



THE JOURNEY

JANUARY 2018



Dear Zion,

When a stucco crew reaches the point in a job when it is time to apply the final coat of finish on a house or commercial building, there is a very specific way it needs to be done. No matter how well a job has gone to this point, a misstep during this stage means disaster for the entire job and the “finished” product. The finish coat, wet as it comes off the tools of a troweler, must be textured before it dries on the wall. Once it dries, that is how it will look forever. Temperature, wind, moisture in the air, etc; all of these factors influence how this process goes, and can lead to difficulties. The difficulties increase exponentially when the finish coat needs to be applied on more than one level of scaffold. Each level must have a troweler (the one who applies the wet finish) and a floater (the one who textures the finish before it dries). As the finish coat is applied across several levels of a building, it becomes critical that the finish applied on one level of scaffold blend seamlessly with both the level above and below. (Next time you are waiting in line at a Taco Bell or Arby’s with more than one level of stucco finish, I’ll bet if you look closely you’ll see a line across the finish coat where the blend was not so seamless. I still can’t help myself from scrutinizing stucco jobs.)

What this all means is that if one is faced with applying stucco finish on a three story house with five levels of scaffolding, that there needs to be *ten* applicators in order to do it right. (5 trowelers, 5 floaters) One summer morning not so long ago I found myself on just such a job with only two other applicators. Staring up at five levels of scaffolding on a three story entryway of a million dollar home was myself, the *Bonecrusher*, and the *Ranger*. In spite of their super-hero like monikers, they did not possess the power to conjure seven more applicators out of thin air.

I turned to the *Ranger* and asked, “Where are we going to find seven more guys to finish this wall?” The *Ranger* was not typically a source of profound wisdom, but his answer on this day surprised *Bonecrusher* and me, and I’ll never forget it.

“You’re asking the wrong question, E.” *Ranger* replied. “The question is, *how are the three of us going to complete this ten man wall?*” The three of us stood in silence for a moment, realizing eventually two things: *Ranger* was right, and we were in for a very difficult morning.

I cannot tell you how many books, lectures, discussions, etc. of which I’ve been a part over the last few years about the declining church. Attendance is down, people don’t value the church anymore, sports on Sundays, scandals, money, millennials, ‘nons’, etc. *How do we get people to attend? How do*

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ZION
United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

January Lectionary

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| January 1 New Year's Day Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6 Matthew 25:31-46 | January 6 <i>Epiphany</i> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 <i>Three Kings Day</i> | January 7 <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> Genesis 1:1-5 Psalms 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11 <i>Defining Moments</i> |
| January 14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51 <i>Known and Loved</i> | January 21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalms 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 <i>Fellow Me</i> | January 28 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalms 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28 <i>Power to Do</i> |

Attendance
2017 YTD
3,586

2016 –3755

The Journey Prints
Jan 26 for
February

we become relevant again? How do we raise more money? How do we compete with other interests? What programs will restore our faith communities? What strategies have worked? What strategies will work?

It could be that we are asking the wrong questions. I can hear *Ranger* in my heart and mind. "You're asking the wrong questions, E. The question is *how do we: just as we are, just as the culture is, just where people are, just how big or small or relevant our faith communities are ...how do we live as the Body of the risen Christ?*" The old stucco man is still right, and we are in for a few difficult mornings, but let's be sure and waste no more time asking the wrong questions. *How are we, Zion, U.C.C. of Junction City, Kansas, going to manifest the risen Christ?*

Love, Erik

Annual Soup/Chili Dinner January 21, 2018

Tickets will be available to sell for the Annual soup/chili dinner.
 There will also be sign up sheets for food prep and to work the day of.

Congregational Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be January 28th after the worship service. The 2018 budget will be voted upon by Zion members and will elect new consistory members to replace the out going members and to fill the 2 vacancies. There will be copies of the 2018 proposed budget available starting Sunday Jan. 7.

Please have your reports to Jill in the office by Jan. 23,

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$67.41 in Dec. YTD \$727.90

In January they will pick what they wish to sponsor, with the funds collected.

