



Zion United Church of Christ

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Marion, IL 62959

Church:
618-997-5190

Website:
www.zucc.org

Rev. John D. Holst,
Pastor

Find us on Facebook

Zion Herald

Where God is still speaking...

JANUARY 2021

The Work of Christmas

*Howard Thurman, 19th Century Theologian, Author, Civil Rights Leader.
Thurman's philosophy of non-violence deep influenced Martin Luther King Jr.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.



My Dear Friends,

This is the message of the gospel that we all hope for in the days after celebrating the incarnate God coming into our lives. God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem. 2020 has been extremely challenging during these many months of pandemic. One of the challenges of the pandemic is that we cannot safely be together for worship, incarnate, in the flesh. We live an incarnational theology, a theology of Emmanuel, God with us. Like you, I miss that feeling of God being with us through our greeting each other before and after worship, holding hands, visiting with one another, singing. Oh yes singing!

Our expressions of worship are a large part of our connecting with the holy in all of us, but equally holy is our actions which shall bring hope to this hurting world. I spend a few moments most mornings with my Zion hymnal open singing Christmas hymns and discovering again the faithful utterances contained in the lines. Lines reminding me that our actions as a human family are how we partner with God and that peace on earth is possible even when it's been such a hard year for peace.

Joy to the World!

Pastor John

JUST A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

During the month of December, we said farewell to two former choir members. Randy Houston sang with the choir and sang solos many years ago, before he moved out of the area to attend school and start his adult journey. He moved back to Marion several years ago and he managed to sing with us a few times and provided a few solos. Unfortunately, Randy competed with his illnesses, so his time with us in recent years was very limited. Randy had a gorgeous solo and choir voice that he used to worship the Lord. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but we take comfort in the fact that his long suffering is over.

We also said farewell to Paul McDaniel who only had a chance to sing with the choir for a few short years before he moved from the area to be closer to family. Paul was always such a delight in every setting. His precious smile, his sense of humor, his kind words of support and encouragement. He, too, will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Heaven's choir of angels certainly added two awesome men this month.

The Advent Season was filled with beautiful music. November 29th was the first Sunday in Advent. We used an arrangement of *What Child Is This* that the Bell Choir played last year which also featured Doris on a keyboard that sounded like a harpsicord. Doris and Sharolyn assisted with the hymns for the day on piano and organ. Gail provided a solo arrangement of a beautiful anthem called *Here With Us*. Thank you, Gail! It was wonderful! The benediction video was a gorgeous arrangement of *Do You Hear What I Hear* by a group called Home Free.

For the second Sunday in Advent, December 6th, we used a virtual choir arrangement of *O Come, All Ye Faithful* that was created by a UCC Choir in Seattle, Washington. Sharolyn once again assisted with the hymns and Gwen Weaver provided a solo arrangement of the choir anthem *These Christmas Lights*. It was beautiful! Thank you, Gwendolyn! The benediction video was a special arrangement of a song called *The Sweetest Gift*. It is a beautiful song of comfort for those who have either experienced deep loss or are feeling an extra sense of loss during this pandemic.

On December 13th, Sharolyn Atwood played *The First Noel* as a prelude on the organ. Thank you, Sharolyn, for all of your musical contributions during the Christmas season. We then lit the Advent candles, had a time of prayer, and replayed the Christmas cantata from 2018, known as *It's Christmastime!* It was so much fun to watch again!! Remember Rosalyn Wentland's pantomime during the song *Fruitcake*? How about some of the members of the Murphysboro High School Choir joining us for *Seasons Tweetings*? And then there was the Sims/Todd families with Ella Grace Todd as Baby Jesus and her mom and dad, Matt and Chelsey, as Mary and Joseph. Other members of the Sims family assisted as shepherds and wisemen, with Grandmother Nancy as the angel. What a beautiful family! A great musical filled with fun songs and gorgeous music!

For December 20th, we used a 2018 prelude from the Bell Choir playing *Mary Had a Baby* and Lori Ledbetter and I provided *I Have Seen the Light* for the Music of Inspiration. Paula Kobler provided the narration to start the song. Thank you, Lori and Paula! You are awesome! For Christmas Eve, Gail, Sara, Torrie, Kate, and Janet and I were able to create a "masked" bell version of *Still, Still, Still* with Sharolyn on piano. Sharolyn assisted with hymns and with the help of Laura Trummer on piano, I sang *O Holy Night*. A virtual Christmas Eve experience certainly wasn't the same, but we did our best under the challenging circumstances.

