

Burlington Zion Express

November 2015



Leaning on One Another

Near Pensacola, Florida sits the spectacular Fort Barancas, guarding the entrance to the Bay for almost two centuries. The fort is impressive from the outside, but even more amazing from inside. There is a graceful arch to the ceilings in the tunnels that run within the walls. Where two or more passages intersect, a very complex pattern is formed. The walls are between six and fifteen feet thick. As you walk through these tunnels there are literally millions of bricks over your head. There is no mortar holding the bricks in place; and no keystones. Each brick shoulders into its neighbors - they each hold up each other. If even a few of those bricks would be removed, the entire structure would collapse. Because each brick relies on its neighbors.

The United Church of Christ is like that, too. We have always been resistant to the idea of hierarchy; we have no pope, no bishops; each congregation makes its own decisions - we are self-reliant. But we are not alone. Each of our congregations relies on our neighbors to give us our stability. We lean on one another. Together we form graceful arches which no one congregation could manage, no matter what.

(Continued on following page)

(Pastor's Page continued)

Together, as congregations in an Association, as a Conference, and as the General expression of Church, we take on projects which no one congregation could accomplish alone. The Advent Devotional project is one of many educational and devotional materials produced and distributed by the larger Church. We share access to very high quality materials which facilitate our faith journeys. Find a rich variety of resources to feed your faith at: www.ucc.org/feed_your_spirit .

Working together we care for disabled persons, orphans and the elderly. Together we respond to disasters around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing. We support the training of the next generation of ministers through CUE. No one congregation could tackle such ministries alone, but together we achieve great missions for the Body of Christ. We work with other congregations in Iowa to foster faith growth, to educate our children to know the Still Speaking voice of God, and to speak out in a credible voice regarding issues of Social Justice across the country.

Without the mortar of a hierarchy, we lean on one another - supporting and working together to achieve great things for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for all those other 'bricks' in the edifice which gives glory to God and proclaims the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Brice





Worship

Sunday, November 1 – Communion

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Revelation 1:4b-8;

John 18:33-38a

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Sunday, November 8

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Hebrews 9:24-28;

Mark 12:38-44

11:00 am: Pipe organ demo by Janice Gibson

Sunday, November 15 – Stewardship Sunday

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

11:00 am: Stewardship Brunch

Sunday, November 22 - Totenfest

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-16a;

John 11:32-44

11:00 am: Coffee Hour



Sunday, November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;

Luke 21:25-36

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

Worship Helpers

November audio/visual: Lisa Neises

November chancel arts: Dyan Dietzman

November church closers: Bill and Pam Daws

Sunday, November 1

Communion preparers: Don & Vivian Kellar

Greeters: Lyle Gibson, Jerry and Carol

Goddard, Bob Parmeter

Reader: Janet McCannon

Tower bell: Matthew Heitmeier

Valet: Marvin Fraise

Sunday, November 8

Greeters: Bill and Ann Hummel, Sharon

Thye, Renee Workman

Reader: Gail Lawlor

Tower bell: Milt Paule

Valet: Bill Hummel

Sunday, November 15

Greeters: Joanne Mauer, Milt and Laurie

Paule, Marlis Robberts and Jakob Welch

Reader: Pam Daws

Tower bell: Jacqui Workman

Valet: Dennis Dietzman

Sunday, November 22

Greeters: Rich and Deb Goble, Stacey Kerr,

Paula Mehaffy

Reader: Bill Daws

Tower bell: Marvin Fraise

Valet: Tom Ralston

Sunday, November 29

Greeters: Charles Brissey and Pauline Kuster,

Paula Renard, Deb Ruble

Reader: Rod Reeves

Tower bell: Paula Mehaffy

Valet: Milt Paule

Church School News

by Janice Gibson



For the first two weeks in November, Children's Church will continue its study "Feeding 5000" a mission study sponsored by Heifer Project International. We will be working towards an Alternative Gift Market event in early Advent.

November NOIZ Nites An All-Church Night!

Wednesday, November 4th, at 5:30 pm is our next NOIZ Nites event at Zion. Bring your appetite AND your creativity! We will be fixing our own meal, and creativity counts!

Our evening will be led by Lisa McPherson, the Des Moines County Family Nutrition Program Assistant from the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach program. She will have some nutrition information along with some food fun—not food fights!!

Everyone of every age is invited to NOIZ Nites! Come for food and fellowship, and bring family and friends. See you there!



Sundays
at
11:00 a.m.

