

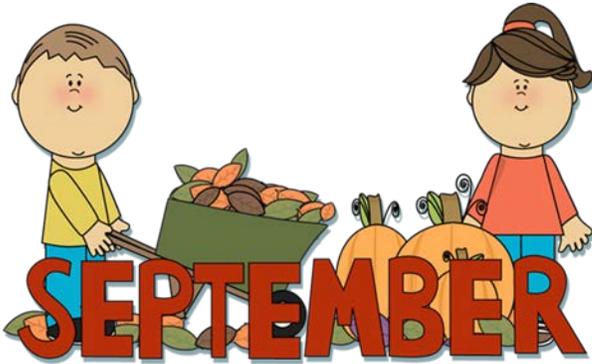
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nonprofit Org.
402 Main Street
P.O. Box 339
Lowden, IA 52255-0339
Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

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2019



Zion Herald September 2019 Volume 92 No. 9

UP COMING HAPPENINGS

September 1 Worship will begin at 10:15, note time change.

September 8 9:00 Christian Ed classes begin.

10:15 Worship Service

September 15 Hospitality team is serving an Ice Cream Social following the worship service

September 16 Evening Circle Picnic at Fox's Pond with husbands as guests. Food, Fellowship & Fun!!

September 18 Confirmation Instruction will begin 6:30-8:00

September 22 Zion hosting joint UCC service here, at 10:30 a.m.

Eastern Iowa Conference meeting here at 2:00 p.m.

September 24 Movie Night at 6:30 p.m.



Hospitality Team is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social to raise money for The Food Pantry. The menu is: Maid Rites, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Chips. Along with several type of ice cream treats. There will be games for everyone. This will take place on September 15 after worship. Freewill Donations is asked for.



ANNUAL MEETING

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *There will be a joint worship service on September 22 at 10:15 am. This the same day Zion UCC will be hosting the Eastern Iowa Conference Annual Fall Meeting. There will be a meal served for the Members attending the conference.*

Please come and worship with us and enjoy being with others from different churches.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CHURCH THAT DAY!!

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

As Summer winds down, and autumn approaches, I remember 6 months ago when we all were praying for warmer weather to release us from the grips of a very, very long winter. Then we prayed for dryer weather as flood waters rose and fields laid dormant, soaked beyond capacity. And then we prayed for wetter weather because the parched land seemed to draw the very life out of the plants. In these parts, weather is often the center of attention because a portion of the local economy is supported by agriculture. In fact, farming was once the “bread and butter” of Lowden and the surrounding area. Almost all of the many, local businesses were tied directly or indirectly to farming.

But over time, things have changed. Many of the support services that once blessed this community are gone, yet we are very thankful for those that remain. Many of the people who were connected to agriculture are gone and now many of our residents have no connection to farming. Still, we are thankful that the homes in our community are occupied because so many rural communities across America have turned into ghost towns over the years.

Now, there is something that seems to have weathered the storms of social-economic change in our community, that being our Christian church. Now you are probably thinking, “but Pastor Steve, our church is not the magnificent church of years ago when we filled the pews and had to put chairs in the aisles on Christmas Eve and Easter. How can you say we have weathered the storms?” My simple answer is this; We have survived because God has a purpose for us. God has seen fit to provide social and economic support for our church because God has a plan for us.

So, what do we do? We trust in God’s plan. How do we know what God’s plan is for us? We gather together and talk about our purpose as revealed to us through Jesus Christ and we listen to the person God and this community has chosen to guide us on this journey together.

Oh yes, did I say we trust God? That means we continue to try new things. Find new ways. Explore new opportunities. And...we never stop. We can rest, but we can never stop being the people Jesus picked to build the kingdom of God here and now.

God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with love. Let’s use our gifts and reveal to God our desire to be one of the places that continues into the 21st Century by serving the people of this community and beyond to the Glory of God.

