

# Burlington Zion Express

January 2017

## From The Pastor's Desk

### Building Block Or Stumbling Stone

Ask the stone, "Who are you? What is your purpose in life?" One stone says, "I am a rock. Too hard to allow a single grain of wheat to grow on me, too rough to sit upon, too cold and hard for sleeping. Good only to stub the toe and skin the knee."

Another stone says, "My only use is to be crushed. Grind me into powder and pour me onto the road. Let me shield the traffic from the spring mud and the winter snow. Grind me into dust and let me fertilize the fields for next summer's harvest."

A third stone says, "I will cover a temple to God. With me, build an altar to represent the salvation of humanity. Shape me that I may be useful as a building block; smooth my rough edges that I may lie productively next to my friends; that we together might make the wall of the sanctuary of God."

Are you a building block, or a stumbling stone? What kind of building are you? What rough edges does God need to smooth down to make you ready to be useful?

"So come to Jesus, a living stone, rejected by men yet chosen and precious in God's sight. And like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.





For it stands in scripture; Behold, I place in Zion a cornerstone: chosen, precious, and the one believing on him will never be ashamed.

To you, then, who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. And a stone for stumbling over."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's possession, so that you might proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were no people; now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy; now you have received mercy." - 1 Peter 2:1-10

May the New Year bring you all new reasons to rejoice!

Grace and peace,

Brice



# BZ Express – January 2017



## Sunday, January 1

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46  
"Where Is Your Core?"

## Sunday, January 8

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23  
"The Grass Gets Trampled"

## Sunday, January 15

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17  
"Remembering Your Baptism"

## Sunday, January 22

Scripture: Corinthians 1:10-18  
"Unity In The Power Of The God"

## Sunday, January 29

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12  
"Blessed Are You"



## Sunday, January 8:

Greeters:	Rod Reeves; Lin Parks; George & Velma Johnson
Reader:	Bonnie Downes
Tower Bell:	Grace Eden
Valet:	Milt Paule

## Sunday, January 15:

Greeters:	Joe & Sandy Deal; Teresa & Matthew Heitmeier
Reader:	Jim Ritters
Tower Bell:	Will Neises
Valet:	Scott Wood

## Sunday, January 22 :

Greeters:	Dave & Cathy Schnicker; Darlene Pruett; Paula Renard
Reader:	Lin Parks
Tower Bell:	Jacqui Workman
Valet:	Dennis Dietzman

## Sunday, January 29:

Greeters:	Rod Reeves; Renee Workman; Marlis Robberts & Jakob Welch
Reader:	Jerry Goddard
Tower Bell:	Bob Parmeter
Valet:	Rich Goble

## Worship Helpers

Thank You For Being A Part Of  
The Praise & Worship Team!

January Audio/Visual:  
Craig Neises

January Church Closers:  
Dennis Dietzman

January Chancel Arts:  
Dyan Dietzman



## DEEPEST SYMPATHY



We extend our deepest sympathy for the recent loss of DiAnne Lerud-Chubb's husband, Jim.

Our prayers are with DiAnne and her family during this difficult time.



## “These Days” Devotionals

### THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

We provide *These Days* Devotional Books each quarter for you. A few are also ordered in large print for your convenience. The newest ones will begin in January. These will be on the back table in a week or two. We simply ask for a \$2.00 donation if you're able to help offset their cost. An envelope is provided with each book.

FORWARD  
DAY BY DAY

**SHARING  
BRINGS JOY**  
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

## Annual Giving Statements

Your 2016 Annual Giving Statements will be available for pick-up on January 8<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience, the Giving Statements will be in alphabetical order on a table located in the Narthex.

## 2017 Offering Envelope Sets

There are a few remaining people who still need to pick up their 2017 Offering Envelope Sets. For your convenience, they are located in the back of the sanctuary.



## BRIDGE THE \_\_\_\_\_ GAP

### Monthly Update For Bridging The Gap Program

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

#### Because of Your Contributions:

- We assisted 7 people with their rent.
- We assisted 4 people with their water bill.
- We assisted 4 people with their utility bills.
- We assisted 5 people with gas vouchers.
- We assisted one person with a bus pass.
- We assisted one person with a prescription.
- We also provided food to 21 families from our Food Pantry.

