Burlington Zion Express

April 2014



"The Secret Sauce to a Happy Life"

When we gathered in February over lunch and questions, you generously shared with me your thoughts, concerns, and hopes. As you told me how you see the mission of Zion, and what you find important in our life together as a congregation, among the most frequent responses included the word "service." "Serve the Lord. Serve the community. Serve world-wide."

You understand that following Christ means serving others in his name; feeding the hungry, helping the poor and vulnerable, are not pleasant options, but are central to what it means to be a follower of Christ.

satisfaction in life comes

And you have learned from serving that the greatest joy and satisfaction in life comes not from what you receive, but from what you give. In serving you receive more joy than in being served.

It is an old story, but appropriate. The Jordan River flows through the Sea of Galilee; water flows in, water flows out. This lake is alive with fish and wildlife, a source of abundance. The Jordan ends by flowing into the Dead Sea. Nothing flows out. The only way water has of leaving the Dead Sea is by evaporating. This lake tries to keep all the flow to itself. It is called the Dead Sea for a reason. Little lives in it; the water is far too salty to drink, or even to support most life.

Try to capture and keep all that comes to you and you wind up like the Dead Sea empty of life and too toxic. The life which flows through, sharing as freely as it receives, remains healthy. If you give freely, you find that you also receive freely. If you try to hold onto everything, you find that life becomes stale and toxic and lifeless. Helping others turns out to be a major source of joy for ourselves. Todd Stocker says 'helping others is the secret sauce to a happy life."

Albert Schweitzer said: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

This is one of the most important secrets to a happy life: you find happiness not by what you receive, but by what you give. Serving others in the name of Christ returns to you blessings far more abundant than what you give.

The Bible says, 'give and it will be given to you, full measure, packed down and running over. The measure you give is the measure given to you.' Someone else has put it this way: 'you cannot out-give God.'

Service is the secret sauce of the happy life; it is what makes the difference between dry and flavorless or abundant and full of life. Service has long been a hallmark of Zion. From helping to establish a hospital to helping the homeless, feeding the hungry, Bridging the Gap; you understand how significant it is that you live out your faith by serving others in the name of Christ.

Thank you for being a congregation who so passionately see service to others as an important part of how you live out your faith. Your dedication to serving others is an important part of my joy in serving with you.

Proud to serve with you as your Interim,

Brice

Servina Line Contraction of the contraction of the

¹ — <u>Todd Stocker</u>, <u>Refined: Turning Pain Into Purpose</u>

Worship

Sunday, April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

9:00 am: Donkey Walk

9:30 am: Blessing of the Palms

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14-27:66

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm: Service with Choir Cantata and

Communion

Sunday, April 20 - Easter

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

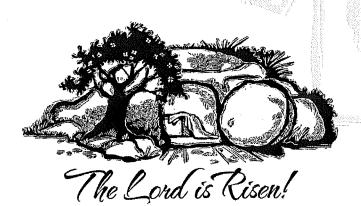
Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 27

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church Scripture: I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

11:00 am: Coffee Hour



Worship Helpers

Audio/visual: April Kenney

Church closers: Don and Vivian Kellar

Sunday, April 6

Greeters: Matt Patrick, Paula Renard, Jim and

Deb Ritters

Reader: Janet McCannon Tower Bell: Pam Daws Valet: Dennis Dietzman

Sunday, April 13

Greeters: Cathy and Dave Schnicker, Tom

and Connie Ralston

Reader: Rod Reeves
Tower Bell: Milt Paule

Valet: Milt Paule

Thursday, April 17

Communion preparers: Milt and Laurie Paule

Greeters: Marvin and Marcia Fraise

Sunday, April 20

Communion preparers: Sandy Deal and Kathy

Morrish

Communion servers: Bill Daws, Darrell Eden,

Kathy Morrish, Milt and Laurie Paule,

Jim Ritters

Greeters: Bill and Pam Daws, Milt and Laurie

Paule

Reader: Paulette Cavanah Tower Bell: Will Neises Valet: Marvin Fraise

Sunday, April 27

Greeters: Carol and Jerry Goddard, Emily

Roane and Keith Schulz

Reader: Sandy Levins
Tower Bell: Marvin Fraise

Valet: Craig Neises





April 13 Donkey Walk – 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in this annual event sponsored by First UCC, starting at the bottom of Snake Alley at 9:00 am. It represents Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding on a donkey. We'll follow the donkey for a short walk that returns to the top of Snake Alley.

