

Burlington Zion Express

September 2011



It is always said with an urgent voice and a disappointed I-have-no-hope-left-in-me facial expression. It is a statement that leaves me in a downward slide of frustration which I am going to express from now on with a keening wail (I feel better already just imagining it). Here it is. Here is the one, single statement that has done more to hurt the growth and vitality, the energy and morale of the Church (yes, capital C) than anything since...well, OK, I'm exaggerating. But anyway here it is, the heart of protestant evangelism (if evangelism in the protestant church has a heart. Some would say it has more of a thready pulse):

"WE HAVE TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN."

I hear it all the time and in every setting of the church. It is our mantra, our creed, our lifeboat as the Titanic sinks. It will save us! if only it were 1950 again! If only we could.....ATTRACT MORE YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN!

In the interest of time (the Kingdom is coming, afterall), perhaps we need to reduce "WE NEED TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN" to text-speak (which, btw, is something the young-families-with-children would really like). How about WNTAMYFWC? Too long? Maybe WYFC (pronounced wee-fike). We could all wear bracelets printed with WYFC. Or better, every church member when they enter the church doors could have their hand stamped with WYFC. Or maybe it could be added to all the God is Still Speaking banners. Imagine it--"God is still speaking WYFC!"

Think of all the time we could save at church events, meetings, worship if we shortened "WE HAVE TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN" to just a succinct WYFC. For example, church board meetings everywhere could simply start with a joining of hands and a resounding WYFC shout and then never mention it again during the meeting. The time-saving potential is staggering.

I am emitting a loud inward wail.

I need to immediately add that I love children. I enjoy young parents, and I invite (with genuine enthusiasm) them to church. And we probably do need more families with young children.....and I'm not saying they don't deserve our welcome--I am asking why is their presence seen as the sign of a successful church? Why are YFWC seen as the keystone species in a fragile church ecosystem?

-- continued on next page --

I decided to take a poll, determine the why of WYFC. OK, I'm sitting alone in a hotel room writing this and there's no one to survey but the concierge at the front desk. But I have been involved in enough discussions (all of them depressing) on WYFC that I can do my own survey. I think there are three reason that WYFC (if you haven't noticed, I've now made WYFC a verb) like maniacs in church discussions. Here's what I have determined:

- 1) We WYFC because the YFWC need us
- 2) WYFC will secure our future
- 3) Jesus would WYFC, right?

We WYFC because the YFWC need us. OK. I'll buy that. Need precedes evangelism. But think about this--at Zion we have at least 15 people in nursing homes and care centers. These are people who would gladly go to church if they could somehow travel the 2-5 mile distance. Wow. 15 more people in the pews all of a sudden. 15 more people adding their experience and input to committees. 15 more people involved in small groups. And all we need to do is attract them. Which would be easy--call them, set up a pick up time, go get them, bring them to church and then give them a ride home. And most importantly, they need us. Therefore, according to our thought process, we should be doing everything we can to attract them.

If we did attract them, the church could change their lives with all that we could bring. Imagine the possibilities of fulfilling need: the interaction with church members would bring new life into their "shut-in" existence, "getting out" would certainly brighten their days, the social hour and the time in worship would add quality and maybe even longevity to their lives. The benefit of active church involvement could be revolutionary for the elderly.

So why don't we start and end every evangelism meeting with an urgent "we need to attract more seniors with walkers and wheelchairs to church." Or with all the other groups that meet the criteria for active evangelism--if indeed our criteria is that they "need" us. The disabled? Single moms? People in grief, the LGBT community, the homeless, people of color, the baby boomers who gave up church in their 30's, or the list goes on. Play a game with me. Take "we really need to attract more young families with children" and substitute another group. "We really need to attract more gay men and women." "We really need to attract more people who need assistance with food and rent." "We really need to attract more single parent families who can't make ends meet." "We really need to attract more 50-somethings who have lost a spouse." But of course those are absurd statements. And we all know why. Because it's not really about who needs the church.

It's about who the church needs.

