



THE JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Zion,

For the last two nights, I've let our dog in and out of our back door during the late evening and have been taken aback by the moonlight. The cold couldn't even dissuade me from walking out with her the other night just to look around our yard bathed in the light of the moon. Everything appears just as it does in the light of day except it is all glowing blue. I stood there for a moment, allowing the strangeness of it all as our dog ran around doing whatever it is she needed to do. On Wednesday morning, the moon was eclipsed by the shadow of the earth and I found myself standing in silence while staring at the sky again. People who know call the "strangeness" a lunar eclipse of the "super blue blood moon."

It is no surprise that our ancient brothers and sisters looked to such events for inspiration, naming them as signs of a divine world. Those who named the events, the ones who gave the events meaning in a community often dictated how the "strangeness of it all" would impact their communities. Often times, and this is no surprise either, those who named the events did so as a way to wield power (see Khalil Gibran and the priest LaWiss).

The truth is that the "lunar eclipse of the super blue blood moon," which sounds like a title for a teenage mystery novel, is indeed a sign from God. There is nothing strange about it, however, and it is one of countless signs from God every second of every day. It just happens to be one of the more obvious ones. The *lunar eclipse of the super blue blood moon*, if we allow it, is an opportunity to pull us out of ourselves, our worries, our fears, etc. It links us to one another by demanding we all look at, feel, and breathe in the same glowing blue world. In that moment we are connected, and not only with one another, but with every brother and sister who've lived and been bathed in the same blue light.

Love,
Erik



Zion United Church of Christ

We welcome all people on a lifelong journey of faith
with a still-speaking God.

We are many minds in spiritual beliefs,
but one body in loving service to our community.

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ZION

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

February Lectionary

<p>February 4 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11,20 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 <i>Source of Strength</i></p>	<p>February 11 <i>Transfiguration</i> 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalms 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 <i>Compassionate Community</i></p>	<p>February 14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalms 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21</p>
<p>February 18 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 9:8-17 Psalms 25:10-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 <i>God's Loving Paths</i></p>	<p>February 25 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 17:1-7,15-16 Psalms 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 or 9:2-9 <i>Always Close</i></p>	

**Attendance
2018 YTD**

2017—3586



Valentines Potluck

Feb. 11, 2018
Following the service



Come join us for food, fellowship and fun. All are welcome.

**The Journey Prints
Feb 23 for
March**

Marty Rombold will be our guest speaker Feb 11. She will speak briefly on the needs of some USD 475 children.

**Be sure to get your Zion car decal.
They can be purchase each Sunday.
\$3.00 for one or 2 for \$5.00**

“For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:6

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$48.75 in Dec. YTD \$48.75

February 11th is Heifer International Sunday.

THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

Gift of Goat

The gift of a dairy goat is a lasting, meaningful way for you to help a little girl or boy on the other side of the world while sharing your caring spirit with those closest to your heart.

The gift of a dairy goat can supply a family with up to several quarts of nutritious milk a day.

Extra milk can be sold or used to make cheese or yogurt. Families learn to use goat manure to fertilize gardens.

And because goats often have two or three kids a year, Heifer families can lift themselves out of poverty by starting small dairies that earn money for food, health care and education.

Gift of a Goat: \$120

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



2017 Wheels of Hope Helper Meals:

The total donation of monthly Helper Meals for Wheels of Hope in 2017 was 150 pounds. This will not be continued in 2018.

Consistory Highlights

Minutes for the Consistory Meeting—Dec 13, 2017

The regular monthly meeting for the Consistory was called to order by President Wayne Gfeller at 7:00 p.m. Members present :Wayne Gfeller, Vern Steffens, Steve Green, Tau Osa, Deniece Carlson and Pastor Erik Graffe.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund:

The balance is 12,670.79 as of Nov. 30 2017.

Secretary:

The minutes were approved after a correction of Christmas baskets for 2 families, which outreach will provide groceries for them. Steve moved for approval and Vern seconded.

Treasurer:

Total income for Nov. 6635.03. Expenses were 7524.46. Average attendance for Nov. was 74.

Pastors Report:

Visitations are done Sunday mornings before Church services.

New Business:

Budget meeting will be Jan 3 with the regular Consistory meeting.

Soup and Chili fund raiser will be Jan. 20.

Annual meeting Jan 21 or 28.

