

# THE JOURNEY

## October 2019



Dear Zion,

On the way to Junction City earlier this week, I was listening to a podcast in which the best-selling author of a book called *Inner Engineering*, an Indian mystic known as Sadhguru, related a story of a pasture somewhere in rural India where lived a bull and his companion pheasant. The two spent their days together in a nearly perfect symbiotic relationship. The grass consumed by the bull was of significant nutritional value, keeping him strong and healthy. His only discomfort was that he was plagued by ticks. The pheasant's role was to eat the ticks from the bull's body, and these ticks became the pheasant's only form of sustenance. The relationship worked well for both animals, but one day the pheasant complained to the bull that he lacked the energy and vitality of the bull.

"Do you see that tree over there on the edge of the pasture? I don't have the energy to even climb to that first limb." The bull wanted to help his friend so he offered him a guarantee that if the pheasant would eat just a small amount of the bull's dung each day, he would be able to fly to the top of the tree in no time. Sure enough, after just one day the pheasant was easily able to reach the first limb of the tree. After a week, the pheasant flew with ease to the top of the tree. The pheasant sat proudly on the top of the tree, surveying the beauty of the pasture from above. The owner of the pasture, who'd been sleeping on his porch, noticed a good sized pheasant on the top of the tallest tree on the perimeter of his pasture upon waking from his nap. Immediately, he seized his gun, shot the bird, and secured a wonderful dinner for his family that evening. The moral of the story: *BS might get you to the top in a hurry, but it won't last.*

There is wisdom here for people of faith, particularly in the midst of a culture where climbing and reaching the top is a goal that is not only aspired to by all, but assumed to be the given aim of our lives. Those who are not striving to climb, not doggedly pursuing a path to the "top of the tree" are deemed lazy, morally inferior, deserving of derision, or worse yet, pity. Being consumed only with climbing and striving, in any aspect of our lives, leaves us incapable of the introspection necessary for an honest and fearless look at ourselves. Without a fearless and relentless commitment to examine our own inner lives, we are lost. The bull in the story has no way to recognize that his arrogance, believing himself to be the only source of vitality, masks his fear of being alone in the pasture. The pheasant, blinded by the strength of the bull, can't even imagine what is available to him beneath his own feet.

This kind of introspection (whether contemplative prayer, meditation, silence, nature, music, etc.) serves to disconnect us, if only momentarily, from the deceptive ethic of consumption, striving, and climbing up some tree. It is so important to us because it reveals the source of our vitality, our energy, our focus. We may find we are not animated each second by the presence of the risen Christ, but by some need to achieve, to win, to gain, to get attention, to reach the next limb. In short, BS. It won't sustain us.

The risen Christ, the source of everlasting vitality (the Bread of life), is as available and immediate as the nutritious grass in the above field in rural India. Our vitality doesn't come to us second hand in the form of ticks or dung. We are barraged in each moment with those offering a path to the top of the tree in exchange for material resources and loyalty. We know it as advertising, politics, and entertainment. BS. It leaves us blind to our God given vitality and liberation.

Love, Erik

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**ZION**

United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd  
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
zionuccj@yahoo.com



# October Lectionary

## October 6

27th Sunday in Ordinary time  
Lamentations 1:1-6 &  
3:19-26  
Psalms 137  
**2 Timothy 1:1-14**  
Luke 17:5-10  
*The Heirloom of Faith*

## October 13

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Psalms 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
**Luke 17:11-19**  
*Get Up and Go*

## October 20

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalms 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 2:14-4:5  
**Luke 18:1-8**  
*Faith Persists*

## October 27

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Joel 2:22-32  
Psalms 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
**Luke 18:9-14**  
*Be Satisfied*

**Attendance  
2019 YTD  
2306**

**2018—2603**

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship had their first meeting on Sept 6th pm at the home of Leona Garrison. Our next meeting will be Oct. 4 at 12:00 pm back in the church fellowship hall. All women of the church are invited.

**The Journey  
Prints  
Oct. 25**

*“Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing praise to you, sing praises to your name. Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations-let the rebellious not exalts themselves. Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our head; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.”*

*Psalm 66:1-12*



## Consistory Highlights

### Consistory Minutes August 7, 2019

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

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

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the July 17, 2019, meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting. By motion and second the financial statements were approved as submitted.

Pastor's Report: The pastor had coffee with the new Rector of the Episcopal Church. He will discuss the Hefferproject this coming Sunday, August 11, 2019.

There were no committee reports

#### Old Business:

Ice machine. After discussion this matter was tabled to explore options. Keith will contact Glenn's Plumbing with respect to the estimate.

Water fountain. After discussion this matter was tabled to consider options. Keith will contact Glenn's plumbing with respect to the estimate.

