



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 2012

## Open a New Door this Lent...

*...And find the hope that changes everything!*

This Lenten season, you are invited to go on “A Journey to Hope” as we travel with Jesus to the cross, discovering along the way that Hope can be found even as we encounter some of life’s most difficult circumstances.

“Journey to Hope” will inspire people to reflect on Jesus’ experiences on the path to the cross in new ways. It will encourage them to see to real life situations with fresh eyes. And it will challenge people to interact with God no matter their “mile marker” in life.

By addressing real life circumstances along the way (i.e., relationships, self-esteem, work, temptation, money problems, suffering and death), those on the journey learn how faith in Christ is relevant everyday and how a faith community can make all the difference.

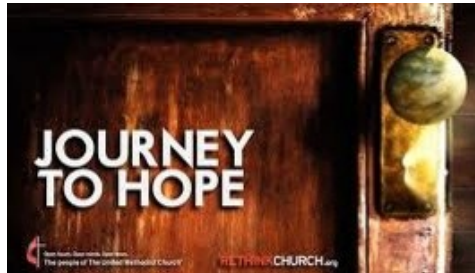
Wednesdays beginning Feb 29—

### Lent Soup Suppers

5:30 p.m.

### Lent Study: Journey to Hope

6:15 p.m.



*Join us for worship on Ash  
Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.*

as we begin our journey together.

## Fat Tuesday Pancake Feed

*Tuesday, February 21 ~ 4:30-6:30 p.m. ~ Zion UMC Fellowship Hall*



Lent is on it’s way and we’re going to have one last hurrah before it begins! Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, which is the tradition of eating richer, fattier foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday. So come and let your taste buds be tantalized with pancakes, sausage, applesauce and all the fixins hosted by the Men’s Club February 21!

*Come as You Are...  
All are Welcome!*

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise Service—9 a.m.

Adult Sunday School—9:15 a.m.

Kids Sunday School—10-11 a.m.

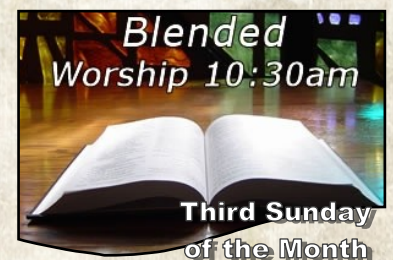
Traditional Service—10:30 a.m.

*Fellowship After Both Services*

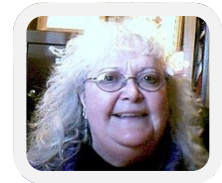
*Nursery Provided 8:50-11:45*

### February Highlights

- February 19—10:30 a.m.  
Children’s Sabbath
- February 21—4:30 p.m.  
Fat Tuesday Pancake Feed
- February 22—7:00 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday
- February 29—5:30 p.m.  
Lent Soup & Study in  
Fellowship Hall



# Firma's Notes



*Zion UMC Member Firma Zais Reflects on Prayer & Scripture in our Lives*

## **I Am Loved—You Are Loved!**

*Scripture Lesson: John 3:16*

Well, here we are moving through another new year. We have probably all overindulged with all the fancy treats, and so we make ourselves go on our traditional annual diets, which we succumb to after a couple of diligent and well-meaning weeks. Then we feel we are a failure.

***We feel we are a failure.***

Or we decide to make a point of phoning people we haven't seen in awhile, or visiting folks who are homebound.

My point is we all have good intentions, but we are slack in fulfilling them.

With the birth of God's son, Jesus, we feel so grateful to follow the manger scenes with the wisemen. God sent his son to be born of a lowly peasant girl.

You know, I don't know about you, but looking back at all this reminds me we are truly blessed, and somehow broken diets and promises to ourselves don't seem important anymore. God loves us...He is with us always!

So let's grab hold of His hand and say, "Lord not my will, but thine be done...failures and all."

He loves us without a doubt.

## **Prayer Focus:**

*Unconditional love knows no boundaries.*

## **Meditation:**

*I am loved, I am loved,  
I can risk loving you,  
For the one who knows me best,  
Loves me more.  
I am loved, you are loved,  
Won't you please,  
Take my hand,  
We are free to love each other,  
We are loved!*



# Celebrating the Children of Our Church

*A Sunday School Update by Superintendent Denise Shower*



Join us at Zion UMC on Sunday, February 19 as we take time to celebrate the children, and the child inside each of us, at our annual

## **Children's Sabbath Worship Service**

The combined Sunday morning worship service will take place in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. Immediately following the service, the Sunday School will be hosting and serving a kid-friendly meal for all in attendance! Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the energy and spirit of our kids!

