



THE JOURNEY

July 2019



Dear Zion,

As most of you know, Cleo Jones and Denise Tabb have been leading many of us through a twelve week exercise program called “Run for God.” The exercises have been both spiritual and physical. What you likely do not know, unless you’ve been with us on Tuesday nights, is just how excellent this program has been. Cleo began each night with profound insights about how we might commit to allowing ourselves to recognize God’s presence in our lives. Also, we were given practical steps to draw from that Presence rather than giving our attention and time to aspects of our lives that distract us from ourselves and God. Our culture reinforces the notion that we are lacking something, we are not good enough, and we are offered innumerable opportunities to “fix” our lives with new products, fads, or achievements of some kind. When this doesn’t work, we are barraged with opportunities to numb or distract ourselves from our inadequacies. Facebook distracts us from our need to have meaningful relationships, the internet distracts us from our need to feel connected, and our phones distract us from our perceived lack of relevance. This misinformation, these distractions are readily available to all of us. So much so, that it is easy to begin to believe they are reality. It is easy to be lost in them. What is difficult is realizing this, and rather than despairing, committing to transformation. Sounds a little like starting an exercise program, doesn’t it?

Committing to exercise, physical or spiritual, is difficult. It is hard because we are creatures of habit, and habits carry a sense of inevitability. What we need is someone who loves us to help us, to guide us, to encourage us through the difficulty. Cleo and Denise served this role for our class wonderfully. Each obstacle we might face was addressed with honesty, and more importantly, with tangible and helpful insights about how to face the obstacle.

We have been speaking on Sundays about how we are created to be connected with one another. This is easy enough to say, yet we need opportunities to give life to our words through actions. “Run for God” has been just such an opportunity. These twelve weeks will bear fruit for our community in ways we cannot even imagine. Please, when you see Cleo and Denise, thank them for what they have done for Zion.

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

July Lectionary

July 7 <i>14th Sunday in Ordinary time</i> 2 Kings 5:1-4 Psalms 30 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 <i>Unexpected Prophets</i>	July 14 <i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Amos 7:7-17 Psalms 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37 <i>Compassionate Neighbors</i>	July 21 <i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Amos 8:1-12 Psalms 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42 <i>Faithful Listeners</i>	July 28 <i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Hosea 1:2-10 Psalms 85 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13 <i>Prayerful Disciples</i>
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Attendance 2019 YTD 1586 2018—1766



Women's Fellowship

May 3, 2019

Women's Guild met on May 3 in Fellowship Hall. Ten ladies enjoyed a delicious luncheon hosted by Sally and Gerry.

Judy Heintz, Vice President, called the meeting to order. Judy Gardner read a poem, "Spring Time", written by her mother Ruth Schultz.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved.

Communications: Two thank you notes were received. One from the Emmaus Home and one from The Open Door, each thanking us for the monetary gift given to them.

There were no committee reports.

There was no old business.

New Business: A sign-up sheet was passed around for hosting the meetings beginning in September. The Guild will sponsor a potluck dinner on June 23 following church honoring the Martin family. Zion was blessed to have them worship with us during their Ft. Riley assignment. They were very active in many activities of Zion.

Judy Heintz entertained the group with a humorous reading, "Your Duck is Dead!"

The meeting concluded by everyone repeating The Lord's Prayer.

Food 4 Kids

Zion will participate in serving lunch to kids at the Dorothy Bramlage Library. We will serve lunch July 1 through July 12, except for the 4th. Lunch will begin at 11:30 and end at 12:30. If you haven't signed up to help please consider doing so. It is always a great time.

"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith."

Galatians 6:7-10

Consistory Highlights

Zion UCC Consistory Minutes, May 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Vern Steffens at 7:01 PM

Members Present: Vern Steffens, Denise Tabb, Keith Henry, Richard Hobaugh, Tau Osa, Lyn Green, Ray Kruse, and Pastor Erik Graefe

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Keith made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3 meeting. Denise seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Financial Reports were examined for both March and April 2019. Insurance payments were discussed. There was a payment in the building fund of \$20 in March that was not noted. Keith will talk to Jill about this discrepancy. Keith motioned to approve the financial reports as submitted. Ray seconded. Financial reports were accepted.

Pastor Report:

Maundy Thursday – thank you Jill!

Easter Prep for the Egg hunt and service went well. Thank you to the choir for letting him participate.

