



## Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zones

*Jesus said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."*

"I'm out of my comfort zone." That's a statement heard echoing through the Sanctuary, hallways and classrooms of our church. Whether it's a change in the order of worship, someone sitting in our long-held pew seat, worshipping at a Praise Service in the Fellowship Hall, or new hymns sung out of "that little black book," we are uncomfortable with the unfamiliar.

Stepping out of our comfort zones is what Christian faith is all about. Jesus invited his disciples to do it time and again. He called his disciples to leave home and hearth and follow him. Remember Peter, stepping out of the boat? Jesus said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." With a bit of trepidation, Peter stepped out. Definitely an "out of the comfort zone" moment! I remind folks of that when we at Zion UMC are faced with movement and change. My response has been, "embrace the discomfort and see what you learn about yourself and the world around you." It isn't meant to be cavalier but to encourage new ways of experiencing God.

Two Sundays ago, I faced that very challenge. Our Creative Worship Team is looking at other churches to see if there are things we might incorporate into our own praise service. Those churches are thriving, building ever-larger church buildings, offering ministries that continue to grow, and reaching longed-for young couples with small children.

I was open-minded and excited to be a participant in worship rather than leading it. So, following our own wonderfully traditional worship service, off to another church I went. I attended what can only be described as a praise service at one of our neighboring non-denominational churches. I was attending to see and experience a new kind of worship that seems to be quite popular these days, with the requisite band, large screen and coffee-drinking in the "worship center."

As soon as I sat down, I was out of my comfort zone. Nobody else was sitting, they were all standing – some singing

*~Continued on Page 5*

## Blended Worship—Every Third Sunday

We've listened to your suggestions and came up with a way to bring everyone together again—at least once per month! On the Third Sunday of each month, Zion will be offering one morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This blended service will feature many traditional aspects of worship and will also utilize the presentation screen and our very talented Acoustic Grace Praise Band. After these services, all will be invited to share in a potluck lunch.

*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.

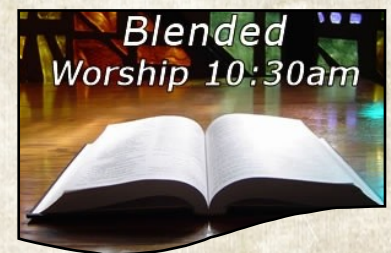
Traditional Service—10:30 a.m.

*Fellowship After Both Services*

*Nursery Provided 8:50-11:45*

### September Highlights

- September 4  
Bread for the World Sunday
- September 11  
Rally Day
- September 18  
Christian Education Sunday  
and Blessing of the Backpacks



# Family Matters

*News from our Sunday Schools and Faith Learning Programs*

We hope you had a wonderful summer! Fall is approaching, the first day of school is upon us and so is our Sunday School kick off! Sunday, Sept. 11 is Rally Day!

Faith Under Construction



## **This year's Rally Day theme is "Faith Under Construction"**

Let's have some fun and dress the part – wear your jeans, flannel shirts, boots, suspenders however you vision "construction-wear!"

The time for Sunday School this year will be 10 – 11 a.m.; the children will participate in "Children's Time" with Pastor Ann during the Traditional Service at 10:45 a.m. (except the 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Sunday of each month.)*

Children will be grouped by grades this year. Pre-K will be taught by Alissa Lea, Randi Lea, Kate Moran; 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> will be Denise Shower/Alissa Lea, and Angie Orth will rotate teach 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to all of our teachers for their hard work and guidance! Thanks also to Laura Hebert for floating and for the wonderful job she did as past Sunday School Superintendent.

Every year we have a mission project that our Sunday School make tithes towards. In the past we have provided funds to the Heiffer Project and provided much needed food to families in other countries. This year we are pleased to sponsor a child in Bolivia. The Sunday School offerings—whether loose change or a dollar—all adds up to provide so

much to our sponsor child. We will be doing some fun activities around this!