## **Letter from Sponsored Child**

The Middle Sunday School class sent a picture and Christmas card to our sponsor child Veronica from Bolivia. We were so excited to get mail back from her!

She drew us a picture of where she lives and her family. It's truly heartwarming to help and serve others. Our kids are future servant leaders and we're proud of them!

***Special thanks to Acoustic Grace and all the children and Sunday School teachers for a wonderful job with our Christmas Program this past December!***

## **Have You Seen God?**

A Sunday School teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing.

She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

# Servers & Staff

The following have committed their time and talents to serving Zion UMC



## Sunday, February 5

### Holy Communion

9 a.m. Greeter	<i>Open for You!</i>
9 a.m. Reader	Patty Mewhorter
9 a.m. PowerPt	Cindy Peterson
10:30 Greeter	Don & Velma Wesenberg
10:30 Liturgist	Paul Foulke

## Sunday, February 12

9 a.m. Greeter	Ken & Shirley Froelich
9 a.m. Reader	Jacey Lea
9 a.m. PowerPt	Robin Reed
10:30 Greeter	Gary & Linda Quammen
10:30 Liturgist	<i>Open for You!</i>

## Sunday, February 19

### Children's Sabbath

10:30 Greeter	Ross & Reed Hebert and Colin Orth
10:30 Liturgists	Autumn Robinson Emery Peterson
10:30 PowerPt	Cindy Peterson

## Sunday, February 26

9 a.m. Greeter	MaryAnn King
9 a.m. Reader	Cindy Peterson
9 a.m. PowerPt	Robin Reed
10:30 Greeter	Jack Gunderson
10:30 Liturgist	<i>Open for You!</i>

<b>Pastor</b>	Ann Scott
<b>Visitation Pastor</b>	Paul Foulke
<b>Choir Director</b>	Doug Parker
<b>Organist</b>	Jackie Gibbs
<b>Praise Leader</b>	Dan Lea
<b>Praise Pianist</b>	Ben Moore
<b>Admin. Asst.</b>	Judy Taylor
<b>Nursery Care</b>	Sara Wittrock Sam Kroll
<b>Custodians</b>	John & Jane Bowe



## February Birthdays

2/2	Ruth Mueller
2/9	John Orth
2/10	Bonnie Johnson
2/13	Doug Shower
2/13	Shirley Froelich
2/15	Ben Reed
2/15	Randi Lea
2/16	Paul Olson
2/19	Alijah Shafer
2/21	Chuck Reed
2/21	Virginia Senter
2/24	Julie Follensbee

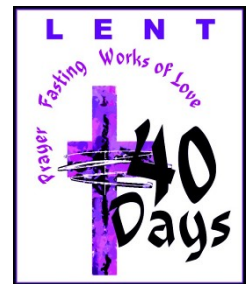
# What is Lent?

## An Overview of the Christian History of the Season of Lent

In the Christian tradition, Lent is the period of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of the Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The duration of Lent is 40 days because Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry.



The number 40 has many Biblical references:

- ◇ The 40 days Moses spent on Mount Sinai with God
- ◇ The 40 days and nights God sent rain in the great flood of Noah
- ◇ The 40 years the Hebrew people wandered in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land
- ◇ The 40 days Jonah in his prophecy gave the city of Nineveh in which to repent,
- ◇ And the traditional belief that Jesus lay for 40 hours in the tomb.

The word "Lent" comes from the Middle Ages and it simply translates to the word "spring."

# News to Use: Tithes & Offerings

To assure your offering is going where you want it, please make sure you mark your check or envelope. Please designate as follows:

<b>General</b>	To support the general ministries of Zion UMC
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	To support the elevator/bathroom remodeling.
<b>Missions</b>	Both local and global
<b>Building Fund</b>	To support the maintenance and upkeep of the church building and parsonage



ALSO—Would you prefer to write fewer checks each month? Tired of forgetting to bring in your offering on Sunday mornings? Well now you can have your offering **automatically withdrawn** directly from your bank account. Contact the church office for details!