Blessing of the Palms - 9:30 a.m.

We will join with Christ Episcopal Church at North Hill Park for a *Blessing of the Palms*, a short service of word and music. We will then process as a group back to Zion for our 10am Palm Sunday worship service. If walking is difficult for you, feel free to just meet at north Hill Park and then drive back to Zion.



Cantata and Communion – 7:30 p.m.

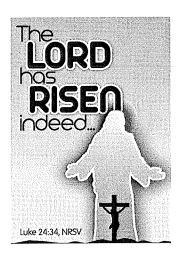
Zion's choir will combine with the First Presbyterian Church choir to present a tenebrae service, "Behold the Darkness" by Benjamin Harlan. The Passion Story will be told with scripture and music, including the service of communion. Please join us for this meaningful service preparing us to enjoy, fully, the Easter Sunday Resurrection!



Easter Sunday, April 20

A CELEBRATION OF RESURRECTION Worship Service and Children's Church 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School meets at 8:45 a.m.





The first combined cantata practice will be at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday,

April 2, from 7:00-8:30 pm. On Wednesdays, April 9 and 16, the combined rehearsals will be held at Zion, also from 7:00-8:30 pm. Janice will inform you of any further practices that become necessary. Please do your best to attend these rehearsals.

BZ Express - April 2014



Lenten Breakfasts



Saturday mornings
March 29, April 5 and April 12
at 8:30 a.m.

Open to Everyone!

At 8:30 a.m. on the Saturdays in Lent, we are gathering at various UCC and Disciples of Christ churches for a time of prayerful devotion and worship, food, and fellowship with others from nearby related congregations.

Please plan to attend as many as you are able. You will receive food for your spirit as well as food for your body. And as a bonus, have the opportunity to spend time with other UCC'ers (and some DOC'ers) in the area!

We thank the following people who helped in some way with the March 15 breakfast when Zion was the host: Rod Reeves (coordinator), Joe and Sandy Deal, Craig and Lisa Neises, Rod and Barb Botts, Kaye Hanna, Pauline Kuster, Charles Brissey, Milton Paule, and John Jay. They fed approximately 30 people.

Here is the remaining schedule:

March 29: St. Paul UCC - West Burlington

April 5: Denmark Congregational UCC -

Denmark

April 12: St. Luke UCC – Burlington

Church School News

by Janice Gibson

Minute to Win It! NOIZ Nites for Families Wednesday, April 2



Have you seen the show "Minute to Win It?" You'll have a chance to try some of these silly games of skill at our next NOIZ Nites for families on Wednesday, April 2nd. We'll have a pancake meal at 5:30 pm and activities from 6:00 - 7:15 pm.

As Christians we try to follow Jesus' teachings of what is right and wrong, how we should treat others, and more. Sometimes we only have a minute to make a choice between right and wrong. Sometimes we have only a minute to make a choice between helping, or listening, or inviting someone to church, instead of hurrying on our way! Minutes count, and we'll have some fun thinking about that on Wednesday!

NOIZ Nites for Families is for all ages, any size or shape of family—intergenerational activities for EVERYONE! Take a MINUTE—come to NNF!



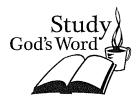




Steve and Barry have arrived at Children's Church!

The Butterfly Project is officially underway in Children's Church! The caterpillars have arrived and are already growing quickly. According to the group in Children's Church last week, "Steve" and "Barry" are two of the caterpillars.

We are using a curriculum during the season of Lent that follows the life cycle of the butterfly, and we're tying the process of metamorphosis to our Lenten growth and renewal. Each child is keeping a journal of the process. It's not too late for your child to be able to be a part of this meaningful study as we build toward the Easter release of the butterflies!



Tuesdays - 7:30 am Diggers Rest Coffeehouse

The Coffee and Scripture Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am at Diggers Rest Coffeehouse, 314 Jefferson Street. The group studies the lectionary scriptures with Pastor Brice. Please join them!

Adult Sunday School

During April the Adult Sunday School class will still be continuing their study of the book, When "Spiritual But Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church by Lillian Daniel.

So much time has been lost due to inclement weather and absences that we weren't able to finish it in March. Please plan to attend to help us finish up this study. We will <u>not</u> have class on Palm Sunday due to other activities, but we <u>will</u> meet on Easter Sunday.

