

Burlington Zion Express

April 2015



“United in Christ”

The hills and valleys of East Tennessee were the dividing ground between Union and Confederacy in the Civil War. Here, as in few other places, families were divided in their loyalties. Brother fought brother on the battlefield. Some churches in these valleys gave up holding worship services during the War, saying that they could not proclaim themselves to be followers of Jesus while such horrible fighting was taking place.

When the war was over, some painful scars remained. Families and churches remained divided. At one of these country churches, the Elder, Mr. Acuff passed the word around that there would be a worship service the next Sunday.

Families from across the valley made their way to the white clapboard church by the side of the road. On the front pew sat two of Mr. Acuff's sons; one in his Union Army blue, the other in a grey Confederate uniform. These two had been so divided in their loyalties to country that they had split the whole family. Raised as brothers, they had become enemies.

When the time came for communion, the two sons came up first, stood before the Lord's Table, and served the elements of bread and wine to one another. Elder Acuff told the congregation that their serving communion to one another was a sign that the forces which would divide them were not as strong as the love of Christ, which united them.

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(Pastor's Page continued)

The church continues to find issues over which to choose up sides and fight. Instead of splitting, the faithful who are completely sold out to Jesus Christ know: the grace of Jesus Christ, which unites us, is stronger than the forces of division which would split us.

Uniformity of belief, uniformity of the ways we express our love for Christ are details far less important than our mutual love for Christ. If we insist on focusing on the power of Christ to unite us, no detail of disagreement can divide us. Healthy congregations do not insist that everyone think the same, look the same, believe the same, or worship the same in order to have communion together. Healthy congregations allow others to live and serve God in different ways, focusing on the grace of Jesus Christ to unite all who seek to follow him, confessing that everyone who comes to Christ comes as a sinner in need of grace and forgiveness.

In order for the congregation at Zion Church to be strong, we do not have to agree on anything other than to proclaim Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and proclaim that he is Lord and Savior of the world. We may disagree about everything else, as long as we cling to that central truth.

And in clinging to Jesus, we will find that the power which unites us is greater than the forces which would divide us.

Grace and peace,

Brice

Worship

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm: Communion service in sanctuary

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

No Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 12 – Jim Ritters, Guest Preacher

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 19

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 26

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

11:00 am: Coffee Hour



Easter Sunday, April 5

A CELEBRATION OF RESURRECTION

Worship Service and Children's Church

10:00 a.m.

Worship Helpers

April audio/visual: Matthew Patrick

April church closers: Jim and Sandy Levins

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Communion

Communion preparers: Milt & Laurie Paule

Sunday, April 5 - Communion

Communion preparers: Bill Daws and Lyle Gibson

Greeters: Tom and Connie Ralston, Dave and Cathy Schnicker

Reader: Janet McCannon

Tower bell: Jason Workman

Valet: Tom Ralston

Sunday, April 12

Greeters: Stacey Kerr, Paula Mehaffy, Janet McCannon, Kathy Morrish

Reader: Carol Goddard

Tower bell: Will Neises

Valet: Milt Paule

Sunday, April 19

Greeters: Dennis and Dyan Dietzman, George and Velma Johnson

Reader: Jim Ritters

Tower bell: Paula Mehaffy

Valet: Dennis Dietzman

Sunday, April 26

Greeters: Jim Levins, Bob Parmeter, Paula Renard, Marlis Robberts & Jakob Welch

Reader: Gail Lawlor

Tower bell: Grace Eden

Valet: Bill Daws

Church School News

by Janice Gibson

All-Church Event NOIZ Nites for Families Maundy Thursday, April 2 5:30 - 7:15 pm

The April NOIZ Nites for Families event will actually be on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**. It will be an all-church/all-ages event called **All-Around Easter**.

We will begin with a pancake meal at 5:30PM. Then everyone will be invited to walk through several stations, each a modern-day setting that will engage the senses and help us to explore the story of Christ's love and sacrifice from unique perspectives. Invite your friends, families and neighbors to this special evening!

