

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

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Nonprofit Org.

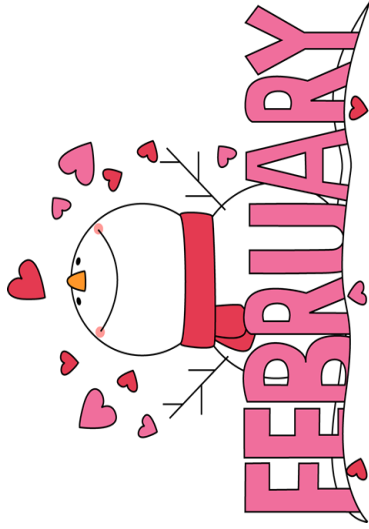
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FERBURY 2018



Zion HERALD February 2018 Volume 91 No. 2

Community Wednesday Lenten Services

Day	Location	Preacher
February 14	St. Paul's Wheatland	
February 21	First Church, Tipton	Pastor Steve
February 28	Peach Church, Bennett	Pastor Tommi
March 7	Zion UCC, Lowden	Pastor Scott
March 14	St. John's. Clarence	Pastor Tessa
March 21 Worship – 7:00 p.m.	St. Paul Wheatland Evening Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Pastor Matt

Additional Lenten Services

February 14, Ash Wednesday

St. Paul, Wheatland 7:00 p.m.

March 29, Maundy Thursday

St. John, Clarence 7:00 p.m.

March 30, Good Friday

Zion UCC, Lowden 7:00 p.m.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The year 2017 for Zion United Church of Christ is now recorded in the pages of our Annual Report and I hope that all our members will take time to read over the historical reports contained within it and I hope you will ask yourselves this question, "What did we do as individuals, as members of Zion United Church of Christ and as a church community last year?"

As I look back on my sixth year with you on this journey of life, I realize that we had many wonderful moments of joy, a few moments of pain, moments of sadness and sorrow, moments of indecision and moments of decisiveness. And you know what, that is often how life plays out for us. We have constant ebbs and tides, highs and lows, peaks and valleys; and whether we are being knocked off our feet by something joyful or something painful, we as Christians know that as we lay on the ground and open our eyes, Jesus is standing over us, with arms outstretched, offering his hands of strength and assistance. Now we don't see Jesus, but instead, we see his disciples. Maybe it was a parent, sibling, friend, or one of our church members who extended their hands in Christian assistance, comfort, joy or loving Christian fellowship. I believe, as do most all our members, we are on the road to extravagant Christian love and care. So many members have shared their observations of how much our congregation has grown as a Christian community that is open, kind and welcoming. These signs are a true indication that Jesus Christ is at work in our congregation.

So as we move into a new year, let us build on the activities and missions we have in place at Zion such as Evening Circle, our Zion Choir, our Christian Education program, Vacation Bible School, Food Pantry, Missions and Outreach, Movie Night, Lenten Worship, Confirmation, our connection to scouts, the Ronald

McDonald House, our sharing of care and love at the passing of a loved one, the CROP WALK/RIDE, our relationship with the North Cedar Schools, and the many other activities we do as a community in Christ. There are also things we must improve on in the year 2018 and the most important of these is our attendance in worship.

Our average attendance dropped from 80 in 2013, 77 in 2014, 75 in 2015, 73 in 2016 and now 62 in 2017. Worshiping God is the center of our community, and it needs to be at the center of our Christian routine. Last year we had a wonderful working dinner where we talked about what it means to be a member of Zion United Church of Christ and what the church needs to be for its members. The information we shared at that meeting has helped us begin the process of setting a new course for our church and our members.

During the meeting, we identified the number one attribute of a member of our church as—being present at our worship services—and what we found is that over 120 different people attended our worship services over an 8-week period prior to the dinner, yet we averaged only 53 people in worship each Sunday during that same period. If we unpack these two facts from our dinner experience, we can conclude that our desire for worship is to have 120 people attend church each Sunday and our potential for worship attendance far exceeds our yearly average of 62 beating hearts a week. The reality is this, WE CAN DO A LOT BETTER THAN THIS!

So, my prayers for each and every one of us at Zion in 2018 is this: Glorious God, help us make worshiping You on Sunday morning a priority in our lives and enable us to put Jesus Christ at the center of our lives because we have taken the name of Jesus as our own because we are **Christians**. Amen.

Grace and peace to you all,
Pastor Steve

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.
 In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.
 At all the times you can. To all the people you can.
 As long as ever you can."
John Wesley

THIS MONTH USHERS

February 4, 2018	Church Council
February 11, 2018	Jay Hein & Jodie Snowbarger
February 18, 2018	Scott & Carmen Fields
February 25, 2018	Senior High Fellowship

March 4, 2018	Church Council
March 11, 2018	Donovan & Linda Freese
March 18, 2018	Duane & Terry Lasack
March 25, 2018	Senior High Fellowship



VIDEOGRAPHERS 2018

February

February 4-Donna Luepker	March 4 Aaron Horman
February 11, Jane Drewelow	March 11 Donna Luepker
February 18, Jean Stepp	March 18 Cheryl Boedeker
February 25, David Niermeyer	March 25 Jody Yutesler



February 4, 2018	Milo & Taylor
February 11, 2018	Jacob & Nathan
February 18, 2018	Koby & Abby
February 25, 2018	August & Taylor

March 4, 2018 Milo & Jacob
March 7, 2018 Lenten Service Koby & Leighton
 March 11, 2018 Nathan & Abby
 March 18, 2018 Koby & August
 March 26, 2018 Taylor & Leighton



February 1 Kaci Gottschalk
 February 2 Brenda Esbaum
 February 3 Taylor Armstrong, Dave Horman
 February 7 Duane Lasack, Easton Drewelow,
 Hunter Lohman, Drew Behrens
 February 8 Darren Esbaum
 February 9 Laettner Esbaum\
 February 10 Sharon Elijah
 February 11 Carl Pasley
 February 12 Millie Muhs
 February 13 Kevin Kahl, Renate Port
 February 14 Blake Proesch
 February 15 McKenna Luepker
 February 16 Makayla Schluter, Aidan Jacobs
 February 18 Koby Stewart
 February 23 Kip Esbaum
 February 24 Curt Conrad
 February 25 Gunner Klahn
 February 26 Sig Schluter
 February 27 Madeleine Combs



February 4, 1956 Harold & Mary Louise Horman 62 years
 February 5, 1977 Randy & Sandra Horman 41 years
 February 7, 1998 Butch & Sig Schluter 20 years
 February 15, 1996 *David & Dawn Adney 22 years



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

JANUARY 15, 2018

Zion Evening Circle met on a very cold night, January 15, 2018, with 12 members and Pastor Steve answering roll call with a memory of a snow event in their life. Jane gave devotions entitled "Adjusting the Pace of Life in 2018".

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. It was moved by Julie, 2nd by Jean to pay bills. Motion carried. Thank you's from Emogene Ford, Linda Freese, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Deloris Kahl and Rose Horman were read. Terry thanked all those who had helped over the past months, including those who did flowers, planned events and served the Committee on Ministry.

The bell program was discussed. Jane purchased a gift for the last bell that was left on the tree. The poinsettias this year were discussed. Jane, Joy and Janis bought and distributed and took care of the flowers. They were very beautiful.

Evening Circle will again serve a supper before Zion hosts a Lenten Service. Members signed up for the food donation and work they wanted to do. Members should decide if the profits from the supper should go to the kitchen work, shingles for the parsonage or new Advent candles. This will be discussed next month.

Pastor Steve told us of the new hospitality team that met this month and their ideas. The project committee asked if we would bring old Valentines or Valentine keepsakes to the February meeting.

February flowers – Marlene Fox; Devotions – Millie; Refreshments – Marlene W. and Jean. Joy and Jane will serve the Committee on Ministry in January.

Terry adjourned the meeting. Janis K. won the "association" door prize. Julie and Donna served delicious refreshments.

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



CHURCH COUNCIL

Zion United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2017

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 2017. President David Niermeyer called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were Jamie Nabb, Bonnie Kintzel, Merlin Conrad, Joy Combs, David Niermeyer and Sharon Elijah. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurers' reports.

Joys and concerns were shared. News and happenings were announced.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were read and made official on a motion by Merlin, 2nd by Jamie. Motion carried. The financial reports were read and accepted on a motion by Joy, 2nd by Merlin. Motion carried.

David reported that he had a contract from All-Star Turf for lawn care in 2018. Council agreed that he should sign the contract at the same terms as 2017.

<u>Calendar Review:</u>	Dec. 17	Congregational meeting
	Dec. 24	Worship service at 10:15 and Christmas Eve Program at 6:00
	Jan. 7	Potluck following worship sponsored by Mission Committee
	Jan. 13	Evening Circle meeting
	Jan. 18	Church Council meeting

Pastor's report was reviewed. Jamie moved, 2nd by Bonnie to move \$5400. from Pastor's cash salary to parsonage allowance. Motion carried. Pastor told us about the Bethlehem Peace Light which will be at St. John's in Clarence. He will bring the light to Zion and we will use it to light the candles on Christmas Eve. Joy moved, 2nd by Jamie to accept Pastor's expense report. Carried.

Council agreed that all proceeds from the "Roofing" envelopes will now go to pay for the new roof on the parsonage and garage. Discussion was held on the light fixtures in the Educational building.

The budget for 2018 was reviewed. Jamie moved, 2nd by Merlin, to present the budget to the congregation as recommended by the budget committee. Motion carried. The council reviewed the 2018 committees as presented by the nominating committee.

David reported that the Endowment Committee had met. They recommended investing the money in the CD's that will be maturing in 2018 into a Van Guard account. Merlin moved, 2nd by Bonnie, that we accept the endowment committee recommendations and invest \$14,583 monthly into a Van Guard account from the maturing CD's during the next 12 months. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 18, 2018. Joy moved to adjourn, 2nd by Merlin. Motion carried. Pastor closed with a prayer. A very delicious Christmas meal was served after the meeting by the outgoing council members, David Niermeyer and Merlin Conrad. A few trivia games were played with prizes going to all present.

Respectfully submitted:
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



To Our Church Family

*We would like to thank all for your prayers, cards,
visits, phone calls and flowers.*

Special Thanks to Pastor Steve.

*It's wonderful to be a part of a church family with
so many concerns.*

God Bless, Harlan & Florence Deerberg



The HeritageAgency.

Do you or someone you know need help?

Heritage Area Agency on Aging (HAAA) staff has the knowledge and expertise to help older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers address care, health and safety issues.

Do you or someone you know -

- lack food and proper nutrition?
- lack needed transportation
- are not sure what to do regarding living arrangements, insurance or health care as one ages?
- need help caring for a loved one?
- is in an abusive situation?
- is interested in finding employment?
- is interested in volunteering?

If so, call Heritage Area Agency on Aging (319-398-5559) or email heritage.agency@kirkwood.edu

HAAA serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties. Their staff is equipped to provide needed information to make informed decisions and to connect you to service providers. There is no charge for these services. Call today. Help is available.

The Heritage Agency_

Heritage Area Agency on Aging (HAAA) serves Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington counties.

HAAA provides information and assistance on services to help older adults and adults with disabilities stay in their home as long as possible. To find the services offered in your county, or to become an HAAA volunteer please email heritage.agency@kirkwood.edu or call (319) 398-5559

Hospitality Team 2017

Zion has a new committee called the Hospitality Team. We met once so far, and we are working on some new and exciting ideas, so keep watching for us. Oh yes, we are serving coffee before our worship services on Sunday, so come early and get a cup. Members on the committee in 2018 are Janice Strackbein, Mary Balke, Jody Yutesler, and Amy Mohr.



DECORATE THE CHURCH WITH SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER

2018

The Easter Flower committee of Donna Luepker, Linda Freese and Julie Hoffmeier will be taking orders beginning February 25, March 4 and March 11 before church services. Orders will be placed on March 12. The prices will be available later. Flowers this year will be lilies, hyacinths, hydrangea in blue or pink, azaleas, daffodils, mums, and tulips. Thank you.



We are very thankful for the donations to date! A little over \$4,900.00 has been received for the replacement of the Parsonage Roof. That puts us at about 30% of the quote so we still have some more work to do. Future donations to the roof, either through the offering or envelopes, will be directed toward the Parsonage Roof unless specifically designated for the previous Church roof replacement.

Work on the roof was started on January 22. Be sure to take a trip around the North side of the Church to view the progress.

Respectfully, Jamie Nabb, Vice President-2018



Spring Dinner

The Spring Dinner Committee has met in preparation for our annual event. We have set the date for April 8, 2018 and are again planning to serve a Swiss Steak Dinner.

This event serves as a gathering and reconnecting event for all member of Zion. We hope that all our members will participate in some way so that our community will be strengthened for the work of Jesus Christ.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex for you to choose one or more ways to participate and sponsor this event. Maybe you will choose to make a food item for the meal, pick a job you will enjoy, make a monetary donation, and com enjoy a wonderful meal with your family and friends. What is important it that you will have chosen to do Christ's work for our community and to continue God's Mission on earth because it is in the spirit of Jesus' love and fellowship that bring us together as one body in Him.

The Spring Dinner Committee

Jean Stepp-Jody Yutesler-Cheryl Boedeker-Diane Esbaum- Julie Hoffmeier, and Sue Monson.

Zion Senior High Fellowship
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 28, 2018

Members present: Tessa Fields, Makayla Schluter, Grace Proesch, Kelly Proesch, Addie Luepker. Kelly Nabb was present and has accepted being the SHF sponsor for the coming year.

Pastor Steve opened with a devotional and a prayer.

Financial report: SHF checking has a balance of \$1180.87. The Christmas Dinner gifts received totaled \$357.00. \$700.00 was given to Winter Wishes for the purchase of gifts for children and families at Christmas.

Old business: We will be making cookies and cards for members of our congregation who are in a nursing home. The list may be expanded to shut ins and other members as well. Makayla will get a list from Linda Behrens. Kelly Nabb will purchase the supplies. We will meet after church on Sunday, February 11th to bake the cookies and distribute them. We will need bags to put the cookies in.

New business: We are planning a new mission project to help people who enter the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City and do not have personal items such as tooth brush, tooth paste, mouthwash, etc. SHF could purchase plastic pencil boxes and put of list of items in and pass them out to member to fill and return. We will talk more about that at our next meeting.

Pastor Steve will look for a "plant growing" liturgy that include action for the Sunrise Worship Service on Easter morning. Pastor Steve will write the Easter message and Makayla has offered to deliver the message.

No other new business. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer. Submitted by Grace Proesch, secretary pro tem.

Missions Committee Meeting January 7, 2018

Present: Linda Behrens, Sharon Elijah, Carmen Fields, Jess
Coppess Mary Campbell, Megan Horman

Absent: Pastor Steve Marlene Wiedenhoff

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order after the New Year Potluck.

Approval of Minutes:

The November 19, 2017, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed. Megan moved, Carmen seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report:

Linda distributed the financial report for members to review. There was a maintenance fee and state tax debit of \$10.70 that members would like clarification on. Linda will follow-up and report back at the next meeting.

Birthday cards were discussed. Members recommended reviewing the list of people we send cards to and revising it as appropriate. This discussion was tabled and will resume once the church member list is verified and complete by the church council.

The financial report was approved as presented.

Megan moved, Mary seconded.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

The New Year Potluck went well. There were 42 people in attendance with a wide variety of foods. Members discussed holding future potlucks on a Sunday when no other activities are planned. The date of this potluck was the same day as the Christian Education Christmas breakfast and taking down Christmas decorations after church.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place March 18 after church.

Adjournment:

Linda adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jessica Coppess



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

BAKE SALE

February 4, 2018

ALL of our proceeds
will be donated to the

Ronald McDonald House – Iowa City

**“Super Bowl Sunday” – Wear your
favorite sports team to church! And bring
a canned or boxed good for our food
pantry.**

Please support us by taking some
baked goods home to enjoy!



DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 4

“Souper” Bowl Sunday

Please bring soup or non-perishable item for our
food pantry

Christian Ed Bake Sale

Proceeds will go to The Ronald McDonald House.

FEBRUARY 10

Father/Daughter Winter Wonderland Ball
At Zion from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

At St. Paul's UCC
Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY 21

5:00 Dinner at First Church, Tipton

7:00 Lenten Service

Pastor Steve preaching

FEBRUARY 28

5:00 Dinner at Peace Church, Bennett

7:00 Lenten Service