Please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall following the worship service each Sunday. The people signed up to host in November are listed below.

November 1: Bill and Pam Daws

November 8: Pipe organ demo by Janice Gibson
in choir loft area

November 15: Stewardship Brunch

November 22: _____

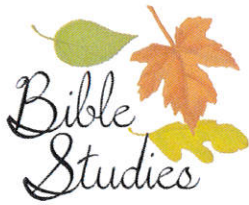
November 29: _____

Please check the signup sheet on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary if you can help out by sponsoring a Sunday. Ask a friend to help you. And remember – you can make it as simple or as elaborate as you want.

Pipe Organ Demonstration

Have you ever wondered exactly how a pipe organ works? Did you know there are hundreds of organ pipes behind the decorative (non-working) pipes at the front of our sanctuary?

If you would like to know more about pipe organs and, specifically, Zion's pipe organ, come to the choir loft immediately following worship on **Sunday, November 8th**, where Janice Gibson will be giving a 30-minute organ demo. The demo will be open to ALL ages; children welcome. Afterwards you are welcome to view the pipes and/or try out a few notes on the organ keyboard!



Tuesdays
7:30 am
Diggers Rest
Coffeehouse

--- AND ---

Wednesdays at the Church – 6pm

Pastor Brice now offers two weekly Bible Studies. They meet Tuesday mornings at Diggers Rest and Wednesday nights downstairs at church before choir rehearsal. Both Bible Studies cover the lectionary texts (shown in the Worship section of the newsletter). Try to participate in one of them if you can. **Please note: *There will not be a Bible Study on Wednesday, Nov. 25th.***



The **Adult Sunday School** class meets every Sunday, beginning **promptly at 8:45 am** in the downstairs library area. Please feel free to join the class!



Rehearsals under the direction of Renita Jarrett will be held on **Tuesday evenings at 6:15 pm** during November. Please join us on Tuesday, **November 3rd**, if you're interested in being part of this choir. Any questions, talk to Renita.



NOVEMBER 15

If you have not already received a letter and pledge card from Zion, you will be receiving one soon. We are asking you to give us an estimate of what your giving might be in 2016. As you consider your giving for next year, please spend some time in prayer. What portion of your income will you return to the God, the Source of All Good Things? What will you dedicate for the support of the ministries we do here at Zion? Will you budget 1%? 5%? The biblical 10% (tithe)? More?

Together we do so many vital and valuable ministries as Zion Church. Thank you for giving serious consideration to your support of Zion Church.



Youth Christmas Program Rehearsals Begin!

On **Sunday, November 15**, rehearsals will begin for our annual Christmas musical.

Young people, first grade through high school, are welcome to participate. Work will begin during Children's Church on Sunday mornings, with two Saturday rehearsals on December 12 and December 19. More details will be in the December newsletter!



Sing-along at SunnyBrook

November 15

Our sing-along this month will be at SunnyBrook. Please join us on Sunday afternoon, **November 15, at 2:00**, to sing with the residents there.

We thank the following people who went to Great River Klein Center on September 27th: **Charles Brissey and Pauline Kuster, Janice Gibson, Glen and Debbie Gottschalk, Don and Vivian Kellar, Gail Lawlor, Donna Norris, and Milt and Laurie Paule.** We also thank those who went on October 25th to the Burlington Care Center: **Charles Brissey and Pauline Kuster, Sue and Abbi Eden, Pastor Brice Hughes, Martha Landstrom, Gail Lawlor, and Milt and Laurie Paule.**

Totenfest Sunday, November 22

During the worship service on November 22 we will have a special time to remember and celebrate the lives of those from Zion who have died during this past year.

Totenfest is a distinctive practice that grows out of the Evangelical tradition of the UCC. Although the name Totenfest is unknown to many in the UCC, its importance as a special time of remembrance continues not only in our Evangelical heritage, but for all. It is a way of remaining connected to deceased loved ones, as the process of grieving and remembering are vital to our spiritual health.

Thanksgiving Offering



Thanksgiving offering envelopes are included in your offering envelope box sets. The offering will go to Zion's Love Fund again this year. Our Love Fund helps people with prescriptions, water bills, utilities, rent, bus passes, lodging for the homeless, gas vouchers, and many other needs.

If you use a pew offering envelope, please designate it as "Thanksgiving Offering."

There are many people in our community who need our help, especially during the holiday season. Thank you!