We want those who we think will make us more stable. And we think that a 1950's church filled with children and young families make us a successful institution. And I suppose it would. If we didn't have as our core the teachings of Jesus. A person, btw, who wouldn't WYFC if his life depended on it.

But isn't WYFC the church's future? We certainly hear that it is often enough. Deciding that WYFC is our future could be the most illogical piece of all. Our theory is that YFC are the future of the church because (I guess) if there aren't children in the church now, there will be no adults (the grown up children) in the church in a generation. It's sort of like saying, if all the baby bears are removed from Yellowstone park, then in a generation or two, there won't be any adult bears in the park. True. Except the church isn't a national park. Case in point, the baby boomers (think of them as the baby bears) went to church obsessively as children (dragged there by their well-meaning Greatest Generation parents). BBs (baby boomers, not baby bears) immersed in church as children, should, according to our WYFC argument, now be the heart and soul of the church. Not so. New Barna research shows that BBs turned into one of the most lackadaisical groups of adult church goers. More than 41 percent of BBs say that they only attend church for weddings and funerals. And what is the biggest complaint of the Greatest Generation folks? It's the statement clergy hear all the time "I just can't get my adult children to come to church!" It's as if all the baby bears decided they didn't like Yellowstone after all and moved to the city.

Need isn't why we obsessively WYFC. And there is no statistical evidence that WYFC will assure the church of its future. So why do we make WYFC'ing the driving force behind so much of what we do in church? Or a better question might be would Jesus WYFC? Sorry, but I can't stop myself: WJWYFC?

Which brings us to the question: is it biblical to make "attracting" anyone an urgent spiritual mandate? When Jesus commissioned the disciples did he use the Aramaic word for attract? Did the Gospel writers then translate it into the Greek for attract? Does a word that actually means "to compel the interest, admiration, or attention of" really sound like Jesus?

Jesus. Remember him, all us desperate WYFC'ers? His language was peppered with words and phrases such as "deny yourself," "sell all your belongings," "the kingdom is coming," "judgment." Jesus was all about justice for the poor, unconditional love, eating with sinners and tax collectors. Well, you get the picture. The urge to WYFC is not from Jesus.

So the church's urgent need to relentlessly WYFC is based on our own needs, a false precedent, and is far from biblical.

So what should you do the next time you hear "WE NEED TO ATTRACT MORE YOUNG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN?" I would suggest running wildly in the direction of the nearest homeless shelter where you can immediately start serving food, or dashing to the nursing home and visiting with a church member who lives there, or storming the pastor's office and offering to organize a new mission project, or opening your bible and reading anything Jesus ever said. And...btw, best of luck. Because we probably really do need more young families with children.

See You in the Pews!

Jane



September Worship

Sunday, September 4

10:00 am: Worship with Judy Winkelpleck

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

Flowers: **Date open**

Sunday, September 11 - Communion

10:00 am: Worship (with brunch to follow)

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Flowers: **Date open**

Sunday, September 18

10:00 am: Worship

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Flowers: **Date open**

Sunday, September 25

10:00 am: Worship

Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32

Flowers: In memory of John Eden from Darrell and Sue Eden

"Back-to-Church Sunday"

September 11

10:00 a.m. service

followed by an all-church brunch

The Sunday after Labor Day is the Sunday that is traditionally called "Rally Sunday" because after our long and relaxing (hopefully) summers, we are ready to "rally" for a good year in church.

I like to pack the pews on this particular Sunday—so be sure to be there! There will be a special children's sermon (with prizes) that will prepare the kids for a wonderful and stimulating Children's Church.

Following the service, our Fellowship Committee is providing a delicious brunch for everyone. Come and rally together!

