



THE JOURNEY

March 2019



Dear Zion,

If I've not shared this sentiment from Richard Rohr from the pulpit yet, I should have. Rohr writes, "God does not love you if and when you change. God loves you so that you can change!" The notion that each and every one of us needs to experience God's presence and to know viscerally of God's love and acceptance of all creation is nothing radical or even arguable to people of faith. What is arguable, apparently, is just who and what needs to change before they might experience God's presence with *us*. Can you imagine the arrogance, the utter misguidedness of a people convinced that they can dictate the terms and conditions of God's love for creation? We are all called to change, to transform our lives and we all are in need of an awareness of God's love in order for this transformation to occur. All of us. It seems a community or fellowship of loving brothers and sisters might help. A church, perhaps.

Please take a moment to pray for our Methodist brothers and sisters in the coming days. Perhaps their recent vote to tighten their ban on gay marriage and LGBTQ clergy makes sense to you. Perhaps it enrages you. Perhaps the whole episode saddens you. In any case, people have been wounded, and fellowships are going to fracture.

I believe that when we are changed as a result of God's love, we will be guided less by votes, proclamations, and rules and guided more by the Risen Christ. I'm not sure how much votes, proclamations, and rules matter anymore in light of how many of our brothers and sisters are alone, cold, hungry, alienated from themselves and one another. Votes, proclamations, and rules sound only like arrogance and misguidedness to a hurting world. God loves us so we can change.

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
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

January Lectionary

March 3 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> Exodus 34:29-35 Psalms 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43) <i>Living in Glory</i>	March 6 <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	March 10 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13 <i>A Place of Justice and Grace</i>
March 17 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalms 127 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 <i>Journey toward Trust</i>	March 24 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalms 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9 <i>Fed by the Glory</i>	March 31 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38 <i>A Traitor for Grace</i>



The Journey Prints March 29

Attendance 2019 YTD 494 2018—514

Women's Fellowship

February 8, 2019

Women's Guild met at noon in Fellowship Hall on February 8. Judy Heintz served a delicious meal to the ten ladies that were in attendance.

Janette, president, called the meeting to order. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$614.63.

Communications: A nice note was received from Venice. They stay busy in their new home but we sure miss them at Zion!

There were no committee reports.

Old Business: Final plans were made for the lasagna dinner. Lane and Janette bought supplies from Sam's before the meeting that morning. Special thanks to Debby Gfeller for cooking all the hamburger and to Judy Heintz and Debby for donating the hamburger.

It was announced that 170 pounds of food had been collected for the food pantry. Thank you Zion congregation!

The next meeting will be held on March 6 with Janette hosting in Fellowship Hall.

The meeting concluded by repeating The Lord's Prayer.

The afternoon was spent preparing food and decoration Fellowship Hall for the dinner.

"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2019
WILL BEGIN AT 2:00 AM ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 10
Move Your Clocks An Hour Faster

Consistory Highlights

Consistory Minutes- Jan 2, 2019

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, Tau Osa and Pastor Erik Graefe. Ray Kruse was unable to attend.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund: The balance is \$12,514.96. Expenses \$594.14 purchased food for Thanksgiving and Christmas for several families.

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

Communication: Camp White sent a schedule for the year and a donation form. A seminar is available in KC on Church safety. Hannah Reynolds sent a thank you note, it is posted on the bulletin board.

Treasurer: Dec. income was \$14,085.14, expenses were \$10,163.71 average attendance: 81

Pastor Report: Continuing to visit Valley View. Meditation class meets the 1st and 4th Sat of each month. Will meet with the music committee in the near future.

Financial Secretary: approved as read.

Formation: N/A

Old business:

Wayne and Keith will get in touch with KVK to replace the boiler unit for the floor heating system in the sanctuary.

Keith contacted the city concerning the sewer tax assessment, it is not eligible for exemption, however the sales tax on the water bill will be removed.

New consistory members Denise Tabb and Richard Hobaugh will replace Wayne Gfeller and Jill Schmutz.

All reports for the annual meeting on Jan 27, will need to be turned into Jill by Jan 21, 2019.

