

THE JOURNEY

JANUARY 2019



Dear Zion,

“Everyone likes a party, but no one wants to clean.” This is a line from one of the songs written by the American blues artist, Keb Mo. The sentiment likely feels familiar to many of us as we enter the days following our Christmas celebrations. Lights need to be taken down, presents need to be put away or returned, ornaments need to be placed back in their boxes, and the list seems to continue with no end in sight. While putting our lives back in order after the holiday can feel tedious and a bit of a let down, it can be an opportunity to reflect. Tasks that are repetitive, tedious, and familiar can offer space for re-imagining our lives in light of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. We can’t just immediately return to our lives as they were before we put our Christmas tree and lights up any more than we can immediately return to our lives as they were before we heard THE story. Coming to terms with God stepping into human history in the form of a vulnerable child requires a life time, and often we are called to “do some cleaning.” By “cleaning,” I mean letting go of old ways of seeing and doing. Let’s embrace the days after our celebration as another gift. Each light, ornament, and decoration we put away points to an opportunity to drink in more fully, to see more clearly God’s gift to humanity.

Love Erik

Inside this issue:

<i>Lectionary</i>	2
<i>Outreach Happenings</i>	3
<i>Consistory Highlights</i>	4
<i>Zion Happening</i>	4
<i>K-O New & UCC News</i>	5-6
<i>Financials</i>	7
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9

WELCOME

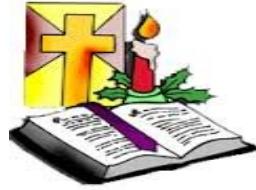
We welcome all people on a lifelong journey of faith with a still-speaking God.
We are many minds in spiritual beliefs, but one body in loving service to our community.



ZION
United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

January Lectionary

January 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalms 8 Revelations 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>Where is the child?</i>	January 13 <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalms 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 <i>Affirmed by Love</i>
January 20 <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalms 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 <i>Extravagant Sign</i>	January 27 <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i> Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalms 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21 <i>Good News, Good Ways</i>	

*The Journey
Prints
Jan. 25*



Consistory Seats
The end of the year is fast approaching. We will have empty positions to fill as we have people going off in January. Please prayerfully consider stepping up and serving the church. If you are interested in serving Zion in this way, please contact Wayne Gfeller.

Women's Fellowship

December 4, 2018

Women's Guild met at noon in Fellowship Hall on Dec. 4 with nine in attendance. Janette thanked Lane for hosting a very delicious luncheon.

Judy Gardner read a devotion, "Baking Up Christmas" using cookie cutters as a visual.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$829.00 as of December 1.

Communications: A letter of appreciation for our continued support to the Emmaus Home.

Committee Reports: Fellowship Coffee- the Guild will serve cookies on December 16.

Old Business: Discussion of a money maker for all the Guild projects that we sponsor throughout the year. Plans are to serve a dinner to our congregation following worship with a free will offering on February 10 with special entertainment. More information will follow.

New Business: It was voted to buy \$35 Christmas gift cards for our adopted children at Every Child's Hope.

Announcements: 145 pounds of non perishable goods were collected for the local food pantry. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 4 with Ruth hosting.

The meeting concluded by repeating The Lord's Prayer.

Ruth Gfeller, secretary



Annual Meeting
January 27, 2019
following worship service.

Outreach



Heifer International

The second Sunday of the month we collect quarters for Heifer International. The Children of Zion collected \$53.99 in December YTD \$845.34

December 11th is Heifer International Sunday.

THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

Help Transform the World!

Your gifts of Transformation helps farmers flourish around the world. Thanks to generous donors like you, one gift multiplies into many for an entire community. Your donation gives farmers resources to get started and stay successful by: teaching them to farm more efficiently, helping farmers find markets for a steady source of income, & connecting them to other farmers for support.

You can help give hard-working, small-scale farmers the network of support they need, which will provide them with the skills to thrive and grow. In turn, they will Pass on the Gift to their neighbors and together they will lift themselves out of poverty. You will give an entire community the chance to rise up and thrive! This will change lives and help end hunger throughout the world.