See you there! *Pastor Jane*

September Worship Helpers

September church closers: Bill and Pam Daws

Sunday, September 4

Greeters: Dennis and Dyan Dietzman, Kathy Morrish, Rod Reeves

Reader: Joe Deal

Tower Bell: John, Caleb, and Jared Paulus

Valet: Craig Neises

Sunday, September 11

Communion Preparers: Sandy Deal and Darrell Eden

Greeters: Milt and Laurie Paule, Tom and Connie Ralston

Reader: Pam Daws

Tower Bell: Will Neises

Valet: Dennis Dietzman

Sunday, September 18

Greeters: Charles Brissey, Bill and Connie Krieger, Pauline Kuster

Reader: Don Kellar

Tower Bell: Pam Daws

Valet: Marvin Fraise

Sunday, September 25

Greeters: Cathy Boeset, Don and Vivian Kellar, Martha Landstrom

Reader: Laurie Paule

Tower Bell: Bob Parmeter

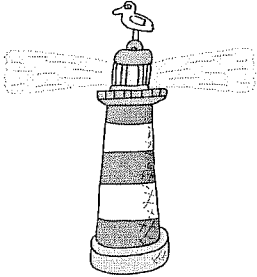
Valet: Milt Paule

Help needed on September 4 after the worship service

We are asking anyone who is willing and able to please go down to the Fellowship Hall after church and pick up one of the wooden chairs and return it to the second floor. These were used for the Silver Seniors Victorian Tea. Anyone who could help with this would be appreciated!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

by Janice Gibson



Lighthouse Kids! Shining God's Light

Sunday, September 11, will be the kickoff to a new year of Church School. We're going to start off with some Bible stories that remind us to be **Lighthouse Kids! Shining God's Light**—God's message of love—to the world around us!

So make sure you're there on Sunday, September 11, for the extra-special activities we've got planned. There will be a special puppet show, a lighthouse craft, and lots more!

Remember, parents: Church School meets during the 10:00 a.m. service, following the children's time with the pastor. Regular attendance at Church School is a great way to help your children grow in their faith journeys!

Ecclesiastical Council

Sunday, September 25

3:00 p.m.

The Southeastern Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to attend an Ecclesiastical Council in examination of **Judy Winkelpleck** and vote on recommendation for ordination.

The Council will take place here at Zion Church on Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m.

Adult Sunday School

Sunday, Sept. 18, 9:00 am

Here is the *tentative* schedule for our fall reading and discussion topic, "**Grief and Loss: How We Cope with the Loss of Someone We Love.**"

September 18 – Loss of Spouse

1. A Widow's Story
2. The Year of Magical Thinking
3. Us

September 25 – Widows' Panel

(Judy Tomkins, Sharon Thye, Judy Nesius)

October 2 – Loss of Parents, Child

1. The Long Goodbye
2. One True Thing
3. When Bad Things Happen to Good People

October 9 – Hospice

(Dr. Hoth, Dean Graber)

October 16 – Off

October 23 – Loss of Self

Still Alice

October 30 – Pastors' Panel

(Jane Willan, Gary Chapman)

November 6 – Final discussion

"What We Have Learned"

This schedule is subject to change. If you wish to participate in this group, please contact Jerry Goddard so he can add you to the email list for any "breaking news" concerning this class. His email address is jgoddard66@gmail.com or his phone number is 753-1888.



Rehearsals begin

Wed., August 31

6:00 p.m.



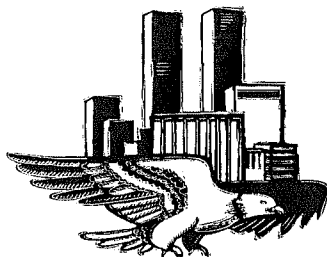
Anita Renteria, the handbell choir director, has announced that the bell ringers are ready to start rehearsals this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. This will continue every Wednesday except during NOIZ Nites for Families, which is the first Wednesday of each month. The first NOIZ Nites will be October 5.

They are always looking for new ringers. If you would like to join the handbell choir, you would be more than welcome! Please join them on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.



The adult sanctuary choir will have their first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m. They will be practicing every Wednesday night for about an hour except the first Wednesday of each month during NOIZ Nites for Families. (The first NOIZ Nites is October 5.)

We welcome anyone who likes to sing. Come and give us a try! Talk to Janice Gibson, the choir director, if you have any questions.