Doris Anderson had planned to help with hymns and preludes during the Christmas season, but sadly, the corona virus has taken her to Herrin Hospital for most of December. Please continue to pray for Doris, that she will feel better and be home and back on the piano and organ bench soon. WE MISS YOU, DORIS!! GET WELL SOON!!!

We hope that you will continue to watch our online services and encourage others to do the same. We pray that 2021 will be an easier year for all of us. Stay safe and stay healthy! Happy New Year from the music ministry at Zion!!

~ Diane Lazorchak, Chancel Choir Director

ZION'S OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) TEAM UPDATE....

The next meeting of the Open and Affirming Team is planned for Thursday, January 7th, at 6:30 p.m. It will be on Zoom. If you are interested in being a part of the ONA Team or would just like to attend, please contact me at 618-889-1610.

May we all strive to live out our covenant with God and with one another. May we continue to live God's dream, be the voice of extravagant love and welcome, and treat each person as a child of God!

Diane Lazorchak on behalf of the ONA Team

LOVE WINS APPAREL STILL AVAILABLE....

We have a few extra Love Wins items left. They are already paid for, so every penny received will go straight to the General Fund. Please contact Diane Lazorchak at 618-889-1610, if you are interested in purchasing any of the following items. We have 10 hats for \$20 each; one Raglan style shirt in 2XL for \$23; and some extra T-shirts for \$16 each – sizes include two XL, two L, two S, two YL, and four YM. These items make great gifts!!

AUDIO VISUAL UPDATE....

The new front projector and screen have been installed and we are looking forward to using them. The main speakers that were purchased in the 1970's have also been replaced, along with several of the cables running under the floor and over the ceiling. This upgrade has been provided by part of a bequest left by Bracy Smith. Bracy was an avid supporter of technology. He purchased several items for the AV Ministry while he was a member of Zion. We deeply appreciated Bracy's love of the Audio Visual Ministry.

We are looking forward to getting back to in-person worship so that we can try out our new equipment. We thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

Diane Lazorchak

BE SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN ZION'S BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS...

Zion's Birthday and Anniversary Blessings program is a way to give thanks for the passing of another year and to help the church at the same time. If you let us know that you would like to participate, we will include your name on the large calendar in the Bell Tower area. The church will acknowledge your special day by sending you a card on your birthday or anniversary. Children especially love receiving cards in the mail for their birthday! You are then encouraged to make a donation to the General Fund in the amount of \$1 for each year of your age or years of marriage. We hope that you will participate in this special ministry! Be sure to include your children and grandchildren too! A special word of thanks to those who continue to participate!!

MISSION MOMENTS

THANK YOU to Zion for making Christmas a blessing to others. Two foster families with Hoyleton Children's Ministries received a huge gift bag filled with items to share as a family. Thanks to Alan Rushing for delivering those gifts. Gifts of clothes and toys were given to 9 month old Joi at Kindercottage along with a gift card for her parent. Members of two local families from the Southern Illinois Aids Project received two gifts each. Thank you, Pastor John, for delivering those gifts.

Although due to Covid, we could not host a Christmas Party at Butler Highrise this year, gift bags were still filled and distributed to 100 senior residents of the highrise. Thank you to Sofia and Casey, Isaac and Karin, and Teddy and Gwen for decorating our gift bags. Thank you to Deborah Circle and all who donated toiletries, snacks, and various other items to fill the gift bags. And a special thank you to the Weaver Family for doing the work of filling each gift bag.

This year, being unable to have sign-up sheets after worship, it was a bit challenging to coordinate gift buying. How filled with joy I was when online requests for gifts resulted in an outpouring of generosity. Thank you so very much to all those who donated funds to purchase gifts and to those who bought gifts. The joy that Zion shared this Christmas season to those who received these gifts is priceless.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING...The Christmas Fund is a special mission offering that grants us an opportunity to honor those who have served and continue to serve in ministries in UCC churches. The fund provides direct financial assistance to individual clergy and lay church employees, supplementing incomes and retirement, helping with health insurance costs, and providing emergency aid. Zion will collect this offering on Christmas Day. If you did not make your donation for 2020 yet, please do so soon. Donations can be made with your regular offerings by mailing them to the church office or sending them electronically. Please give generously.

LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER MEAL...Thank you to the Boy Scouts for cooking and serving the meal in December. Currently, due to Covid, the shelter is authorized for up to 10 residents, who always appreciate the meals we serve. A New Year means

a blank slate of months that need volunteers to sign up to provide this meal. Zion is responsible for the noon meal on the second Sunday of each month. To sign up your family or group to provide the meal for one month this coming year, please call Janet Martin at 889-6798.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST...Zion continues to serve breakfast to our food insecure neighbors each Sunday morning from 8:00-9:00 a.m. An average of 100 carry-out meals are served each week. The Breakfast Team has remained a consistent group in the interest of keeping everyone safe during the and work very hard to serve a varied menu of hot, nutritious breakfast items. The crowd favorite appears to be biscuits and gravy! Donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please contact Rhonda Soldner if you are interested in knowing ways you can contribute to this ministry.

BLESSING BOX...Thank you to all who purchase items and filled the Blessing Box. Our mini food pantry is a great opportunity to provide food to the community. Your donations may be placed directly into the Blessing Box. The following items are especially helpful: tuna, canned meats, breakfast bars, drink boxes, cereal, oatmeal, single-serve microwaveable meals, soups or canned pasta, peanut butter and jelly, peanut butter or cheese crackers, toilet paper, and soaps.

UPCOMING...

- ◇ **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING...**On Sunday, February 7th, we will be collecting food cans and monetary donations for the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. Although we will not have in-person worship that date, donations can be dropped at the church during the week or from 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday morning.
- ◇ **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE...**A blood drive will be held at Zion on Sunday, February 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donors are required to pre-register. To donate, please sign up now for a donation time on the Red Cross website or contact Janet Martin at 889-6798.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sean Nuernberger	2
3 John Eibeck Claire Giles	4	5	6 Leslie Futch Cathy Kigin	7 Addison McAlpin	8 Drew Futch Landon Futch	9
10 Dylan Baxter Danni Sellars-Walston	11	12	13	14 Macey Adams Lyren Bailey Alan Sims	15 Sharon Sims	16 Charles Forcum James Hancock
17 Patricia Moake Patti Nemeth	18 Sylar Eckols Erica Hess Rose Mrazek	19	20 Emilee Bowles	21 Jimmy Wardell	22 Creighton Slavin	23
24 Ryan Conley	25 Jo Boester Caden Treece	26 Mike Barsel Shane Martin	27 Bianca Puello-Yocum	28	29	30 Shay Henshaw
31 Cheri Childers Duane Sims						

JANUARY ACTIVITIES 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 COMMUNION 8:00 am – Community Breakfast 10:00 am – Online Worship Service	4	5	6 11:30 am – M A
10 8:00 am – Community Breakfast 10:00 am – Online Worship Service 12:00 pm – Lighthouse Shelter Meal	11 9:00 am – Soup Kitchen at the Marion Ministerial Alliance	12	13
17 8:00 am – Community Breakfast 10:00 am – Online Worship Service	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY HERALD DEADLINE 11:00 am – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Online 6:30 pm – Council Meeting on Zoom	19	20 
24 8:00 am – Community Breakfast 10:00 am – Online Worship Service 11:15 am – Zion's Annual Quarterly Meeting Online	25 7:00 pm – Worship Committee on Zoom	26	27
31 8:00 am – Community Breakfast 10:00 am – Online Worship Service			

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Pastor John's Sabbath Day</i> NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2
EPIPHANY Marion Ministerial Alliance Board Meeting	7 <i>MARTHA CIRCLE LUNCH BRUNCH</i> <i>CANCELLED FOR JANUARY</i> 4:00 pm – Heaven's Kitchen	8 <i>Pastor John's Sabbath Day</i>	9
	14 <i>DEBORAH CIRCLE CANCELLED</i> 4:00 pm – Heaven's Kitchen	15 <i>Pastor John's Sabbath Day</i>	16
	21 4:00 pm – Heaven's Kitchen	22 <i>Pastor John's Sabbath Day</i>	23
	28 4:00 pm – Heaven's Kitchen	29 <i>Pastor John's Sabbath Day</i>	30



Troop 7021 Court of Honor



On Monday evening, December 14, 2020 the Boy Scouts in Troop 7021 held a Court of Honor. Due to COVID, it had to be held outdoors, so Scouts, parents, siblings and grandparents all braved the thirty-degree temperatures and attended our long overdue ceremony outside under the street lights in Zion's east parking lot. A Court of Honor is the ceremony where Scouts receive rank advancements and merit badges that have been earned since the last Court of Honor was held. We had to put off a Court of Honor in 2020 several times due to the pandemic restrictions, but finally decided we would go forward with this event even if it had to be held outdoors. Troop 21's last Court of Honor was held on December 16, 2019.