The faith station activities will be followed by our annual Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary at 7:30 PM.



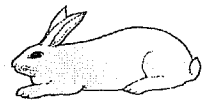
The Lord is Risen!



The Colors of Easter

On **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, there will be special Easter activities during **Children's Church**, centered around *The Colors of Easter*. Make sure your children are in attendance to participate in the celebration of the true meaning of this holiday!

Thanks for your generosity!!



Thanks to everyone who participated in the **Children's Church Mission Market!** \$280 was raised to send trios of rabbits to families in need through *Heifer Project International*. Thanks to Paula Mehaffy, Renee Workman and the youth who researched the information and decorated the booth so well! A special thanks to Izzy the rabbit who made it extra fun!

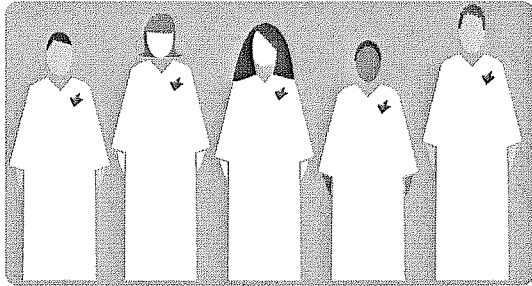


**Asher Michael
Agnew**

son of Megan and
Josh Agnew

born 10/14/13

Baptized on Sunday, March 22, 2015



Kudos to Our Confirmands

Sunday, March 29

Our class of Confirmation students have been meeting regularly with Pastor Brice for the past several months on Wednesday evenings. Their last session was on March 25th.

On **Sunday, March 29**, they will be confirmed and will become members of Zion church. Please plan to be there to support them on that day. Lisa Neises will also have a cake during coffee hour to honor all the confirmands. This will give you a chance to welcome and congratulate them!

Our confirmands are:

Stella Claire Hartman
Zoey Marie Kenney
Will Patrick Neises
Crystal Ann Oetken
Jacqueline Wirakan Workman
Jason Kritas Workman



There will be **no choir practice** on Wednesday, April 1st or April 8th.

Choir will rehearse again at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15th, 22nd and 29th.



Sponsors for April

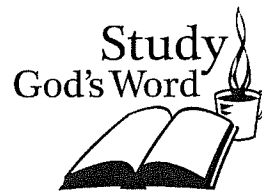
April 5: No Coffee Hour – Spend Easter with your families!

April 12: _____

April 19: _____

April 26: Scott/Annie/Paula

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary if you would be willing to be a Coffee Hour host/sponsor. We do need a couple more volunteers for April. Thank you!



Tuesdays - 7:30 am Diggers Rest Coffeeshouse

Please join us on Tuesday mornings for our Bible Study group. We are continuing to use the lectionary scriptures as the basis for our study. The scriptures are always listed under the worship section of the newsletter. Anyone is welcome to join the group!





Sing With Us

April Monthly Sing-along at Klein Center

Sunday, April 19, 2:00 pm

The sing-along for April is scheduled for **Sunday, April 19, 2:00 p.m.** at **Great River Medical Center – Klein Unit.** Please plan to join the volunteers who will be singing with the residents there.

We thank those who were able to sing at SunnyBrook in March: **Janice Gibson, Debbie Gottschalk, Brice Hughes, Charles Brissey and Pauline Kuster, Martha Landstrom, Milt and Laurie Paule, Donna Norris, Rod Reeves, Rachel Rugg, and Judy Tomkins.**



**Matthew James
Patrick
and
Douglas Wayne
Warner-Fink**

March 17, 2015
at
Zion United Church of Christ

Zion changes lives when we share what we have with those who have less. And in our sharing, we find the face of Christ in those we serve.