WE REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11

Nursing Home Sing-along

Klein Center

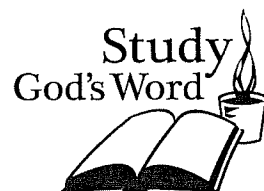
Sunday, Sept. 18

2:00 p.m.



Thank you to the following volunteers who led the sing-along at Bickford Assisted Living on August 21: **Janice Gibson, Debbie Gottschalk, Don and Vivian Kellar, Mary Klein, Martha Landstrom, Gail Lawlor, Milt and Laurie Paule, and Rod Reeves.**

Please join us on Sunday, September 18, when we sing at Klein Center at 2:00 p.m.



The **7:30 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study** held at Diggers Rest will resume on September 13. We will embark on a journey through the book of Acts. Come and join us for the adventures of the apostles and a good cup of coffee.

The **Senior Women's Bible Study** will return to Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. We will be starting a wonderful new book called Bad Girls of the Bible. It is both entertaining and informative. Be prepared to learn things about the Bible you never thought possible.

Pastor Jane

No staff meeting in September. The next one will be on Thursday, October 20, at 12pm, at the church. **Bring your lunch!**

Confirmation Class

To all confirmation parents and students (grades 7 and 8):

Your first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 28, at 5:30 p.m. ***This is the only meeting that parents are required to attend.***

We will go over the schedule for the year and the expectations of confirmation. It shouldn't take more than an hour. If parents or kids have any questions, ideas, or needs, this would be a good time for discussion.

Thanks for supporting confirmation—we will have a wonderful year together!

**The first required event for the kids will be a Youth Workshop being held at the church on Saturday, October 1, from 10am – 4pm. I realize it is a big commitment, but it will be worth it and it is a great kickoff to a good confirmation year. See you at the workshop! *--Pastor Jane*

Friedenheim Community

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 11

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



The Friedenheim Community Low Income Retirement Home will be holding an ice cream social and open house in their Community Room. There will be a time of fellowship with the staff and residents. Refreshments will be available, and an apartment will be open for viewing. The event is sponsored by the Friedenheim Advisory Council. This is a ministry of the United Church of Christ. Friedenheim is located at 2603 Madison Avenue. Please try to attend!

Bridging the Gap Report

Our missions program has been kept very busy! Director Deb Ruble reports that during the past month Zion's Bridging the Gap program has helped many families and individuals with varying needs.

Here is what has been happening:

Phone inquiries for assistance: 23

Walk-in inquiries for assistance: 4

Helped with job searches: 8

Provided food from our food pantry: 29

Provided clothes: 12

We have also given financial assistance from our Love Fund to 15 different families. That is why your donations of food, clothes, and money are so important. Thank you!

Just a reminder that Deb is here on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon to assist people. Jessica Smalley is here on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We appreciate all the hours they spend helping those in need.



It's a Girl!

Elizabeth Marie Stout was born on August 10, 2011, at 11:36 a.m. to Carrie and Jeff Stout in Ruckersville, Virginia. The proud grandparents are Glen and Debbie Gottschalk. Congratulations!



Welcome
Our New
Member

John Riessen joined the Zion UCC church family on August 7, 2011.

If you haven't already done so, please extend a big "Welcome" to John.

Paint-a-thon Saturday, September 10



This year our house is at 510 Ruthella Drive in West Burlington. Everone MUST sign a waiver before they will be allowed to work or paint on the house. Waiver forms are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Prep work and power washing will begin at 9am on Tuesday, September 6. There will be some scraping that will need to be done after the power washing. Every morning that week there will probably be someone at the house doing some painting. If you can only stop by in the evening to help, that is also fine.

Paint and supplies will be stored in the garage with access through the back garage door. There will be a notebook in the garage with updates as to what has been done and what still needs to be done.

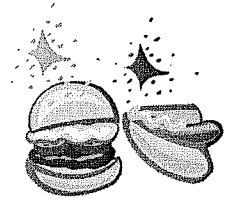
The final touchups will be done on Saturday, September 10, beginning at 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served at the Port Building beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be a big screen TV set up at lunch for viewing the Iowa - Iowa State football game.