New Business:

Lifetouch sent information for a new directory with a mobile directory. Jill will get more information.

Next meeting Feb. 6, 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

GENERAL SYNOD PLANS



The Thirty-second General Synod will convene in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 21 2019 and will adjourn following worship on Tuesday evening June 25th. The General Synod theme this year is Shine, “Let Your Light Shine Before Others” and as usual, Synod will include a mix of business, worship, education and numerous opportunities for and learning about the life and ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Each Conference has a number of voting delegates based on the number of members in the Conference as reflected in the latest UCC Yearbook. KO Will has six voting delegates and like every Conference, the Chair or Vice Chair of the governing board is an Associate Delegate as is the Conference Minister; Associate Delegates have a voice, but no vote. KO will also send three Members in Discernment to General Synod using funds provided by the Brown Fund (a Fund administered by United Church Funds specifically for authorized ministers).

KO will also be joined by a number of visitors, many who will be attending for the first time, some who attend every Synod. One visitor, in particular, will be attending Synod for the first time and will be watching with a particular interest and perspective. That is Doni Mooberry. Doni is a laywoman from Plymouth Church and Doni has tentatively agreed to serve as the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the KO Conference as the KO Conference and the Missouri Mid-South Conference prepare to host the General Synod in Kansas City in 2021. Professionally, Doni is a financial advisor and owner of Mooberry Financial Management. Doni has served as treasurer at Plymouth Church and is currently on the transition team at Plymouth. You will have many opportunities to meet and get to know Doni in the months ahead.

A Synod orientation is planned for Saturday, March 9 at Plymouth from 10:00-3:00. While delegates and members in discernment are required to attend, visitors who may be planning on attending General Synod are welcome to attend. The orientation will include an overview of the program, the business expected at .synod, background information on how Synod works, what to expect, and how to navigate the complexity of the what’s going on behind the scenes. If you are planning to attend Synod as a visitor, we want to know so we can include you in KO activities in Milwaukee, so let Edith know you plan to be there and let Edith know also if you plan to attend the orientation as well.

The voting and associate delegates are: Emily Rix, Michael Vollbrecht, Gina Woods, Bobbie Henderson, Associate Delegate Conference Vice President, Edith Guffey, Associate Delegate, Conference Minister.

Members in Discernment: Heidi Hawkinson Penny, Pam Schonauer, Dee Miller

Find out more about Synod [by visiting the Synod website.](#)

Connecticut congregation envisions big impact

When Rev. Sara Smith arrived in at United Congregational Church of Bridgeport in 2009, she recalls there wasn't much happening. The church was struggling with the expenses of a large building and a decreasing membership. Understanding that the church cannot work toward its own self-interest, Smith began a ministry that focuses on "listening to what the world needs."

"If we do what we're supposed to do, we'll be fine," says Smith, 10 years later.

Finding out what "we're supposed to do" isn't necessarily easy, but Smith and members of the Connecticut congregation began small. Located in the heart of Bridgeport, a stone's throw from Interstate 95, there were plenty of things "to do."

The congregation began feeding, sheltering, and clothing people in need, organizing through a non-profit organization in 2010 called the Norma F. Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiatives, now called nOURish BRIDGEPORT, Inc. (caps intentional). These volunteer-driven, direct services reinvented the church.

But they still could not afford the building.

In 2016, the church voted to sell the building. It sold in December of that year. On Easter, 2017, the church began their Easter service in the sanctuary of the old church on the corner of State and Park, and, singing "As We Leave This Place," processed 2 miles down the street to their new "temporary" space.

But the rented space wasn't the only thing new about the church. The space gave them the flexibility to change the direction of worship, literally facing a different direction in the room for any service or purpose. It gave them the ability to put up tables instead of pews. And "DINNERCHURCH" was born. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, the church worships at 5pm, complete with communion, and a potluck, bring-your-own-wine, integrated dinner and worship experience. They pray around the tables, each table lifting up prayers first as a small group, and later with the entire congregation. Smith developed a liturgy crafted to fit the meal-worship-communion nature of the gathering.