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for items to be included in the February Newsletter is Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

*DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!*

## FOOD pantry

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Food Collection January 29<sup>th</sup>

It is a tradition at Zion Church to bring items for the Food Pantry on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. January is one of those months with five Sundays. Any items donated to Zion's Food Pantry are greatly appreciated!

#### Food Pantry Annual Report:

255 Sets (3 Bags) were distributed to needy families in the community.

765 total bags were distributed to needy families in the community.

### COMMITTEES

In January, I will be placing Committee signup sheets on tables in the Narthex.

Each year, everyone needs to sign up for their chosen committee.





# BZ Express – January 2017

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



Please stop by the bulletin board and sign up to host/co-host a coffee hour! As demonstrated below, we are in need of Coffee Hour Hosts.

January 22 \_\_\_\_\_  
February 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
February 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
February 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
February 26 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the signup sheet on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary if you can help by sponsoring a Sunday.

And...Remember - you can make it as simple or as elaborate as you wish. Thanks in advance for your consideration!



## January Hospice Meal



The next Hospice House Meal is January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

We will be serving a soup supper.

Please see Paula Renard if you are interested in assisting.



## A Special Thanks From Gail Lawlor

A special thanks to Tom Ralston for helping me paint my living room. The task was completed swiftly and we had a great visit! I really appreciate your help!

-Gail Lawlor-



## ANNUAL MEETING

### Sunday, January 15:

Proposed 2016 Budget will be presented to the congregation after worship service. There will be a time for questions and answers following worship.

### Sunday, January 15:

Deadline For Annual Reports! All board and committee chairpersons should submit their reports to the church office – on or before this day – reporting the board's or committee's activities for the 2016 year. Treasurers also need to turn in their Financial Reports, as they will be published in the annual report booklets being distributed the following Sunday.

### Sunday, January 22:

2016 Zion Church Annual Report booklets will be available for everyone. This will give you time to review it before the annual meeting.

### Sunday, January 29:

Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the worship service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All members should plan to attend, as the 2017 budget will be voted on, and church officials will be elected.

## KONOJEL COMMUNITY CENTER

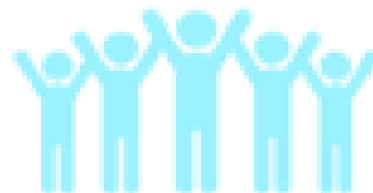
In 2016, Zion's Jim & Sandy Levins took 304 pair of children's shoes to Konojel Community Center in San Marcos La Laguna, Guatemala, largely due to the generosity of the people of Zion.

**This year instead of collection shoes, Zion is collecting the following:**

- Used Laptops
- Women's hygiene products
- Dental hygiene Products
- Bilingual or Spanish children's books
- Baby bottles & nipples, (Bill Daws generously donated several cases of powdered infant formula)
- Cash to purchase printer toner or to assist with Konojel's ongoing nutrition program



Konojel Community Center is an official Zion mission. Items for donation may be dropped off at Zion any time between now and mid-January. **Thank you in advance for your generosity. We are truly changing lives.**



## FUNDING FUTURE LEADERSHIP

### Scholarships For Ministry Preparation

It's not easy to train a pastor, and it's especially not easy to pay for seminary education. How can we make sure our future leaders get the support they need while they are preparing for ministry? Find out what new and exciting project we're doing in Iowa to help create scholarship aid for our members-in-discernment!



It is expensive to train ordained clergy. Sadly, as time has gone on the burden of paying for education has

shifted from the denomination to the student, leaving many seminary students and pastors deeply in debt.

This isn't a sustainable trend that will lead to a healthy future for our UCC congregations.

To address this issue in Iowa, the Iowa Conference UCC Church has established a new Iowa-exclusive special offering that will go to creating direct scholarship aid for our seminary students.

**This Offering Is Called  
Funding Future Leadership:  
Scholarships For Ministry Preparation,  
and it will be taken on January 15, 2017.**

Aspiring leaders are taking big financial risks so they can serve the needs of the church, so we as a church should do more to help them in their time of need. Think about this: There are 168 churches in the Iowa Conference.