Run For God is going great! Excellent speakers and good fellowship.

Saturday Meditation continues.

Erik is taking online courses

Old Business:

The vacuum is not working well – Richard tried to extend life but the vacuum will need to be replaced. Perhaps we can replace it with an industrial vacuum. Richard will contact Deniece Carlson to see if she can help us find one.

Vern donated the old TV, VCR and Scanner to the DAV.

Kitchen and Patio doors continue to be unlocked. Please check frequently!

\$710 has been donated to the NE cattleman disaster relief. Consistory voted to round up the donation to \$1000 out of the outreach fund. Keith motioned. It was seconded and passed.

New Business:

May 12 – Sunday school recognition and Mother's Day. In the past we have given carnations – Keith will take care of carnations, Lyn will buy potted plants for teachers, Denise will take care of another teacher gift.

We do not know of any graduating seniors this year who would apply for scholarships.

VBS – Presbyterian church has paid for almost everything at this point. We are asked to pay for the workbooks, which will probably be about \$300. We will pay for this through either Christian Education or Outreach. Vern motioned, Keith seconded. Motion passed.

Run for God – student manuals \$229.53 Keith moved to pay for this out of Outreach and Ray seconded.

Summer meals are changing this year – Keith will look for more information.

Miller fund in endowment report shows an error. Keith will provide a corrected report for the newsletter.

A deep spring cleaning day was suggested this spring. June 8 was suggested. Keith will work on organizing some leaders for this activity.

The next meeting is June 5 at 7:00 PM

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Lyn Green

Zion News

What do you put your faith in?

As we learned in earlier classes, faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the CONVICTION of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the backbone of what it means to BE a Christian.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, and without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Christians believe there is one God. He created everything including a creature made in His own image that was given the gift of free will. Then... oops, we messed up and free willed our way right out of paradise. Fast forward and this same God of Creation, who still loves us in spite of our sins, delivers a Savior who teaches us the path back to paradise. A few folks listened but most didn't, and ultimately this Savior was crucified. He died on the cross for our sins and on the third day rose again; giving us a way back to the Father.

But do we have the FAITH to believe this story? I mean reeeaaaally believe it! Like, dude, this totally happened! Or, is it just a story? Something we've heard so many times since we were little children that it's become mere words on a page. Each day we go through the motions, barely paying attention to the power of His words; it's background noise like the hum of an air conditioner or a ceiling fan. Christmas comes, we light a few candles and sing some carols. Easter hops around and we make that extra effort to get to Sunday service early because it's a 'special day'. But do we take the time to remember WHY that day is so special?

I've heard it said that people who grow up going to church sometimes have a tougher walk on the path of righteousness than someone who came by Christianity as an adult. This notion stems from the idea that familiarity waters down the significance of what BEING a Christian really means. It's rare that a cradle Christian might have the luxury of a profound revelation or life changing event that propels them into a life closer to Christ. After all, we're already there -- and we're comfortable. But eventually comfort evolves into complacency, and we have RELIGION instead of a RELATIONSHIP with God. Baptism is no longer the public declaration that we are children of God and have committed our lives to following Jesus Christ. It's just... what we do. Church on Sundays is no longer about sacrificing our time to worship and praise our Creator. It's a tentative appointment we keep, so long as it fits into our schedules (this is coming from the girl who would take the summer 'off' from church. That's right! Three. Whole. Months.) And spending quiet time with God everyday...?



If we believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we have faith that he died for our sins so that we may have eternal life, then we must also believe that the path is narrow.

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and The Way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. -- Matthew 7:13-14

This past Tuesday was the final Run For God class. My prayer as we end this bible study is that if Jesus Christ is your Bestest Friend or becoming your Bestest Friend, you will continue to nurture and grow that relationship. And if you're a baby Christian, just know that God will meet you wherever you are. Each and every one of us is special to Him. He loves us - warts and all - with a love beyond measure. Don't let this world tell you you aren't enough - that's a lie. Thank you to everyone for your time, sweat, support, and prayers on this 12-week journey. When we started back in April all I selfishly wanted was to find more running buddies!! Instead, I found special friendships and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I hope you did as well.