"It takes two hours, and we get more people at this than our other Sunday worships," says Smith.

Smith says the transformation is remarkable. Where she once struggled to move communion from the table near the raised pulpit to the floor where it might be more accessible, Smith now finds the church responds to change with "nimbleness."

The church has even started a for-profit enterprise called United Enterprises Inc. The organization handles back-office bookkeeping for several small business and non-profit clients too small to have their own bookkeeping department, and acts as the fiscal sponsor for several not-for-profit groups who are not themselves designated as 501(c)3 organizations.

These efforts have paid off. In 2018, for the first time since Smith arrived, UCC Bridgeport did not take from their endowment to support the budget.

But Smith, and the folks at UCC Bridgeport, are not done listening. And what they are hearing is "dream bigger." If you ask Smith what's next, be prepared for big. She dreams of a space that can be the hub of multiple organizations, including service, for-profit, and spiritual enterprises, all working together to provide Bridgeport with food, services, training, education, jobs, and hope.

They call the vision "Xcelerate Bridgeport."

"We cannot keep feeding people over and over without making some lasting change," says Sarah. "You hear the word incubate all over. We don't need to incubate. We're 324 years old. We need to accelerate."

The scope of the plan is immense. It calls for nearly a dozen non-profits and almost as many for-profits to share a central space – offering office space, meeting spaces, education spaces, an industrial kitchen and event space elegant enough for weddings and banquets, and a spiritual space that is flexible enough for any spiritual group, yet fully capable of inspiring the presence of the Divine. Sarah imagines a chancel complete with the old pipe organ (now in storage) that can be closed off for other groups to use.

And this is not just a dream. Smith has already met with potential financial inventors, partners, and even lined up a proposal for a specific space in Bridgeport for the new center.

And in the heart of it, in the heart of Bridgeport, will be the truly living church of UCC Bridgeport.

Drew Page is the News & Media Editor for the Connecticut Conference UCC.

*"No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."
1 Corinthians 10:13*

Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

2019 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall)

Date	Att.	Giving
Jan 6	62	
Jan 10	67	
Jan 17	71	
Jan 24	62	
Online		
Total	262	

	Jan.	Cum. YTD
Rent	-	-
BOB	-	-
Building	-	-
Total Specials	-	-
Dillons rebates	-	-

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

Treasurer's

Jan. Bank Balance

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
12/31/18		1/31/19

Jan. 2019 Profit & Loss

Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund

S.F.

Online Deposits

Building Fund

Total Income

EXPENSES

Bank Service Charge

Insurance

Misc.

Repairs & Maint.

Payroll Exp.

All Supplies

Utilities

Total Expenses

NET INCOME

<u>Heifer Int.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1/31/19			

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1/31/19			



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!



- 3/12 Lacey & Kasey Fielder**
- 3/16 Steve & Lyn Green**
- 3/29 Patty & Roscoe Maycroft**



- 3/2 Henrietta Withee**
- 3/3 Harold Facklam**
- 3/9 Ruth Gfeller**
- 3/10 Karen Malec**
- 3/10 Janette Voglesang**
- 3/14 Doris Steffens**
- 3/20 Steve Green**
- 3/21 Dick Gfeller**
- 3/24 Deb Jacobsen**
- 3/27 Mike Malec**
- 3/28 Kasey Fielder**

“But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Romans 10:8-13

**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.*

March

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 World Day of Prayer 	2
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 Women's Guild 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 pm Consistory to follow	7 Choir 6:00 pm	8 Retired School Personnel meeting	9
10 Heifer International Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Christmas Program 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am 	11	12	13 Choir 6:00 pm	14	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	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	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am						

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Mar. 3	Tim & Renee Jury	Ronnie & Linnie Gfeller	Courtney & Josh Gfeller
Mar. 10	Tau & Sina Osa	Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman	open
Mar. 17	Wayne & Ruth Gfeller	David Butler & Harlan Bitterlin	open
Mar. 24	Steve & Angie Roesler	Steve & Susanne Altwegg	open
Mar. 31	Bin & Rudi Graefe	Caleb Snider & Kasey Fielder	open



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