

THE JOURNEY

February 2019



Dear Zion,

Here is an example of the kind of passage we read together before meditation on Saturday mornings. This is a selection from Father Richard Rohr of The Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico:

Centering Prayer is based on the wisdom saying of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:6): "If you want to pray, enter your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Notice that "Father" refers to a personal relationship, whether you call it father, mother, brother, soul-friend, spouse or anything else.

The first step in Centering Prayer is to enter your inner room, which is symbolized by the heart in most traditions; that is, your innermost self beyond the senses and beyond thinking. . . .

Second, "close the door," symbolizing your intention of letting go of all thoughts, preoccupations, memories and plans during this time. As soon as you are overtaken by thoughts, which is inevitable in the beginning, return to your original intention to let go of all thinking. You can do this in a very simple and extremely gently way, like saying a sacred word briefly, noticing your breath, or turning to God with a brief glance of faith in His presence.

Finally, you pray in secret to the Father who speaks to you beyond words and who invites you to ever deeper silence. . . .

The steps I have just mentioned are guidelines. Instead of using a word or noticing your breath, you can also use a sacred image to return to. These symbols do not establish you in interior silence; they simply reaffirm your original intention to be in God's presence and to be open to the divine action. . . . The fruit of this prayer is not something you produce. You simply reduce the obstacles by providing an interior environment in which the Spirit can speak without words in the inmost depths of your being.

As you practice Centering Prayer, you begin to experience the value of inner silence, which reveals the true self. The presence of God can also be experienced through the love of nature, deep friendship, conjugal love, generous service of others, or the discoveries of genuine science. There are many roads leading to the awakening of the original endowment that God has given every human being, of which the gift of contemplation is one. Contemplation . . . is a gift that has already been given. You have got it! What you have to do is to allow it to awaken within you.

Meditations like this one from Father Rohr prepare us for the silence.

Love,

Erik

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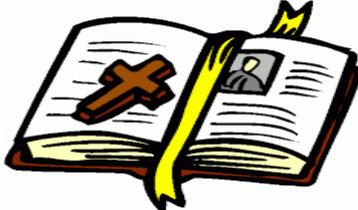
We welcome all people on a lifelong journey of faith with a still-speaking God. We are many minds in spiritual beliefs, but one body in loving service to our community.

ZION
United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am.
zionuccj@yahoo.com

January Lectionary

<p>February 3 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalms 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30 <i>Prophet on the Edge</i></p>	<p>February 10 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) Psalms 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11 <i>A Surprising Catch</i></p>	<p>February 17 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalms 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26 <i>Surprising Teaching</i></p>
<p>February 24 <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38 <i>Love Your Enemies</i></p>		

**The Journey
 Prints
 Feb. 20**

<p>Attendance 2019 YTD 262 2018—267</p>
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*“Be to me a rock of
 refuge, a strong
 fortress, to save me,
 for you are my rock
 and my fortress,”*

Psalm 71:3

Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Guild met at noon in Fellowship Hall on Jan. 4 with nine in attendance. Ruth hosted the luncheon.

Judy read a poem written by her mother, Ruth Schultz, “The New Year”.
 Janette, president, called the meeting to order.

The secretary’s minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$822.00 as of Jan. 1.

Communications: An invitation from the Emmaus Home celebrating their 125 year was read.

Committee Reports: Outreach, Judy, reported receiving a thank you note for the \$30 gift cards to Will and Gary. We have recently been assigned to a new child, Souljier.

Cards: Gerry presented a bill for postage and cards.

Kitchen Supplies: Ruth will purchase needed items for the kitchen.

Fellowship Coffee: Several weeks were signed up for serving coffee hour.

Old Business: Final plans were completed for the All Church Dinner to be served on Feb. 10 immediately following the worship service to the entire congregation. This is a new project to replace the chili-soup dinner. A free will offering will be ask to assist funding all the service projects that the Guild sponsors all year long. Live entertainment will complete the dinner!! Everyone is encouraged to stay, have dinner, fun, and support this new project! Lane will make posters showing the projects that are supported with a goal to clear \$1600.

New Business: Leona announced that we have one new family that we will assist with Walmart gift cards.

