

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
402 Main Street
P.O. Box 339
Lowden, IA 52255-0339

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Zion Herald September 2020 Volume 93 No.9

Information Corner

Our website address is www.zionucclowden.org

Secretary: Linda Behrens

Zion office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 to 12:00

Zion office phone #563-941-7726

email: zionucc@fbcom.net

Members of our Church Council

Aaron Horman-President, David Niermeyer- Vice President, Janice Strackbein, Secretary,
Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Randy Horman and Sandy Esbaum

Address changes/updates

If you are going away for a month or longer or are moving,
please contact the church office to let
Linda know so that you will receive your mail in a timely basis.

Thank you!

Message from the Church Council

In 1 Timothy 5, Paul describes the church as people dedicated to doing whatever it takes to reach out and help others in need. As we close the book on Pastor Steve's time of ministry with us and anticipate our future, we must remember that the church is the people. For nearly nine years, Pastor Steve has inspired us to take the message and love of Jesus Christ out into the world and serve those we meet. Our most wonderful tribute to his time of ministry with us is to do just that. The church is greater than any building or pastor. If we enter our time of transition with this mindset, we can be assured that our hearts will be opened to accept God's plan for the next chapter of ministry at Zion.

On Aug. 30 we bid farewell to Pastor Steve and Jean. We give great thanks for their ministry at Zion. We share in the joy of Pastor Steve's new call to serve his home church in Fond Du Lac, Wisc. Please join us in taking a moment to offer a prayer of love and support for the Stepps as they embark on their new journey.

During our time of transition, the church council has selected Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams to serve as our interim pastor. She will provide leadership while we search for our next settled pastor. Her first Sunday with us will be Sept. 20.

OUR JOURNEY IN TRANSITION

During this time of transition, the church council, along with the guidance of Pastor Susan, will be leading the congregation through discussion as we work to define who we are as a church. This will pick up on the Vision 2020 conversations that were held earlier this year and also be a time for us to contemplate our future ministry leadership and discern whether that includes a part-time or full-time minister. We encourage you to be active participants in these discussions. This will be valuable information as our soon-to-be-formed search committee begins work on our church profile that will be shared with prospective ministerial candidates.

ABOUT REV. SUSAN SCHNEIDER-ADAMS

Pastor Susan has a rich ministry background, most recently serving as Interim Pastor at Maquoketa UCC and at First Congregational UCC in Anamosa. She has served local congregations in Wisconsin, New York and California as pastor, associate pastor, youth minister, music director and interim pastor. Susan also served as Associate Conference Minister for Youth & Young Adult Ministry in the Wisconsin Conference UCC and as chaplain in a nursing home.

Susan and her husband, Matt, moved from Wisconsin to Iowa in 2017 when he was called to serve as pastor of St. John's UCC in Clarence. They live in the St. John's parsonage with their dog, Rugby, and three cats. They have two adult children, Andrew and Molly. Andrew is an attorney, married to Ashley and living in Baraboo, Wisc. Molly lives in Nashville, Tenn., where she is finishing her degree in occupational therapy at Belmont University.

Susan grew up in Minnesota, earned her BA from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and her M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. She loves good food, wine-tasting, movies, camping and dancing of any kind. She is a certified Zumba and Silver Sneakers instructor.

Sue is passionate about inspiring all kinds of 'bodies' to live fully into who we were created to be – as individual persons, or as the Body of Christ, or as a community. She believes we can do that most readily when we eliminate judgement, embrace a healthy sense of humor and humility, and open our minds and hearts to all the possibilities God places in our lives (usually to see and to stretch just beyond where we are right now).

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to operate under the same social distancing and safety measures that were implemented earlier this summer regarding in-person worship during the Coronavirus pandemic. **Face coverings or masks are REQUIRED at all times when inside the church building.** We ask that you wear a face covering as you enter the church, while in the sanctuary for the duration of the service and as you exit. Per CDC guidance, masks may be safely worn by anyone age 2 and older except those with breathing problems. A limited number of masks are available as you enter the church. Hand sanitizer stations are setup throughout the church. The pews and high-touch areas are being sanitized regularly.

If you plan to attend in-person worship, we look forward to seeing you. If you have decided to stay home for a while longer, we understand and respect your decision. Services continue to be live streamed on Facebook. Services are posted to our YouTube Channel later in the day and later in the week on local cable channels.

We encourage our members who are most at-risk to continue to worship with us at home; according to the CDC guidance, this includes anyone who is age 65 and older or those with underlying health conditions. If you have a fever, exhibit respiratory symptoms or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or otherwise potentially been exposed to COVID-19 within the past 14 days, please stay home. If you do choose to attend worship in person and later develop symptoms or are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days, you should immediately contact the church office so appropriate precautions can be taken.