*Denise Shower, SS Superintendent*

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**Adult Sunday School** will also kick off on September 11 with a study of the book "Why?" by Adam Hamilton.

*Have you ever asked why do the innocent suffer?*

*Why do my prayers go unanswered?*

*Why can't I see God's will for my life?*

Then join us in exploring these quandaries Sundays at 9 a.m. in the adult Sunday School room. Books need to be ordered—let Pastor Ann or Paul know you are interested by August 25!

# Building to Reach Out

*Zion's quest to remodel and redesign our church building.*

We have opened our minds to hear the news our church needs an update. We have opened our hearts to decide in a vote that we will make it happen one way or another. When will we be ready to open our doors on this new chapter of life at Zion UMC?

The Building Committee has worked hard to keep you up to date on the progress of the expansion that will take place. A new group has now been formed, Zion's Appeal Leadership Team, to help guide you in understanding the financial need to accomplish such an undertaking.

Over the next few months, you will have many opportunities to see how much Zion means to its

members and friends. You will hear personal accounts, witness heartfelt videos, and even be invited to join in a free luncheon to celebrate our gifts and blessings.

Many of the people who have come to Zion, say that they are impressed by how welcoming we are. They say that they feel as if they are "home" or "among friends" when they enter our building. This is a spirit of togetherness that is not easily accomplished nor found at every church around the area.

Zion is blessed. We have members who have been with us for decades—who have raised their children in the church, and are now seeing their grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren experience that same level of comfort and support within our church walls.



# 70%



*The percentage of people that said they would try visiting a church if a friend personally invited them.*

The Capital Appeal that we are about to undertake is about maintaining that home and making it even more welcoming to others.

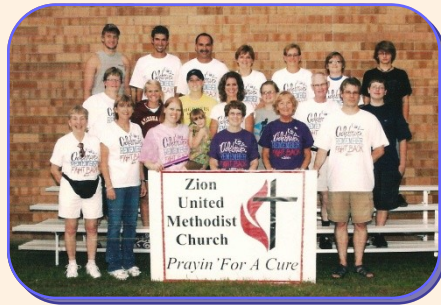
Supporting this endeavor with both your heart and your mind will help Zion fulfill its mission to serve its members within as well as reach outward.

Prayerfully consider how your support and positive input can assist Zion with this project.

# What's Happening?

*What Zion UMC Members and Friends Have Been Up To*

It has been a busy summer around Zion!



Cindy and Kenny Peterson organized "Zion UMC—Prayin' for a Cure" at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on August 5. The team raised over \$2,200 in the fight against cancer!



**Blessing of the Animals**

**July 10**



**Craft Sales—May 28 & Aug 13**

## September Birthdays

- 9/3 Ron Rogalski
- 9/9 Cliff Kurth
- 9/9 Isabella Chady
- 9/9 Wayne Zais
- 9/11 Paul Froelich
- 9/11 Raymonde Lamont
- 9/14 Lynn Zimmerman
- 9/15 Karen Elstran
- 9/15 Jane Huebner
- 9/16 Cindy Peterson
- 9/17 Yvonne Dachel
- 9/18 Carolyn Simenson
- 9/19 Carol Mueller
- 9/19 Jayson Waegli
- 9/25 Doris Campeau
- 9/28 Art Mathews
- 9/28 Sherrie Richards



Zion's float at this year's Pure Water Days Parade on August 13 won 1st Place as "Judges Specialty." Many thanks to Laurie Goeman and all who helped put this together.



**June 26—We welcomed Everett Ziembo to our flock!**

# Firma's

# Notes

*Meditating—God's Way!*

*Prayer Focus:*

*Nature, Relax, Contentment*

Flowers, we all love flowers, right? And what about green grass, a trickling brook, fresh warm breeze, and a chair under a tree...

Haven't we all had the feeling we'd like to "relax" and meditate? Just leave all the worries and stress behind...

We make our way to the chair and sit down. Now close our eyes—what things do we hear? What do we feel? What do we smell?

