

Burlington Zion Express

September 2016



“The Sun Always Shines”

Yogi Berra said, “You can observe a lot just by watching.” My favorite philosopher! He is so often exactly correct. You can observe a lot just by watching. On an airline trip a while back, I observed a profound and striking truth just by watching. Maybe an attitude of openness was as important as the event in teaching me a truth that had escaped me before then.

Our takeoff had been delayed by over an hour due to a thunderstorm. Some of the passengers showed their annoyance and frustration. A few made themselves an annoyance to the harried boarding crew at the gate; as if they should have done something to make the storm go away. More than a few wore nervous expressions, worried about what might happen if the plane got itself caught up in the storm. None of us on that flight were interested in going to Oz that day.

Finally, the storm abated some and we were allowed to board the airplane. The skies were still dark and threatening as we took off through a driving rain. Seconds after the wheels left the runway, we disappeared into the clouds where we were bumped and jostled by the turbulence of the storm.

At times the clouds were so thick we could not even see the tips of the wings. As we reached our cruising altitude, we broke through the storm. Our view from above the storm was thrilling and powerful. This rolling carpet of clouds stretched below us, ranging from white to grey to almost black. It moved and changed, churning and heaving. At times the clouds were lit by lightning strikes beneath us, inside the storm.

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(Pastor's Page continued)

The space where we were flying was clear and bright, the sun shone with its full intensity, lighting a sky above us an intense, peaceful blue.

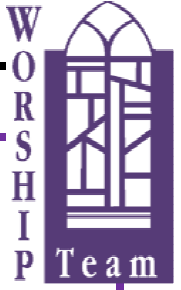
That's when I observed a powerful, incredible truth: No matter what the weather is like on the ground, the sun is always shining. Sometimes there are storms between us and the sun, but that does not change the sun. Just because we can't always see the sun doesn't mean it is not always there.

There are other kinds of storms in our lives. Sometimes they bring real pain and threats to our inner peace. But no matter how dark the storm, no matter how terrifying the events of our day, God is still present. Sometimes we may not be aware of God's presence because our attention has been focused on the immediate events, but God is still just as near as ever, just as powerful as always.

No matter how bad the storm, the sun still shines, even when we cannot see it. God's presence in our lives is the same.

Grace and peace,
Brice





Sunday, September 4 – Communion

10:00 am: Worship
Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Sunday, September 11

10:00 am: Worship
Scripture: Luke 15:1-10
Coffee Hour Resumes

Sunday, September 18

10:00 am: Worship
Scripture: Luke 16:1-13
Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 25

10:00 am: Worship
Scripture: To Be Announced
Coffee Hour



"I want to thank you for the very nice reception held for my retirement, for all the kind words from everyone, for the card (that I will treasure with all your signatures and good wishes), and the generous monetary gift. You are very special people, and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to get to know you. I will miss everyone, however, I know that I will enjoy my retirement. Thanks for an enjoyable 6 plus years! -Marilyn

Worship Helpers

September Audio/Visual: Scott Wood
September Church Closers: Sandy Deal
September Chancel Arts: Paulette Cavanah

Sunday, September 4:

Communion Preparer(s): Bob Parmeter
Greeters: Bill & Pam Daws;
Joe & Sandy Deal
Reader: Teresa Heitmeier
Tower Bell: Grace Eden
Valet: Bill Daws

Sunday, September 11:

Greeters: George & Velma Johnson; Craig, Lisa, & Will Neises
Reader: Janet McCannon
Tower Bell: Jacqui Workman
Valet: Milt Paule

Sunday, September 18:

Greeters: Marlis Robberts & Jakob Welch;
Bob Parmeter;
Kathy Morrish;
Jim Levins
Reader: Paula Renard
Tower Bell: Will Neises
Valet: Scott Wood

Sunday, September 25:

Greeters: Deb Ruble;
Jeanette Fisher;
Judy Tomkins;
Teresa & Matthew Heitmeier
Reader: Christopher Kurt
Tower Bell: Jakob Welch & Marlis Robberts
Valet: Marvin Fraise



Zion's Adult Choir

Zion's Adult Vocal Choir will begin rehearsals again Wednesday, August 31st at

7:00 pm. We are always open to new members.

Your only requirement is your willingness to "make a joyful noise to the Lord!"



We practice most Wednesday evenings for about an hour. Try us - we think you'll enjoy the music and the fellowship!

Call Janice Gibson at 319-752-7353 if you have any questions.

BLOCK PARTY!

Neighborhood Block Party

Mark your calendars! Zion will be hosting a **Neighborhood Block Party** as part of our **Fall Kick-Off Sunday** on Sunday, **September 11th from 11AM - 1PM**. Enjoy music by Kent Strabala and friends, face painting, games for all ages, and free hot dogs, ice cream, popcorn and cotton candy! There will also be a special drop-in visit from our neighbors, the fire department! We will be using the parking lot and the green space alongside. (Thanks, Masonic Temple!) This is a time to invite family, friends, and neighbors! We want to share the good news that we have a welcoming church family within this wonderful community of Burlington!