--John Riessen



April 6: 1	Deb and Theresa Ritters
April 13:	
April 20:	Easter Sunday – No Coffee Hour
April 27:	Emily Roane and Janet McCannon

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary if you would be willing to be a host/sponsor. As you can see, we need one more volunteer for Palm Sunday, April 13. Ask some friends to help you! Thank you.





Spring Meeting of the Southeastern Association

The Spring Meeting of the Southeastern Association of the Iowa Conference UCC will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m.

This will be at St. Paul UCC, located in Kahoka, Missouri, at 323 Washington Street.



Nursing Home Sing-along



On Sunday, April 13, at 2:00 p.m. a group of volunteers will be going to SunnyBrook Assisted Living, 5175 West Avenue, for a singalong with the residents there. Please join them!

LOVE FUND ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If anyone can give an extra donation to our Love Fund, it would be very much appreciated. This week marks the end of the winter moratorium on utility shutoffs for households under the assistance program. According to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, there are many households with past-due accounts because of the severe cold this winter and the higher costs of natural gas and propane. There will be a significant number of disconnection notices served on people beginning April 2, which will result in a lot of additional people seeking assistance. We at Zion would like to be able to help them out with energy assistance. Please help if you can. Thank you.



Best Wishes to Judy Winkelpleck!

Judy has accepted an interim pastor position at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Iowa. She is both humbled and grateful for the opportunity. We will all miss her trips to Burlington but know she will do a wonderful job for the Presbyterian Church.



Reunion Handbell Choir Festival

Attention all Current and Former Handbell Ringers: Save the Date!

In honor of Zion's 150th Year Celebration we are forming a Reunion Handbell Choir. Zion's handbells will be the subject of the vignette on **Sunday, July 13**. The Reunion Handbell Choir will ring during this service.

On Saturday morning, July 12, we will hold a handbell rehearsal beginning at 9:00 am. We will rehearse, reminisce, and have a morning of fun and fellowship while preparing to praise God with the joyful ringing of Zion's handbells.

In order to prepare, we need to know how many will be able to participate. Please call the church office or contact Renita Jarrett at 750-9098 to register.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee had their first meeting on March 20th with Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva, our Iowa Conference Minister, to begin the process of finding a new pastor for Zion. Please keep this group in your thoughts and prayers as they commit to this endeavor.

The Search Committee members are: Rodney Botts, Paulette Cavanah, Pam Daws, Joe Deal, Deb Goble, Sandy Levins, Craig Neises, Lin Parks, Tom Ralston, and Scott Wood.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, April 1st, at 5:30 pm and will elect a chairperson, secretary, and chaplain at that time. They will also then review and update Zion's profile.

As they become available, updates from the committee will be shared in future newsletters.



Dean Wilson 2/9/36 – 3/14/14

We extend our prayers and sympathies to **Shirley Wilson**, in the loss of her husband Dean, on March 14th at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington. We also remember Shirley's daughter and Dean's stepdaughter, Sharon Whisenant, her husband, Wade, and daughter, Ali, during this time. The funeral was held on Monday, March 24, at Prugh's Chapel.

Bob Russell's book, <u>Money: A User's Manual</u> contains the typical chapters of advice about money:

- Make a budget and stick to it
- Set aside some cash for unexpected expenses
- Plan for your retirement

What you might not expect to find is this:

"Pay the Lord first. If you get this priority right, each step thereafter becomes easier. God makes it clear that He is to receive the first fruits of your income, not your leftovers. The key to honoring God with your finances is remembering that your money is not your money. God owns it all and gives to us as God pleases."

At first glance, that might seem like out of place advice for a money book. But if you think about it, Mr. Russell's advice has to do with setting priorities and then letting money decisions follow in obedience to our priorities, rather than letting the money demands set priorities for us. It is a question of who is going to be in control. Was it Ben Franklin who said, "Money makes a fine servant, but a poor Master."

--Brice

We encourage everyone to please let the church office know when a family member or friend is ill, having surgery, or is hospitalized. The church/pastor are not always aware of the various needs of our congregation, and it helps so much when someone notifies the office about the need. Then the individual can receive the appropriate pastoral care. Thank you.

End of the Month Free Community Meal Grace Methodist Church



Thursday April 24



Zion is responsible for preparing and serving the drinks and desserts this month, along with washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen after the S.U.M.M. meal. Many volunteers will be needed to help from around 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meal is served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Several desserts will be needed that night (100 servings), so we are asking people of Zion to please be willing to contribute a dessert. You may call the office at 319-752-2305 or send an email at ucczionbur@aol.com to let us know what you can do to help. You may also contact Donna Norris at 754-8500 if you have any questions.