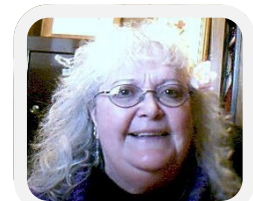
Life has many blessings, our senses being just one of them. Suddenly a bird sings a song and then the wind sweeps through the leaves above us.

Now open our eyes. We see fields and fields of dandelions blowing like a yellow sea. God gave us these flowers—why do we mow them down and add our own? Something to ponder.

I can smell lilacs, my don't they smell lovely? With all these things we can see and feel God near us. He loves us so much and he gave us so much.

### Prayer

*Thank you Lord for this relaxing walk through your garden. "I Come To Your Garden Alone" — "He Walks With Me And Tells Me I Am His Own" Thank you for nature and loving us. Keep us safe in your care. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



# Servers & Staff

*The following have committed their time and talents to serving Zion United Methodist Church*

## Sunday, September 4 Bread for the World Sunday

9 a.m. Greeter Jane Bowe  
9 a.m. Liturgist Paul Foulke  
Counters Pauline Bangle  
Kyra Chady

## Sunday, September 11 Rally Day

9 a.m. Greeter *Open for You!*  
9 a.m. Reader Jacey Lea  
9 a.m. PowerPt R. Reed/L. Goeman  
10:30 Greeter Paul & Kay Foulke  
10:30 Liturgist Bill Ross  
Counters Art Mathews  
Barb Graham

## Sunday, September 18 Blended Service Christian Education Sunday

10:30 Greeter Karen Elstrand  
10:30 Reader Fran Helgemo  
10:30. PowerPt Cindy Peterson  
Counters Carol Mueller  
Nancy Hoag

## Sunday, September 25 World Communion Sunday

9 a.m. Greeter *Open for you!*  
9 a.m. Reader Patty Mewhorter  
9 a.m. PowerPt Angie Orth  
10:30 Greeter Helen Johnson  
10:30 Liturgist Julie Miller  
Counters Ed & Kathy Ebert

*Thanks so much to all who have volunteered to serve. If you would be interested in greeting or reading for future services, contact the following:*

9 a.m. Praise Readers—Cindy Peterson  
715.205.2901

Greeters—Alberta Gallagher 715.382.4726  
10 a.m. Liturgists—Red Naves 715.723.7223



**Pastor** Ann Scott  
**Visitation Pastor** Paul Foulke



**Choir Director** Doug Parker  
**Organist** Jackie Gibbs  
**Praise Leader** Dan Lea  
**Praise Pianist** Ben Moore



**Admin. Asst.** Judy Taylor



**Nursery Care** Sara Wittrock



**Custodians** John & Jane Bowe

*When you see these folks, please thank them for their time and dedication to our church!*

# In the Neighborhood

*Things going on this month in the Chippewa Valley*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival at Autumn Harvest Winery Saturday, Sunday September 10, 11 – open at 9 a.m.



The generous folks at the Autumn Harvest Winery and the John McIlquham Orchard are helping the Heyde Center for the Arts by donating \$1 from every bottle of wine sold at their two-day Autumn Harvest Festival, as well as wine-by-the-glass profits. You can enjoy wine tasting, live music and shop for a wide selection of foods, cheeses and fresh picked apples (even pick your own!).

## Oktoberfest Fri-Sun, September 16-18

The 9th Annual Oktoberfest at the fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls is a weekend full of celebrating our German Heritage! Plan to stay all weekend for non-stop entertainment on four different stages. You'll experience family friendly fun, scrumptious Oktoberfest foods and plenty of music.



## International Fall Festival Saturday, September 17

**Downtown Eau Claire**  
The International Fall Festival is a celebration of the Chippewa Valley's cultural heritage. The festival creates a bazaar-like atmosphere where international food and crafts are available to all visitors. In addition to the bazaar, there is a World Stage, which features performances by a variety of musical and artistic groups. The Parade of Nations kicks off at 3pm. Admission is free.