New church directory. LifeTouch will be here September 6 and September 7, 2019.

New Business: Vern reported that a locksmith worked on the front door lock and explained how it works. It has a lot of life left and will not be replaced now. The bar and key will be replaced on the inside of the door.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is September 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Keith Henry Acting Secretary

## Junction City FCA



## FIELDS OF FAITH

When: October 9, 2019 / 6:30-8:00pm

Where: JCHS (Football Field)

What: Worship - Student Testimonies - Speaker

*This event is open to the community!*

*Questions? Call or email Ty Zimmerman / 785-223-7107 / tzimmerman@fca.org*

## White Sunday Comes to Zion

Join the Zion family on October 13 for a new faith tradition as we observe White Sunday. The children of our congregation will lead our worship service. All members of the church can participate by wearing white. We will also celebrate with a pot-luck lunch after the service.

- Wear white to church on October 13
- Bring a dish to share at the after-church pot-luck lunch.

### **Learning about White Sunday**

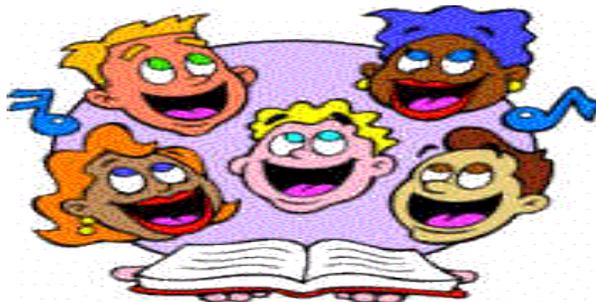
White Sunday is a Samoan holiday that is celebrated in almost every Samoan community around the world. This memorable day is referred to as Lotu Tamaiti, Aso Sa Pa'epa'e or Children's Service. Traditionally, children wear formal white clothes for the occasion. White Sunday falls on the second Sunday in October. It consists of two services, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning service is the Sunday school and youth program. The afternoon service is for the entire family. The general practice is that children are given the responsibility of planning the church service. The children practice for several months before the big day, often putting on skits from Bible stories, singing songs, and often the older children will be responsible for the day's sermon or message, reading the scripture and the prayer. The service begins with the children's parade. After the morning service is a family feast where the children are served first. In many families the children are excused from chores.

The day before White Sunday, women of the congregation gather together to set up the church. They bring fresh flowers such as plumerias and white gingers, as well as ferns. The flowers are woven together to make long strands to decorate the church. At the same time, they prepare the "pales" or head bands for the children. Afterwards, they will start baking pies and cakes for the special day. Meanwhile, the men of the congregation are either at the plantation getting the biggest taros and bananas, preparing the underground stove or "Umu", or fishing. There is always a size 2 pig for the feast. The main menu is usually taro, bananas, "Palusami", taro leaves with coconut milk and onions, fish, pig, ham, fruit salad, potato salad, pies, cakes, Jello and of course ice cream.

From where and when does White Sunday originate? The most believable version of its origins is that it started from the aftermath of the 1919 influenza epidemic in which 20% of the Samoan population in Western Samoa died from the flu. Every Samoan family was visited with multiple tragedies and many of those who died were children. It is believed that White Sunday was both a way of bringing families together to remember those who had died and to celebrate the lives of the children who had lived.

### Zion Choir

The Zion Choir has started, now is a great time to join. We practice Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Starting in Sept we will be singing the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. If you haven't sung with the choir in the past but are interested come join us.



## *News from UCC*

### UCC CONFERENCE MINISTERS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Written by Edith Guffey

While eNEWS has focused almost exclusively on getting your attention about annual meeting, I do know that there are other things going on in the world! This week when eNEWS arrives in your mailbox, I will be in Washington DC with 21 other Conference Ministers from across the country. We will visit congress as representatives of the United Church of Christ and of the Conferences we serve. We will be advocating for more just humane and immigration policies and systems. We will be talking about the actions of the General Synod to be an Immigrant Welcoming Church and our personal faith perspectives about what it means to welcome the stranger. Thank you to the Church of the Open Arms in Oklahoma City, Colonial in Prairie Village, Mayflower in Oklahoma City, First Congregational in Manhattan and Plymouth in Lawrence. While others may have written or responded; these are the congregations I know where members wrote letters for me to deliver to congress or set stories of about how they are supporting immigrants in their communities. These letters and stories will attest to our representatives that I am speaking not just for myself but for others in our congregations in Kansas and Oklahoma; your voices matter. [Follow the advocacy mobilization of the Conference Ministers.](#)

I generally like to keep late September fairly free of out of town trips as I know my focus needs to be on Annual Meeting. But life doesn't always happen on my timetable. A couple of weeks ago, I was in Montgomery, Alabama and had the opportunity to share in a conversation on race with our own Rev. Lori Walke Associate Pastor at Mayflower. It was an unusual and extraordinary experience. An open public conversation on race; that in and of itself is unusual enough, but this one had some additional dimensions; it was between two women of different generations, different races, both from the KO Conference. One grew up in the Southern Baptist tradition and came to the UCC as an adult; the other while having grown up in the Missionary Baptist tradition has been in the UCC since 1977 and familiar with the UCC commitment to and struggle with racial justice. The conversation was to help prepare a group to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the visit to [the museum and memorial](#) was an experience I will never forget.