P.S. -- Still looking for another running buddy!! 😊 :)

News from K-O Conference

Synod 2021 is 'Goin' to Kansas City'

To the strains of "Goin' to Kansas City, Kansas City, Here I Come," United Church of Christ members from the Kansas-Oklahoma and Missouri Mid-South conferences formally invited the denomination to the 33rd General Synod, which will be held in Kansas City, Mo., July 16-20, 2021.

Edith Guffey, conference minister for the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and the Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel, conference minister for the Missouri Mid-South Conference, came together Tuesday afternoon to tout the accomplishments of their respective conferences and the attractions of Synod's next host city.

Synod last met in Kansas City 20 years ago, when it gathered with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Assembly. Guffey, who served as General Synod administrator from 1995-2011, managed that 2001 gathering.

The conference ministers reminded Synod-goers that Kansas City attractions include the American Jazz Museum, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and Kansas City Royals baseball games. Daniel munched on a plate of barbecue burnt ends, musing, "What better way to help everyone remember than with food. Woo-hoo!"

Their presentation was accompanied by a video in which Kansas City was promoted as "a diamond in the rough," and "the gem of the Midwest."

Before the Kansas City contingent took the stage, Assistant Moderator Penny Lowes recognized members of the Milwaukee Synod Local Arrangements for their hard work in organizing this gathering. The committee was led by co-chairs Bonnie Andrews, the Revs. Deborah and Tom Payden and the Rev. Tim Perkins. Lowes recalled the volunteers' "colorful signs and cheerful smiles," and noted that much of their work went on behind the scenes, including "providing soap and towels to clean up after serving 3,000 to 4,000 persons communion."

Sara Fitzgerald, a Synod newsroom volunteer, is a member of Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, Va.

White Memorial Camp Youth Camps

Youth Camps

New this year: All registrations must be done online. www.whitememorialcamp.com

To check out the camps go to the website.

Camp Celebrate Registration Coming Soon!

All ages

July 9 – July 14, 2019

Clash of the Camps [Register Here](#)

Various camps – Completed Grades 4-10

July 23 – July 29 (Tentative Dates)

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

Completed Grades 7 – 12 (Open to all Runners)

July 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

July 19 – July 21, 2019



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

UCC News

General Synod opening worship celebrates diversity, working in the light of God

The diversity of the United Church of Christ was celebrated in languages, music, vestments, and symbols Friday, June 21, as General Synod 32 opened with worship underscoring the Synod's theme "Let your light shine before others."

But in a Litany of Confession, church leaders also catalogued the church's "complicity in the sins of colonialism, slavery and genocide." Worshipers responded by calling on God, to "shine on us your light, tu luz, of restorative justice."

In her sermon based on Matthew 5: 13-16, the Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša, senior pastor of The Park Avenue Christian Church (DOC/UCC) in Manhattan, (known as "The Park"), called on participants to embrace their "saltiness" as they worked to shine their own lights and encourage the lights of others. Douša was the first of the four clergywomen who will deliver the sermons during this Synod's worship services.

"If we want salt to be salt and light to be light all over the world," Douša said, "then we'd better protect it. Every one of us was born to be seen and heard. This will not work without strategic, consistent, cross-generational, trans-national, pro-God's Creation, gender-expansive, global, communal protection."

The service began with songs from The Park's Praise and Worship Band, sung in English, Tagalog, and Spanish. Then drummers and dancers from the Indian Community School of Milwaukee set the scene as representatives of the UCC's Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) poured water into a baptismal font that, along with a model of The Amistad Cross, was commissioned for this year's Synod and was dedicated as part of the opening worship.

Synod Moderator Norman Williams and the Rev. Penny Lowes, assistant moderator, then asked representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation for permission to meet on the tribe's ancestral lands. Representatives of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), Michael Goze, a member of the tribe, and the Rev. Hattie Walker, welcomed them on behalf of the tribal chief.

The centerpiece of the worship was a Procession of Light introduced in English and Spanish by the Rev. Dr. Jeanette Zaragoza De León, The Park's pastor for multi-lingual and cross-sectional worship, and the author of the service's texts. "Light Bearers," drawn from the Wisconsin Conference's Local Arrangements Committee and the Youth at Synod, processed down the center aisle of the worship space, carrying lights, lanterns and multi-colored cloths to assemble the altar, while a liturgical dance troupe organized for the Synod modeled the gesture of Light.