Announcements: The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 27. Remember to bring food for the food pantry on Jan. 6. Our next meeting will be held on Feb. 8 with Judy Heintz hosting. Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, due to a conflict with Fellowship Hall. A total of 4 sets of hat and mittens, 41 gloves, 14 hats and 31 chap sticks were collected from the Hat and Mitten Tree. Many children in USD 475 will appreciate these items this winter!

The meeting closed by repeating The Lord’s Prayer.

Consistory Highlights

Consistory Minutes– Dec 5, 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, Ray Kruse and Pastor Erik Graefe. Tau Osa was unable to attend.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund:

The balance is \$13,106.42 Purchased security cameras outside for \$4000.00.

Secretary:

Minutes were approved by Keith and seconded by Jill.

Communication:

A request from KS/OK UCC conference for an increase in giving OCWM.

No action was taken.

Treasurer:

Nov. income was \$55430, expenses were \$5551.60

Pastor Report:

Enjoying the Children's practice for the Christmas program on Sunday mornings.

There has been 10-11 people attending the Sat morning meditation.

Denise Tabb, Cleo, Condi, Vern and Erik will be with the youth group Sat night, Dec 8 to chaperone the lock up.

Financial Secretary: approved as read. average attendance: 70

Formation: N/A

Old business: The security cameras are installed. They have a 30 day loop for backup.

Jill presented the budget, Wayne moved to approve as presented, Keith seconded. It will be available for the congregation before the annual congregational meeting on Jan 27. A second sheet with the 2016 budget will be printed also, with the information with a full time pastor.

Deniece will contact Nicki at the Open door to schedule a visit on Sunday, Jan 13.

New Business: Wayne checked into getting the boiler repaired for the floor heat in the sanctuary. The repair will be \$3500.00 - \$4000.00. Parts are very hard to get with the age of the unit. A replacement costs is about \$8000.00. Keith moved to replace the unit, cost not exceeding \$8000.00, Vern seconded.

Motion carried.

Jill and Wayne will go off consistory in 2019. Deniece will remain on through 2019.

Next meeting Jan 2, 2019

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: zionuccjc@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.



News from K-O Conference

Forging Unexpected Partnership to Feed Hungry Teens

by the [Rev. Rachael Pryor](#)

KO Conference Coordinator for [3 Great Loves](#)

With Vernita Peeks and Pastor Julie Shields of Evangelical United Church of Christ in Marysville, Kansas

Setting up a ministry to feed hungry teens seems like a straightforward way to help out in almost any community, right? But for [Evangelical United Church of Christ in Marysville, Kansas](#), building a successful program for sharing this #loveofchildren was a surprisingly long and winding journey.

It began when church member Vernita Peeks and Pastor Julie Shields realized they shared a goal in common. Pastor Shields was hoping to apply for a “[Be the Church](#)” grant through our Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, but hadn’t narrowed it down to a specific project. Ms. Peeks had recently returned to EUCC, driven in part by a desire to belong to a congregation that wanted to do more to serve people in need. She had an idea from a previous church, to focus on the middle- and high-school-aged youth who are often left out of weekend food programs designed for elementary school children.

When Ms. Peeks and Pastor Shields came together, the dream of “Power-Up Saturdays” was born: a weekend brunch, served at a convenient place and time for teens, to make sure they’d get at least one hearty meal over the weekend (when free school meals aren’t on offer). After receiving the Be the Church grant, they set out to meet with local school officials and get the project rolling.

What they hadn’t counted on was the school district’s very different perspective on this issue. While everyone agreed that it was important to help hungry teens, some of the school staff were honest about how unlikely it was that students would feel comfortable showing up at a church, even for free food. And there were multiple layers of confidentiality issues to worry about, strictest at the high school level, and partly due to the school’s complicated history with these issues. EUCC and the Marysville school were in a conundrum: how to serve teens in need, in a way that would really reach them, without breaching sensitive boundaries? A project that had seemed like a sure thing began to falter.

But Ms. Peeks was determined to find a way. She continued diligently in working to build relationships with school staff, relying on that network of connections that thrives in small town and rural communities. After meeting and brainstorming with several other church members, a plan was formed to approach local food service businesses, looking for a way to feed teens that would be more approachable than a church meal. And through this unanticipated struggle, a fruitful partnership arose from an unexpected source: a local gas and service station company called [Kramer Oil](#) immediately supported the idea of this ministry, and agreed to provide half of the costs to set teens up with food coupons.

