



Our **Mission** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our **Vision** is to be a vibrant community of passionate believers who, in the love of Christ, will commit to know the needs of the communities around us in order to:

CONNECT people with God,
GROW people in their faith, &
SERVE people's needs.

Zion's Staff

All Members, Ministers

Laura Nothdurft,
Youth Director

Opal Shanks,
Children's Coordinator

Pam Reynolds,
Administrative Assistant

Jamie Sepulvado
Director of Music Ministries

Brenda Neumeyer, Choir
Accompanist & Organist

Ken Phelps, Custodian

Joel Kidwell, Pastor

God calls Zion forward, to fulfill even deeper and wider, the unique ministry placed into our hands. And God has granted us another year to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."* Here is what I see that we need to do during 2017 to fulfill Lord Jesus' command:

- 1) Our New **Building Needs Team** will convene and evaluate our facilities, and especially God's Workshop. I will give them my preliminary ideas, and they will use those "seeds" to discern what we really need. The main idea will be, "How do we improve the facilities we have so that we can be more effective in making disciples of all ages, but especially our children and youth?" Please pray for that process.
- 2) Our **Discipleship Process** revision will continue as your new Church Council, under the leadership of Bailey Gross, and our Lay Leader, Chip Sepulvado, will work on a pathway toward active discipleship of Jesus Christ through Membership at Zion. That pathway will help all Zion people see their potential in turning toward God's Grace, answering God's Call in their individual lives, and seeing how Zion can be the base from which new, abundant and eternal life in Jesus Christ is realized and lived-out in the real world.
- 3) Our Children's Director, Opal Shanks, will be reviving and revising our **Children's Church** ministry. We don't want to completely remove children from our main Sunday morning worship experience; we're an intentionally intergenerational congregation. But we also don't want to restrict our children in adult ways of worshipping God. So we will provide Children's Church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Notice that I said "we." All of us should be bearing in mind the baptismal vows we make over every child, words that, by God's Grace, we'll all put into action. (See article on p.2)
- 4) **Local Missions** like Habitat for Humanity, a past favorite that is reviving its work in Cape Girardeau and Jackson, and Feed

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United Methodist Women

The Zion United Methodist Women will meet Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Disciple Center.



The Prayer and Self Denial Program will be presented by Jane Shinn, and will focus on Maternal and Child Health. The 2017 prayer and self-denial offering will support partners that offer programs for the health of mothers and their children.

The UMW members welcome guests to come to the meetings and learn about the mission areas the UMW support at home and abroad to improve the quality of life for all women and children.

Remembering our 150th

Marriages that year were Geoff and Christina (Roethemeyer) Shinn (June 20) (in Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Jackson); Donna Fields and Mark Taake (Jan. 1); Douglas Wendel and Lynn Lemme (Jan. 10) and Sally Bollinger and Jeremy Nothdurft (not Paul's son) in our sanctuary.

One baby was born: Lisa and Roger Neumeyer welcomed daughter, McKynlee Page on May 13.

Paul and Jewell Seabaugh celebrated their 50th anniversary that June.¹

Deaths recorded were Nora Daniels (Jan. 15) and Edna Wendel (Dec. 16).²

At the September, 1998, Charge Conference, one item of business was lay speakers. Two were recommended: James Hartmann and Rick Shultz.³

¹ *Zion Echoes*, January, May and June 1998.

² Tombstone inscriptions, Zion United Methodist Church cemetery book.

³ "Charge Conference," *The Zion Echoes*, November, 1998.

Regards, Lyle Johnston

Zion Christmas Ornaments

The History Committee of Zion UMC has a small supply of Zion Christmas Ornaments remaining. They depict our Church in a winter setting at an earlier time. Price is 5.00 for 2.

Children's Church

It is reported that Susannah Wesley, the mother of John Wesley spent one hour each day praying for her 12 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters.

Discussing spiritual matters is an important thing to do with your children...God's children, our children, the children of Zion. I have found that it is important to adults as well. It helps the older generation to stay engaged in kid's lives, to hear their voices, to know what is important to them. Children are our future; plain and simple - not just Zion's future, but the world's future. *What we value*, will be handed down to future generations.



This leads to the reason for this article. I am asking for your help in the revamped ministry of Children's Church, which begins January the 8th, 2017. Children's Church will be the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, during first and second service. Many hands are needed to do it well. We need two people for 8:00 and two people for 10:30 to be within the boundaries of Safe Sanctuary.

If you love kids, this is an easy way to get to know the children in the community, as well as their parents. If you have recited the United Methodist Baptismal Covenant you have promised to help increase the faith of our children, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love. Children's Church would be a good catalyst for that. "Character by God's Design" is rooted in scripture and helps build such qualities as diligence, faithfulness and gratitude. Things we all need to know.

So how about it? Give up one Sunday a month. If you wish to invest in a child during the 8:00 o'clock service, then why not attend the 10:30 service that day, or do the reverse? The lessons are easy to follow, the kids are a lot of fun and the rewards are great! Please contact me, Opal Shanks-Children's Coordinator for more information at 382-1723.