January 14th is Heifer International Sunday. This will start 2018

Ghana Childhood Nutrition Project at a Glance

What: Improve childhood nutrition

Where: Upper Manya Krobo district of Eastern Ghana

Who: 230 households

Why: *high rates of childhood and maternal malnutrition *high rates of anemia (74%) and stunting 38%) among children 6-59 months old *48 percent of women of child-bearing age are anemic *poor nutrition contributes to 1/3 of child mortality

How: *Incorporate protein into children's diets by providing chickens and poultry business training *providing seeds and training for home gardens with local dark, leafy greens *nutrition and health training, including how to cook with and incorporate eggs and greens into daily diet

Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of January the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **155 lbs.** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 703 lbs of food**

The goal for 2018 will be to beat the 2017 total of 703 lbs.

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. January's date is the 21st. 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

Minutes for the Consistory Meeting—Nov. 8, 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, Vern Steffens, Deniece Carlson, Jill Schmutz and Pastor Erik Graefe. Guest David Jones

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: \$12,665.06

The minutes were approved by Vern, seconded by Jill.

Treasurer: Income of 47,353.06 for the month of Oct., expenses were \$5251.50

Average attendance is 60

Pastors Report: KO conference made up buckets to give out in the case of a disaster. Could be an outreach project? Mary Halls funeral service, Erik helped out a man that didn't have any place to stay. He got a meal for him and took him to Super 8 for a nights stay.

New Business: David Jones will be back in January. Vern has made a questionnaire for the congregation to be passed out. David will return after they have been gathered. Vern took some of the God Squad to Walmart and shopped for the deployed soldiers in Drew's unit. Lane will be in charge of the Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 17. Rehearsal will be during Sunday school. With the recent violence in churches, Wayne will monitor the front door and make sure the kitchen door is locked. Dec. 17th will be the caroling party. Everyone is welcome to come and sing. We will visit nursing homes, shut in's and end up at Ruth & Wayne Gfeller's for chili.

Outreach: Ruth Gfeller and Deb Heiman purchased clothing for 4 elementary schools, middle and high school. An invoice was presented for \$300. Vern made a motion that the money from outreach endowment fund pay for the clothes. Deniece seconded. Motion carried. There are 2 families in need for food baskets. The congregation will be asked to donate for their needs.

Formation: Sina will be moving, sot the position of choir director needs to be filled.

Old Business: Jill has 14 t-shirts so far. The order needs to be in by Dec. 4.

#GodSquad: The idea was suggested that we get wrappers for quarters with "Zion UCC" logo, fill with quarters to leave at the laundry mats "loads of giving".

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Dec. 6, 2017 at 7 pm.

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

Consistory Seats

The end of the year is fast approaching. We have 2 empty seats and we will have people going off in January. Making 5 seats needing to be filled. Please prayerfully consider stepping up and serving the church.

If you are interested in serving Zion in this way, please contact Wayne Gfeller.



Zion News

Women's Guild

Women's Guild met Dec.2 with ten ladies enjoying Lane's Christmas dinner at noon. The table was festively decorated for Christmas with each lady gifted with a Christmas lighted lantern that Lane had made.

Judy read a devotion "Marine Magic".

Janette presided over the business meeting. The minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$500.29 as of Dec. 1. There were no communications.

Committee reports: Outreach, Judy, reported receiving a thank you note from Jamy and Samatha from Every Child's Hope. Lane reported that she had sent out Thank-giving cards along with birthday cards. Kitchen supplies, Ruth, reported purchasing several items.

Old business: Sally reported the decals had been ordered and would be available after the first of the year.

New business: The Annual Chili/Chicken Noodle dinner will be held on January 20 from 11:00-1:00. Gift cards in the amount of \$25 will be sent to our two children in St. Louis. Ruth visited about the ongoing need of our youth in Junction City. She will contact Marty Rombold to see if she might be able to speak during our worship service for a short time and share the many needs in the local school system where children don't even have a home to go to. It was decided to have a potluck dinner on Feb 11 and have Marty visit us then.

Leona read "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and gave a new meaning to an old familiar song.

The meeting concluded by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

After the meeting the sanctuary was decorated with 24 poinsettias. The congregation shared them in honor or memory of loved ones.