Southeast Association of the Iowa UCC Conference April 19, 2015

Zion is part of the SE Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ. We will meet for our Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at the Denmark Church. Please make time to attend this gathering. You will have an opportunity for worship and fellowship with UCC members from other churches in Southeast Iowa as we work together to continue the work of the Body of Christ.

Part of the meeting includes conversation on the following questions. Please consider these issues and give us your best response. Come to the meeting and discuss your own ideas if possible, but in any event, please share your thoughts with Pastor Brice.

Questions for Discussion

- What does your church do for Burlington?
- What does your church do for other communities nearby?
- What could your church accomplish if you partnered with another church?
- What could your church do with 15 churches?
- How could the Southeast Association serve you better?
- To be effective in spreading the work and the Word, how could we better organize to work together efficiently on the things your church has said are important?



Mission Trip



Zion will be making a Mission Trip this summer to Detroit. Acting on our determination to serve the least and the lost and the lonely, we will be working with neighborhood associations in Detroit to improve the lives of the residents. The tasks we will take on will depend on the skills we bring with us, but there is work for every age and every skill and ability level.

Come to Detroit as part of the Mission Team. We will paint, clear brush, repair and restore homes. But our true work is more than that. We will be changing lives by restoring hope where hope is in desperately short supply.

We will be working through *Rippling Hope Ministries*, founded and run by Carl and Robin Zerweck. Here is how Carl describes the work:

"We will be instruments of hope for those who despair due to the circumstances of their lives--to those that are affected by injustice, poverty and disaster. For the many who despair because they feel that there is nothing they can do to make a difference in the world, Rippling Hope provides opportunities to learn that there is indeed something positive they can do, and our projects help them experience the joy and hope that comes from service. Rippling Hope will provide participants the opportunity to learn that through lives of service a person makes a great difference in the world."

All age groups are invited to participate. Even if you cannot go yourself, you can still participate by sending someone else. You will soon see a budget for the mission trip, and will have an opportunity to support the trip financially.

The trip is scheduled for July 19—25. The group will leave on Sunday, arriving in Detroit by supper time. We will return to Burlington on Saturday, July 25. Find out more by contacting the church office, or by talking with Pastor Brice or Bill Daws.



**Sunday,
May 3
4:30 pm**

The Fellowship Committee is planning an **All-Church Progressive Dinner** to start at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 3rd. We will *need hosts for four different homes* beginning with appetizers, then salad, main course, and finally dessert.

A **sign-up sheet** has been posted on the bulletin board for these four courses. Please consider being one of the hosts for this special event! Sign your name if you would be willing to host one of the courses for this dinner. You could ask a friend or two to help you!

Another sign-up sheet will be posted in mid-April for those planning to attend. This is always a fun event so keep the date open!

S.U.M.M. End of the Month Meal at Grace Methodist

Thursday, April 30, 5:30 pm

This month it is Zion's turn to prepare and serve the main meal, set up the dining room, and wash the pots and pans.

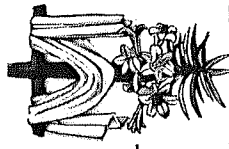




Please keep this date in mind and be available to help or provide food for this meal coordinated by our Social Justice Committee.

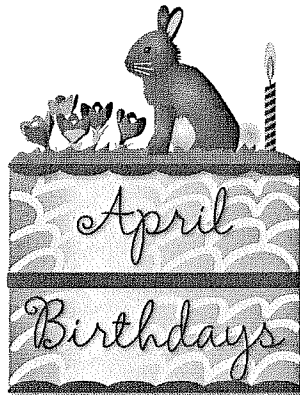
More details will be provided later. Thanks!