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My Starving Children, a new one, will both have opportunities to serve in our Community in 2017. There will also be hands-on opportunities *to put divine love into action* through our own Great Gordonville Giveaway, Backpacks for Friday, the Jackson Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry and the Southeast Missouri Food Bank. Each one of these and more will be pathways for all disciples of Jesus who call Zion their church home to become doers of the Word and not hearers only. I pray for our deep participation in these missions – and more.

- 5) **Motivated Volunteers** is how Zion thrives! Because at our size, we have the vision to do great ministry, but we don't always have the budget to hire staff to be catalysts for all of it. So outreach events like our Easter Egg Hunt and Fall Festival wouldn't happen without motivated volunteers. Children's Church won't happen without motivated volunteers. Cup of Fellowship, which we all enjoy, wouldn't happen without motivated volunteers. Sunday School wouldn't happen without motivated volunteers. Landscape creation and care wouldn't happen without motivated volunteers. Fellowship Dinners don't happen without motivated volunteers. Remember: We strive to be a permission-giving church culture. If you see a need – pray for your role in it, invite others to join you, and with God's help, meet the need. You don't need to wait for permission.

In many respects, in our Country and around the world, 2016 was a difficult year. But it was also a year when we saw Zion:

- Receive more visitors,
- Increase our average worship attendance,
- Grow deeper in our relationship to God through Christ, and
- Get stronger in our proclamation of the Gospel.

This is not accidental. In fact, in 2017, God is calling us forward to meet the needs around us:

- To invite new people to commit their lives to Christ,
- To feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned, and
- To discipline ourselves toward being faithful image-bearers of Jesus Christ Himself in all we think, say and do.

Simply put, God needs and calls Zion to be a winsome witness to a lost and hurting world.

I'm only one person. You probably see my many missing blind spots in this vision for 2017. If so, GREAT! Because "doing church" only works with all of us fostering God's vision and deploying our discipleship in meaningful ways, and then inviting others along. As your Pastor, I'm just trying to set the tone. But one conductor does not an orchestra make. To create the beautiful music of being Zion Church in this, our 170th year, how *you'll* play the instrument of *your* discipleship matters to God, to all of us, and to the Neighbors we get to serve in Jesus' Name.

And here's some Good News: In all of this, we're not alone. When I quoted the Great Commission at the start of this article, I intentionally left out Jesus' second part. Now that I've laid out all of the vitally-necessary work ahead of us, we need to hear His promise: "***And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.***" How marvelous. How wonderful. Happy New Year!

-Pastor [Signature]



Dear Zion UMC,

Thank you for your kind thoughts, prayers, cards, and more love besides shown to my family and me at my Dad's death. Our hope continues in Christ Jesus. In our darkest hours and in all hours Jesus is our help and he has become our salvation. Thank you again.

Love,
Tom and Donna Gross

Thanks to everyone who made Christmas night a huge success! (You realize I am sitting here writing this on Dec 20th...right?) So who knows, maybe it wasn't a big success. Then again, by whose standards are we comparing it too? I think anytime we have the opportunity to tell the story of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, it's a success. Judging from the program practices, I think it should have been joyful, fun, have the right amount of depth and be right on target to what I thought God wanted you to see and participate in this year. ...and yes... I did pray about it...a lot. So, thanks to everyone who participated, no matter what your role was, it was important. We could not have done it without you!

Oh yeah... Happy New Year! I can't wait to see what God has in store for Zion in 2017.

Opal Shanks-Program Director

Labels For Education

The Red Bird Conference is still collecting LABELS FOR EDUCATION. Please cut the barcode, put them in an envelope, bring them to Church and put them in the container marked CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS. They will be sent to Red Bird Conference. Thank you for your help.



Our Presence						Our Gifts			
Date	Worship		Total	# Reached In month	Sunday School	Budget	Trustees	Sunday School	Building Fund
	8:00	10:30							
11/27	47	153	200	206	86	2,672.26	231.00	120.99	
12/4	35	78	113		70	7,858.00	1,201.00	203.43	
12/11	57	107	165		94	4,221.00	81.00	317.71	500.00
12/18	44	138	182		104	7,374.89	506.00	193.60	
12/25	Christmas Program		318			10,842.00	2,500.00		
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Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$575.00; Communion Rail: \$1,003.75 (Friday Backpacks); Teen Challenge: \$5.00; Food Pantry: \$505.00; Salvation Army: \$50.00; Come Join Us Class: \$208.00 (Christmas Caroling/Backpacks)

Where Should Children Worship?

As Children's Coordinator, for the last 2 years, it has come to my attention that Children's Church is a hot issue that a lot of churches struggled with. The following is an excerpt from of an article that I read a few months back, in the Children's Ministry magazine. Review the entire article- pros and cons, by picking up a copy in the lobby. *That being said, Zion will be offering Children's Church in both the 8:00 and 10:30 service, beginning Sunday, January 8th, 2017-* more information on how this will work will be found in January's newsletter. *However*, as in all ministry opportunities, the determining factor will be having enough shepherds to guide and lead, so that the nurturing of our children does not rest in the arms of a few. God has seen fit to bless us with many children during this season of life at Zion. I am so excited that God has offered us this great opportunity for us to make a difference in the lives of his children.