Dear Zion Family,

Glen and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits, delicious food, and most of all your prayers. We could feel God's presence giving us strength during the healing process.

A special thank you to Brice for staying with Rachel and supporting her while waiting for the outcome of both of her parents. Glen is back at work, and my therapy is going very well. I will be graduating to a cane soon. We appreciate your love and kindness.

In Christian love, Glen & Debbie



Sunday, May 4 4:30 p.m.

Since last year's All-Church Progressive Dinner was such a success, Zion's Fellowship Committee is planning another one for Sunday, May 4th.

There is a signup sheet posted to find out who are willing to be hosts for the event. Four hosts will be needed. There will be a house for the appetizers, the salad, the main course, and the dessert. So please sign up! Barb and Rod Botts have signed up to be the salad hosts so only three hosts are needed now.

We will have a signup sheet out in a week or two for those planning to attend the dinner. Mark this date on your calendar!



Sometimes we are asked what the church office hours are, so here is a reminder:

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 – 4:00 pm

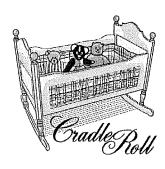
Our **Bridging the Gap** assistance program with Deb Ruble is open the following times:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Pastor Brice's day off every week is Friday.

BZ Express - April 2014





With the highly anticipated welcoming of spring, the Cradle Roll Committee would also like to welcome all new mothers and expecting mothers to Zion!

If you know someone who is expecting a baby or has just had a baby, please let us know their name and address. We will send them a congratulations from Zion Church!

Also, we would love to keep renewing pictures on the poster board in the hallway downstairs. Let us post your children, grandchildren, etc. They do not have to be new births, but those who we love and are very proud of!! Some live far away, and this would be your way of sharing them with others! Thank you!

Paula Mehaffy and Stacey Kerr

5th Sunday Food Collection Sunday, March 30

Please remember to bring your non-perishable food items to church for Zion's food pantry. Right now we particularly need <u>saltine crackers</u>, <u>soup</u>, and <u>jelly</u>, along with anything else you'd like to donate. Monetary contributions are also welcome, and we'll do the shopping for you! We extend a big **Thank You** to the **Cub Scouts Sunnyside Pack 85** (and Teresa Heitmeier) for bringing their food collection to Zion's food pantry last week!

Zion's 150th Year Celebration 1864 – 2014

Zion Church celebrates its 150th anniversary this year! **Sunday, September 7,** will be the date of the celebration for this important event. You'll be hearing a lot more about it in the weeks and months to come.

Each Sunday during worship service someone will be giving a brief presentation about something important in Zion's history. Laurie Paule and the committee have some very interesting things planned that you will not want to miss!

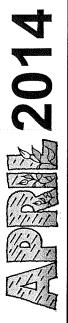
Highway Cleanup Saturday, May 17, 9:00 a.m.



Zion is responsible for cleaning a one mile stretch of highway south of Burlington on Highway 61 twice a year. We usually do this in May and October. Mark this date on your calendar!

Please meet at Zion at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the location. The D.O.T. will provide reflection vests, trash bags, and vinyl gloves. All helpers are welcome!

The Global Ministries page inside the back cover of this newsletter is the March story. It was not available in time for the March newsletter, and the April story was not available at this press time. We will most likely be running a month behind with these from now on. Hopefully you enjoy them and find them inspirational.





Sat	8:30 am: Lenten Breakfast at Denmark Congregational UCC	8:30 am: Lenten Breakfast at St. Luke UCC	3:00 pm:	26	SOZ
Fri	9 A Pastor Brice's day off Marilyn on vacation	11 Pastor Brice's day off	18 GOOD FRIDAY 5pm wedding rehearsal	25 Pastor Brice's day off	
Thu	3 Marilyn or	7:00 pm: Consistory	7:30 pm: Service 17 Combined cantata and communion	5:30 pm: 5:30 pm: S.U.M.M. End of Month Meal at Grace Methodist	
Wed	5:30 - 7:15 pm: 2 NOIZ Nites for Families 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Choir rehearsal at 1st Presbyterian	9 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Choir rehearsal	16 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Choir rehearsal	23 7:00 pm: Choir rehearsal	30 7:00 pm: Choir rehearsal
Tue	7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 5:30 pm: Search Committee	8 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	15 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice Committee	29 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest
Mon			41	21	28
Sun		8:45 am: Adult 6 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	9am: Donkey Walk13 10am: Worship & C.C. 11:00am: Coffee Hour 2:00 pm: Sing-along Palm Sunday	8:45 am: Adult S.S. 10:00 am: Worship EASTER & C.C.	8:45 am: Adult 27 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour





- 2 ---- Joanne Oetken, 2608 Subilbe Ave.
- 6 --- Janice Gibson, 204 Crestview Dr.
- 7 ---- Jim Ritters, 209 Curran St.Sharon Thye, 10240 155th St.
- 9 ---- **Bill Daws**, 10971 Wildlife Lakes Dr. West Burlington IA 52655
- 10 ---- JoAnn Oetken, PO Box 513
- 12 ---- Rachel Wachter, 1028 Short Ave.
- 17 ---- **Jon Hedges**, 11774 Greenwood Drive **Kayla Elmore** (16), 900 Canterbury Dr.
- 20 ---- Rita Hartman, 2405 Madison Ave.
- 21 ---- Genevieve Thie, 14048 155th St.

 Crystal Oetken (11), P.O. Box 513
- 25 ---- Kay Jacobs, 1024 Hagemann Ave.
- 28 ---- Charles Landstrom, 1206 Madison Ave.

2 ---- Chris Cowles & Mike Collentine (31) 5254 Ferres Lane

- 5 ---- Pat & Bob Parmeter (34) 2636 Northwood Ave.
- 12 ---- Marcia & Marvin Fraise (52) 1002 W. Mt. Pleasant St., West Burlington, IA 52655
- 15 ---- **Emily Roane & Keith Schulz** (29) 922 N. 3rd St.
- 22 ---- **Debbie & Glen Gottschalk** (42) 829 N. 5th St.
- 27 ---- **Sheri & Brian Landstrom** (23) 2105 S. 10th St.

Early May Birthdays

- 1 --- Brian Landstrom, 2105 S. 10th St.
- 3 --- Marie Paulus, 1326 Gnahn St.



"Launch out into the deep..."

Luke 5:4a

River of Life

It is a bright October morning as we climb aboard a bright blue boat with red trim for a journey down the Congo River. It looks like a small house set on four hollowed-out tree trunks. Written in red letters across her front is "Bateau Ambulance"— ambulance boat. The river is breathtaking, life-giving. At scheduled intervals, the river carries a medical team from the Bolenge Hospital, a Global Ministries partner, to villages along its shore that are otherwise cut off from health care. The entire village is at the river's edge to greet us. Getting up the riverbank is tricky, but we manage, encouraged by the warmth and joy of the people.



ELIZABETH CLEMENT

Following the river for some yards are dwellings and a small chapel/school. The villagers have given up their homes for the hospital while the medical team is in town.

Next to the chapel is a tent, a surgical theatre tent where they have been operating since 3:00 AM with the most basic equipment and what sterilization they can manage. They will be there until they can see to the line of patients waiting most of the day under a large tree.

We are introduced to Dr. Yoursen Bosolo Ekula, the Congolese physician who coordinates medical services from the Bolenge Hospital, including the ambulance boat and other Bolenge clinics throughout region. Later, in a video interview, Dr. Bosolo Ekulaw offered these words of thanks:

"We are grateful and thankful to Global Ministries, and pray that our God will bless you. And that Global Ministries will continue to have the necessary funds/ means to help us complete our dream that this hospital and health center become an important teaching resource in this region of the Congo. God bless you, Global Ministries, and thank God for your partnership in this dream."

Rev. Elizabeth Clement recently traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for Global Ministries. She served as French translator and interpreter for seminary pastors from Haiti visiting the Congo who were there exploring a collaborative partnership.

Church of Chrise (Selvices of Chirist)

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.

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The BZ Express April 2014

Zion United Church of Christ

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Church email: <u>ucczionbur@aol.com</u>
Pastor's email: <u>bricehughes@hotmail.com</u>
Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff

Reverend Brice Hughes, Interim Pastor
Janice Gibson, Organist, Choir Director,
and Christian Education Director
Marilyn Stein, Office Administrator
Kay Jacobs, Treasurer's Assistant
Renita Jarrett, Choir Accompanist and
Wedding Coordinator
Megan Agnew, Nursery Supervisor
Earnest Turner, Custodian and
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

Volunteers

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap **Judy Taylor**, Heritage People Coordinator