April 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 EASTER 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church No Coffee Hour	 5	6 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:15 pm: Bell choir rehearsal	1 No Choir	2 5:30 - 7:15 pm: All Church NOIZ Nites for Families Event  7:30 pm: Service	 Good Friday Pastor Brice's day off	3 Pastor Brice's day off	4
12 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	13	7 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:15 pm: Bell choir rehearsal 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 7:00 pm: Building & Grounds Committee	8 No Choir 6:30 pm: Choir	9 7:00 pm: Consistory Pastor Brice at Continuing Ed. in Des Moines	10 Pastor Brice's day off	11	
Pastor Brice on vacation all week							
19 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour 2:00 pm: Sing-along	20	21 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest	22 6:30 pm: Choir	23	24 Pastor Brice's day off 6:00 pm: wedding rehearsal	25 4:00 pm: wedding at Zion	
26 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00am: Coffee Hour	27	28 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice Committee	29 6:30 pm: Choir	30 5:30 pm: SUMM End of the Month Meal			



- 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 (17), 900 Canterbury Dr.
20 ---- **Rita Hartman**, 2210 Mt. Pleasant St.
21 ---- **Genevieve Thie**, 14048 155th St.
Crystal Oetken (12), P.O. Box 513
25 ---- **Kay Jacobs**, 1024 Hagemann Ave.
28 ---- **Charles Landstrom**, 1206 Madison Ave.

Early May Birthdays

- 1 ---- **Brian Landstrom**, 2105 S. 10th St.
3 ---- **Marie Paulus**, 1326 Gnahn St.
5 ---- **Caitlyn Pope** (15), 509 Harrison Ave.



- 2 ---- **Chris Cowles & Mike Collentine** (32)
5236 Ferres Lane
5 ---- **Pat & Bob Parmeter** (35)
2636 Northwood Ave.
12 ---- **Marcia & Marvin Fraise** (53)
1002 W. Mt. Pleasant St.,
West Burlington, IA 52655
15 ---- **Emily Roane & Keith Schulz** (30)
922 N. 3rd St.
22 ---- **Debbie & Glen Gottschalk** (43)
829 N. 5th St.
27 ---- **Sheri & Brian Landstrom** (24)
2105 S. 10th St.



April 2015: Hope in the Sharing of Bread

BY MIDDLE EAST & EUROPE - GLOBAL MINISTRIES ON MARCH 07, 2015

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him... Luke 24:30, 31a

Global Ministries' partner, the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), embodies a vision of justice and peace for both Palestine and Israel. EAPPI trains and sends human rights monitors from all over the world to witness life under occupation in Israel-Palestine, and to then go home to promote change. Over 1,500 enthusiastic, caring, and dedicated monitors have gone to live for three months in the West Bank and Jerusalem, to observe and record human rights there since 2002.

Three key elements of accompaniment are prominent in the Easter story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus: preaching a word of hope, sharing the basics of life and departing at the right moment to carry on the work elsewhere. This is this story EAPPI has been faithfully following.

Jesus finds two hopeless travelers on their way to Emmaus: 'We had hope that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.' That hope had been trampled by the Roman Empire in alliance with local religious authorities. Jesus accompanied them down the road to Emmaus, showed them that hope was alive. They recognized Him when he blessed and broke the bread. The word accompaniment comes from the Latin meaning "sharing with bread."

EAPPI continues to provide a protective presence to vulnerable communities, to monitor and report on human rights abuses, to support the nonviolent resistance of Israeli and Palestinian peace groups, to stand in solidarity with all those struggling to end the occupation and to engage in advocacy to end it. Trained volunteers are serving in Jericho, Yanoun, Jerusalem and Hebron.

Many from our UCC and Disciples churches have volunteered for the EAPPI program. If you are interested in learning more contact Global Ministries at makarip@ucc.org.



Global Ministries



The BZ Express

April 2015

Zion United Church of Christ

412 N. 5th Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601

319-752-2305 - Office phone

319-754-1467 - Office fax

515-450-1321 – Pastor's cell

Church email: ucczionbur@aol.com

Pastor's email: bricehughes@hotmail.com

Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff

Rev. Brice Hughes, Pastor
Janice Gibson, Organist, Music 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

Jim Levins, Custodian

Volunteer

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap