

Open and Affirming Declaration

We, the members of Zion United Church of Christ in Steubenville, Ohio, seek to continue the faithful presence and witness to God's love that has been maintained by our denominational predecessors for more than 150 years. Our ultimate goal is to have the Message of Jesus Christ permeate all that we profess, through our words and by our actions. To that end, we join together on this day of the celebration of the Feast of Transfiguration, February 10, 2013, to joyously proclaim:

We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and are called to proclaim and show our love for God by loving our neighbors as God loves us. We believe that we are many members, but one body in Jesus the Christ, called to unite all people in God's enduring love. We therefore offer our Open and Affirming pledge of Radical Hospitality to all God's created, with a commitment to extend God's Extravagant Welcome to persons of every gender, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, social and economic status, faith background, political and theological beliefs, marital standing and family structure. Remembering the time frame in which our church was founded, we particularly affirm President Abraham Lincoln's call that all of our words and actions must reflect "malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right....".

The People of Zion United Church of Christ



Joyful Noiz

April 13- May 11 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

April 15 11:00am

USHER Dana Lohr
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

April 22 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS In Memory of Loved Ones from
Betty Sparr
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

April 29 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

May 6 11:00am

USHER Dave Hunt
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Renea Starkey-Hunt

May 13 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Missy Breddin

May 20 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

A Prayer In Spring by Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-
day;

And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard
white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by
night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect
trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle
bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands
still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

COFFEE HOUR

Because of the kitchen renovation project, we will not be having coffee hour in the social hall. **We will still have a fellowship time in the narthex but we will not have coffee or snacks.** Thank you for your understanding.

VETS IN THE VILLE

Inspired by the **Gem City Heroes** in Toronto, **Peggy Lohr** has chaired a similar project here at Zion. It was created to honor veterans in the Steubenville / Wintersville area and will be sponsored by **Zion United Church of Christ, and Domino's Pizza**. We are collecting nominations and every two weeks one person will be randomly selected to receive a pizza from Domino's and we will deliver it to their home as a thank you for their service to our country. Nominations are being accepted on Facebook. Please contact **the Vets In the Ville** Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/peggylohrr/>) with the name of the veteran and the address. We will not contact the veteran but we will work with the nominator to find the best time for delivery. **If anyone would like to donate cookies or baked goods to be delivered with the pizza, please contact Jeff Knauff or Peggy Lohr.**

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”
Audrey Hepburn

From the Pastor



One of these days the snow will finally melt for the last time, and we can look forward to the warming of Creation. We can look forward to the changes that come with the changing of the seasons: the flowers springing up, the budding trees, the singing of the birds, the laughter of the children outside. Changes between seasons are things we normally celebrate with joy. Another change of season is upon us here at Zion UCC.

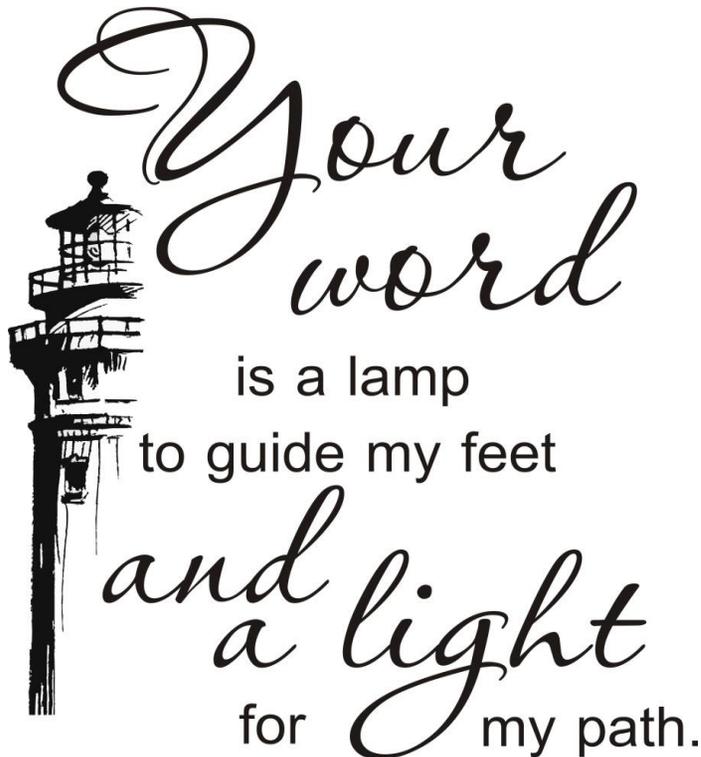
By now, I'm sure you have heard that my wife and family are returning to Iowa this Summer. First, let me say that we are not separating, our marriage is in many ways stronger than it has ever been. Second, it is not my intention to return to Iowa with them. I am not going anywhere. It is my hope to remain your pastor here at Zion for the foreseeable future. It is also the hope that once Melissa has taken care of the needs in Iowa, we will all be reunited.

