



THE JOURNEY

February 2020



Dear Zion,

One of the young men from our basketball team sent me a text prior to our most recent basketball game asking if he could change his number to honor the late Kobe Bryant. I replied with what might be characterized as typical “coachspeak.” My answer suggested that if he really wanted to honor Kobe’s memory, then he would be in the gym every morning at 4 a.m. working on all of the subtleties of the game which most players find too tedious, too insignificant, or too boring. Bryant’s legacy, at least with respect to basketball, includes a tireless work ethic and attention to detail. Rather than applying this aspect of Bryant’s legacy to their lives, most players find it easier to buy a jersey, get a tattoo, or shout “Kobe!” as they throw a wadded up piece of trash across a room toward a receptacle. Of course there is nothing wrong with any of these ways to show affection, respect, or love for someone who impacted our lives. I wonder though, when we use the word “honor,” if perhaps there is something deeper to consider.

Presumably, Kobe was alone for the majority of those 4 or 5 a.m. workouts during his lifetime. He spent time perfecting minute aspects of basketball that most players are either unaware of or willingly choose to ignore. Bryant’s legacy is a complicated one and his was only one of the lives lost in the horrible crash last week, yet the text from my player reminded me of a couple of passages from Matthew’s gospel. In chapter six, Jesus is speaking of prayer. He says, “*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*” I am reflecting on the countless hours alone in a gym, in secret. In chapter 21, Jesus shares a parable of two sons asked by their father to work in the vineyard. One tells his father he will, then does not. The other tells his father he won’t work, and then does. I am reflecting on all the ways we say we honor Jesus, yet don’t, and all of the people who may call themselves atheist or agnostic, but still honor Him in their work.

It is easy to wear a cross around our necks, tell people we are Christian, and attend services on Sunday. Honoring the risen Christ is different than that. It means willingly letting go of our ego and its desire to be seen or thought of in a certain way. This is the first step in authentic prayer, and it must be relentlessly pursued, even if no one ever knows about it. Even if it is all done at 4 a.m. in secret. Honoring the risen Christ means that aspects of our lives we deem inconsequential, tedious, or boring become the most important. The way we are present in the check out line at the store, the greeting we offer to the stranger, the way we fill an ice tray, etc. All of these are opportunities to manifest the love of Jesus. That is how we honor Him.

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



February Lectionary

February 2 <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Micah 6:1-8 Psalms 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12 <i>Blessed</i>	February 9 <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Isaiah 58:1-9 (10-12) Psalms 112:1-9 (10) 1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20 <i>Shine</i>	February 16 <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Deut 30:15-20 Psalms 119:1-8 1 Cor. 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37 <i>Grow</i>	February 23 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> Exodus 24:12-18 Psalms 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 <i>Sent</i>
February 26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalms 51:1-17 2 Cor 5:20-6:10 Mark 11:8-10, 15:12-15			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Attendance 2020 YTD 266 2019—262 </div>



January 3, 2020

Women's Guild met on January 3 at the home of Ruth. Eight ladies were in attendance.

Judy read a devotion "The New Year".

Lane, treasure, reported a balance of \$1419.68. She also included the complete treasure report for 2019. Total deposits were \$3392.93 and expenses were \$2795.25. Much of the expenses were for the many service projects we sponsor.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved.

Old Business: Discussion for our all church fundraiser dinner to be held on February 9. The menu was finalized. A pulled pork dinner with coleslaw, potato salad, beans & chips, along with brownies and an ice cream bar will be available. Karen and Rosemary are donating the meat. Lane, Karen, Rosemary, Ruth, Janette, and Jill will prepare the meat. Lane will prepare a poster advertizing the event.

New Business: It was moved and seconded to accept Lane's year end financial report. The report will be submitted for the annual meeting booklet along with the secretary's report.

Thank you to the congregation for their support of the Hat and Mitten tree. Thanks to your generosity five schools will receive many items. 23 hats, 45 mittens, 1 sweat band, 4 hat and mitten sets, and 9 packages of chapstick.

Janette shared: "Letter to God". A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there!"

The next meeting will be held on February 7 with Judy H. hosting.

Thank You

I just want to thank you for the donation of hats & gloves. What a thoughtful gesture! I let the front desk know that the nurse office will store them, & to send any student in need. The generosity is so much appreciated !! Please pass the word on to your church members, that we are very grateful.

