



# THE JOURNEY

June 2019



Dear Zion,

Whether the announcement is made in a local newspaper, in digital form on a social media platform, or just at the dinner table among friends and family, there is something wonderful about sharing good news with our community. The underlying idea is that the one making the announcement is moved to share something about who they are, who they are going to be, or a significant intention for the future. Perhaps an award has been won, a plan has been enacted to seek a new path, or (and these are the best ones) there has been an agreement reached between two souls to wed. We are blessed to have witnessed in our community Eric and Evergreen move through a series of just such announcements: a proposal, a plan, a wedding.

I believe it is no coincidence that Jesus chose to announce to the world His identity at a wedding. Water became wine in Cana, and the world would never again be able to claim ignorance as to the nature of the Living God. Jesus' announcement revealed our invitation to God's banquet, to the celebration of this life. We would do well to pay attention to this truth, but even better to pay attention to the guidance hidden in the moment itself. A marriage consists of two individuals subsuming their own identities to Love itself, to their new marriage. This wedding of the two reveals for them, and for anyone willing to see, something more wonderful than either could have become alone. The new entity allows both to grow, to risk, to move through the world surrounded by and encouraged by Love. Does it not sound like the perfect occasion for Jesus to reveal Himself and His intentions for the future?

Jesus turns water to wine and announces to the world that we are all invited to God's banquet. The occasion reveals how to accept the invitation.

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

# June Lectionary

<p><b>June 2</b>  <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>  <b>Acts 16:16-34</b>            Psalms 97            Revelations 22:12-17, 20-21            John 17:20-26  <i>Haunting Claims of Freedom</i></p>	<p><b>June 9</b>  <i>Pentecost</i>  <b>Acts 2:1-21</b>            Psalms 104:24-35            Romans 8:14-17            John 14:8-17, (25-27)  <i>A Spirit Powered Faith</i></p>	<p><b>June 16</b>  <i>Trinity Sunday</i>  <b>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31</b>            Psalms 8            Romans 5:1-5            John 16:12-15  <i>Wisdom Calls</i></p>	<p><b>June 26</b>  <i>12th Sunday in Ordinary</i>  <b>1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15</b>            Psalms 42 &amp; 43            Galatians 3:23-29            Luke 8:26-39  <i>Deep Down Questions</i></p>
<p><b>June 30</b>  <i>13th Sunday in Ordinary</i>  <b>2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14</b>            Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20            Galatians 5:1, 13-25            Luke 29:51-62  <i>Take Up the Story</i></p>			

**The Journey Prints**  
**June 28**

**Attendance**  
**2019 YTD**  
**1033**  
**2018—1140**



## Women's Fellowship

April 5, 2019

Women's Guild met on April 5 at noon in Fellowship Hall with Rosemary and Karen serving a delicious lunch.

Judy G. read the devotion, "The Greatest Blessings of Life".

Ruth read the minutes and they were approved as read. Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$2739.73. There were no communications.

Outreach: Judy G. read a thank you for the third quarter giving to Every Child's Hope in St. Louis.

There was no old business.

New Business: A motion was made to donate \$200 to the Open Door and \$200 to the Emmaus Home in St. Charles, MO. Motion carried. A motion was made to retain the current officers for next year. Motion carried.

Announcements: Guild will sponsor an all church potluck dinner on June 23 as a farewell to the Martin Family as they will move to Norway. They will be greatly missed by Zion! A special "THANK YOU" to Doris Steffens for the many hours she has spent at the church organizing closets, rooms, and cleaning all the ovens and refrigerators! The last meeting before summer break will be held on May 3 with Sally and Gerry hosting.

The meeting closed by repeating The Lord's Prayer.

*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."*

*Romans 8:14-17*



## Consistory Highlights

### Zion United Church of Christ Consistory Minutes• April 3, 2019

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Vern Steffens at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Vern Steffens, Deniece Carlson, Keith Henry, Tau Osa, Richard Hobaugh, Denise Tabb, and Pastor Erik Graefe.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the March 6, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted.

Pastor's Report: Visitations continue. Toured the Open Door. Reported a possible new member of the Congregation. Discussed the Run for God (Denise Tabb and Cleo Jones).

Old Business: On motion, second and unanimous approval Consistory will present Duane Hoff a \$50.00 gift card for his work for snow removal. Discussed pictures and an electronic directory. Discussed the request for a new vacuum for the church. On motion, second and unanimous approval agreed to give the old choir robes to the Osa family to take to their home for use there.

New Business: Agreed to make a presentation to the Congregation the next two Sundays, April 7 & 14, 2019, concerning and accepting donations for Nebraska flood relief.