Most of you know of the difficulties we have had with our home in Iowa. We were never able to sell it, and have been renting it out for the last three years. Unfortunately, that was a situation that was not good, and the house is unsellable in its current condition, and a great deal of work will need to be done before it can be either rented out again or put back on the market. In addition, the health concerns of Melissa's mother and my parents are increasing, and the need for someone who is able to bring peace to those situations is needed. There is enough to be done that a few weeks or months back in Iowa will not be enough.

Times of change are not always easy, and I'm sure that this season of change will not be easy on any of us. I will be spending much time on my knees praying for Zion as we weather this unexpected change. We have grown in many ways over the last few years, and any change can have unforeseen consequences. I pray that we will continue to move forward and grow as a voice for God's love and grace in the area.

Melissa and I would also greatly appreciate your continued prayers. This will not be an easy thing for our family to experience. It will only be through your support and prayers that we will come through this stronger and more fully a family.

With the Greatest of Hope!
Erik



Psalm 119:105

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

If you haven't checked out our website, take a look!
www.zionuccsteubenville.com



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Thompson, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, Thelma Cook, Barb Irvin, John Rhueff, Nancy Tingler, Marie Brobston, Dakota Miller, Patricia Loyszczyk, Marlene Rhueff, Jim Mottice, Barb Mottice, Opal Kleineke, Al Panyi

*If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church council met April 4; minutes from the meeting are in the back of the sanctuary. The next council meeting will be **May 2 at 5 PM.**

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration began the kitchen renovation, **April 9.** There is an expected time of 3-4 weeks for completion. The church will be in a difficult position of scheduling events to be held in the social hall during this time, so we thank everyone for their patience.

FREEZER IN WORKROOM

The freezer in the social hall workroom is not sealing properly. It was defrosted a few months ago but is already frozen over again. It is a Montgomery Ward model which dates it to the 1960's or 1970's. Council has decided to replace it with a more energy efficient model.

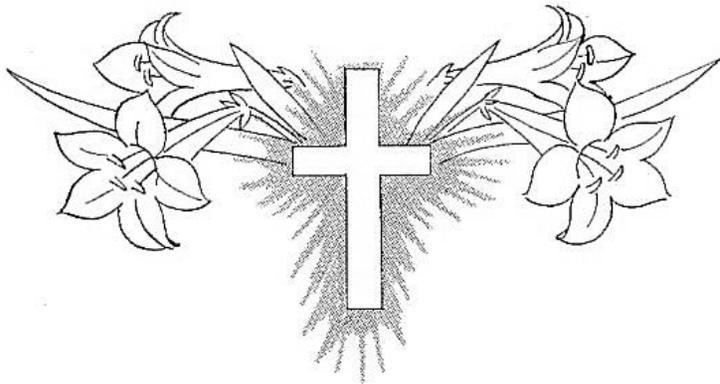
Renea Starkey-Hunt and family have placed a
Hyacinth in Loving Memory of Robert Starkey.

Shirley Valuska has placed a Hyacinth in memory of
Loved Ones.

Shirley Williams has placed a Tulip in memory of
Edward Williams.

Shirley Williams has placed a Tulip in memory in
memory of Brenda Kish.

Cristin Wise has placed a Tulip in memory of
Richard Yates.



The Breddin family has placed a Hyacinth in memory of Jim Baumeister-father of Missy.

Jasmyn Breddin has placed a Lily in memory of their beloved dog, Luther Breddin.

John C. Diekmann has placed a Lily in memory of Estella and Lewis Diekmann.

John C. Diekmann and Jeffrey Knauff have placed a Lily in memory of LaDonna Weinman.

Mel Humes and Carlene Christ have placed a Hyacinth in memory of Martha Kress, Dorothy Kress Humes, Charlotte (Humes) Sullivan and Barbara Humes-Mott.

Tom Kaufmann has placed a Lily in memory of Thelma Kaufmann.

Carole Kirkendall has placed a Tulip in memory of Loved Ones.

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Opal Kleineke has placed a Hyacinth in memory of Charles Mellott, Chester Conn and Henry Kleineke.

Opal Kleineke has placed a Lily in memory of her parents, Oscar and Mae Bunfill and sister, Marge Pfalzgraf.

Jeffrey A. Knauff has placed a Hyacinth in memory of his parents, Mary Louise and Rex Knauff and brother, Ron.

Joe Lemasters has placed a Lily in memory of James and Lois Bloomfield.

Peggy Lohr has placed a Hyacinth in memory of her mother, Olivia R. Martin.

Charles Maffett has placed a Lily in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Maffett.

Dorothy Martin has placed an Azalea in memory of Cora Kubina.

Barb and Jim Mottice have placed a Hyacinth in memory of Freda and Henry Cook.

Albert and Elaine Panyi have placed a Tulip in memory of Loved Ones.

Barb Ross and Alan Cochrane have placed a Hyacinth in memory of George and Aimee Ross.

Barb Ross and Alan Cochrane have placed a Hyacinth in honor of Howard Ross and Sharon Patterson.

Betty J. Sparr has placed a Hyacinth in memory of Loved Ones.