Please call me at 754-5974 if you have any questions. Thanks.

--Pam Daws

"Top-of-the-Hill" Cookout at Jane & Don's



Saturday, September 17 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss the annual picnic at Jane and Don's house at 2404 Florence Avenue. Bring a covered dish and a friend. Don will be grilling the burgers and brats. Drinks will also be provided.

The approximate age range for this fellowship group is 45 – 65, but you will never get carded at the door! It's for those people who are not yet "over-the-hill" but are not "approaching-the-hill" either.

We hope you all can be there! --Pastor Jane

"Over-the-Hill Gang" Thursday, September 22

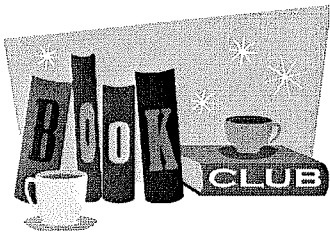


A fall trip to the Carthage Lake Club for lunch and activities is planned by Milt and Laurie Paule.

Meet at the church at **11:00 a.m.** to carpool there.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Those interested must sign up so Laurie can notify the club with the number of people expected.

We hope everyone can join us! --Marcia Fraise



Thursday
September 22
7:00 p.m.

This month our book discussion group will discuss Major Pettigrew's Last Stand: A Novel by Helen Simonson. It is a New York Times bestseller. We will again meet at the home of Judy Tomkins at 1738 Deer Run Drive.

Books have been ordered and will hopefully be available for purchase on Sunday. They will be on a table in the narthex. The cost is \$8.50 each.

Youth Workshop with Rev. Nicole Havelka Saturday, October 1 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lisa Neises and Peggy Wilkinson are coordinating this workshop seminar with Rev. Nicole Havelka, UCC Iowa Conference Associate Minister for Youth and Young Adults. The theme will be **“Discerning the WHY of your Youth Ministry.”** *Explore God's call for your youth ministry and create a statement of purpose and a practical plan for living out that purpose.*

Lunch will be provided, along with refreshments during the day.

If you are interested in coming to the workshop or working with our youth, please contact Lisa or Peggy. The confirmation kids should plan to attend, and all youth/teens are invited.



The annual **Consistory Officers Retreat** will be on Saturday, October 8, at 8:30 a.m. Carol and Jerry Goddard are hosting this event. Thank you, Carol and Jerry!

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 2**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.



Equal Exchange Coffee Project Ending

The Mission/Outreach Committee has decided to discontinue this project at Zion. We will not be placing any further orders for coffee, tea, cocoa, or candy bars.

Please look at all the products on display in the narthex area that we have available for purchase. All items have the prices on them. You may want to get them while you still can.



Sunday, October 9

Save the date! Our Fellowship Committee is planning the annual all-church hayrack ride at Don Thie's farm for late afternoon/early evening on October 9. The exact time and more details will be in next month's newsletter.

Flu Shots to be Given



Jackie Welch, Zion's Parish Nurse, plans to give flu shots again this year in **late October** before and after the worship service. Exact dates and times and the cost should be available for you in next month's newsletter.

St. Paul's UCC

401 Maple St.
Donnellson, Iowa

St. Paul's United Church of Christ will hold a bake sale, 4 luncheons, and a drawing this fall.

The bake sale will be held on Saturday, September 17, at 7:30 a.m. in the Pilot Grove Savings Bank community room in Donnellson during Apple Daze. The luncheons will be held there from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

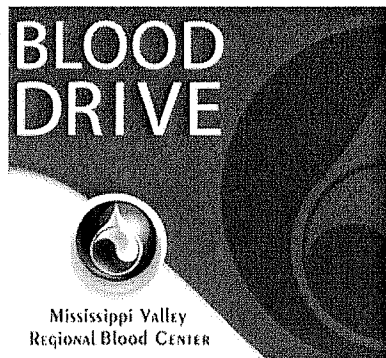
Friday, September 9
Friday, September 30
Friday, October 21
Friday, November 4

The drawing will be held at the end of the November 4 luncheon. There will be many prizes. First prize is \$650 in cash. Tickets are \$2.00 each and are available at each of the above activities, from a church member, or send a check to the church for the number of tickets you would like to purchase. The mailing address is P. O. Box 297, zip code 52625. You need NOT be present to win.