Agreed to donate the old TV, VCR and scanner to the DAV. Discussed issues among the organists and the choir and directed the Pastor to deal with this at the next Music Committee meeting. Discussed a problem with a urinal continuously running in the men's restroom.

After discussion and on motion, second and unanimous approval, agreed to donate \$1,000.00 to the Open Door on the condition that Kansas Gas Service continue and not disconnect the gas service to the Open Door.

The next meeting is May 1, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Keith Henry  
Acting Secretary

## Zion News

It's hard to believe it's been 8 weeks since we started on our Run For God journey together. Even through the schedule changes, weather and injuries your enthusiasm and commitment to the plan has prevailed. Keep going!! We have about a month left before we get to the start line at the Freedom Run. So take a deep breathe (from your belly 😊 ;), exhale and let's finish strong!

Thank you to Dr. [Mitchell Keating](#) for coming out to visit with us again. He gave a great demonstration on how to breathe properly, strengthen our core, and keep our bodies nice and stretchy. Olympic Track & Field trials are next year -- we will be ready!

Each week our previous lessons gave us an opportunity to touch on a key element necessary to grow in our relationship with God. This week we combined 6 lessons into one to show how the pieces work together in your life so you can -- Get Yo God On!

Week 1. Intention, Week 2. Discipline, Week 3. Faith, Week 4. Trust/Steadfastness/Endurance  
Week 5. Christian Community/Support, Week 6. The Word (Bible) & Prayer

We took each of the 'ingredients' above and paired them with a specific ingredient or action in a basic white bread recipe. And here's what we came up with!

**\*\*The Word & Prayer -- Flour**

Read your Bible and Pray to God EVERYDAY.  
John 1:1; Thessalonians 5:17-18

**\*\*Christian Community -- Salt, Sugar & Butter**

These are your people!! Join a small group -- choir, meditation, bible study, etc. to add flavor to your Christian life.  
Hebrews 10:24-25 / Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

**\*\*Faith/Trust -- Yeast**

Let this area grow. Protect it from "salty" people and hot water.  
Hebrews 11:1 / Proverbs 3:5-6

**\*\*Intention/Discipline -- Water**

What would Jesus do? Develop a warm and well balanced attitude.  
Ephesians 4:1-3

**\*\*Steadfastness/Endurance/Time -- Kneading/Rise/Baking**

Cultivate your Spiritual gifts. Surrender to God and let him shape you according to His Will; in His time.  
James 2:26 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Let God set the temperature of your "oven". Don't let the distractions of this world pull you away from Him.  
James 1:2-4 / Romans 12:2

### THE BREAD

Each ingredient in a bread recipe has a specific purpose and is essential in the creation of a well baked, delicious loaf of bread. The same is true in our journey to know Jesus Christ. The people around us, the things we do each day and the condition of our hearts all play a role in how rich, warm and fulfilling our relationship with the Creator is.

Anyone who bakes will tell you it doesn't take a whole lot to mess up a loaf of bread! Attention to detail, a deep understanding of how the ingredients work together (or against) each other and patience from start to finish is a must. But while each ingredient is important, the most important ingredient is the flour.

You can't make bread without flour and you can't KNOW God without reading your Bible and going to HIM in prayer -- everyday.

If you don't already have a daily prayer life I encourage you to begin by taking 10 minutes each day to be with God. 5 minutes in the morning and 5 minutes in the evening. That's it! Clear a little white space on your schedule and watch HIM do the rest.

I promise you -- it will change your life! And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35

With Love,  
Denise & Cleo



# Strengthen The Church Offering



[ucc.org/stc](http://ucc.org/stc)



## Volunteer Opportunity

Please consider volunteering to assist adult campers with developmental disabilities as they attend a five-day camp this summer. Volunteers stay at the camp (free room and board) and offer assistance and friendship to the campers. Training is provided the evening prior to the start of camp. No experience is necessary. Paid professional staff is on site to provide programs, medications, etc. Volunteers attend the activities and assist as needed. As a volunteer, I can guarantee that this is a life-affecting experience – for both the volunteers and the campers.

Please call, e-mail, or sign up at the website:

White Memorial Camp

Council Grove, KS

620-767-5165

[office@whitememorialcamp.com](mailto:office@whitememorialcamp.com)

[www.whitememorialcamp.com](http://www.whitememorialcamp.com)

Camp Arrowhead June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>

Camp Cottonwood July 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>



## White Memorial Camp Youth Camps

### Youth Camps

**New this year: All registrations must be done online.** [www.whitememorialcamp.com](http://www.whitememorialcamp.com)

To check out the camps go to the website.