ADVENT

Advent Begins on November 29

A family Advent devotional book will soon be available. Wonder by The Stillspeaking Writers' Group invites readers to hear God where you live, and in other surprising places, and unfolds a wide and expansive understanding of the word "wonder."

You are invited to use this UCC resource to enhance your family's journey through Advent, preparing yourselves for the coming of the Christ.

Hospice House Meal

Our next Hospice House meal is scheduled for **5:30 pm on Thursday, November 19**, the week before Thanksgiving. This month we plan to do a soup supper with bread and dessert. Please see Paula Renard if you would like to help.

A big “Thank You” to all who have helped with this mission over the past year. Many family members have expressed their appreciation for the home cooked meals.

--Paula Renard

Bridging the Gap Update

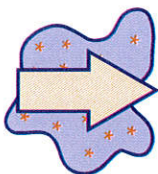
During the month of October, our Bridging the Gap program assisted several families through our Love Fund and Food Pantry resources. As of October 28th:

- We helped with 12 utility bills.
- We assisted 7 families with rent.
- We provided 5 gas vouchers.
- We provided 1 monthly bus pass.
- We helped with 2 water bills.
- We also gave out food to 31 families from our food pantry.

Thank you for your donations of food and money!

Deb Ruble, Director

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Please note that the **Bridging the Gap** mission assistance **office** will be **closed** the entire week of **November 9 – 13**. Deb will be on vacation. It will reopen on Monday, November 16, at 9:00 am.



November 29th – 5th Sunday

We ask that you please bring some non-perishable food items in for our food pantry on November 29th, or sooner if you prefer. As always, if you prefer to give money, we will do the shopping for you. Giving out food is something we do regularly through our Bridging the Gap program. This is a major need for many people in our community. Pop-top cans whenever possible are very helpful for the homeless people we serve.

Some *ideas* are:

- Cans of fruit and jars of applesauce
- Cans of vegetables
- Cans/jars of spaghetti sauce
- Boxes/ packages of pasta
- Boxes of tuna helper
- Cans of tuna
- Cans of soup
- Boxes of crackers (saltines or other)
- Jars of peanut butter
- Jars of jelly
- Boxes of cereal
- Ramen noodles

Other items we receive requests for:

- Paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, tissues
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap

Thank you!

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap

Jury Duty in November

Please note that **Marilyn** will be on jury duty during the month of November. If she has to report for duty at all, that could affect the office hours at Zion. We'll put a sign on the front door and probably an "out of office" message on the church email if it becomes necessary.



S.U.M.M. Community Meal

Fourteen Zion volunteers assisted in the preparation and serving of the entrée for the **October 29th** community meal. Each month three area churches serve an entrée, dessert, beverage and fruit package at Grace United Methodist Church. Set-up, prep and cleanup duties are shared. The project receives additional support from area service providers who conduct outreach activities to inform and refer families and persons with need to the free meals.

A well deserved thank you to all volunteers, who included: Janet McCannon, Judy Taylor, Will and Lisa Neises, Rod and Barb Botts, Tom Ralston, Pam & Bill Daws, Cherry Klein, Gail Lawlor, Kathy Morrish and Nancy Schulte!

Donna Norris, Co-ordinator



Wednesdays, 6:15 pm – Handbell choir rehearsals
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 5:30 pm – NOIZ Nites
Monday, Nov. 9, 7:00 pm – Board of Christian Education meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:00 pm – Building & Grounds
Monday, Nov. 23, 7:15 pm - Choir rehearsal – not on Wednesday because of Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 5:30 pm - NOIZ Nites for Families. Come help decorate the church!
Sunday, Dec. 6, 6:16 pm - Choir Christmas Party at Kellars



In October we received a thank you letter from this organization. Following is an excerpt from it:

“Thank You for your recent donation of three pounds of pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois! Your gift helps fulfill our mission of creating, finding and supporting programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children.

Your gift provides support for programs such as the 31-room ‘home away from home’ Ronald McDonald House of Iowa City and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at St. Luke’s Hospital. Thank you for your generous, thoughtful support!”

If you collect and bring your pull-tabs to Zion, Don and Vivian Kellar regularly deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City for us.

Anita Renteria

May 21, 1946 –
October 4, 2015



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of **Anita Renteria**, who passed away on Sunday, October 4th, at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington. Visitation was held at Prugh-Thielen Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 6. Her funeral was held on Wednesday, October 7, at St. Paul's Catholic Church with the burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Great River Hospice House.

Anita was able to direct the handbell choir last year for Zion's 150th Anniversary Celebration. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Gus, and all her family.



