

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
402 Main Street  
P.O. Box 339  
Lowden, IA 52255-0339  
Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

*Nonprofit Org.*  
*U.S. Postage Paid*  
*Lowden, IA*  
*Permit No. 3*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*MAY/JUNE 2020*



Zion Herald May/June 2020 Volume 93 No. 5 & 6

### Church Information

Our website address is [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

Secretary: Linda Behrens

**Zion office hours** Monday through Friday 8:30 to 12:00. Zion office phone #563-941-7726

**Pastor Steve Stepp** 563-941-7529

Home: 563-941-5476 email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto:zionpastor@fbcom.net)

Office hours...Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm or contact me to set up a time that works best for you.

### Members on Church Council

Aaron Horman, President, David Niermeyer, V. President,  
Janis Strackbein, Secretary, Sandy Esbaum, Treasurer  
Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Randy Horman

### ADDRESS UPDATE

If you are going away for more than a month or longer, are moving or your children change addresses, please contact the church office to let us know so that you will keep receiving your mailings on a timely basis.

Thank you.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am a Christian! is a statement that has many interpretations. First by the people who say it and secondly by the people who hear it. For some it means we simply believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. For others it means that we believe, and we live a life in Christ. Now what does it mean to live in Christ? Well, it means many things. But on top of the list it means that we believe Jesus Christ is one person of our Triune God. That he died for us on the cross so that we could be made righteous by believing in him. And it means that because we believe in Jesus, we will answer his call to live a life of service to God and God's people.

Now, the simplicity of faith is founded on simple and complex truths. We believe in the Triune God. We believe that Jesus Christ was born fully human and fully God. We believe Jesus lived a life of perfect faith to God and he completed the work of salvation that we are unable to complete. By living the faithful life, Jesus showed us the pure example of being created in God's image. So when we say, "I am a Christian!" it means that we are called to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in all that we say and all that we do so that our lives will glorify God.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). This reveals to us that the reward of living by believing is twofold. First, living in Christ's faithful life truly enhances our lives whereby we enjoy a life of close personal relationship with God and each other. Secondly, when this life is over, we will not fear death for we will know with complete and pure conviction that we do live again in Christ. It is the best of all worlds. A wonder-filled life of love and devotion to God and all people right now and a wonder-filled life for all eternity with God and all those we love. There is nothing on this earth that could be better than this promise we have from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let us live in the love, compassion, mercy and generosity of Christ as we proclaim through him, I am a Christian!

Now, as we move forward over the next two months, we will have important decisions to make on how we adapt to our new COVID-19 culture. I hope and pray that we all continue our diligence in protecting ourselves and others from spreading this virus. Warmer weather is coming and I for one do not want to spend more time indoors than I need to. So I hope that we will all declare "I am a Christian" as we safely follow Christ's command, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

"Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life." *Johnathan Edwards*

# THIS MONTH USHERS

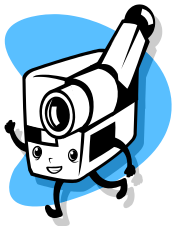
- May 3 Online Worship
- May 10 Online Worship
- May 17 Online Worship
- May 24 Laettner Esbaum, Kip Esbaum, David Niermeyer
- May 31 Senior High Fellowship
  
- June 7 Church Council
- June 14 Jim & Jan Olsen, Robert & Sharon Johnson
- June 21 Mary Balke, Marcine Miller, Jessica Coppess, Deb Axline
- June 28 Kevin & Beth Kahl, Tim Kahl
  
- July 5 Church Council
- July 12 Joby & Kyle Proesch, Rose Horman
- July 21 Dennis Mostaert, Merlin Conrad
- July 26 Scott & Carmen Fields, Robert & Joni Fields

## VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR MAY

- May 3 Online Worship
- May 10 Online Worship
- May 17 Online Worship
- May 24 Donna Luepker
- May 31 Julie Hoffmeier

## VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JUNE

- June 7 Jody Yutesler
- June 14 David Niermeyer
- June 21 Aaron Horman
- June 28 Jean Stepp