Gift of Transformation: \$10,000 Share of Transformation: \$100

Fill the Hunger Cart

On the first Sunday of December the Hunger Grocery cart was filled with **140 lbs** of food for the Food Pantry. **YTD 1,676 lbs of food**



Why to go Zion! We set a record for us. Lets keep up the good work in 2019!

Please add a few items to your weekly shopping list. cereals, canned goods, macaroni and cheese, canned meat.

Remember the cart is always available to deposit your items.

- 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 6: Food donations for the Food Pantry
 - January 13: Quarter collection for Heifer International

Consistory Highlights

Consistory Minutes- Nov 7, 2018

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Wayne Gfeller at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Wayne Gfeller, Vern Steffens, Jill Schmutz, Lyn Green, Deniece Carlson, Keith Henry, Pastor Erik Graefe. Tau and Ray were unable to attend.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: The balance is \$17,102.82. Purchased new Christmas tree @ \$449.99.

Secretary: Minutes were approved by Keith and seconded by Vern.

Communication: A Thank you from the United Church board for Ministerial Assistance for supporting the Christmas fund of 2017. Giving total of \$805.00.

Treasurer: Oct income was \$7332.90, expenses were \$8049.62

Pastor Report: Visited Orella Gfeller in the Leonardville nursing home. Discussed the Open door donations with other churches. Delivered the disaster relief clean-up buckets to the annual meeting.

New members class 11/18/18. Text line communication working well. Funeral for Inga Stillwagon.

Financial Secretary: not available

Formation: A 12 ft Christmas Tree was purchased for the foyer. Two-three families are in need of food for Thanksgiving, and 3 for Christmas. A total of \$150.00 per family. Dec 8 will be a lock in for the senior high Sunday school class. Vern will announce it to the congregation and ask for snack donations and a chaperone. Keith moved the funds for the families and money for pizza for the lock in be taken out of the memorial funds. Jill seconded. Motion carried.

Old business: Erik's health insurance will be added to the call agreement.

New Business: Will have a budget meeting 11/14 at 7p.m. Outreach will purchase gift cards for those in need. 4 security cameras will be installed next week, a price of \$4000.00. Vern moved to approve the purchase from the memorial fund, Keith seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting Dec. 5, 2018

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Deniece Carlson, Secretary

Happenings at Zion

Make sure you are in the know. Check out the Zion Website <https://zionuccjc.org/calendar/> for the monthly calendar as to what is happening. If you have something for the calendar please let the office know as soon as possible so that it can be listed. Email is the easiest: zion uccjc@yahoo.com. There will be additional people that will have access to the calendar to add events also here in the near future and it will be announced.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is all the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1Corinthians 12:4-7

News from K-O Conference

Advent Reflections: Love

Written by Rev. Eleanor McCormick,
Plymouth Congregational UCC, Lawrence, KS

Advent means waiting and during this special season while we wait, KO pastors share their reflections on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Next Sunday, the Advent theme will be LOVE and to begin to prepare us, we welcome the reflections of Rev. Eleanor McCormick. This will be Eleanor's last Advent at Plymouth as she will move to Germany with her husband Stefan. Eleanor will continue her relationship with KO as her standing will remain here as she assumes a position with our partners, the Church of Baden.

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...." (1Thessalonians 3:12)

Advent is a journey.

Advent takes time.

Advent is about waiting

And so is love.

Love is a journey.

Love takes time.

Love is often about waiting.

Over these last few years I have fallen in love with the people of Plymouth Church in Lawrence and in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. The possibility of this love took me on a journey half way across the country. The reality of this love has kept me in Kansas for four and a half years and leaves me heartbroken to say goodbye.

As I prepare to move internationally and to take a new call in the Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden, Germany, I realize that those moments spent at the baptismal font, those minutes spent in the pulpit, those hours spent waiting at bedsides, those weeks spent in service on the Cheyenne River Reservation taught me how to love and how to receive love.