Children's Church Leaders Needed

Children's Church leaders needed! If you would be willing to be a helper and/or teacher in Children's Church for a Sunday or two this fall, your help would be appreciated! Let Janice Gibson know (319-752-7353) if you would be interested, or if you have questions about what it involves.

Children are precious members of our church family!

Building & Grounds Committee

Project: Floor Wax

We are happy to report that the floors in the Sanctuary, Kitchen, and Fellowship Hall have been stripped and waxed!

A Special Thanks To:

- Tom Kenney,
- A.J. Cox,
- Sandy Levins, &
- Jim Levins



For Their Hard Work!!!



CROP HUNGER WALK ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Burlington CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 1pm

Mark Your Calendar!

“Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn’t have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it’s possible in our lifetime.

You can make it happen!

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food resources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua, to providing agricultural training in Indonesia, to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, Crop Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs, and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.”

(Source: www.cwsglobal.org)

-Crop Hunger Walk

-Zion Support-



Zion has a long and proud history of supporting the ministry of CROP/Hunger Walk, and Church World Service. Last year, 17 Burlington churches participated in the CROP Walk, bringing 88 walkers, contributing over \$10,000.

Zion accounted for 15% of that total, the most of any church.

We sent 10 walkers, surpassed only by First UMC, who fielded one walker more than we.

Nancy Schulte raised the most of any Zionista, 3rd most of any individual.

Way to go, Nancy!

What if Zion tried for a dozen walkers this year? We are not the largest church in town, but we may have the biggest heart for ministry. That is one of the things that makes your pastor so proud to be here! Thank you for your extravagant generosity.

Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world. Join the movement!

For additional information regarding why you should register for the CROP Walk, please visit www.cwsglobal.org.



BZ Express – September 2016



CHRISTMAS DAY

This year, Christmas Day happens on a Sunday. Because family time is such a precious commodity, we are urging you to worship at home with your families that day.

Zion will not have a morning worship service on Christmas Day.

We will have a Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Please join us on Christmas Eve, then spend Christmas morning with your loved ones. Give thanks to God for the priceless gift of Jesus, and for the gift of being surrounded by those you love.

ADULT FORUM RETURNS

Our Adult Forum will be returning on **September 11th** with a five-Sunday series, “Three Faiths, One God.” Please meet at 8:45 am in the library area downstairs.

Each Sunday session will begin with a chapter from the DVD, followed by discussion.

Topics Are:

- September 11 The Word of God
- September 18 Common Biblical Roots
- September 25 Coming to Know the “Other”
- October 2 Monotheism: Belief in One God
- October 9 Concord and Conflict in Theology



ZION IN TOP 50

According to the UCC 2015 Annual Report, Zion is in the top 50 congregations in per capita giving to Our Church’s Wider Mission.

You are generous, compassionate people!

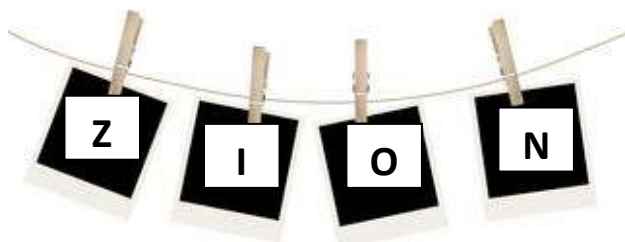
God continues to bless you for your generosity and progressive attitude, as you support the larger missions of the United Church of Christ.

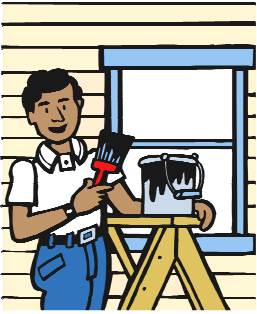
COFFEE HOUR



Coffee Hour will resume on our annual “Back to Church Sunday” on September 11th.

Please feel free to stop by the bulletin board and sign up for a Sunday this fall!





Annual Paint-a-thon

The annual community Paint-a-thon is scheduled for September 6-10th.

We are happy to report that the response to the September 2016 Paint-a-thon has been fantastic! Approximately 20 individuals have signed up for the UCC Team!

Our home is located at 633 Acres.

Waiver forms will be provided to the participants the day of the Paint-a-thon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pam Daws and/or Paula Renard, Co-Chairs.

FYI: 2016 Home Owner Statistics
13 Homes Were Selected.

10 homeowners live alone. Two are males, including one veteran, and 8 are females.

1 homeowner has a disabled adult daughter living with her.

2 homeowners have children.