If every church donated \$100 to Funding Future Leadership, we would have \$16,800 in scholarship aid to give away. If every church donated \$250 we would have \$42,000, and if we had seven applicants and all were given the same award each student would get \$6,000!

When we all come together for the common goal of taking care of tomorrow's leaders today there are many great things we can do. I invite all churches to please do what they can to support this offering. Thank you.

If you have any questions regarding this offering, please contact Jo Ordway in the Conference Office by telephone at 515.277.6369 or by email at [jo@ucciaconf.org](mailto:jo@ucciaconf.org). Jo will either be able to answer your question or get you in contact with the right person.

[www.ucciaconf.org/resources/scholarship-funding-future-leadership](http://www.ucciaconf.org/resources/scholarship-funding-future-leadership)

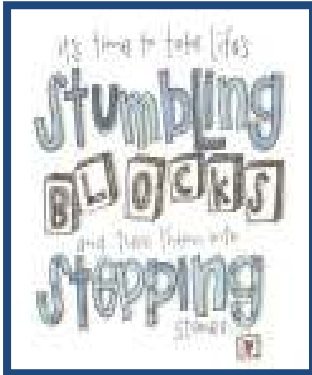


**Taking Care of  
Tomorrow's Church  
TODAY!**





## Turning Stumbling Blocks Into Stepping-Stones



An interesting excerpt written by Lynette Hagin from Faith Library...

I thought it was relevant as with every New Year, there are obstacles.

Obstacles that with the help of God, can be turned into stepping stones!

The faith walk is not a walk of ease. It's not always fun to endure life's problems. We would probably rather go through life on "flowery beds of ease." But that's not the way life works. We live in an imperfect world with imperfect people, and life is not going to be easy all the time.

God never promised that the Christian life would be free of tests, trials, and adversity.

Now what do we do when life brings problems our way? What should be our response? There is a saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Lemonade is pretty good – just add a little sugar to it and it's wonderful! So when life's problems come, we can go to God with them and let Him turn them around for good.

### Climb On Those Bumps!

That reminds me of a story about a little boy who was leading his sister up a mountain path. The way was not easy. Finally the little girl said, "Why, this isn't a path at all! It's too

rocky and bumpy!" To this her brother replied, "Sis, the bumps are what you climb on!" You may think, "Hey, I've had a whole lot of bumps in my life.

Maybe I'm going to climb really high!" That may be the case, because the enemy loves to throw his biggest bumps in the paths of those who he knows are going to be great successes for God.

So instead of allowing those bumps to become stumbling blocks, use them as stepping-stones! In my own life, I've always tried to take that attitude concerning problems. I say, "I won't let bumps cause me to stumble. I'm going to step higher and higher until I climb over the top of those bumps and obstacles."

God doesn't promise to remove every obstacle from our path. But He does promise to help us overcome them and climb higher in spite of them.

Difficulties can help us climb higher if we'll use them as stepping-stones. Too often, though, we only want to complain about them. Sometimes we may try to kick them out of the way or jump over them. Or more often, we try to go around them. But when we finally get around one, there's sure to be another bump in our path.

When facing these bumps, it's easy to want to turn around and go another way. But we don't have to quit or give up, because we can turn stumbling blocks into stepping-stones!

# JANICE'S YOUTH CORNER

## NOIZ NITES

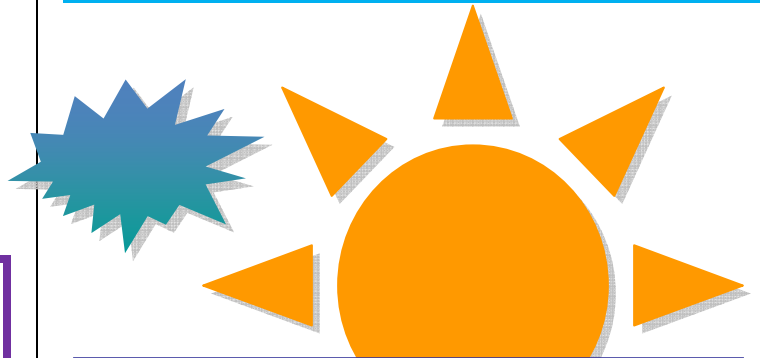
A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the Noisy Offering collected in December! The offering will go to Zion's Love Fund which assists people in need with their utilities, rent, water and transportation expenses.