## MAY BIRTHDAY

- May 1 Tucker Coppess
- May 2 Jessica Coppess
- May 5 Andrew Fields
- May 7 Merlin Conrad
- May 9 Brandon Horman
- May 12 \*Beryl Esbaum
- May 14 Bob Hamdorf
- May 21 Carter Horman

May 22 Jonie Fields  
 May 23 Donavon Freese,  
 Marilyn Lafrenz, \*Rodney Port  
 May 24 Rick Bentrrott  
 May 28 Spencer Armstrong  
 May 29 Cole Hamilton, Beckam Horman  
 May 30 Josh Horman, Skyler Horman



**MAY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER**

**Donavon Freese, 305 W. Farmer Street, Stanwood, Iowa 52337**  
**Marilyn Lafrenz, 402 Harding Avenue, Lowden, Iowa 52255**



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

May 5	Rev. Steve & Jean Stepp	36 yrs.
May 10	Andrew & *Amanda Kahl	13 yrs.
May 13	Dean & Lisa Hamdorf	30 yrs.
May 16	Kip & *Sandy Esbaum	28 yrs.
May 19	*Ryan & Angie Williams	11 yrs.



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

June 2 Marge Norton  
 June 3 Lori Dittmer, Kelly Nabb, Melissa Gottschalk  
 June 5 Sharon Johnson, Tim Drewelow,  
 Caylee Curley  
 June 6 Cheryl Boedeker  
 June 7 Susan Hamdorf  
 June 8 Donna Breneman  
 June 11 Cadence Horman  
 June 12 Rev. Steve Stepp  
 June 13 Grace Proesch  
 June 15 Leea Marie Waasdorp  
 June 17 Kyle Gottschalk, Shae Mohr  
 June 20 Alden Klahn, Milo Easterly  
 June 22 Kyra Lange

June 23	Rodney Port
June 24	Carol Boedeker, Don Breneman
June 28	Dorothy Pingel, Steve Poppe, Tessa Fields
June 29	Paxton Horman
June 30	Kalab Klahn



**CARD SHOWER:**

June 2	Marge Norton, 408 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Apartment 17 Clarence, Iowa 52216-0017
June 8	Donna Breneman, 99 Manor Drive, Eldridge, 52478-7921
June 20	Alden Klahn, 111 Grant Avenue, Lowden, Iowa 52255
June 24	Don Breneman, 99 Manor Drive, Eldridge, IA 52478-9721
June 28	Dorothy Pingel, 404 McKinley Ave., PO Box 402, Lowden, Iowa.



*Happy Anniversary!*

June 1	Bill & Sharon Elijah	57 years
June 3	Bob & Jonie Fields	20 years
June 5	Harlan & Florence Deerberg	65 years
June 7	Beryl & Diane Esbaum	40 years
June 16	Rick & Karen Bentrrott	41 years
June 20	Dean & Mandi Behrens	22 years
June 24	Wes & Ladon Griesbach	48 years
June 28	Adam & Lisa Horman	17 years
June 29	Chuck & Donna Breneman	57 years
June 30	Lou & Janis Krafock	58 years

**Strengthen the Church Special Offering**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, 2020

There will be offering envelopes for this Special Offering as you come to church.

**Zion United Church of Christ**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**March 19, 2020**

The Zion UCC Council met via conference call at 7:00 p.m. on March 19, 2020. In attendance were Aaron Horman, Randy Horman, Jon Mansfield, David Niermeyer, Janice Strackbein and Pastor Steve Stepp. Duane Lasack was absent.

Pastor Steve opened with a prayer and devotion on boundaries and crisis in our lives.

A motion was made by David Niermeyer and seconded by Randy Horman to accept the minutes from the February 27, 2020 and March 1, 2020 meetings.

Financial reports were approved with a motion by Randy Horman and a second by Jon Mansfield. Sandy Esbaum is our new Church Treasurer and is currently transitioning into this position. Automatic payments for church expenses was recommended. A motion was made by Randy Horman and seconded by Jon Mansfield for Sandy to explore this option.