The following Scouts earned rank advancements this year:

Dawsen Burnett: Second Class, Leo Burnett: Second Class, Xander Fuqua: Tenderfoot and Second Class, Kyler Henshaw: Second Class and First Class, Judah Pape: Second Class, Caleb Randolph: Scout Rank and Tenderfoot, Kyle Sweeney: Life Scout, and Caden Treece: Second Class. In addition, a total of forty-five merit badges were earned.

Troop 21 has been keeping busy despite the COVID restrictions and the Scouts have camped, hiked, and attended a variety of events when possible. We have had many weekly meetings on ZOOM, and when restrictions were relaxed a bit, started meeting in person again always following the safety guidelines. Our Scouts definitely missed attending summer camp this past summer, and missed attending events such as Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College and the Fort Massac Encampment, as well as participating in service opportunities such as Scouting for Food. We will be so happy when this pandemic is behind us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACTIVITIES CANCELLED:

Due to the COVID-19, The Faith Bible Study Classes will not meet at the church. Also, the Martha Circle Luncheon Group, the Deborah Circle, and the Men's Breakfast Group will not meet. Please watch for further details on when these groups will resume their activities.



**KEEP THE
REWARDS
COMING...** We would like to thank everyone who has registered their Kroger Plus

Cards to help support Zion through their purchases. For this quarter, we will receive a check in the amount of \$138.84. If you are not signed up through the [Kroger Community Rewards](#) program and would like to help support Zion in this fundraiser, please contact the church office. We encourage you to use your Kroger Plus Card each time you shop at Kroger's.

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

As the number of Covid cases continue to rise, and as encouraged by the Illinois South Conference, Zion will continue to worship virtually and stay closed for in-person worship and meetings until at least Ash Wednesday, which is February 17, 2021. Council and the Worship Committee will re-evaluate whether in-person worship can resume during Lent 2021.

Council authorized the evaluation of design and management of the church's online website presence by Amplified Digital Agency and, if determined to be beneficial to Zion, Council approved the allocation of \$750.00 for website design.

The Audio Visual upgrade in the sanctuary continues with the completion of installing a new front projector and screen and new speakers. Some electrical work still needs to be completed.

Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Watch for further information on how to be a part of this important meeting.

Zion's Church Secretary, Barbara Rhodes, has given notice of her retirement from employment with the church. Her last day at Zion will be December 31, 2020. We thank Barbara for her many years of service to Zion and wish her well in her future.

Council thanks our outgoing members, Carla Simmons and Janet Martin, for their three years of service on Council. Best wishes and prayers are sent with Carla Simmons as she leaves us to follow God's calling to be pastor of Community UCC in St. Germain, Wisconsin. Council welcomes new members, Michael Lazorchak, Chris Sparks, and Becky Wardell.

Zion's 2021 Council Members are: Kate Larson (President), Louise Bratzel, Michael Lazorchak, Duane Sims, Chris Sparks, Brad Thomas, and Becky Wardell.



I would like to thank everyone for the cards and calls I received on the passing of my dear friend, Paul McDaniel. I had the honor of becoming part of his loving family and Zion welcomed him into our loving fellowship with God. Just a little note: Since we were still experiencing a pandemic, he only had a grave side service. However, the Hotel in Marion allowed the family to use their meeting room for a safe time of fellowship. I, with the help of Jeanine, Hallie, Taylor, Lori and my new neighbor Jeanie prepared and served a Covid safe meal. Zion has trained me well.

Blessing to All, Paula Kobler

Thank you to my church family for remembering me with the many cards, prayers, poinsettia, and everything throughout the year Love to you all!

Elflora Akiman

I would like to take this time and thank everyone for the wonderful 15 years that I have had the privilege of working at Zion as Office Administrator. At that time, May, 2005, Chris Osborne and Randy Jones were President/Vice President on the Council. They went through several applications, but decided to hire me; even though I had not personally signed my resume (a laugh between me and Randy Jones!). I have worked under three more ministers from the time that Rev. Ken Kramer (minister at my time of hiring) had resigned as minister at Zion. They were all good. As of December 31, 2020, I will be retiring from Zion. Not an easy thing to do, but I feel it is time. And at this time, I want to thank Brad Thomas, current Council President, for understanding my decision. He has helped me in many ways as well. To all my very special friends, I will miss you all greatly! I pray God's blessings upon each of you!

