor's Report: Continued going to the Kids Eat Free. Participated in helping with Woh.

Things are going well.

Pastor Parish: no meeting

Formation: no meeting

Old Business: Basketball goal: Vern is trying to catch up with Aaron Jacobsen on getting basketball goal put up. New Business: Air conditioner in Sunday School room needed to be serviced – Doug V. was going to take care of it. Looking to order more t-shirts. Update directory. Vern made motion to move forward with consultant David Jones, Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Sept 6, 2017 at 7pm

*"More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith."*

*Philippians 3:8-9*



**Zion News**

**Women's Fellowship**

Women's Guild met Sept. 8 with eight ladies attending. Leona served a spaghetti dinner with dessert.

Janette presided over the meeting. The minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$807.29 as of Sept. 1.

There were no communications.

Ruth read a devotion, "Listen to God" from the book "Lighten Up & Live" in memory of Beth Miller.

Committee Reports: Outreach, Judy, reported that two children had moved from Every Child's Hope, St. Louis during the summer and we will now sponsor Janny (14) and Samathia (17). Leona gave a little history of Every Child's Hope, formally named Evangelical Children's Home. It was established in 1858 and was occupied with orphans. Lane, Cards, reported sending birthday cards to Zion friends and members

all summer. Special thanks to Denise Carlton for supplying birthday cards for this project.

There was no old business.

New Business: The new program book for 2017-2018 was handed out. Potluck dates were set to be sponsored by the Guild. Oct 29 – Happy Halloween, Feb.11 Valentines and April 29 Unnamed potluck.

Judy H. passed the Fellowship Coffee Hour signup sheet around.

Judy G. will host our next meeting on Oct. 6.

The meeting closed by repeating The Lord's Prayer.

**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:  
October Giving Opportunities**

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

October 1: Food donations for the Food Pantry

October 8: Quarter collection for Heifer International

October 15: "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 News

Time is growing short. The K-O Conference annual is fast approaching. We still are in need of at least 1 delegate to attend in Wichita. The conference starts at 1:30 pm on Friday Oct. 20 and ends Sat. Oct 21 at 4:00 pm. If you are interested please contact a member of Consistory as reservations need to be made by Oct. 5th.



# Spook-tacular Potluck



Come Join the Fun  
October 29, 2017



Be sure to bring your favorite ghoulish dish.

Lawrence Kientz is now at Valley View in assisted care. Visits from members are always welcome.

I do not have a room number for him at this time.

## News from K-O Conference

### BE THE CHURCH: FIGHT FOR THE POWERLESS (OR FIGHT WITH THE MARGINALIZED)

Julia Gaughan Lay Leader, Plymouth Church, Lawrence, KS

Be the church. That's the mandate given by the gospel, captioned in our signage. The UCC describes what it means to be the church by offering us more and specific tasks: reject racism, feed the hungry, love everyone.

This week, I'm writing about what it means to Fight for the Powerless, which can also be read as to Fight with the Marginalized. The text for BE the Church, Fight for the Powerless is from Psalm 82:3-4: *"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

As good Christians, especially good White, Middle to Upper Class, Well-Educated Christians, often we think we know what those in need need. We are quick to offer solutions, fixes, committees. We are uncomfortable waiting around, walking beside someone – we want to DO something. I think this is perhaps why I am drawn to the directive: Fight *with* the Marginalized.

This signals to me that I might not know the answer, but that if I am with someone, if I am for them, if I want to help, then I will look to the person in need, the person without power, the community that has been marginalized, to lead. I will fight for the powerless by passing the microphone, by amplifying the words and the voices of the marginalized. I will give justice, not by defining justice for someone else, but by listening and following their lead so I can understand what justice is for someone that has long been denied justice.

Delivering someone from the hand of the wicked might even mean delivering them from my own hand, tainted and stained with the white supremacy that birthed my culture. Does this mean I wallow in guilt? No. It means I uncover my implicit biases, I open my eyes to our racist systems, and I dismantle – slowly but systematically – the oppressive forces that make others powerless. Fighting for the powerless, fighting with the marginalized – this type of fight does not have to be violent or cruel, but it must be tireless, ongoing, and humble. Only with humility can we see our individual roles within systems that we did not build but which we maintain through complacency and fear. Only with the understanding that this is not a singular, quick fight but ongoing work can we respect the scope and magnitude that fighting for the powerless and with the marginalized requires. As for tirelessness, when our hope and energy come from God, God gives us energy, respite, and co-conspirators so that while individuals might need rest, the community together – the church – can continue this fight, just as we, the church, are called to do. ***So, BE the Church; Fight for the Powerless and Stand with the Marginalized.***

*"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."*

*Psalm 90:14*

## *News from the United Church of Christ*

### **Disaster Ministries prepares pastoral planning mission in Texas, Florida**

September 18, 2017 Written by **Connie Larkman**

A Disaster Ministries team from the United Church of Christ is traveling this week (Sept. 20-26) to parts of the country ravaged by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, to get an up close and personal look at the mission work in which local churches are involved, and to plot long-term recovery plans. It's part of the UCC effort to love stricken communities in Texas and Florida back to life.

The Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss and Zach Wolgemuth are heading to Texas first for four days, and then to Florida in this pastoral/planning mission, to better help church communities be prepared going forward, setting up response networks, and to see what type of ministry work will be needed for [long-term recovery from Hurricane Harvey](#).

"We want to help those in need understand how to access the resources available to them, from the Red Cross, from FEMA," noted Blaufuss, the UCC Global Sharing of Resources Team Leader. "We also want to see how our churches are taking care of the people in their local community."

In Texas, the Disaster Ministries team is well into planning and launching long-term recovery. The UCC is creating a Harvey Disaster Coordinator position in the South Central Conference, to be the point of contact between the church and local organizations. This coordinator will also be collecting and providing details about the need for volunteers.

On Saturday Sept. 23, in Austin, Blaufuss, Wolgemuth and South Central Conference minister the Rev. Don Longbottom will be meeting with representatives of [Impact Experience](#). This national organization builds strategic relationships among investors, foundations, companies and entrepreneurs to help transform marginalized communities.

The Disaster Ministries team then heads to Florida, where on Sunday, Sept. 24, they will be worshipping with a congregation on Marco Island ravaged by [Hurricane Irma](#). Blaufuss and Wolgemuth will be traveling with Conference Minister the Rev. John Vertigan, spending a couple of days visiting local churches and mapping out long-term response.

"We want to be sure to we have a personal presence — a relationship as the United Church of Christ — to help people as they decide how they need to recover," Blaufuss said. "To assist those who may fall through the cracks. We want to walk with them, to build a just world for all."

They will be joined by the Rev. Alan Coe, UCC Florida Conference disaster coordinator. He said that assessments as to what needs to be done in his state have been proceeding slowly, as areas become accessible, and the power returns.

"In time we will figure out how and where we will concentrate our efforts," Coe said. "We may need to pick one area of the state and focus on that and work with our partners in other parts of the state. What we are able to do is determined by funds donated."

The Disaster Ministries team will also be monitoring current recovery work, to see how the gifts to the church's Hurricane Irma appeal can best be used, now and going forward.

For instance, the UCC just sent a solidarity grant to the Miami Shores Community Church. With no power, and under a boil water advisory, the church had been distributing ice, canned food and drinking water to anyone who needed it and using the building's generator to charge cell phones and tablets.

The grant, using money from funds designated for Hurricane Irma recovery, may help the congregation realize plans to offer a hot meal to feed the families in their neighborhood who have not been able to cook.

Blaufuss and Wolgemuth will also confer with Coe on the best timetable for volunteers.

"Volunteers will soon be sent in, on a very limited basis, as part of the early response," Blaufuss said, "and we'll be looking to assign more six to eight months down the road." Housing recovery and rebuilding work will be their primary mission. The UCC is asking those interested in future work in Texas and in Florida to [register to volunteer](#).

Ohio Disaster Coordinator Jim Ditzler has been a long-time volunteer on several recovery missions — from Hurricane Katrina to devastating floods in West Virginia. And while the church isn't calling for boots-on-the-ground help yet to respond to the latest storms in Texas and in Florida, that will be needed for a long time to come.

"Numerous agencies seem to have a timeline on their participation. We don't. The United Church of Christ and other faith organizations, as long as there is a need, we will be there," said Ditzler. "Church to me is being out and helping folks — it makes an impact, to be the person Christ would have us to be."



*Monthly Financial Reports*

**UNITED**  
in Christ's love,  
a **JUST** world for all.



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## 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!

- 10/8 HAROLD & VENICE FACKLAM
- 10/8 RONNIE & LINNIE GFELLER
- 10/18 JACK & JUDY HEINTZ



- 10/6 Russel Altwegg
- 10/9 Deb Heiman
- 10/9 Alex Lee
- 10/12 Jack Heintz
- 10/13 Jill Schmatz
- 10/18 Gally Bitterlin
- 10/29 Kevin Heiman

*\*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.*

*“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you become imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.”*

*1Thessalonians 1:2-10*



# 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>1</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>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Retired school personnel luncheon 11:00am	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Pilot club 5:00 pm	<b>25</b> Choir 6:00 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Spook-tacular Potluck 11:30 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 				

## Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Oct. 1	Mike & Karen Malec	Steve & Nate Green	Ruth Gfeller
Oct 8	Dave & Karla Butler	Denise & Payton Tabb	Janette Vogelsang
Oct. 15	Steve & Angie Roesler	Richard Hobaugh & Alex Lee	Leona Garrison
Oct. 22	Vern & Doris Steffens	Ray Kruse Jr. & Doug Vogelsang	Lane Bitterlin
Oct. 29	Tim & Renee Jury	Tau & TJ Osa	Spook-tacular Potluck



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