Kristi Sherbert, USD 475



Women's Guild Fundraiser Sunday Feb. 9 after Service

Remember to invite friends and family.

Consistory Highlights

Consistory Meeting
December 2019

Members present: Vern Steffens, Deniece Carlson, Denise Tabb, Pastor Erik Graefe, Lyn Green, Keith Henry, Ray Kruse Jr.

Erik opened the meeting with a prayer.

October & November minutes were approved.

Treasurer: Is the Cattleman's Flood Relief going be correct to show the giving was \$1000? Treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor's Report:

- Visitations continue
- Basketball has begun
- Nov. 13 - all day class in Lawrence re: counseling
- Saturday meditation continues
- Christmas pageant rehearsals have begun
- Loads of Giving has somewhat stopped –there is one more roll of quarters to be delivered.

Committee Reports: Not available

Families in Need and Giving is going well-most items have been spoken for already.

Old Business:

- water cooler has been installed –used frequently!
- Fan over the choir loft is in progress—scheduled
- Sign cleaning is scheduled with O & S cleaning

New Business:

- Teen Lock-In is scheduled for Dec. 14 7:00 pm to 7:00 am
- Prepare for Budget conversation and annual meeting reports
- 3 consistory members are leaving—Vern, Deniece & Tau
Need to ask interest in the congregation

Upcoming Events:

- Budget will be discussed next Wed., Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm
- Jan. 5 undecorated the church
- Next Consistory Meeting is Jan. 8, 2020
- Zion Annual Meeting is Jan. 26, 2020

Annual Meeting Booklet

If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like the booklet please contact Jill in the office and she will gladly send it out to you.

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



Monthly Financial Reports

Financial Secretary

2019 Gen. Budget

Needed Weekly

Needed YTD

Gen. Fund YTD

Budget Balance/(shortfall) _____

Date	Att.	Giving
Dec 1	57	
Dec. 8	69	
Dec. 15	40	
Dec. 22	252.00	
Dec. 29	48	
Online		
Total		

	Dec.	Cum. YTD
Rent		
BOB		
Building		
Total Specials		
Dillons rebates		

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

<u>Heifer Int.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
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Treasurer's

Dec.. Bank Balance

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
11/30/19		12/31/19

Dec.. 2019 Profit & Loss

Outreach/Heifer Int. Income

General Fund

Online Deposits

Rent

Special Funds

Total Income

EXPENSES

Adv. & Promotion

Bank Service Charge

Benevolence

Insurance

McFarland Assessment

Pastor Cont. Ed.

Payroll Exp.

Pulpit Guest Minister

Repairs & Maint.

Supplies (all)

Utilities

Total Expenses

NET INCOME

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
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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!

- 2/7 **Payton Tabb**
- 2/9 **Angie Roesler**
- 2/9 **Cade Snider**
- 2/10 **Venice Facklam**
- 2/12 **Paige Altwegg**
- 2/15 **Patty Maycroft**
- 2/19 **Erik Graefe**
- 2/20 **Jordan Gunn**
- 2/24 **Jessie Heiman**
- 2/26 **Steve Altwegg**



2/24 Doug & Janette Vogelsang

**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.*

Womens' Guild Fundraiser Sunday, Feb. 9 After service

Pulled Pork Dinner
With all the fixings

Ice Cream Sunday Bar



“When I came to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] I did not come proclaiming the mystery^[b] of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, ^[c] but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷ But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

*“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,*

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

FEBRUARY

2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednes- day</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 <i>Holy Communion Sunday</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	3	4	5 Choir 6:00 pm Consistory 7:00 pm	6	7 Women's Guild 12:00 pm	8
9 <i>Heifer International Sunday</i> Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Women's Guild Fund Raiser after Service	10	11	12 Choir 6:00 pm	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	17	18	19 Choir 6:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am	24	25 Pilot Club 5:00 pm	26 Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29

Serving Zion

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
Feb. 2	Vern & Doris Steffens	Caleb Snider & Kasey Fielder	open
Feb. 9	Gary & Jill Schmutz	Jack Graefe & TJ Osa	Women's Guild Fundraiser
Feb. 16	Mike & Karen Malec	Steve Green & Nate Green	Hannah
Feb. 23	Selesa & Panisia Valoaga	Jed Gunn & Scott Altwegg	Lyn Green



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Junction City, KS 66441-8846
785-238-5732



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