The church council has determined that these service modifications and enhanced cleaning and sanitizing efforts will be in place until further notice.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES, ORGANIZATION MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Christian education classes, church organizations and committees that meet in person should follow all CDC guidance, which includes practicing social distancing (e.g. everyone sitting at their own table in Fellowship Hall or meeting in open areas of the church). **Wearing a cloth face covering or mask is required at all times when inside the church building.** Groups should refrain from serving food and beverages. New events or use of church facilities for outside events such as baby showers or community meetings continue to be suspended. As with the worship protocols, these guidelines are in place until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, please direct them to council president Aaron Horman.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will be trying something new with our worship and Christian education schedule beginning this fall. Instead of returning to a later start time after Labor Day, worship will continue to begin at 9:30 am. Christian education classes will also begin at 9:30 am with students attending the worship service in the sanctuary and then dismissing to classrooms after the multigenerational lesson (children's sermon) for approximately 45 minutes. While students are in Sunday School, the worship service will continue for others. This integrated approach to worship and Sunday School will compact the morning and allow all generations of our church family to join together for worship and learning each Sunday. On the first Sunday of the month when there is communion, students will remain in the sanctuary with their families for the entire service. We will begin this new way of Sunday School and worship on Sept. 13

The Pastor's Pen

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Even if you have never watched a soap opera, you probably recognize these words, "Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives." It is from TV's *Days of Our Lives*. I first heard those words at my Godmother's house when I was 5 years old. She loved to watch her soaps. I remember asking, do you have an hourglass? She said no, but I have an egg timer, which of course is a 4- or 5-minute version of an hourglass. I don't know how many times I flipped that egg timer before I realized the difference of a clock and an hourglass. Do you know what that is? Well, a clock never really runs out of time, but an hourglass does, at least until you flip it and start all over. So, the grains of sand never stop until they have all passed the narrow part of the glass which is called the neck.

This metaphor of our life's time as an hourglass where the grains of sand are like seconds, minutes or hours, or days passing through the neck to their eventual completion in death is interesting. Another view is that we have multiple glasses which signify each chapter of our lives. Other ideas suggest that we have control of how quickly the sand passes. Or maybe this concept is simply just a way to explain how our lives begin, change and end.

What I do know is this, we all are finite, we have a beginning and an end, *and* we all want a lot of sand in our hourglass. But I think life is not about how much sand we have; life is about what we are doing as each grain passes through the neck.

So rather than focusing in on how much time we have, let us concentrate on what we do with each grain of sand that passes through our hourglass of life. Let us make every minute count in Christian terms. Because when the sand does run out, we should hope that we have lived faithfully and produced a portrait that is pleasing to God.

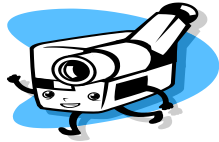
That is the main purpose of pastors. They paint a picture of the faithful Christian life by the way they perform their office and by the way they live their lives. It is not a perfect picture, because only Jesus was able to reveal that to us, but it is a faith-filled picture painted by a person who is called by God to serve the people who make up the church and the body of Christ.

Now, as the last grains of sand passes through my Zion hourglass, I thank you all for your contribution to the picture I have painted of the Christian life. I hope that I have helped you grow in your faith as I have in mine. I hope that your vision of God and the person and work of Jesus Christ has helped you build on your relationship with God as it has with mine. I hope that you will consciously continue your transformation into apprentices of Jesus Christ like I will continue mine. I hope that someday we will all meet again in God's eternal kingdom of love where there is no hourglass, and I hope we will share a good meal together and of course many, wonderful desserts. May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God lift up God's countenance upon you and grant you the wonderful peace, joy, hope, and love that is found in Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

THIS MONTH USHERS

The church council will be responsible for ushering in September



VIDEOGRAPHERS for September

September 6, 2020 Donna Luepker

September 13, 2020 Jody Yutesler

September 20, 2020 Julie Hoffmeier

September 27, 2020 David Niermeyer



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2	Shelley Jacobs
September 4	Ray Wiese, Linda Freese, Marcine Miller, Jacob Gottschalk
September 7	Brett Esbaum, Avery Luepker
September 8	Emily Hayton
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 Bentrott
September 27	Bob Rowold, Pam Jensen Royce Gottschalk
September 28	Rhonda Poppe
September 29	Steve Poppe, Kelly Proesch,

Card... ...shower

Helen Gottschalk	Clarence Nursing Home PO Box 485, Clarence, Iowa 52216
Alice Rowold	307 Main Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

September 2	Allen & Sandra Koch (1960)
	Darrell, Jr. & Jody Yutesler (1990)
September 8	Brad & Liz Norton (1979)
September 11	Pete & Sharon Johnson (1965)
September 15	Gary & Kim Klahn (1984)
September 18	Jill & Mike Jacobs (2010)
September 22	Jim & Jan Olsen (1962)



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2020**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 6:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020. Attendance were Aaron Horman, Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, David Niermeyer, Sandy Esbaum, Jon Mansfield, Janice Strackbein, and Pastor Steve Stepp. Pastor opened with a prayer and a reading "Plaque".