We have some very important and fun activities coming up in the month of September. On Sunday, September 15th our Hospitality Team will be sponsoring an Ice Cream Social & Maid Rite Dinner following the worship service and our Christian Education Department will provide games and activities for everyone. We may even have a puzzle race! So, put it on the calendar and you won’t miss the food, the fun, or the fellowship. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Zion Food Pantry.

Then on the morning of Sunday the 22nd, we will be hosting the second annual joint worship service with First UCC from Tipton and St. John’s UCC from Clarence. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan will be the guest pastor as he shares his wonderful musical talents with us. We will also have a tri-church Sunday School that day beginning at 9:00 am.

Then in the afternoon, Zion will be hosting the Eastern Iowa Association United Church of Christ Annual Meeting beginning at 1:30 pm and concluding with a delicious supper.

I thank everyone who continues to look toward the horizon of possibilities for our faith, our church and our community. I hope and pray that we will reach out into this new Lowden community of 2019. I hope and pray that the same type of love and care that built the relationships of this community so many years ago will be rekindled to build new relationships with the new community we live in today. May God continue to bless us as we move forward with the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Sept. 1	Church Council
Sept. 8	Tim & Jane Drewelow, Annette Behrens
Sept. 15	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker
Sept. 22	Wilbert Muhs & Mary Huffman
Sept. 29	Senior High Fellowship



Videographers September

September 1 Jane Drewelow
 September 8 Cheryl Boedeker
 September 15 David Niermeyer
 September 22 Jody Yutesler



September 2	Shelley Jacobs
September 4	Ray Wiese , Linda Freese, Marcine Miller, Jacob Gottschalk
September 7	Brett Esbaum, Avery Luepker
September 8	Emily Hayton, Abigail Balke
September 12	Gail Hamdorf, Caitlyn Neill
September 17	Vicki Mohr
September 19	Helen Gottschalk
September 21	Chris Drewelow
September 22	Alice Rowold
September 23	Joy Combs, Randy Horman
September 25	Taylor Lohman
September 26	*David Holst, Jared Bentrrott
September 27	Bob Rowold, Pam Jensen Royce Gottschalk
September 28	Rhonda Poppe
September 29	Steve Poppe, Kelly Proesch,



Card Shower

September 19
September 22

Helen Gottschalk, PO Box 252, Lowden, Ia 52255
Alice Rowold, 307 Main St., Lowden, Iowa 52255

If you are 80 years young or over, we celebrate your birthday by having card shower. If you are not on this list please let the office know so we can add you to the list or note it another time



Happy Anniversary!

September 2	Allen & Sandra Koch (1960) (59 years)
	Darrell, Jr. & Jody Yutesler (1990) 29 years
September 8	Brad & Liz Norton (1979) 40 years
September 9	Kent & Janice Strackbein (1961) (58 years)
September 11	Pete & Sharon Johnson (1965) 54 years
September 15	Gary & Kim Klahn (1984) 35 years
September 18	Jill & Mike Jacobs (2010) 9 years
September 22	Jim & Jan Olsen (1962) 57 years



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2019

Zion United Church of Christ met June 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and prayer. Those in attendance were Joy Combs, Jon Mansfield, Duane Lasack, Aaron Horman, Rick Balke and Sharon Elijah. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports.

Joys and concerns were shared. A letter from Rick Balke resigning from the council was read.

The minutes of the last meeting were declared approved as printed. The treasurer's reports were approved on a motion from Duane, 2nd by Aaron. Motion carried.

Calendar review:

June 29	Memorial service for Dick Deichman
June 30	Pie auction
July 8-16	Pastor's vacation
July 21	Out-door service at the park
July 21-25	Vacation Bible School
July 23	Movie night

In his report Pastor Steve talked about putting in place a long-term plan to make our church more visible in the community. Pastor's expense report was approved on a motion by Aaron, 2nd by Jon. Motion carried.

Old business:

Merlin Conrad trimmed the bushes on the east side of the church. Aaron will purchase some LED light bulbs for replacement needs. We should continue to buy the same brand, same wattage, etc. to keep consistent lighting in the church buildings. The council will check with heating and cooling businesses to get bids on a new air conditioner/furnace unit. The memorial fund has enough memorial money plus money from Evening Circle to purchase a defibrillator. Pastor will check with the EMTs about this purchase.