**Camp Celebrate** Registration Coming Soon!

*All ages*

*June 9 – June 14, 2019*

**Clash of the Camps** [Register Here](#)

*Various camps – Completed Grades 4-10*

*June 23 – June 29 (Tentative Dates)*

**Prairie Run Cross Country Camp** [Register Here](#)

*Completed Grades 7 – 12 (Open to all Runners)*

*June 23 – 29, 2019*

**Saturate Camp 2019 – Middle School**

*Hosted by First Baptist Church of Augusta*

*July 15 – July 19, 2019*

*Grades 6-8 (Open to all)*

*Contact Pastor Dick Smith @ 316-619-4813 or [by email](#)*

**Local Kids to Camp** [Register Here](#)

*Completed Grades 3 – 5*

**Young Adventurers' Camp (YAC)** [Register Here](#)

*Completed Grades K-3*

*July 28 – July 30, 2019*

**LAST BLAST!** [Register Here](#)

*Completed Grades 4 – 12*

*July 28 – Aug 3, 2019*

**Family Camp** [Register Here](#)

*All ages*

*August 3 – August 4, 2019*

**NWTF JAKES Camp**

**contact Gib Rhodes at (620) 437-2012.**

*Youth 17 years old and younger*

*September 27 – September 29, 2019*

## News from K-O Conference

*by Edith Guffey, Conference Minister*

### **Local Church Autonomy; Covenant is the rest of the story**

A lot happens in a month! I confess that not having the pressure of an eNEWS every single week is a welcome relief. Even so, after this routine of 5 years it feels a bit strange; in fact, it feels as if I am a bit “out of touch”. I know this is an illusion because writing a newsletter hardly keeps us in touch; it’s one-way communication at best and the “open and click through rate” is abysmally low compared to the number of those who receive eNEWS. So, writing a weekly eNEWS article hardly means we are in touch.

But the question itself makes me wonder what it means to be “connected” in this Conference? The vision statement adopted by the Conference a few years ago states:

*“As a beloved community in Christ, we extend God’s extravagant welcome, **connect churches** and transform lives.”*

What’s a reasonable expectation **to be connected** given the size and geography of KO? And have we fallen into the habit of using the geography as an excuse for not working at closer connections and stronger relationships? As we approach the meeting of the General Synod, I am aware that many of the resolutions that the General Synod will be considering are asking a somewhat similar question, the resolutions are challenging local autonomy; or challenging local autonomy with no bounds or accountability.

The UCC is very clear about autonomy. Each local church decides what they will or will not do, each local church decides what pastor they wish to call, if they will or will not be open and affirming, if they support or don’t support an action of the General Synod, where they are theologically, and the list goes on and on. While the General Synod is the highest deliberative body in the UCC, most local UCC congregations are never really concerned about what the General Synod says or does because the actions of the Synod have no real impact on the life of a local congregation. The General Synod speaks TO and not FOR a local church. In many ways, this has worked well for the UCC as a denomination and has served our local congregations well. An argument can be made that in other ways, it has not served the denomination well at all and I can say a very loud Amen to both perspectives.

But there are several resolutions that will be considered at General Synod that are questioning autonomy as some, many congregations are living it out in the UCC. Because in the UCC those who most readily and loudly talk about autonomy rarely talk about covenant. And autonomy was never intended to be a standalone concept in the UCC; covenant is “the rest of the story.” But generally, autonomy is stressed, and covenant is hardly ever mentioned when actually autonomy should never be uttered without the word covenant that indicates that there is the responsibility to live in covenant with one another. Covenant is the balance to autonomy; covenant is the accountability piece; it’s the piece that keeps us in relationship with each other and guards against congregations becoming isolated. Covenant says to local congregations that they are part of the Body of Christ and the other parts of the Body needs them and vice versa.

Resolutions coming to General Synod are asking questions about autonomy and covenant and how churches are held accountable for being in covenant with the Conference or Association as members of the Body of Christ, as member congregations of the United Church of Christ. There are clear expectations of authorized ministers to have standing in the Associations or Conference (boundary training, continuing education, completion of the Annual Review Form and in KO, attendance at annual meeting) and while there are some authorized ministers who disagree with the expectations, if they are not met, the Committee on Ministry can after certain steps are followed, remove their ministerial standing. The point is that the relationship and membership matters. It means something to be an authorized minister of the United Church of Christ in this Conference. Resolutions coming to Synod are asking does it mean something to be a UCC congregation? Is there at least some minimal level of covenantal relationship and accountability that can be expected?