Also, I would like to thank everyone for the Christmas cards, wishes, gifts, goodies, etc. It was very much appreciated!

*Love and Blessings,
Barbara Rhodes*

RECEIPTS FOR DECEMBER – GENERAL FUND

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
12/06/20	\$ 1,830.01
12/13/20	\$ 4,390.49
12/20/20	\$ 7,913.96
12/27/20	\$ 2,018.97
TOTAL	\$ 16,153.43

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Brad Thomas, President	brthomas60@outlook.com
K. Larson, Vice-President	kasselmeier@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	janetackermartin@hotmail.com
D. Sims, Treasurer	catfisher1999@gmail.com
L. Bratzel, Assistant Treasurer	lbratzel@hotmail.com
Deacon	carlab1008@gmail.com
Youth Representative	lanealt2004@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

Louise Bratzel
Duane Sims
Brad Thomas

CHURCH STAFF

"The members and friends of Zion" ----- Ministers
Rev. John Holst-----Pastor
Diane Lazorchak-----Choir Director
Gail Jones-----Bell Choir Director
Doris Anderson, Eileen Crawford,
and Sharon Wilson-----Organists
Sharolyn Atwood, Toni Wells,
Karen Cardey-Harris, and Claire Treece-----Pianists
Corinne Steveson-----Nursery
Joe Alexander-----Custodian



With Deepest Sympathy

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Kim (Kevin) Dixon, Gwen (Mike) Finnegan, Barbara (Tom) Lindquist, and Jennifer (late Leon) Young in the passing of their sister, Paulette Luchansky. Paulette passed away on Thursday, December 24th. Interment was held at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Frankfort, IL on Wednesday, December 30th. Kurtz Memorial Chapel of Frankfort, IL was in charge of arrangements.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER....

Please call the church office if someone should be added to our list. *Also, please let us know when that name may be removed from the list.*

*Indicates a new request this month.

Elflora Aikman	Dana Hoffman
Tammy Allgaier	*Bill & Marjorie Jack
*Doris Anderson	Duane Jackson
Larry Bozic	Kerry & Marsha Jones
Luetta Broeking	Joyce King
Pauline Broeking	Ann Linck
Karen Cardey-Harris	*Family of Paulette
Bruce & Mona Carter	Luchansky
Sherrie Cash	*Barb McAlister
Mary Nell Chew	Jayne McNeill
Karl Conley	Patti and Tina Morrow
Jim & Eileen Crawford	*Lisa Niggeman
H.J. & Helen Dahmer	Clayton Olson
Satoe Dahmer	*Carol Parton
Marjorie Davidson	JR & Wendy Russell
Linda and Cari Thompson-	Brian Thomas
Elswick	*Bradley J. Weaver
*Gary Feurer Family	Lisa Weaver
Wanda Fietsam	Rosie Weaver
Kyla (Boyt) Hafeli	



PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

John Anderson	Cody Sparks
Tim Broeking	Joshua Steveson
Mack Harrison	Traxton Taylor
Casey Lauhorn	Austin Todd
Shane Martin	Jeremy Weaver
Zachary Smith	

Answers to
December 2020's
Sudoku puzzle.

8	7	4	6	2	5	3	1	9
1	6	3	7	4	9	8	5	2
5	9	2	8	1	3	7	4	6
2	8	5	4	3	1	6	9	7
9	1	6	5	8	7	4	2	3
4	3	7	2	9	6	5	8	1
3	5	1	9	7	8	2	6	4
6	2	9	3	5	4	1	7	8
7	4	8	1	6	2	9	3	5

Easy Sudoku

Object of game: Each row, vertically and horizontally, must contain the numerals 1-9 without the numerals being duplicated in each row. Answers will appear in the February 2021 Herald.

5		1				3		2
		9		6		5		
2	7		9		5		8	4
		2		8		9		
	5		1		2		6	
		7		3		1		
1	8		3		9		7	6
		4		2		8		
9		6				4		1





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Zion Church's Vision and Mission

We are a fellowship of **caring, sharing** Christians:

Worshipping together

Nurturing future generations

Studying and **living** the teachings of the Bible

Ministering to each other, the community, and the world at large

Bringing the Good News of God's Grace to others

Welcoming all into fellowship

"Together We Care, We Share, We Serve!"