I am thinking a lot about that weekend as I am in DC. The trauma that is on graphic display in the museum and embodied at the memorial is embedded in our history and lives not only in the lives of African Americans, but in the very soul of our country. And I feel like, here we go again, the immigration policies, are creating a new wave of trauma on another group of people. it seems to be an ugly pattern, a truth we might want to turn away from, but it's a pattern of what we do to people of color in these United States of America; ask our Native peoples on whose land we live. While I have no doubt that people who were participating in lynchings knew it was wrong, but at least they didn't have the language, the research or the sophistication to know of the long-term impact of trauma that we have now. But now we know better. We know the cost and impact of trauma on children, families and society as a whole and yet we continue with policies that seem to be ignorant of this reality. Or maybe we simply don't care about the long-term cost to these families or that the long-term cost to society will be immeasurable in so many ways. So, the policies continue and years later we will look back as a country and say...what? We didn't know, didn't understand? What will we say?

As you read this, please know that I am very aware that there are differences of opinion in our congregations about immigration. I respect that there are differences. But the wonderful thing about the United Church of Christ is that we all have the opportunity to live out our faith as we feel called; it's not a one size fits all. I am in DC because I believe that this is where Jesus would be. And because someone stood up, spoke out, marched, wrote letters, were committed to justice...for me. It's my turn.

## Monthly Financial Reports

### Financial Secretary

2019 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall) \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Att.	Giving
Aug 4	38	
Aug 11	65	
Aug 18	66	
Aug 25	WMC	
Online		1,172.00
<b>Total</b>	169	6,377.60

	Aug	Cum. YTD
Rent		
BOB		
Building		
Total Specials		
Dillons rebates		

<u>PMM</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Interest	8/9/19		

### Treasurer's

#### Aug Bank Balance

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
7/31/19		8/31/19

#### Aug 2019 Profit & Loss

##### Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund  
 Online Deposits  
 Re-imbursable item  
 Rent

##### Total Income

##### EXPENSES

Bank Service Charge  
 Benevolence  
 Insurance  
 Misc.  
 Payroll Exp.  
 Utilities

##### Total Expenses

##### NET INCOME

<u>Heifer Int.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/19			

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
7/31/19			
8/31/19			



## 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!



- 10/8 HAROLD & VENICE FACKLAM
- 10/8 RONNIE & LINNIE GFELLER
- 10/11 JOSH & COURTNEY GFELLER
- 10/18 JACK & JUDY HEINTZ
- 10/25 ERIK & SHERI GRAEFE



- 10/6 Russel Altwegg
- 10/9 Deb Heiman
- 10/9 Alex Lee
- 10/9 Tim Dury
- 10/10 Renee Dury
- 10/12 Jack Heintz
- 10/13 Jill Schmetz
- 10/14 Cleo Jones
- 10/18 Cally Bitterlin
- 10/29 Kevin Heiman

*\*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.*

*"I am grateful to God-whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of god that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and love and of self-discipline.*

*Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."*

*2 Timothy 1:3-10*

# OCTOBER

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir 6:00 pm  Consistory 7:00 pm	3	4 Women's Guild 12:00 pm	5
6 Holy Communion Sunday Food Pantry Collection Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	7	8	9 Choir 6:00 pm  Fields of Faith 6:30 pm	10	11 JCARSP 11:00 am	12 Fellowship Hall reserved 10 a,m
13 White Sunday Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Potluck 11:30am 	14	15	16 Choir 6:00 pm 	17	18	19
20 Heifer International Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	21	22	23 Formation 5:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm 	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	28	29	30 Choir 6:00 pm 	31 		

## Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Oct. 6	Kenny & Debby Gfeller	Caleb Snider & Kasey Fielder	Ruth Gfeller
Oct. 13	Graefe Family	Scott Gfeller & Jed Gunn	Potluck
Oct. 20	Dick Gfeller & Richard Hobaugh	Josh Gfeller & Kenny Gfeller	Osa Family
Oct. 27	Marvin & Janice Hornbostel	Nate Green & T J Osa	Open



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«First Name» «Last Name»  
«Address Line 1»  
«City», «State» «ZIP Code»