## YOUTH PROGRAM

Thank you to our youth who helped present the Christmas musical *The Night Shift Before Christmas* in December! Thank you, too, to the adults who helped us prepare. It was a fun way to tell the story of the night of Jesus' birth and our youth's enthusiasm was an inspiration!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

On January 8th, Children's Church will begin again. Children, ages 5 yrs-8th grade, are invited to attend following Time with Youth in the worship service. On the 8th, they will be viewing the video from the Christmas program and tasting falafels! Remember, most of the program took place at "The Falafel House" in Bethlehem!



**Youth Group News  
& Activities For The  
Month of January!!!**



## January Birthdays:

- 7--- **Linda Thornburg**  
2013 Vogt Street, Burlington, IA
- 8--- **Avery Levins**  
11737 Tama Road, Burlington, IA
- 13-- **Mike Collentine**  
5236 Ferres Lane, Burlington, IA
- 15-- **April Kenney**  
2210 Charles Street, Burlington, IA
- 16-- **Jeanette Fisher**  
1700 Hillary Street, Burlington, IA
- 17-- **Lyle Gibson**  
204 Crestview Drive, Burlington, IA
- 22-- **Rodney Reeves**  
1605 South Street, Burlington, IA
- 23-- **Christina Cowles**  
5236 Ferres Lane, Burlington, IA
- 23-- **Chase Graham**  
321 Summer Street, Burlington, IA
- 23-- **Shirley Wilson**  
2624 Florence Avenue, Burlington, IA
- 25-- **Emery Kerr**  
5816 Christa Drive, Burlington, IA
- 25-- **Jacqueline Workman**  
2613 Evergreen, Burlington, IA
- 27-- **Ann Hummel**  
1431 Cambridge Dr., Unit #208, Burlington, IA

- 27-- **Karen Snellar**  
1903 River Street, Burlington, IA
- 29-- **David Rappenecker**  
1227 Agency Street, Burlington, IA
- 30-- **Jeffrah Levins**  
11737 Tama Road, Burlington, IA



## Early February Birthdays:

- 2--- **Ethan Kerr**  
5816 Christa Drive, Burlington, IA
- 2--- **Debra Ritters**  
209 Curran Street, Burlington, IA
- 5--- **Briana Landstrom**  
2105 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Burlington, IA 52601



## January Anniversaries:

- 1--- **Jim & Sandy Levins (16)**  
3219 Crystal Drive, Burlington, IA



## Early February Anniversaries:

- 2--- **Gary & Nancy Haley (37)**  
13797 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Burlington, IA
- 5--- **Dennis & Dyan Dietzman (45)**  
2819 Fair Acres Drive, Burlington, IA

# January 2017



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
		2	3	4	5	7
	Church Office Closed	7:30 AM Bible Study At Digger's Rest & 7:00 PM Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	6:00 PM Bible Study At Church & 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM Consistory Meeting		
8	9	10	11	12		
Annual Giving Statements Available	6:00 PM Fellowship Committee Meeting	7:30 AM Bible Study At Digger's Rest	6:00 PM Bible Study At Church & 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
15	16	17	18	19		
2017 Budget Presentation To Congregation & Deadline For Annual Report Submissions		7:30 AM Bible Study At Digger's Rest	6:00 PM Bible Study At Church & 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5:30 PM Hospice Meal - Soup Supper		
22	23	24	25	26		
Annual Report Booklets Available		7:30 AM Bible Study At Digger's Rest	6:00 PM Bible Study At Church & 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			
29	30	31	<p><b>Let's Welcome The New Year, Which Is Fresh And New!</b>  <b>Let's Cherish Each Moment It Beholds!</b>  <b>Let's Celebrate This Blissful New Year!</b></p>			
Fifth Sunday Food Collection & Annual Meeting		7:30 AM Bible Study At Digger's Rest				