Steve and Deniece will be going off Consistory in Jan 2018.

Old Business:

A profile questionnaire will be printed and distributed to the congregation in Jan. 2018.

A gift card will be given to Anson for mowing the lawn this summer.

One of the refrigerators is not working, it will need to be replaced before the soup and chili fund raiser.

Steve moved a new one be purchased, Vern seconded, motion carried.

KVK from Hope repaired the floor heat and repaired the furnace in the library. It was suggested we have them do a yearly service on the heat/air units each spring.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting : Jan 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Deniece Carlson, Secretary

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

"Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. "

Psalm 25:4-5



Zion News

Women's Guild

Women's Guild met on Jan. 5 with eight ladies attending along with Wayne and Doug. Lunch was prepared by Ruth.

Judy read two poems written by her mother, Ruth Schultz. They were entitled "Wealth" and "New Year".

The secretary's minutes were read and approved after one correction. Treasure, Lane, reported a balance of \$501.54.

Communications: A letter from Emmaus Home was read along with thank you notes from Samatha and Jamie at Every Child's Hope.

Cards: Lane reported "On it" and ask if anyone else would like to take over this responsibility. The response was dead silence!

Kitchen supplies: Ruth reported purchasing many cleaning supplies.

The coffee fellowship signup sheet was passed around.

There was no old business.

New Business: The church decals were passed around and the price of one decal will be \$3 and two for \$5. Special thanks to Kasey & Lacey Fielder for funding this outreach project. It was moved and seconded to give them a \$50 gift certificate to Coach's. Plans for the upcoming chili and soup dinner were discussed with many taking on responsibilities for this event.

Ruth announced that Marty Rombold will speak of the desperate needs of some USD 475 children for a few minutes during the worship hour on Feb. 11. A potluck dinner will follow the service. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Thank you to all who donated to the hat and mitten tree this year! 32 gloves and 23 hats were collected. Three elementary schools in JC will benefit from them.

The meeting concluded by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

With the extreme cold weather forecast for Sunday, Wayne, Doug, Lane, Janette, and Ruth took down all the Christmas decorations and they were packed away for next year.

Zion at Work in the World: February Giving Opportunities

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

February 4: Food donations for the Food Pantry

February 11: Quarter collection for Heifer International

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

Flint Hills Community Gospel Sing - Feb. 17-18, 2018

**An invitation from First Congregational UCC in Manhattan, KS:
Flint Hills Community Gospel Sing
Feb. 17-18, 2018**

Even if you've never sung Gospel music before, and even if you don't sing in a choir, you can experience the joy of learning and performing music in this cherished American tradition. You don't have to read music either with call-and-response style direction. And if you do read music and you think you depend on a score, well, this will be a different musical experience.

The Flint Hills Community Gospel Sing was established in 2018 as an effort to bring singers of all backgrounds together.

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

Date	Att.	Giving
Dec 3	73	\$ 1225.00
Dec 10	68	\$ 3697.00
Dec 17	108	\$ 7913.00
Dec 24	100	\$ 2604.00
Dec 31	37	\$ 1535.00
Online		\$ 1,500.000
Total	296	\$ 18,474.00





2/24 Doug & Jangtze Vogelsang

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!



- 2/1 Orella Gfeller
- 2/7 Payton Tabb
- 2/9 Angie Roesler
- 2/9 Cade Snider
- 2/10 Venice Facklam
- 2/12 Paige Altwegg
- 2/15 Patty Maycroft
- 2/24 Jessie Heiman
- 2/26 Steve 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.*



“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to god. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing , and yet possessing everything.”

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

February

2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	3
4 <i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</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	5	6	7 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	8	9	10
11 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Potluck 11:30 am	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Choir 6:00 pm 	15	16	17
18 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	19	20	21 Choir 6:00 pm	22	23 Newsletter prints be sure to have items into the office by the 21st	24
25 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting 11:30 am	26	27	28 Choir 6:00 pm			

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Feb 4	Vern & Doris Steffens	Nate Green & Jack Graefe	Greens
Feb 11	Tau & Sina Osa	Caleb Snider & Steve Altwegg	Potluck
Feb 18	Mike & Karen Malec	Vern Steffens & Steve Green	Lane Bitterlin
Feb 25	Selesa & Panisia	Scott & Tammy Altwegg	Osa Family



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