2 homeowners are under the age of 55 and are single parents with two children each.

5 homeowners are between the ages of 58-65.

6 homeowners are between the ages of 66-88.

The average income of the homeowners is \$1,340 per month.

Three homeowners have income below \$900 per month, with one of their incomes being \$585 per month.

Labors of Love



Zion is a community of faith; molded into family by our mutual love of Jesus Christ.

When a need arises in the community, the group comes together in wonderful fashion. On the morning Glen Gottschalk died, our sanctuary was in complete disarray. All the pews had been taken up so the floor could be stripped and waxed, and that process was far from complete.

That sanctuary meant a lot to Glen and Debbie; holding the funeral there was important to them. So, a volunteer army came together and, working night and day, accomplished in four days what should have taken two weeks. By late Thursday evening they had the floors finished, the pews reattached, and the sanctuary re-organized and ready for Glen's funeral on Saturday. It was for all of them a labor of love: love for Glen and Debbie, and love for this space that makes worship so special here at Zion.

Mere words can never adequately express the thanks we feel to: *Jim Levins, Sandy Levins, Tom Kenney, Rodney Reeves, John Jay, Bill Daws, Brice Hughes, Darrell Eden, Sue Eden, Jerry Goddard, Carol Goddard, Christopher Kurt, Nathan Chapman, and DiAnne Lerud-Chubb.*

Thank you for all your hard work! May God continue to bless you for your loving kindness.

(And if I left anyone off this list,
PLEASE forgive me,
and let me know so that you
may be appropriately thanked.)





Mark Your Calendars

Due to the annual Paint-a-thon, the Elders and Consistory will meet one week later than usual.

Mark your calendars

September 15, 2016

Elders: 6:00 p.m.

Consistory: 7:00 p.m.



Bridging The Gap Update

During the month of September, our Bridging the Gap Program assisted several families through our Love Fund Resources!



Because of Your Contributions:

- We assisted 6 people with their rent.
- We assisted 1 person with their water bill.
- We assisted 4 people with their utility bills.
- We also provided food to 23 families from our Food Pantry.

**Deb Ruble,
Director of Bridging The Gap**

DEEPEST SYMPATHY



We extend our deepest sympathy to the Gottschalk family for their recent loss.

Glen was an avid member of the Zion Church and will be missed dearly. Our prayers are with the Gottschalk family during this difficult time.

"Not Forgotten"

*You are not forgotten, loved one.
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee,
We miss you now, our hearts are sore
As time goes by we'll miss you more.
Your loving smile,
Your gentle face,
No one can fill
Your vacant place.*



Thank You



for your Kindness

A Special Thanks From The Homeless Shelter...

"Thank you! What a wonderful gift you have given to us. How kind and thoughtful you all are. We appreciate your support and kindness. Thanks so much! God Bless You All!"



September Is National Preparedness Month



*"We are what God has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared
beforehand to be our way of life.-*

Ephesians 2:10

Zion Church is passionate about loving neighbor as if they were our own kin. In September, we participate in Paint-a-Thon, painting and freshening up the home of one of our neighbors. We share our material resources with others through Bridging the Gap, helping with rent, food, utilities, etc. and we respond to the larger church when disasters strike.

At Zion, one of the ways we express our faith is by responding to disasters. Because September is National Preparedness Month, it is a good time for us to think about how we prepare to help in the event of a disaster in Burlington.

Each September, Americans are encouraged to make sure they are prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. Iowans are urged to take the necessary steps to be prepared for all emergencies and disasters - both natural and man-made.

Being Prepared Means:

Families and individuals have an emergency supply kit so they can be self-reliant

for at least three days in an emergency and they have a plan for how they will respond and reconnect with other family members after an emergency.

Zion Church will be developing a plan for how we will work together in the event of a disaster, look after our members, utilize our facility for the benefit of the whole community, and back up critical information.

Disasters and emergencies of all kinds can strike anywhere at any time. Investing in the preparedness of ourselves, our families, and our Church will reduce suffering and enhance our ability to respond to our neighbors in a time of need.



Families & Poverty

You can make a powerful impact on families trying to work their way out of poverty.

Recruiting continues for the Staying Ahead Program, the follow-on to Building Bridges Out of Poverty.

First Step: Attend "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty" on Saturday, September 17.

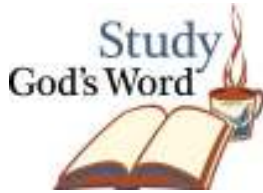
Please contact Mike Shinn, Herschel Smuck, or Pastor Brice to learn more about how you can be a "Staying Ahead Teammate".

Your participation could be the key to changing the life of a family for generations!