New business:

Rev. Jordan's gravestone at the Lowden cemetery needs to be repositioned. We will ask if anyone would like to contribute to the cost of having it reset.

Reports on the spring dinner were read from Jean Stepp and Diane Esbaum

The next council meeting will be July 18th. Aaron moved, 2nd by Duane to adjourn. Pastor closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2019**

Zion United Church of Christ met July 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and prayer. Those in attendance were Joy Combs, Aaron Horman, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield and Sharon Elijah. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports. Joys and concerns were shared.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a motion by Aaron, 2nd by Duane. Motion carried. The Treasurer's reports were approved on a motion by Aaron, 2nd by Jon. Motion carried.

Calendar review:

July 21	Outdoor worship service
July 21-25	VBS
July 30	Movie night
Aug 9-24	Pastor's vacation
Sept. 22	Eastern Iowa Association meeting at Zion

During Pastor Steve's report he discussed the visibility of the church in the community and what we can do to promote our church. The council also talked about using direct deposit for weekly or monthly giving to the church. Joy will invite Sandy Esbaum to the next council meeting so we can learn more about this. Aaron moved, 2nd by Jon, to approve pastor's expense report. Motion carried.

Old business:

Aaron had talked with Lowden Plumbing & Heating about our air conditioner and furnace. The A/C units were installed in 1987 and the furnaces in 1993. Lowden Plumbing & Heating suggested replacing the north furnace, air conditioner unit and dampers with a bid of \$12,500. The south unit bid was \$11,500. These furnaces and A/C units would be 2-stage and would greatly improve the efficiency of the systems. We will try to get another bid before making a decision. We would also like to have this paid for before going ahead with the project. Money making projects were discussed.

Pastor Steve has looked into purchasing a defibrillator for the church and will go ahead with the purchase.

New business:

The Eastern Iowa Association meeting to be held here in September was discussed. Evening Circle will serve the evening meal. There will be a joint worship service with Bennett, Wheatland, Tipton, Clarence and Lowden in the morning.

There is a water leak on the east wall of the church. The building and grounds committee will be contacted to look into this.

Duane moved to have Aaron serve as vice-president until the end of the year and Jon to be the treasurer of the organ fund and the improvement fund. Seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be August 26. Duane moved, 2nd by Aaron to adjourn. Motion carried. Pastor closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

HOSPITALITY TEAM MINUTES



The hospitality team met on August 4, 2019 at 10:00 am. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Church Council member Jon Mansfield, and team member Marlene Fox, Marcine Miller, and Janis Krafock. Mary Balke was absent.

We held a discussion on the purpose to make and promote our church community as a place where members and visitors receive an extravagant welcome, so they feel a warm Christian welcome.

The Hospitality Team decided to have an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 15, 2019. It will be held in the church basement. There will be kids' games.

Menu: Maid rites, Potato Salad, Chips, Brownies Sundaes, Root Beer Floats.

Beverages are coffee, water, or Iced tea.

There will be a free will offering. We hope to see you there.



NEWS

ROAR VBS was celebrated July 21 - July 25, 2019 with Zion United Church of Christ and St. John's United Church of Christ joining forces. We had a range of 55 - 61 kids join in on the fun along with