The Messenger is a monthly publication sharing the news and views of the Zion United Methodist Church. Articles and information may be submitted by emailing [zionumcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:zionumcnewsletter@yahoo.com) or calling Cindy Peterson (The Messenger Editor) at 715.205.2901. The Messenger deadline is the third Friday of each month.

# Moments in Mission

## *Our Commitment to Support Missionary Paul Webster*

This past year Zion United Methodist Church partnered with Rev. Paul L. Webster, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.



Serving at the Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia, Paul works as a rural economic development specialist striving to meet the needs of poor rural people. Projects promote major programs in education, health, sustainable and appropriate agriculture, community development, evangelism and church construction. They strive to address community social, economic, and health problems holistically.

Paul is from Wisconsin and was assigned to the Ladysmith congregation after the severe tornado. He and his wife (now deceased) were missionaries in Zambia prior to serving in Ladysmith. Paul was ordained in Africa within the past three years.

Throughout the month of February we will be collecting funds to support Rev. Webster. We have a \$750 commitment for each of three years. Please prayerfully consider supporting Paul's ministry. This is part of our outreach beyond the local church.

By deepening its own awareness of the struggles and triumphs of the missionary, the congregation participates in a work that is truly connectational.



## Operation Paperback

During the month of February, Zion will be collecting paperback books in good condition to send to our military personnel around the world. *Operation Paperback* has sent 1.3 million books overseas since 1999. There will be a box for books on each level of the church for donations (no romance novels, please). We encourage you to place a quarter with each book to cover the cost of shipping.



Zion UMC Members Giving of their time to help at Agnes' Table



## Spirit of Christmas

A letter of thanks was received in response to our donation of \$306.22 to the Spirit of Christmas. Over 1,500 children from 657 Chippewa County families were given toys, games, books and clothing this past season.

## Diapers & Detergent

A collection totaling 4,099 diapers and 147 containers of laundry detergent was divided between the CF Salvation Army and two other local pantries. Awesome!

# Helping the Community

## *Opportunities to Give Back in the Chippewa Valley*

### Eyeglass Collection



The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition is collecting eyeglasses for the 3rd annual Eye Mission trip to Malawi, Africa to bring vision into the eyes of this country's beautiful people. Any kind of old glasses are appropriate, even glasses with only one lens. Glasses can be dropped off in the foyer at Zion UMC.



### Pantry Volunteers

The Community Pantry is always in need of volunteers to serve on Saturdays. We need three volunteers every Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon while the pantry is open. Brooke Lukowitz will be working on the January-February schedule within the next couple of weeks. Contact her at [brookelukowitz@gmail.com](mailto:brookelukowitz@gmail.com).

### Open Door Clinic Servers

The Open Door Clinic is looking for people to provide meals to 30 volunteers on the first three Tuesdays of every month. Simple, inexpensive meals are served, usually by two or three individuals. The meals are served at about 5:00 p.m. and they finish about 7:30 p.m. Any of the Presbyterian kitchen utensils, etc. can be used. The clinic will reimburse up to \$50. If you would like more information, please contact Sue Maitland at 723-7757 or [SuMaitland@aol.com](mailto:SuMaitland@aol.com).

# The State of Zion's Finances

*An update from our Finance Committee Chairperson, Ed Ebert*

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Thus began Dickens timeless novel "A Tale of Two Cities."

For Zion UMC, 2011 was also the best and worst of times. A successful fund raising drive for our Building Project, "Building to Reach Out," is indeed the best of times. Our goal was met and exceeded thanks to your generous support and commitment to making this building accessible to all people.

And the 2012 Stewardship campaign to raise funds for our general operating budget exceeded our expectations as well. Total pledges for our capital campaign are about \$116,000. This is about \$15,000 more than was pledged for 2011. The budget for 2012 is about \$4,000 less than 2011. Thus we should be able to meet our financial obligations this year, including paying in full our conference

apportionments (which are about \$120 less than 2011). There is still a \$50,000 + difference between dollars pledged vs. dollars budgeted. About 30-35% of money given comes from non-pledged giving, which is truly money expected on faith - it happens year after year - and we are blessed with those who give to make up that difference.