No Joys and news were reported.

Duane made a motion to approve minutes. 2nd by Randy. Motion carried. Pastor Steve reported that he had accepted a call to be Senior Pastor at a church in Fond du lac, Wisconsin. Council shared that Jean and he will be missed but surely wished them the best. Pastor reported he has confirmands giving their faith statements on June 28. Confirmation on July 19 during church service. Pastor reported he has a baptism on Saturday eve, new members joining. All visits are done by phone, Zoom Bible study. Duane made a motion to approve Pastor report. 2nd by Sandy. The treasurer's reports were reviewed. David moved to accept the Financial reports 2nd by Duane.

Old Business: The natural gas and the air conditioning are more efficient.

New Business: Church secretary is in office 3 half days. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Sandy made a motion, 2nd by Jon. It was noted Live streaming is growing as is You Tube. Discussion was held on how to social distance at the confirmation service.

Zion will postpone any activity with food being served.

Our next meeting will be July 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Strackbein, Secretary

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2020**

The council met with Pastor Steve after service. We discussed Statement of Faith that confirmands presented. All did a good presentation; each was a little different. Randy made a motion, seconded by Jon to announce that all are confirmed with communion on July 18, during the service.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Strackbein, Secretary

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2020**

On July 16, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., President Aaron Horman called the regular monthly meeting of the church council to order. Present were Pastor Steve, Randy Horman, David Niermeyer, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Sandy Esbaum and Janice Strackbein. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer and devotion.

Randy made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2020, and June 28, 2020, meetings, second by Jon. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on promoting the UCC's "Five for Five" national ministry giving in light of electronic distribution of the Herald since envelopes are normally mailed. Randy reported the Richard "Butch" Schluter family was contacted and agreed to give a portion of memorial funds toward the worship service "live streaming" equipment. Discussion was held on consolidating some church bank accounts and instead designating balances in the church's accounting software. Duane made a motion to accept the financial reports, second by David. Motion carried.

During the pastor's report, Pastor Steve wanted clarification on how to handle a confrontation he had about masks related to COVID-19. The council had an intense discussion on the protocols of wearing masks. The confirmation service and safety modifications to communion for Sunday, July 19, were discussed. Sunday, July 26, is graduate recognition. An outdoor worship service will be held Sunday, Aug. 9 at Lowden Memorial Park. Jan made a motion to approve the pastor's report and expense report, second by Sandy. Motion carried.

Additional discussion was held on the outdoor service. The park shelter rental fee is \$35.00. The Music and Worship committee will work with Pastor Steve to plan the service. Social distancing will be enforced, but mask wearing will not be necessary outside once people have been seated. New members Ted, Deanna, and Steven Licht and Sandy Esbaum will be received.

Discussion was held on the fall worship schedule and Christian education integration with worship. Duane made a motion to continue the 9:30 a.m. worship start time and have Christian education classes begin after the children's sermon with no classes held on the first Sunday of the month, second by Randy. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on raising the balcony railing.

Some members have requested to be removed from the church membership roles. Pastor Steve will contact these individuals.

Discussion was held on Pastor Steve's last Sunday (Aug. 30) and exit interview.

David made a motion to accept the compensation counterproposal, less tax-shelter annuity, from Sue Schneider-Adams to serve as interim pastor, second by Jon. Motion carried. Aaron will draft the contract.

Aaron suggested the council start thinking of names of individuals to serve on the Search Committee.

The closing question of the night was "If you got something spiritual tattooed on your body, what it would be and what would it symbolize?"

Pastor Steve closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting is August 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Strackbein, Secretary

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who donated school supplies or monetary donations towards our back to school drive. We had a great response and had multiple families who were very grateful for the supplies. We will be putting a few supplies in our food pantry as well as a couple other locations so that if anyone else needs something once school starts it will be available. We also received a grant from Theisen's that we will be using to purchase supplies for teachers in the North Cedar School District that they would normally be paying for out of their own pockets. We hope that everyone has a safe and great year of school.



In September, the Missions committee will be collecting cleaning supplies to help Bonnie out throughout the church. Some of the supplies that will be needed include Clorox wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, 5 oz. paper cups for the bathroom dispenser, Swiffer Sweeper refills, toilet bowl cleaner, garbage can liners in 13 gallon and 33 gallon sizes, Kleenex tissues, and hand soap.

Welcome

In August we welcomed new members to our church family: Sandy Esbaum, Ied, Deanna & Steven Licht, and Francis and Vickie Fisher. When you see them be sure to welcome them to our church and say hello!

In addition to these new members, we welcomed the 2020 confirmation class on July 19, 2020. New members by confirmation are Johny Amina, Drew Behrens, Carter Horman, Jaydon Nabb and Sophie Poppe. We also welcomed Josselyn Easterly at an earlier date because her family was moving.



**Sunday School classes begin Sunday,
September 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary!**