After months and months of hard work, the idea is finally beginning to take shape. Every two weeks, the school is provided with a set number of coupons for \$6 at Kramer Oil. They’re handed out during a certain class period, and while the original approach was to support the same kids who get free school lunches, the project has evolved. Now, teachers hand out the coupons using their own discretion, and they include teens whose parents haven’t taken steps to sign up for free lunches, but who could still benefit from a free weekend meal.

Ms. Peeks makes the coupons herself — a mini-project in its own right that took a bit of time to perfect. At first, the actual use of the coupons has been low, but as it begins to take off, the school has grown in a supportive and encouraging attitude. Teachers and administrators expect the ministry to blossom in the coming semester. That means it’s already time to start looking ahead: to build an even stronger relationship with a new school staff member brought in through a grant to work on community partnerships; and also to broaden this project into a wider network that won’t depend solely on EUCC and Kramer Oil for financial support.

It can be discouraging when our enthusiasm for ministry isn’t met with the approval and welcome we expected. Evangelical UCC has demonstrated the importance of keeping our true goal in perspective: not just to meet our own desire to serve others, but to truly persist in finding the best approach not for us, but for those whom we wish to serve. Creativity, flexibility, and determination won out in EUCC’s desire to share God’s love with their neighbors. As an added blessing, they’ve built a new local partnership along the way. #loveofneighbor #loveofchildren #3GreatLoves

A Pastoral Letter: That They May All Be One

January 28, 2019

Written by **John Dorhauer**

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united –in purpose, in mission, in vision – is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like ‘terrorist’ that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ’s call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God’s service,



The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President



If you would like to receive the weekly Keeping You Posted emails sign up here http://www.ucc.org/keeping_you_posted

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you, A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Luke 6:37-38

Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

2018 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall)

Date	Att.	Giving
Dec 2	71	
Dec 9	85	
Dec 16	105	
Dec 23	65	
Dec 24	107	
Dec 30	52	
Online		
Total	485	

	July	Cum. YTD
Rent		
BOB		
Building		
Total Specials		
Dillons rebates		

<u>PMM</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Interest			



Treasurer's

Dec. Bank Balance

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
11/30/18		12/31/18

Dec. 2018 Profit & Loss

Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund

S.F.

Online Deposits

Total Income

EXPENSES

Adv. & Promotion

Bank Service Charge

Benevolence

Conference & Meetings

Insurance

McFarland Assessment

Pastor Travel

Repairs & Maint.

Payroll Exp.

All Supplies

Utilities

Deposit correction

Total Expenses

NET INCOME

<u>Heifer Int.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
12/31/18			

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
12/31/18			

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!

2/24 Doug & Janette Vogelsang



- 2/7 Payton Tabb
- 2/9 Angie Roesler
- 2/9 Cade Snider
- 2/10 Venice Facklam
- 2/12 Paige Altwegg
- 2/15 Patty Maycroft
- 2/19 Erik Graefe
- 2/20 Jordan Gunn
- 2/24 Jessie Heiman
- 2/26 Steve Altwegg

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; Love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth,. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**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.*

FEBRUARY

2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2 Happy Groundhog Day! 
3 Celebration of Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	4	5	6 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	7	8 Women's Fellowship 12:00 pm	9
10 Heifer International Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Christmas Program 10:30 am Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser 11:30am	11	12	13 Choir 6:00 pm	14 Happy Valentines Day 	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	18 	19	20 Choir 6:00 pm	21	22 Jill Out of Office	23
24 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	25	26 Pilot Club 5 pm	27 Choir 6:00 pm	28		

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Feb. 3	Vern & Doris Steffens	Caleb Snider & Kasey Fielder	Lyn Green
Feb. 10	Gary & Jill Schmutz	Nate Green & Jack Graefe	Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser
Feb. 17	Mike & Karen Malec	Vern Steffens & Steve Green	Hillery Martin
Feb. 24	Selesa & Panisia Valoaga	Jed Gunn & Scott Altwegg	Lane Bitterlin



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