We extend our sympathy to **Rita Hartman** and her family on the recent loss of her mother, **Emilie Schultz**, on Thursday, **October 8**, at the Great River Medical Center in West Burlington. Visitation was on Sunday, October 11, at Prugh-Thielen Funeral Home. The funeral was held on Monday, October 12, at First United Church of Christ. A memorial was established for the First United Church of Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rita and family.



Congratulations go to **Bryan Schnicker** and Sarah Irwin! They were married on October 10th at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Bryan and Sarah live and work in Chicago.

Bryan is the son of **David and Cathy Schnicker** and grandson of **Harold Schnicker**. Several Zion people attended the wedding: Bill and Pam Daws, Dennis and Dyan Dietzman, and Tom and Connie Ralston.



Please note that **Louise Rolf**, one of Zion's shut-ins, now is a resident of **Burlington Care Center** at 2610 S. 5th St. She was taken there after her stay in the hospital, and at this time we don't know how long she'll be there. She would most likely enjoy a card or a visit.

Sunday,
November 1



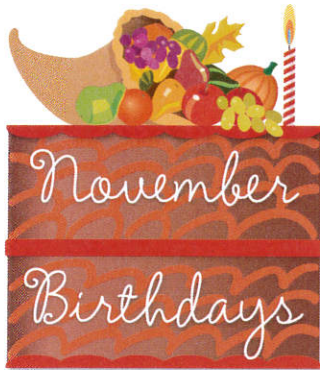


November 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00 am: Coffee hour	2 7:00 pm: Board of Christian Education	3 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:15 pm: Bell choir	4 5:30 - 7:00 pm: NOIZ Nites for Families 6:00 pm: Bible Study at Zion 7pm: Choir rehearsal	5 7:00 pm: Consistory	6 Pastor Brice's day off	7
8 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00 am: Pipe organ demo	9 7:00 pm: Board of Christian Education	10 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:15 pm: Bell choir 7:00 pm: Building & Grounds Comm.	11 6pm: Bible Study 7pm: Choir rehearsal	12 7:00 pm: Consistory	13 Pastor Brice's day off	14
15 8:45 am: Adult S.S. 10am: Worship & C.C. 11am: Stewardship Brunch 2:00 pm: Sing-along Stewardship Sunday	16 Marilyn on vacation	17 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:15 pm: Bell choir	18 6:00 pm: Bible Study at Zion 7pm: Choir rehearsal	19 5:30 pm: Meal at Hospice House	20 3:00 pm: NewsLetter DEADLINE Pastor Brice's day off	21
22 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00 am: Coffee hour Totenfest	23 7:15 pm: Choir rehearsal	24 7:30 am: Bible Study at Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice Comm. 6:15 pm: Bell choir	25 No activities	26  Thanksgiving	27 Thanksgiving Holiday	28  Thanks be to God
29 8:45 am: Adult S.S. 10:00 am: Worship & Children's Church 11:00 am: Coffee hour 1st Sunday of Advent	30 7:00 pm: Stewardship Committee	NOTE: Our Bridging the Gap office will be closed during the week of November 9 - 13. Deb Ruble will be on vacation.				





- 2 ---- **Renee Workman**, 159 Golf Lane
- 3 ---- **Shirley Greiner**, 12146 Flint Valley Dr.
- 6 ---- **Nancy Haley**, 13797 90th Avenue
Diana Jay, 13524 65th Ave.
- 9 ---- **Riley Thye**, 10284 155th St.
- 11 ---- **Adra Johnson** (10), 10574 Rolling Hills Dr.
Sheri Landstrom, 2105 S. 10th St.
Mark Oetken, PO Box 231
West Burlington IA 52655
- 17 --- **Sarah Lawlor**, 101 N. Gunnison St.
- 18 --- **Jan Chapman**, P.O. Box 591
Breyton Pope (5), 509 Harrison Ave.
- 20 --- **Gary Haley**, 13797 90th Avenue
Tammy Ita, 1419 Cleveland Ave.
- 22 --- **Sue Eden**, 218 Lewis St.
- 24 --- **Ruth Smith**, 1116 Hagemann Ave.
- 26 --- **Debra Van Scoy**, 705 Louisa St.
- 27 --- **Renita Jarrett**, 1517 Parkway Drive
- 28 --- **Tonya Burch**, 1014 S. 6th St.