Discussion was held on Easter Sunday worship services. Aaron and Pastor Steve shared that Easter can be celebrated at any time if we are unable to join together as a church family on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

David Niermeyer made a motion and seconded by Jon Mansfield to accept Pastor Steve's expense report.

A motion was made by David Niermeyer to give Mr. Mooney a gift of Lowden Booster Bucks in appreciation of snow removal at church.

David Niermeyer was asked to write up job descriptions for church secretary, church treasurer, custodian and lawn mowing.

Sandy Esbaum was asked if she and Kip want to continue mowing the church property in 2020. A motion was made by Randy Horman and seconded by Janice Strackbein to offer the church mowing job to Kip and Sandy Esbaum.

A motion was made by David Niermeyer and seconded by Sandy Esbaum to spray the church property for weeds. Jon Mansfield will contact the previous company to spray the weeds.

Jon Mansfield will check into if tuck pointing is needed.

David Niermeyer reported that the Missions Committee will continue to have breakfasts in the future.

A motion was made by Jon Mansfield and seconded by Randy Horman to postpone confirmation and the three remaining confirmands' readings of their Statements of Faith.

The Spring Dinner committee will meet in two weeks.

Discussion was held about Vision 2020.

Pastor Steve closed the meeting with thoughts and prayer. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020. A motion was made by David Niermeyer and seconded by Jon Mansfield to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Strackbein, Secretary



We are again planning on joining forces with St. Johns UCC for Vacation Bible School this year. Mark your calendars for July 19 - 23 and make plans to come and join us for Rocky Railway. We will grab our tickets and climb aboard for mountains of fun. On this faith-filled adventure, kids will discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. We are excited to create some new

memories! We are planning to offer a "normal" VBS experience, however we will continue to monitor the current COVID-19 situation and make adjustments as needed. If you are willing to volunteer in some capacity (group leaders, session leaders, extra help) please let Megan Horman or Kelly Nabb know so we can get you down. We will also be getting out a donation list soon of supplies that will be needed. Your help is greatly appreciated as we wouldn't be able to do any of this without you, our congregation! Thank you!

NOTICE:

The Spring Dinner is still on hold due to the COVID-19 virus. The committee will be in contact with the members when a date has been set. Those signing up to make a donation may make it at any time by sending it to the church office.

**A Note from the Church Council**

Greetings Members and Friends of Zion,

The Zion Church Council has decided to proceed in faith and concern for its members by abstaining from in person worship for the next three weeks through May 17. During this time, we will continue to suspend all in person gatherings of the church, but we will continue to provide the resources of our food pantry, pastoral care, ZOOM meetings and Bible study and, of course, our online worship services.

These are certainly challenging times and we give thanks to you, the church, for responding with the love God has given us.

We thank you for your continuing gifts to our general fund which enables us to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ and for the contributions to our food pantry and other missions of the church which provide much needed outreach for our community.

May God continue to bless us and keep us as we continue to reflect Jesus Christ by the way we live and love in this world!

Thank you everyone!

The Zion Church Council

**Looking Ahead**

We are trying new ways to produce our "online" worship service to preserve and optimize our time resources. Please continue to share your comments as we continue to provide meaningful worship experiences.

We are also exploring the possibility of holding drive-up worship services at the Lowden Memorial Park. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you everyone!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MAY 2020</b>					1	2
3 Online Worship Service	4	5	6 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	7	8	9
10 Online Worship Service	11	12	13 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	14	15	16
17 Online Worship Service	18 Evening Circle @ 6:30	19	20 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	21 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00	22	23
24 Church Service @ 10:15	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	28	29	30
31 Church Service @ 10:15						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JUNE 2020</b>	1	2	3 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	4	5	6
7 Church Service @ 9:00	8	9	10 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	11	12	13
14 Church Service @ 9:00	15	16	17 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	18 Church Council Meeting @ 7:00	19	20
21 Church Service @ 9:00	22	23	24 Zoom Bible Study @ 2:00	25	26	27
28 Church Service @ 9:00	29	30				