The Scripture was then read in Lingala by the Rev. Christine Ikete, director of the women's desk of the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo; in Arabic by the Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki Stephanous, president of the Protestant Churches of Egypt; in Armenian by the Rev. Nayiri Kajian, general minister of the Ohio Conference's Living Water Association; in English by Rev. David Bahr, senior minister of Parkhill United Church of Christ in Denver; and in Spanish by Yesenia Menéndez Sanchez, a member of the UCC Board of Directors and Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad UCC in Boston.

Throughout the service, Tia Richardson, a community artist named as the Milwaukee Art Board's Artist of the Year in 2018, worked on a painting that will be the basis of her theological reflection later during the National gathering.

In her sermon, Douša reflected on her work in New York with the New Sanctuary Coalition. She described how her co-chair, Ravi Ragbir, was arrested on a routine check-in with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and threatened with immediate deportation to his native Trinidad. But, she said,

UCC News

“the people showed up. We were not going to let him be silenced, trampled, cast aside, intimidated or deterred. And I would contend that Jesus is counting on Ravi to be salt and light, while counting on us to be sure that Ravi and people like him can keep on keepin’ on,”

In January 2018, a U.S. district judge ordered Ragbir released, finding, in Douša’s words, that his threatened deportation was an “act of retaliation against his activism and outspoken advocacy. The word the court used was ‘silencing.’” Douša herself ended up on a “hit list” compiled by the Department of Homeland Security of activists and journalists who had traveled to the southern border to support the migrant caravan.

Douša noted that since the last General Synod, the number of UCC churches declaring themselves to be Sanctuary and Immigrant Welcoming Congregations had grown to 248. “248 is wonderful and it is insufficient,” she declared. “Meanwhile, there are tens of thousands of migrants who are being held in internment camps and prisons—most of whom are in the country legally, by the way.” She called on Synod-goers “to work to triple” that number by the end of the summer, “and sponsor people who need to get out of these camps. It is our Christian obligation to do this work because we refuse to have history look back on us and say: ‘Where were we when evil tried to stomp out our neighbor’s light?’ ”

In closing, Douša returned to her Scriptural text, recalling that “Jesus talked about lights under bushels.” But, she observed, “a flame that burns under a basket has kindling.”

“Whenever they try to cover your light, take that act of aggression against you and turn it around and burn. Burn with the Holy Spirit. Burn like the fire of Pentecost. Burn with the power of God! A fire that burns, but shall not consume.”

At the close of worship, attendees joined in singing the traditional South African hymn “Siyahamba” (“We Are Marching in the Light of God”), transitioning to “We Are Working in the Light of God,” as the Synod dancers passed the opening gavel to the Synod moderator and vice moderator. Moderator Norman Williams declared that a quorum had been achieved, began the opening plenary.

Written by Sara Fitzgerald, a Synod newsroom volunteer, is a member of Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, Va.

Sundown Salute

Sundown Salute is right around the corner. Here are some reminders and information for our upcoming events.

There will be Worship service on July 7 at 9:30 am for those interested.

Then at 6:30 the Christian concerts will start.

Kaylee Keller and Josh Wilson this should be a great time.



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

Treasurer's





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!

7/5 Jonathan & Amanda Beasley

7/10 Mike & Karen Malec

7/25 JR & Sarah Reynolds

7/28 Caleb & Lindsey Snider



7/9 Jack Martin

7/12 Steve Roesler

7/17 Hadley Gfeller

7/19 Don Garrison

7/26 Emmy Gfeller

7/27 Dilon 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.*

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through him god was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of the gospel.”

Colossians 1:15-23

JULY

2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	2 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30 Run for God 6:30 pm	3 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	4 Freedom run, 7:00 am Run for God graduation 	5 Harold Facklam Memorial 10:30 am Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	6
7 <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	8 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	9 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	10 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	11 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	12 Food 4 Kids 11:30–12:30	13
14 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30am	16	18	17 Consistory 7:00 pm	18	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	29	30	31			

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
July 7	Graefe Family	Doug Vogelsang & Richard Hobaugh	Panisia Valoaga
July 14	Cleo Jones & Denise Tabb	Vern Steffens & Wayne Gfeller	Cleo Jones & Denise Tabb
July 21	Marvin & Janice Hornbostel	Russ Altwegg & Keith Henry	Judy Heintz
July 28	Henrietta Withee & Judy Gardner	Tau Osa & TJ Osa	Tim & Renee Jury



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



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