Tuesdays 7:30 am

Diggers Rest Coffeehouse



– AND –

**Wednesdays at the
Church – 6 pm**

Pastor Brice offers two weekly Bible Studies. They meet Tuesday mornings at Diggers Rest and Wednesday nights downstairs at church. Both Bible Studies cover the lectionary texts (shown in the “Worship” section of the newsletter). Please do your best to participate in at least one of them.



UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

The Downtown Burlington Churches are hosting a Blood Drive for Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center on Monday, September 12th from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church. The Blood Drive will take place at 421 Washington Street – on the lower level of the Church.

To donate, please contact the United Methodist Church office at 319-754-8421 or visit www.bloodcenterimpact.org.

Please eat before donating and bring your Photo ID. Additional information pertaining to the Blood Drive is located on the Bulletin Board in the back of the Sanctuary.



TERRY STROTHER, FINAL RECITAL

Terry Strother, tenor
announces his final recital...

When: Sunday, September 11th at 3:00 p.m.

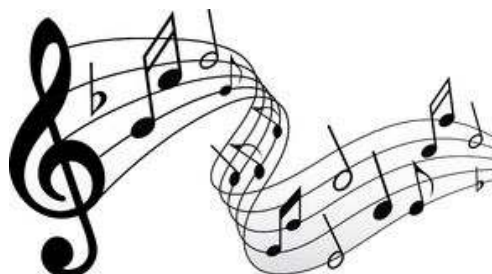
Where: First Congregational Church

Terry has been singing for the public for 40 years. Come and enjoy his farewell performance as he sings Broadway Show Tunes and African-American Spirituals.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
GENEROUSLY

UCC Emergency Fund

Thank you for contributing to the UCC Emergency Fund! Because of your generosity, we have been able to raise \$472.00! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



September 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 7:30 am: Bible Study At Diggers Rest 7:00 pm: Building & Grounds Meeting	7 6:00 pm: Bible Study 7:00 pm: Choir	8	9	10	
Annual Community Paint-a-thon -- September 6-10							
11 10:00 am: Worship Back To Church Sunday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Zion Block Party	12	13 7:30 am: Bible Study At Digger's Rest	14 6:00 pm: Bible Study 12:00 pm: Staff Mtg 7:00 pm: Choir	15 6:00 pm: Elders Meeting 7:00 pm: Consistory Meeting	16	17	
18 10:00 am. Worship Coffee Hour 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm "Organ Crawl"	19	20 7:30 am: Bible Study At Digger's Rest	21 6:00 pm: Bible Study 7:00 pm: Choir	22 5:30 pm: Hospice House Meal	23	24	
25 10:00 am. Worship Coffee Hour	26	27 7:30 am. Bible Study At Diggers Rest 6:00 pm: Social Justice	28 6:00 pm: Bible Study 7:00 pm: Choir	29 5:30 pm: SUMM Community Meal	30		



Global Ministries

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September 2016: Loving Our Neighbor

BY JUDY CHAN ON AUGUST 11, 2016

Mark 12:31

It's not every day that the Consul General of a Middle Eastern country asks to come for a visit to the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC). When the Consul General arrived with his staff, he explained that he was new to his position and was troubled by events around the world involving violence and terrorism. He was concerned about the rise of 'Islamophobia' or anti-Muslim sentiment. He wanted to reach out to other religions in Hong Kong to get to know them and to build better relationships. In our conversation, he learned that the HKCC also actively seeks ways to build friendship and engage in dialogue with other world religions.

At one point, the Consul General asked us how Christians viewed what was happening in the world where more and more violent conflicts were breaking out between cultures and religions. I thought for a moment. And the words of a Syrian Christian I had heard just a few days earlier came to mind: "Christians always stand for non-violence and non-retaliation. We must always forgive. We are taught by Jesus in the bible to love our enemies." And that's what I told him. I couldn't think of anything else that is more central to our Christian faith than loving God, loving our neighbor and loving our enemy.

The Consul General didn't know us and we didn't know him. But he came in search of peace and a sign of friendship among people of faith. I wonder what would happen if local churches and Christians took more initiative to reach out to get to know people of other faiths. We often speak of "extending the right hand of fellowship" to our Christian brothers and sisters in worship. Perhaps we could find more opportunities to shake hands with those in our own cities that come from other lands and cultures and faiths. Like us, they desire nothing more than living together in peace and friendship.

Judy Chan serves with the Hong Kong Christian Council. She is responsible for communications for the Council

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC HONG KONG

Burlington Zion Express

September 2016

Zion United Church of Christ

412 N. 5th Street, Burlington, IA 52601

319-752-2305 – Office Phone

515-450-1321 – Pastor's Cell Phone

Church Email: ucczionbur@aol.com

Pastor's Email Address: bricehughes@hotmail.com

Church Website: www.zionuccburlington.org

Staff:

Rev. Brice Hughes, Pastor

Janice Gibson, Organist, Pianist, Music Director,
and Christian Education Director

Kristina R. Quint, 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