--Community Harvest Committee



Thank you to everyone who helped maintain Zion's garden this summer! Also, thanks to Bill and Pam Daws for trimming some of the tall weeds and spraying Round-Up on the parking lot.



**Monday, September 12
1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
First United Church of Christ**

This year the annual **Downtown Churches Blood Drive** will be held at First UCC, located at the top of Snake Alley.

Did you know....

-that 95% of us will need a blood product in our lifetime
-that every 3 seconds, someone in our country needs blood because of injury or illness
-that the need for blood strikes people of all ages, all walks of life, all income levels -- illness and injury do not discriminate
-that 22% of our blood supply is used by cancer patients
-that another 18% of the blood supply is used by people with heart disease
-that YOU can impact the lives of as many as 3 to 4 people with ONE blood donation!

Donating blood takes about an hour of your time. In turn, your donation can allow children to grow to adulthood, parents enjoy their families for years to come, and grandparents see new generations enter the world.

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is the sole provider of blood products to OUR area hospitals.

The Blood Center depends on volunteer blood donors to donate life-saving blood on a regular basis. A person may safely donate blood as often as every 8 weeks -- 6 times per year.

ABOUT YOUR BLOOD TYPE

<u>BLOOD GROUP</u>	<u>RH FACTOR</u>	<u>APPROX POPULATION %</u>
O	Positive	39%
A	Positive	35%
B	Positive	8%
AB	Positive	3%
O	Negative	6%
A	Negative	6%
B	Negative	2%
AB	Negative	1%

ALL BLOOD TYPES ARE IMPORTANT ... INCLUDING YOURS !!!

Call Jackie Welch, Zion's Parish Nurse, at 754-4779 (home) or 768-4417 (work) to schedule a time.



We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. Starting on Sunday, September 11, we will be making appointments before and after services and meetings at the church. Or you can sign up online at www.signup.olanmills.com. **Please sign up on or after Back to Church Sunday (September 11)** to get the best appointment to fit your schedule. We will also be making appointments on **Sunday, September 18**, and **Sunday, September 25**. The 25th is the **final week** you will be able to sign up.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a \$25 Portrait Gift Certificate. No purchase necessary.
- You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait Viewing are:

Tuesday, October 4, 2:00 - 9:20 p.m.

Wednesday, October 5, 2:00 – 9:20 p.m.

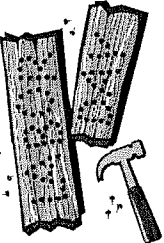


Thursday, October 13, 2:00 – 9:20 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Ruble. Deb will be Zion's coordinator for this project.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10:00 am: Worship</p> <p>Pastor Jane on vacation</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am: Worship</p> <p>Pastor Jane on vacation</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>HOLIDAY</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 am: Quilters</p> <p>6:00 pm: Handbells</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am: Senior Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 pm: Consistory</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>Paint-a-thon</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Fall Kick-off Sunday</p> <p>10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church; Brunch to follow</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:30 - 6:30 pm: Downtown Churches Blood Drive at First UCC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 am: Quilters</p> <p>6:00 pm: Handbells</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Marilyn gone all day</p> <p>10:00 am: Senior Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm: Top of the Hill picnic at Jane and Don's</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church</p> <p>2:00 pm: Klein sing-along</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 am: Quilters</p> <p>6:00 pm: Handbells</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am: Senior Women's Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 am: Over the Hill Gang to Carthage Lake</p> <p>7:00 pm: Book Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>FALL</p> 	<p>30</p> 
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church</p> <p>3:00 pm: Ecclesiastical Council</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am: Quilters</p> <p>5:30 pm: Confirmation</p> <p>6:00 pm: Handbells</p> <p>7:00 pm: Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am: Senior Women's Bible Study</p>		



September Birthdays

- 2 ---- **Louise Rolf**, 1731 Dehn St.
3 ---- **Natasha Long**, 1805 S. 10th St.
4 ---- **David O'Rourke**, 1604 Parkway Drive
5 ---- **Nancy Oetken**, PO Box 231
West Burlington, IA 52655
Hazel & Gabriel Ralston (1)
821 Rundell St., Iowa City, IA 52240
6 ---- **Rindi Cooper**, 1228 Doemland St.
Becky Daws Boscailon, 962 Oxen Lane
Iowa City, IA 52240
7 ---- **Grace Eden** (4), 200 S. Gunnison St.
9 ---- **Carol Goddard**, 124 Golf Lane
10 ---- **Jill Nealey**, 14971 190th Ave.
Danville, IA 52623
Deb Goble, 2000 Charles St.
11 --- **Emily Daws Wright**, 1956 Holiday Road
Coralville, IA 52241
12 --- **Julie Werner**, 10817 115th Ave.
16 --- **Rosel Smith**, 907 Franklin St.
18 --- **Jackie Welch**, 1228 Smith St.
Lisa Neises, 2033 Osborn St.
19 --- **Mitchell VanScoy**, 613 W. 53rd St.
Davenport, IA 52806
Byers Nealey (4), 14971 190th Ave.
Danville, IA 52623
22 --- **Dean Moberg**, 15202 154th Avenue
24 --- **Caleb Paulus** (16), P.O. Box 36
Biggsville, IL 61418
25 --- **Scott Wood**, 14603 Highway 99
30 --- **Martha Landstrom**, 1206 Madison
Trevor Ita (16), 1419 Cleveland Ave.
Kamryn Ell (12), 1919 S. Main St.

Early October birthdays

- 1 ---- **Cathy Key**, 714 S. 10th St.
Lisa Gerst, 14576 Rosebud Drive
West Burlington, IA 52655
2 ---- **Audra Darché**, 11810 Wolf Creek Lane
Plainfield, IL 60544
4 ---- **Milt Paule**, 2601 S. 3rd St.

- 5 ---- **Jim Murray**, 11386 S. Prairie Grove Rd.
West Burlington, IA 52655
Lisa Graham, 321 Summer St.
West Burlington, IA 52655
-

September Anniversaries

- 3 ---- **Dick & Patty Kerr** (39)
9828 Glenmark Drive
5 ---- **Dan & Lisa Graham** (24)
321 Summer St. West Burlington 52655
7 ---- **John & Christy Des Jardins** (20)
605 Melville Ct., West Burl 52655
8 ---- **Curtis & April Kenney** (4)
2020 S. 14th St.
11 ---- **Steve & Rockzann Marshall** (12)
P.O. Box 293, Danville IA 52623
16 ---- **Ben & Tamra Eden** (5)
200 S. Gunnison St.
17 ---- **Earnest & Shirley Turner** (28)
316 N. Gertrude St.
Justin & Lizzie Gibson (6)
6301 Windy Meadow Lane
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
21 ---- **Dusty & Vickie Thye** (20)
10284 155th St.
26 ---- **John & Debbie Paulus** (19)
P.O. Box 36, Biggsville, IL 61418
Todd & Jennifer VanScoy (13)
101 Schwartz St., West Burl. 52655

Early October anniversaries

- 2 ---- **Gus & Anita Renteria** (19)
422 E. Longmeadow Drive
West Burlington, IA 52655
3 ---- **Chuck & Martha Landstrom** (58)
1206 Madison Ave.
4 ---- **Tom & Lisa Horner** (8)
1049 Lyndhurst Dr.
Hiawatha, IA 52233

Pastor's Report
Consistory Meeting
August 11, 2011

Worship

Preached 5 sermons

Christian Education

- Youth Workshop with Nicole Havelka
- Taught 5 bible study groups (Diggers, Sr. Women, Hope Haven)
- NOIZ NITES outing
- NOIZ NITES back-to-school-bash
- Planning meetings with Janice
- Reading for adult Sunday School
- Meeting with Judy Taylor concerning Elders group
- Confirmation planning