Train up a child the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6... How we accomplish this task...God leaves up to us...God does not call the equipped, he equips the called.

In Christ's Love,
Opal Shanks
Children's Coordinator

We asked that question in our poll and got a whopping response. Of the 2,032 people who responded, 48% said definitely in the corporate worship setting; and the other 52% said in a separate children's church setting.

In this article, you'll see their views, for how churches handle this important issue. This is what children's ministers at ChildrensMinistry.com say...

Pro Family Worship

- "My children need to see their parents worshiping. They learn so many things by parents' example-including worship."
- "Families are separated enough in our society. Worship should involve everyone...Keep my family together on Sunday morning!"
- "If kids learn at an early age that it's acceptable in the house of God to separate themselves from the adults, later on they learn that it's okay to segregate themselves."
- "We try very hard to incorporate plenty of kid-friendly elements into the service...I've seen kids' eyes light up when we've used video clips from Finding Nemo to explain the parable of the prodigal son."
- "If children are set apart and not allowed to learn what's expected, what's going to happen to our churches? When the older members die out, what are we going to do?"
- "There's nothing more beautiful than to take part in services of worship with children present. Just to see their little eyes widen and faces light up fills me with joy."
- "We have the service for everyone...Children are trained to sit still and quiet, the little ones are taught to lie on the floor and sleep, and the school-age ones sit and read a book, but stand for the prayers and hymns. Once they are about 11 or 12 they listen to the service."
- "Keep children with us in the sanctuary. Let them experience the Holy Spirit, listen to what's really going on, and be able to ask questions that'll cause us to have to spend quality family time in giving them the answers."
- "When the kids in my church worship, I feel the adults are motivated by this and are even inspired by the kids."

Youth Fall Calendar

YOUTH GROUP - Every Wednesday night - 6:30 - 8 pm - Youth Room

Saturday & Sunday, 1/21-1/22 - WOW - Springfield, MO - available details below and online

WOW

WOW is a chance for fun and connection to God with other Youth from around the state. We have attended several times in the past. WOW will be January 21-22. Registration is open, so please be thinking about if you'd like to attend or if you have any questions for Laura. RSVP by December 30th. Adults are welcome to attend as chaperones if they complete the Conference Safe Sanctuary training. You can also see pictures from past years and find more information at <http://www.nextgenumc.org/wow>

We're going to try to participate in Disciple Now which is February 17-19, and I will provide more information when I receive it. For now, you can let me know if you would be interested in attending (Youth), leading a small group or hosting students in your home (adults).

Thanks,
Laura



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- “Kids need to be in the presence of adults who can model the passionate, sold-out worship that kids need to survive in this world!”
- “We had children in our worship service initially, but the service was totally geared to adults. When challenged on this, I was told that they didn’t want to ‘dumb-down’ worship for the kids. My response has remained the same, “Either include them or exclude them, but don’t ignore them.”
- “I love sitting in a service watching a child as he watches his father and raises his hands the same way or puts his hand over his heart like his mother.”

The other side of this issue.

Pro Children’s Church

- “If we shove children into a service where they only understand 25 percent of what’s going on (and that’s a very generous number), we’re wasting 75 percent of the time we have with them.”
- “In my situation it would be ideal to have a children’s church, because each week I don’t get anything from the service and neither do my children, only because they’re too noisy. So I take them outside and I don’t get to hear the message.”
- “Let them rejoice the best way they know how and to have fun with it. Worshiping God should be fun!”
- “Restless kids are a huge distraction to the adult service, and children can really begin to dislike church because they’re continually corrected during the adult service.”
- “It’s really neat to see the kids with hands in the air worshiping God with the same songs the adults sing, but with a style of music they can relate to.”
- “In our children’s church we teach the same Jesus, the same death on the cross, and the same resurrection.”
- “Just because children have been placed in the adult service in the past doesn’t mean that it was the best way; it was just the only way.”
- “Children also need a place where they can learn to worship God freely and not be intimidated by the grown-ups.”
- “An adult worship service is for adults. Vocabulary is not on a child’s level; concepts can be abstract rather than concrete, which is difficult for children to understand; and the method of delivery doesn’t sufficiently reach the generation we’re teaching today.”
- “It’s great if children can worship in church with adults, but too many times I have seen children messing around and parents not doing anything to teach their children to worship God.”
- “After 20 years of children’s ministry and having had it both ways, I’ve seen a greater freedom in children when they worship alongside other children.”

ZionNews

January 2017



UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

3652 State Highway Z
Gordonville, MO 63701

Sunday School: 9:15 Worship: 8:00 & 10:30

Phone 573-243-8025 Fax 573-243-4190

Pastor Joel's cell 573-225-6042

Web site: www.ziongordonville.com

Church email: zionumc@showme.net

Pastor Joel's email: cydwel@icloud.com



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Zion United Methodist Church (Gordonville)

This is a great way to keep up
with what's going on at Zion.

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