The worst of times? 2011 was the most financially challenging year this church has seen in many years. By July we were unable to keep up with our conference apportionments. The Administrative Council voted to suspend our Conference apportionment giving for 2011, and by doing so we were able to meet all of our other obligations at the end of 2011. From July to December no money was sent to the Conference to meet our apportionment obligations, which at the end of 2011 was \$8,359. We were not alone. More than half of the churches in

the Wisconsin Annual Conference were unable to pay some or all of their apportionments dollars. This situation is not a reflection of the faithfulness and commitment to the church or its ministries but rather the state of the economy we face today.

So far this year your giving has been very generous. There has been one sizable, unexpected gift to be used towards our apportionments. With that, and your weekly contributions, we are now in the black for the first time in more than a year. I expect our finances to be in even better shape by February than they are now.

The success we have in maintaining financial solvency in 2012 is totally dependent on you. I understand how difficult it is to pledge money towards our building campaign and still maintain the same or higher level of giving to keep the church running day to day. I truly believe God has a plan for our church. Our prayers and continued financial support are necessary for that plan to be realized. Remember all things are possible with God.

## Zion's Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>February 2012</i>						
5 9a Praise Service 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	6 10a Staff Meeting 6p Building Committee	7 10a C-7 Study 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls 6p Outreach 6p SPRC / 7p AG	1 2p 90 Minutes Book Study 2p 90 Minutes Book Study	2 6p Sanctuary Choir	3 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	4
12 9a Praise Service 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	13 10a Staff Meeting 6:30p Creative Worship Mtg	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 10a C-7 Study 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls 7p Acoustic Grace	8 2p 90 Minutes Book Study 2p 90 Minutes Book Study	9 6p Sanctuary Choir	10 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	11 8a Men's Breakfast
19 <b>Children's Sabbath</b> 10:00a Children Prep Time 10:30a <b>Combined Service</b> 11:30a Meal Served by Sunday School	20 10a Staff Meeting 6p Finance Mtg 6:30 Ad Council <i>Mary Circle</i>	21 10a C-7 Study 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls 4:30-6:30p Fat Tues, Pancake Feed	15 2p 90 Minutes Book Study 2p 90 Minutes Book Study	16 12:30 Pastor to C-7 Meeting 1p Patricia Circle 6p Sanctuary Choir	17 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <b>Messenger Articles</b>	18
26 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> 9a Praise Service 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School	27 10a Staff Meeting	28 10a C-7 Study 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls 7p Acoustic Grace	22  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>7 p.m. Service</b>	23 6p Sanctuary Choir	24 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	25
29 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Lent Study "Journey to Hope"						
<b>Lent</b>						
						

## Building to Reach Out

*A status update on our campaign to remodel the church*

The remodeling of the front building entrance and the bathroom projects is now a reality and we are now in the planning stage.

The building committee met in January with the architects for the handicap bathroom remodeling project and the front entrance project.

We are reviewing the project cost estimates, plan drawings, and timelines for both projects.

We will be meeting with the architects again in February to begin to finalize plans and layout a more detailed timeline.



A rough estimate of the project schedule is as follows.

### Planning Stage

*January through February 2012*

### Finalize Plans/Drawings

*February through May 2012*

### Hire contractors/Get Bids/ Permits

*April through June 2012*

### Construction/Remodeling

*July/August 2012 through  
January/February 2013*

### Building Projects Complete

*Early 2013*

## Other News to Note

⇒ If you would like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter-United Methodist Weekend! Join millions of couples worldwide who have learned how to keep their marriage vibrant and alive.

**February 17 - 19, 2012,  
Comfort Suites, Oshkosh,  
WI or October 5 - 7, 2012,  
Bishop Rader Retreat Center,  
Westfield, WI** For more information visit [www.encounter.org](http://www.encounter.org).

⇒ **Zion UMC will be Prayin' for a Cure Once Again!** Mark your calendars for this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life taking place the evening of **Friday, July 27**. A planning meeting will be taking place soon!



## The Messenger

Zion United Methodist Church  
1102 Superior Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715.723.3639



## Did You Know?

*You can*

**Visit Us Online!**

[www.chippewafallsumc.org](http://www.chippewafallsumc.org)



**Or reach us via email at**

*Pastor: [awp521@aol.com](mailto:awp521@aol.com)*

*Church: [zion54729@yahoo.com](mailto:zion54729@yahoo.com)*

*Messenger: [zionumcnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:zionumcnewsletter@yahoo.com)*