

THE JOURNEY

January 2020



Dear Zion,

One of the easiest shots to make in the game of basketball is a free throw. The shooter stands alone, fifteen feet from the basket, and is given an opportunity to shoot with no pressure from the defense. Players spend many hours in some gym practicing free throws, and most of them are able to make free throws fairly easily when they are alone in a gym or their driveway. Making these “easy” shots becomes less easy when they are actually involved in a game, in an arena with opponents, referees, fans, etc. There are even greater external sources of pressure during a game, like the score, the noise level of the crowd, whether or not a player made the last free throw they shot, the circumstances of the game, etc. Accomplished free throw shooters manage the external pressures with the internal anxiety in a way that allows them to shoot the free throw with the same ease during the most crucial moments of the most crucial games as they do when they are alone in a gym with zero pressure. There is an inner calm, undisturbed by noise, both inside and out, that great free throw shooters learn to access when they shoot. The ones we call “great” shooters make it look easy. It is.

For those of us learning to follow the Living God, we learn that there are times when following is easier and other times when noise, pressure, anxieties, and countless other reasons make it seem more difficult. There is an inner calm from which we may draw that is more accessible, more liberating, more affirming than we dare to imagine most of the time. Our prayer life, our fellowship on Sundays, our time in silence and nature are all akin to shooting free throws alone in a driveway. All of these practices serve to reveal the person we were created to be. It is so easy to experience in the solitude of our prayers, the sanctuary of Zion, and the stillness of creation. It becomes more challenging in the noise of a culture under siege by violence, marketing, deception, anger, insecurities, etc. These ever present sources of pressure appear to make it more difficult for us to draw from the inner calm of who we really are, more precisely, to Whom we really belong. I say *appear to make it more difficult*, because it need not be so. Followers of the Living God, those animated by the risen Christ make it look easy. It is.

Love, Erik

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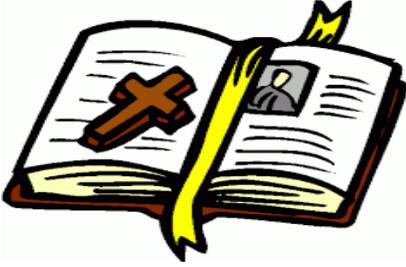


ZION
United Church of Christ

1811 McFarland Rd
Junction City, KS 66441

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
zionuccjc@yahoo.com

January Lectionary

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p>January 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalms 8 Revelations 21:1-6 Matthew 25:31-46</p> | <p>January 5 <i>Epiphany Observed</i> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalms 72:1-7,10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 <i>Choose Hope</i></p> | <p>January 12 <i>Baptism of Christ</i> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17 <i>Loved</i></p> | <p>January 19 <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalms 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42 <i>Called</i></p> | |
| <p>January 26 <i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalms 27:1,4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23 <i>Follow</i></p> |  | | <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Attendance 2019 YTD 3340</p> <p>2018—3699</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p>Attendance 2019 YTD 3340</p> <p>2018—3699</p> |
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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will take place right after services on Sunday, Jan. 26.

All Reports are due in the office by Wednesday , January 15, so that the Annual Report booklet can be printed January 17.

That way the booklet will be available the Sunday before the annual meeting.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this for these words are trustworthy and true”. Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Revelations 21:1-6

Consistory Highlights

Consistory Meeting
November, 2019

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

Members present:

Vern Steffens, Deniece Carlson, Tau Osa, Richard Hobaugh, Denise Tabb, Ray Kruse and Pastor Erik Graefe.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Memorial Fund:

The balance is \$12,859.53

Secretary:

Minutes were not avail.

Treasurer:

Oct income was \$5661.30, expenses were \$7473.74

average attendance: 66

Pastor Report:

Pleased to connect with others at the annual meeting.

White Sunday was a wonderful success.

Breaking Bread of JC provides 1 free meal at the 12th St Community Center every Friday evening for those in need.

Still working on a resource list for community needs.

Will be working with Carl Taylor on restoration (addiction) training.

Financial Secretary:

Denise Tabb moved to approve the reports as presented, Tau seconded, motion carried.

Formation:

Christmas Caroling: Dec. 15

Gifts for families will be posted: Nov 24

Christmas Program: Dec. 22

Christmas Eve Service: 6:00 p.m.

Old business:

Richard moved that a ceiling fan with light be purchased and installed, not to exceed \$500.00 from the Memorial Fund.

Ray seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Sina gave a Thank you note with the receipts from the White Sunday celebration.

Vern is in contact with O & S cleaning, concerning the outside sign. He will contact each of us when he gets an estimate.

Ray moved to help 5 families with food gift cards for the holidays. 3 in Junction City

and 2 in Chapman areas, \$100.00 for each family from the outreach account. Tau seconded, motion carried.

New Cox internet is installed.

There was a request for live stream on facebook for the sermon. We will check into this in the future.

Possible dates for the annual meeting: Jan 19 or 26.

Next meeting Dec. 4

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Deniece Carlson

Zion Choir

The Zion Choir has started, now is a great time to join. We practice Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. The Choir will be sings on 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.



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

2019 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall) _____

| Date | Att. | Giving |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Nov 3 | 74 | |
| Nov 10 | 71 | |
| Nov 17 | 56 | |
| Nov 24 | 70 | |
| | | |
| Online | | |
| Total | | |

| | Nov. | Cum. YTD |
|-----------------|------|----------|
| Rent | | |
| BOB | | |
| Building | | |
| Total Specials | | |
| Dillons rebates | | |

| <u>PMM</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Interest | 11/9/19 | | |

| <u>Heifer Int.</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 11/30/19 | | | |

Treasurer's

Nov. Bank Balance

| | <u>Beginning Balance</u> | <u>Ending Balance</u> |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/31/19 | | 11/30/19 |

Nov. 2019 Profit & Loss

Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund

Online Deposits

Rent

Total Income

EXPENSES

Bank Service Charge

Benevolence

Conference & Meetings

Insurance

Misc.

Pastoral Exp

Payroll Exp.

Repairs & Maint.

Supplies (all)

Utilities

Total Expenses

NET INCOME

| <u>Memorial</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 10/31/19 | | | |
| 11/30/19 | | | |

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!



- 1/2 Tau Osa
- 1/3 Zach Heiman
- 1/9 Denise Tabb
- 1/11 Lyn Green
- 1/29 Brenda Gfeller
- 1/30 Josh Gfeller



- 1/8 Harlan & Lane Bitterlin
- 1/30 Tau & Sina Osa

**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.*



"In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3:5-12



2020

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 Choir 6:00 pm | 3 Women's Guild 12:00 pm | 4 |
| | | | | | | |
| 5 <i>Holy Communion Sunday</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Un-decorate the church | 6 | 7 | 8 Jill out of office Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm | 9 Jill out of office | 10 Jill out of office | 11 |
| 12 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30am | 13 Jill out of office | 14 Jill out of office | 15 Choir 6:00 pm Reports for annual meeting due into the office by 9 am. | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am | 20 | 21 | 22 Choir 6:00 pm | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting 11:30 am Fellowship following meeting | 27 | 28 Pilot Club 5:00 pm | 29 Choir 6:00 pm | 30 | 31 | |

Serving Zion

| | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Coffee Fellowship</u> |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan. 5 | Bin & Rudi Graefe | Steve & Nate Green | Janette & Ruth |
| Jan. 12 | Tau & Sina Osa | Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman | open |
| Jan. 19 | Wayne & Ruth Gfeller | Ray Kruse Jr. & Marvin Hornbostel | open |
| Jan. 26 | Jacobsen Family | Denise & Payton Tabb | open |



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



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