Next meeting January 5th

**Zion at Work in the World:
January Giving Opportunities**

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

January 7: Food donations for the Food Pantry

January 14: Quarter collection for Heifer International

January 21: "Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE

Zion News

Office Hours

Pastor Erik's office hours will be changing here in Nov through High School Basketball season. He will not have set office hours unless needed. He will be available by email at erikgraefe@mac.com or cell phone at 785-280-0852. If you need to speak with him call or text him. If he cannot answer at the moment he will get back with you as soon as possible.

News from the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the UCC

Happy New Year

written by Edith Guffey

It's 2018 and even though it's a "new year" it arrives with baggage; yes already! Some have high expectations that 2018 will be the year that they finally (you fill in the blank)! Or 2018 will be the year that that new and exciting opportunity comes their way. Some are dreading that 2018 is here as it doesn't look as rosy and they had imagined it would. And for some, 2018 will be a year that they mark the first anniversary of a loss and they know that the "first" is often the hardest.

Over the years, I have come to look at the New Year as pretty much just a change in the calendar. I think that's because I have come to realize that each day offers me new possibilities and each day is indeed the opportunity for a fresh start. I confess that I am not always as aware of this as I should be and if I am not careful I can miss the wonder of a new day. So I have not made any "New Year's Resolutions". But I hope that I can slow down and be more mindful of the gift of life, that I can greet each day with a sense of gratitude and wonder; and that I can be more expectant and curious every day about how God will be present in my life and in the world.

I look forward to seeing you all somewhere along the way. Happy New Year...today and every day.

Regional Youth Event, Save the Dates!

June 19-22, 2018

(For those who have completed grades 6 through graduated seniors)

Every four years, there is a National Youth Event and between the years of National Youth Events, Regions of the UCC sponsor a **Regional Youth Event**. The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference is part of the West Central Region of the UCC and **in 2018, the West Central Regional Youth Event will be at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.**

This is a great opportunity for youth to have an experience beyond their local church; reports from youth who attended the last RYE were great; those youth then went to the National Youth Event and also had experiences that are now part of their spiritual development. It's a great opportunity, so let you youth know about the event, mark the calendars, and begin to promote it! Each congregation does not HAVE to have a youth group to participate; this is the perfect opportunity for congregations with two or three youth to join with others and have youth participate. More details will follow in the months ahead. For now, visit the [Regional Youth Event website](#), sign up for more information and keep in the loop!



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

Treasurer's





1/8 Harlan & Lane Bitterlin

1/30 Tau & Sina Osa



1/2 Tau Osa

1/3 Zach Heiman

1/9 Denise Tabb

1/11 Lyn Green

1/29 Josh Gfeller

1/29 Brenda 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.*



UCC taps California minister as 3 Great Loves ambassador

The United Church of Christ, six months into a two-year initiative aimed at bringing all settings of the denomination together in a mission to build a just world where all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent, has brought in a local pastor to help coordinate storytelling around [3 Great Loves \(3GL\)](#).

The 3 Great Loves initiative is the denomination's opportunity as one church to express how Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.

[To Learn more visit www.ucc.org/news](http://www.ucc.org/news)

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 December 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!

“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Acts 19:1-7



2018

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|--|----------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | 1  Office Closed | 2 | 3 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm | 4 | 5 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm | 6 <i>Epiphany</i> |
| 7 <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> <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 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am | 15 | 16 | 17 Choir 6:00 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 <i>Soup/Chili Dinner</i> |
| 21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>"Helper" Sunday for Wheels of HOPE</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am | 22 | 23 | 24 Choir 6:00 pm | 25 | 26 Newsletter prints be sure to have items into the office by the 24th. | 27 |
| 28 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting 11:30 am | 29 | 30 | 31 Choir 6:00 pm | | | |

Serving Zion

| | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Coffee Fellowship</u> |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan 7 | Marvin & Janice Hornbostel | Nate Green & TJ Osa | Ruth Gfeller |
| Jan 14 | Keith & Jolynn Henry | Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman | Valoaga's |
| Jan 21 | Tau & Sina Osa | Ray Kruse Jr. & Marvin Hornbostel | open |
| Jan 28 | Wayne & Ruth Gfeller | Denise & Payton Tabb | open |



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