## K-O Conference News

What about here in KO? We don't have many congregations that never participate, or that we never hear from in any way. But what does it mean to be in covenant with each other? What should you expect from the Conference, from other congregations and what should the Conference as a body expect from member congregations, and authorized ministers? We know that congregations have local autonomy; authorized ministers don't have autonomy in the same way local churches do as they are responsible to the Committee on Ministry, but the requirements are pretty minimal. Other than these compliance expectations, how do we measure the strength of our covenantal bonds here in KO with and among our authorized ministers?

Covenant has always been part of the language of the UCC, but a paragraph on Covenantal Relationships only became part of the UCC Constitution in 2000. It reads:

*COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the Church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole Church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Decisions are made in consultation and collaboration among the various parts of the structure. As members of the Body of Christ, each expression of the Church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the Church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways.*

If you were writing a paragraph on covenant or covenantal relations specifically for KO, how would it read?

We "get" **autonomy** really well. How well do we "get" **covenant**? That really is the rest of the story. No, I think it's the main part of the story. Autonomy is the easy part; Covenant is where the real work is.

## UCC News

To the members of the United Church of Christ,

The changing landscapes of church and denominational life in the 21st century impact many aspects of congregations, including ways that congregations are formed, reformed, and live in covenant with one another. Consequently, our Manual on Church – the volume that has previously articulated the formation and function of a local church – needs intentional discernment and engagement, building off of and expanding the draft that was last examined in 2004.

We are seeking individuals represented by diverse facets of people and positions in the United Church of Christ with a sense of call and enthusiasm to this work of studying UCC understandings of ecclesiology (theological understanding of the nature and structure of church); function of the local church, and of listening for God's guidance and movement, and of blessing the denomination with an insightful resource for local churches of today and of tomorrow.

The Manual on Church is and will be a multi-year denomination-wide conversation led by a working group. **Members of the working group will be asked to make a four-year commitment to this project, including an estimated 5 – 7 in-person gathering across those four years.**

All members of the United Church of Christ including but not limited to: lay people, clergy, church planters, conference staff, affiliated ministries, and beyond are welcome to submit nominations, including self-nominations. The following information is necessary for each nomination:

- Name and contact information (email, phone number, mailing address)
- Brief overview of United Church of Christ experience
- Skills and perspectives that nominee would bring to the working group
- Two names of references for the nominee, with contact information

Nominations are open now through **July 1st, 2019**. [To apply online, please visit ucc.org/MOC](http://ucc.org/MOC)



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

Treasurer's

Date	Att.	Giving
April 7	62	
April 14	84	
April 21	138	
April 28	38	
Online		
<b>Total</b>	322	





6/2 Don & Leona Garrison

6/14 Selesa & Panisia Valoaga

6/14 Keith & Jolynn Henry



6/6 Grason Fielder

6/7 Richard Hobaugh

6/8 Susie Parks

6/10 Will Snider

6/14 Drew Martin

6/14 Bryant Gunn

6/18 Addy Snider

6/24 Mary Graefe

6/27 Tammy Altwegg

6/27 Roscoe Maycroft

6/28 Nichole Green

6/28 Sarah Reynolds

6/30 Mrs. William(Ruth)Gfeller

6/30 Hannah Reynolds

*\*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.*

## 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!

*“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.*

*Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

*It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.*

*The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”*

*And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”*

*And let everyone who is thirsty come.*

*Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.*

*The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.”*

*Revelation 22:12-17, 20-21*



# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> Celebration of Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	3	<b>4</b> Run for God 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Consistory 7:00 pm	6	7	<b>8</b> Church Clean-up 9:00 am
<b>9</b> Heifer International Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30am	10	<b>11</b> Run for God 6:30 pm	12	13	<b>14</b> 	15
<b>16</b> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am  	17	<b>18</b> Run for God 6:30 pm	19	20	<b>21</b> General Synod	<b>22</b> General Synod
<b>23</b> Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am  General Synod	<b>24</b> General Synod	<b>25</b> General Synod  Pilot Club 5:00 pm  Run for God 6:30 pm	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Fellowship Hall in use 9:30 to 12:30
<b>30</b> Adult 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>
June 2	Steve & Angie Roesler	Steve & Nate Green	Gerry Dempsay & Sally Altwegg
June 9	Mike & Karen Malec	Aaron & Anson Jacobsen	Janette Vogelsang
June 16	Doug & Janette Vogelsang	T.J. Osa & Jack Graefe	Tammy Altwegg
June 23	Tim & Renee Jury	Ray Kruse Jr. & Marvin Hornbostel	Potluck
June 30	Bin & Rudy Graefe	Scott & Tammy Altwegg	Ruth Gfeller



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