- 1 --- **Craig & Lisa Neises** (18)
2033 Osborn St.
- 2 --- **Michael & Teresa Heitmeier** (13)
11386 147th Ave., West Burlington, IA
52655

Early December Birthdays

- 1 ---- **Abbigail Eden** (10), 3420 Mason Rd. –
Apt. #211
Betty Ford, 509 W. Agency, Lot #62
West Burlington, IA 52655
Richard Kerr, 9328 Glenmark Drive
- 2 ---- **Ian Hedges**, 11774 Greenwood Drive
Dugan Thye, 10240 155th St.
- 5 ---- **Dadrian Hoambrecker** (16),
604 Denmark St.



Early in November we will place sign-up sheets for worship helpers on tables in the narthex, listing areas where you can be of help for our Sunday worship services.

There are six different “jobs” that we need volunteers for. A brief description of each is below. If you are interested in a position, we can give you a more detailed description of the duty after you sign up if you’d like.

The new schedule will begin January 1st. It will be distributed during December so be sure to sign up this month. The schedules are for 4 months at a time. If you are already helping, we will have your name already on the list. We hope you can help again, but if not – just cross your name off. Thanks!!

Audio/Visual: This involves handling the PowerPoint presentation during the worship service (doing the “clicking”). It also involves some training before you can do this. You would serve a month at a time.

Church Closer: Serve one month at a time. Responsible for making sure all the lights are off, doors locked, things put away, etc. before leaving.

Greeter/Usher: Be here at least 30 minutes prior to worship start time to greet everyone and hand out the bulletins. Also take up the offering during the service. There are 4 greeters each week, and you will not be on each schedule more than twice...quite often only one time, depending on how many people sign up.

Reader/Worship Leader: Read the invocation, scripture, and offering invitation. Lead the congregation in the Call to Worship and the Prayer of Dedication after the offering. Reader material is usually ready by Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, but Thursday at the latest. Each individual is usually on each schedule only one time.

Tower Bell Ringer: Responsible for ringing the bell at 10:00 a.m. just prior to the start of the service. Your name could be on each schedule up to 3 times.

Valet: Be here 30 minutes prior to worship service. Responsible for setting out the handicap parking signs and assisting people into the church. Your name will be on each schedule 2 or 3 times.



Iowa Conference 2015 Annual Meeting

The Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ gathered for its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 17, at Plymouth UCC in Des Moines. You can read all the documents by going to: <http://www.ucciaconf.org/opportunities/annual-meeting>

As usual, there was exceptional worship. Conference Minister Rich Pleva reminded us that “the conference is not a ‘them;’ not those people in the tiny office in Des Moines; the conference is ‘us’.” We gather together to do the work of the Church written larger than individual congregations. This has been true of the church since very early in its history. We have always understood ourselves as One Body of Christ; one Church- not multiple churches in separate areas. We have always worked together for common cause. The Iowa Conference gathered to work together in ways we cannot do alone.

Rich Pleva and others reported on the progress of conversations with the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences about the possibilities of creative cooperation that might prove better stewardship of precious resources.

One of the changes coming for the Conference is the cessation of the Re-Charge event in June. The workshops offered were of high quality, but the attendance did not support the program. In its place, next October’s Annual Meeting will be expanded, adding a workshop day. Next year’s Annual Conference will be October 22 and 23, 2016.

A budget was approved for 2016, reports were heard from Conference Ministers Rich Pleva and others, elections were held, and Zion’s Pastor Brice was elected to the Conference Board of Directors from the Southeastern Association.

The Conference remembered the service of seven Pastors who have died since the last conference meeting, and celebrated new ministries.

One delightful sign of progress: ten years ago, there were three ministers in the Iowa Conference younger than 40. Now, there are thirty! We were blessed to hear a few of these young ministers preach and lead worship. Let me tell you, the future of the Church is strong and vibrant and full of the Holy Spirit. In the last year, four pastors were ordained in Iowa; eleven more accepted positions as Settled Pastors. (That number includes your Pastor, who transitioned from Interim to Settled). At present there are sixteen members in Discernment; somewhere along the process of discerning if God is calling them into ministry, and preparing for service.

Working together, the 164 congregations of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ are stronger in our unity than any one of us could be alone. Together we listen for the still speaking voice of God, calling us forward into the future- confident that the one who calls us also equips us for the ministry we accept.



The BZ Express

November 2015

Zion United Church of Christ

412 N. 5th Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601

319-752-2305 - Office phone

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, Pianist, 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

Tom Kenney, Custodian

Volunteer

Deb Ruble, Director of Bridging the Gap