37 volunteers throughout the week. We sang 10 different songs, learned about how the Israelites were slaves for the Egyptians, God sending the plagues on Egypt, the Israelites entering the wilderness, Jesus dying and coming back to life and how the Israelites built a memorial to remember God's goodness. The kids learned that...When life is unfair...God is Good! When life is scary...God is Good! When life changes...God is Good! When life is sad...God is Good! And When life is good...God is Good! They also did different crafts including prayer paws, tumble drums, African necklaces and binoculars, cup weaving, lion pillows, and optichromes. The kids also played lots of different and fun games. Our offering this year we donated to both elementary schools to help with snack milk for those kids who can't always afford it. We raised \$239.19 and are hoping that the Missions Committee will match this so that both schools will receive this amount. We would like to thank all of our volunteers that helped throughout the week running stations and leading groups including Avery Luepker, Jane Drewelow, Abagael O'Connell, Kelly Proesch, Addi Luepker, Ashley Schroeder, Anna Pruess, Ann Harms, Melissa Armstrong, Tanya Stewart, Tatum Slaton, Jenny Horman, Mariah Behrens, Danielle Balichek, Megan Horman, Beth Kahl, Sandra Horman, Mary Gregory, Charlie and Cathy Easterly, Koby Stewart, Jessica Coppess, Kelly Nabb, Shelby Slaton, Kiley Chapman, Pastor Steve Stepp, Jean Stepp, Leighton Tjaden, Blake Chapman, Lisa Horman, Makayla Schluter, Maddie Cornelius,

Melissa Bahnsen, Lisa Dircks, Megan Koth, and Macy Helmold. We also would like to thank those that donated cookies/bars and other supplies that were needed in the different stations including Bonnie Kintzel, Jane Drewelow, Donna Schroeder, Melissa Armstrong, Jenny Horman, Kyle Proesch, Sandra Horman, Linda Atkinson, Renae Koth, Connie Kelly, Diane Esbaum, Tanya Stewart, Melissa Bahnsen, Laura Schroeder, Chris Griffin, Shirley Geadlemann, Todd Miller, Pat Dewell, JoAnn Wenndt, Marcia Richmann, Jessica Coppess, Jan Strackbein, Brenda Esbaum, Sharon Kruckenberg, Judy Proesch, Lindsay Schwab, Janis Krafock, Sharon Elijah, Marilyn Klahn and anyone else we may have forgotten. Another thank you goes to Linda Behrens for doing our copying and cutting to help get us ready. It is appreciated. Thank you everyone and we can't wait to see what next year brings!

Megan Horman and Kelly Nabb



Sunday Classes begin Sunday, September 8th at 9AM!



We look forward to an exciting year teaching God's word!

Please encourage your child(ren) to attend and be amazed by the wonderful stories the Bible has to offer! Our classes are open to all children 3 years old and older including non-members of our church. Please fill out an enrollment form and return to the church office or Kelly Nabb.

IN NEED OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER!!!! Abby is off to college and I am looking for a person interested in teaching our young people of our church!!! Please contact Kelly Nabb if you are interested in helping out!!! Thank you!!!!

Kelly Nabb

Zion United Church of Christ

Christian Education Coordinator, (563) 941-7315 phone, (563) 249-2335 cell

jkabb@fbcom.net or zionucclouden.org

CAREGIVER WELLNESS DAY

Monday, November 4, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center



**CAREGIVER
WELLNESS DAY**

2019 Keynote Speakers



Kathy Good, MSW, is no stranger to the corridor. She has been involved with social work, both in private practice and as an educator, for many years. Kathy's professional background helps her lead efforts as the director of the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy in Cedar Rapids but, her

personal journey as a family caregiver adds a profound qualification to oversee this center that opened its doors in 2015, the same year her husband – who had lived with Alzheimer's disease for 12 years – sadly passed away.



Abby Martin became the Manager of the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy in November 2018. She has a bachelor's degree in social work from Luther College and a master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa. Abby has over 10 years of professional, direct-care experience

and has also experienced caregiving first hand while providing care for her grandmother who lived with dementia. She is a Marion/Cedar Rapids native and is pleased to be serving a community and population she loves.



Dr. Sara Sanders is a professor and the director of the University of Iowa School of Social Work. Her research interests pertain to grief and loss, reactions in caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's, the role of hospice care for individuals with dementia, and how the larger social service

system can be strengthened. Dr. Sanders has also worked as a hospice social worker, and for other organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association and the Johnson County Medical Examiner's Department.

*Proudly serving Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington County.

FREE respite available. For more information or to register, please call Heritage Agency on Aging at (319) 398-7679.