Perhaps we are given time fall to in love. Four Sundays of Advent, not one. For some of us it will be time to fall in love with God for the first time. For others, the time at Advent will help us – if we choose to embrace it – to fall in love with God again. No matter who we are or where we are on life's journey – we are on a journey and that journey of love takes time, often requires waiting, and ultimately leads us to a place where we are loved and known. In this season of Advent the scriptures revive old stories and bring new understandings, but the message is ultimately the same – when God's people walk towards love, invest in love, wait for love – love always wins and Jesus always comes to be Emmanuel God with us.

Even if you are not preparing for a literal journey this Advent – my prayer is that we may all hear St. Paul urging us as he urged the people of Thessalonica to love. My Advent has become more meaningful as I make intentional efforts to 'abound in love for one another and for all,' and I hope yours will too.

Call to General Synod 32 — Join us in Milwaukee!

December 18, 2018

I am officially calling all delegates, visitors, and friends of the United Church of Christ to join us in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 32nd General Synod, June 21-25, 2019!

The 32nd General Synod promises to be an inspiring and engaging event in the life of the Church. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Matthew Desmond, professor of Sociology at Princeton University and Pulitzer Prize winner for the book, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City."

We have inspiring preachers for the worship services. During Friday's Opening Worship Service, The Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša; Sunday's Community Worship Service, The Rev. Traci deVen Blackmon; Monday's Worship Service, The Rev. Sharon Mei-Shem MacArthur and for the Closing Worship Service, The Rev. Dr. Amy Butler.

We will also celebrate the ministries of retiring Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries, The Rev. Dr. Jim Moos and Mr. Don Hart, President and Chief Investment Officer, United Church Funds.

We will re-elect the General Minister and President and elect a new Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations, Co-executive of Global Ministries.

I invite you to bring a spirit of love, of compassion, of openness and of hope with you. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee! Until then, let the light of the living Christ shine in and through you, and be known to all whom you meet along the way.

**John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President**



Financial Reminders

In order to "close the books" and make a timely Annual Report, final deposits for 2018 will include monies up to and including the offering plate Sunday, Dec 30. Monies received after that time will be welcomed and included in the 2019 reports.

The end of year is fast approaching, and the financial records will close on Dec 31. If you have receipts for budgeted or approved expenses, and you'd like to be reimbursed, please have your receipts to the office as soon as possible - no later than Dec. 28. Thanks for your help.

-Jill Schmutz, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

2018 Gen. Budget	
Needed Weekly	
Needed YTD	
Gen. Fund YTD	
Budget Balance/(shortfall)	

Date	Att.	Giving
Nov 4	70	
Nov 11	69	
Nov 18	71	
Nov 25	cxld	
Online		
Total	210	

	July	Cum. YTD
Rent		
BOB		
Building		
Total Specials		
Dillons rebates		



Treasurer's

Nov. Bank Balance

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
10/31/18	11/30/18

Nov. 2018 Profit & Loss

Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund

S.F.

Online Deposits

Total Income

EXPENSES

Bank Service Charge

Benevolence

Groups & Orgs

Repairs & Maint.

Misc.

Payroll Exp.

All Supplies

Utilities

Total Expenses

NET INCOME

PMM	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Interest 11/9/18			

Memorial	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
11/30/18			

Heifer Int.	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
11/30/18			

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!

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 Brenda Gfeller

1/30 Josh Gfeller

"As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*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.

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	3	4 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	5
6 <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	7	8	9 Choir 6:00 pm	10	11	12
13 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Christmas Program 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	14	15	16 Choir 6:00 pm	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	21	22 Pilot Club 5 pm	23 Choir 6:00 pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting after worship Fellowship 11:30 am	28	29	30 Choir 6:00 pm	31		

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Jan 6	Marvin & Janice Hornbostel	Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman	Open
Jan 13	Keith Henry	Nate Green & TJ Osa	Open
Jan 20	Wayne & Ruth Gfeller	Denise & Payton Tabb	Open
Jan 27	Tau & Sina Osa	Ray Kruse Jr. & Marvin Hornbostel	Open



Zion UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A faith journey for all.

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441-8846
785-238-5732

Join us on
Facebook



«AddressBlock»