Counseling

14 pastoral counseling sessions
(average 3-4 hours/week)

Membership

- 3 meetings with a potential new members
- John Riessen joined the church

Weddings and Funerals

- 2 weddings
- No funerals

Visiting

Mary Klein
Phil Paule
Mary Robberts
Louise Rolf

Meetings and Church Events I have attended

- Silver Seniors Victorian Tea
- Relay for Life
- BTG meeting with Deb and Jessica
- Staff meeting
- Mission and Outreach Committee
- Various planning meetings
- Discernment meeting with Judy
- Met with Tee Turner
- Social Justice Committee
- Meeting with Olan Mills
- Pre-workshop meeting with Nicole

**Ecumenical and/or Conference Meetings I
have attended:**

- Peace Lutheran
- Clergy Support Group
- Committee on Ministry
- PFLAG

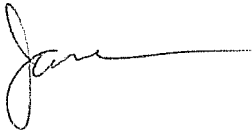
Upcoming Events

- Vacation! (hiking in the Smokey Mountains)
- Church and Money Seminar
- Confirmation starts Sept. 28

High Points

- The baptism of Jenna Gibson
- A day with Madeleine

Submitted 8-11-2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jane', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

“God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for God’s sake in serving the saints, as you still do.”

HEBREWS 6:10

Seeking to Serve

Global Ministries missionary, Jeffrey Mensendiek and his family are long-time residents of Sendai, Japan. Since the devastating earthquake and tsunami Jeffrey has been ministering to the displaced, grieving and broken. Jeffrey’s sister, Martha Mensendiek also a missionary who lives and works in Kyoto, has been translating Jeffrey’s daily journal entries so that Global Ministries can post them on the website. This is one of Jeffrey’s recent entries: I took part in a meeting attended by Buddhist and Christian religious leaders. The purpose was to organize a common ministry to serve the spiritual needs of the public in Sendai. The government and various organizations can address the material needs of the people. But there definitely is a spiritual need which only the religious community can address.



JEFFREY
MENSENDIEK

It is important that the Buddhist and Christian community join together at this time in a spirit of respect. It shows the public that we are not here to compete, but to serve. The spiritual needs are so deep. Many people are afraid of religion, and believe that religious people are aggressive and self-serving. Not so for those of us gathered on this night. Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones; those who cannot return to the place where they lived for fear of the memories which might return to them. Many people are still not accounted for. The suffering continues. The religious community is ready to serve at any time, but for those who have lost loved ones, the time may not yet be right. Humility is an important part of Buddhism. Waiting, listening, emptying oneself, letting go of desires are all important values. When my father first came to Sendai 60 years ago, he visited a blind man in a small fishing village near Ishinomaki. He witnessed the desperate poverty and asked; “Is there anything that I can do for you?” The man replied; “Desire is endless.” There is so much to learn from the wisdom of the Buddhist tradition. On this forty-ninth day I bow my head remembering that many of my Buddhist friends are praying for peace and healing.

Let us pray for strength for the suffering and those who minister to them.

Jeffrey Mensendiek, serves the Council on Cooperative Mission. He is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai, Japan, where he now works as director of recovery response.



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG



The BZ Express

September 2011

Zion United Church of Christ

412 North 5th Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601

319-752-2305 ~ Office phone

319-754-1467 ~ Office fax

641-202-0377 ~ Pastor's cell

Email: office@zionuccburlington.org

Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Our Staff

Rev. Jane A. Willan, Pastor

Janice Gibson, Organist, Choir Director,
and Christian Education Director

Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant

Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator

Megan Key, Nursery Supervisor

Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator

Earnest Turner, Custodian and
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

Anita Renteria, Handbell Choir Director

Jim Ritters, Licensed Minister

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap

Jackie Welch, Volunteer Parish Nurse
(home/work phones: 754-4779 / 768-4417)