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*A continuation of the Pastor's call to open our minds to new experiences*

~Continued from Page 1

along with the band, some not. Song lyrics were projected overhead, which I appreciated, but the songs were unfamiliar and very difficult to sing. Halfway through my feeble attempt to join in, it seemed the band didn't really care whether I, or any of us, sang or not. It was a performance rather than a participatory experience.

What followed was a slick presentation of the gospel message, a 45-minute sermon, two music videos and a brief prayer. That was it. No benediction, no children's time, no sharing of joys and concerns, no sacraments.

I walked out and evaluated my out-of-comfort-zone experience. I embraced, examined and learned. I now had a deeper understanding of what worship means to me, and that wasn't it. That service speaks to some, and for that, I'm grateful the church exists. But I was glad to be back among our fold

last week. With the familiar faces, rituals of worship, and fellowship time after. It's comfortable—and it's home.

I share my experience because stepping out of our comfort zone is a part of life – a necessary one. Church is *necessarily* one of those places. Church is an organism, not an organization. It is a living, moving, breathing entity that ebbs and flows with life. If it becomes stagnant, it will die. Boundaries get stretched, change takes place, new ideas are tried, and we are challenged and invited to “step out of the boat”—out of our comfort zone—so that all will feel welcome into the heart and life of Zion.



As we gather this fall, some new things will be taking place. We will head into a capital campaign for our building project. You will be asked to step out of your comfort zone in financial support of this project. What you give is between you and God, but you will be asked to consider a monetary gift.

We heard your concern about not worshipping as one community because of the two services on Sunday morning, and we have arranged our worship schedule to include one Sunday a month when we will all worship together, followed by a fellowship potluck.

Our Sanctuary Choir now has its own space to warm up and practice at the end of the hall in the Education area. Our current choir room is being considered as a parlor/meeting room.

These are a few of the changes going on in our church; there will be others. Change is hard, but there is one constant. God is at the heart of who we are at Zion UMC. God guides and directs us in our mission and ministry together. When the comfort zone becomes too uncomfortable, God reminds us, “I am with you always ... to the end of the age.” May God be with us all as we “Build to Reach Out” in the name of Christ Jesus.

## Zion's Calendar of Events September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All Sunday Worship Services are followed by a time of fellowship						
4 <b>Bread for the World!</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 9a Worship Service 10 Fellowship	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6 10a C-7 Lectionary Study at Zion 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls		1 6p Sanctuary Choir Practice	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3
11 <b>Rally Day!</b> 9a Praise Service 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	12 10a Staff Meeting 6p Creative Worship Cmte (Parsonage)	13 10a C-7 Study 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls 6p Outreach Cmte	14 7p Appeal Leadership Team Meeting	8 6p Sanctuary Choir Practice	9 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	10 8a Men's Breakfast
18 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School 10:30 Blended Worship 11:30 Potluck	19 10a Staff Meeting 6p Finance Mtg 6:30 Ad Council <i>Mary Circle</i>	20 10a C-7 Lectionary Study at Zion 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls	21 6:30 Vision Team	15 12:30 Pastor to C-7 Meeting 1p Patricia Circle 6p Sanctuary Choir	16 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <b>Messenger Articles Due</b>	17 
25 9a Praise Service 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10a Children Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	26 10a Staff Meeting	27 10a C-7 Lectionary Study at Zion 1p Men's Group 1p Prayer Shawls	28 Pastor in Stevens Point for Clergy Day	22 6p Sanctuary Choir Practice	23 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	24
				29 6p Sanctuary Choir Practice	30 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	

## Mission Emphasis: "Nothing But Nets"

*The Malaria Initiative and making a covenant to support missionary work.*

The Mission Emphasis for September is "Nothing But Nets" - the Malaria initiative. "Nothing But Nets" is a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to combat malaria, one of the largest killers of children in Africa.

Malaria is a disease caused by the blood parasite Plasmodium, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Malaria causes 200 million illnesses per year and kills nearly one million people - mostly children under the age of five.

Just one \$10 contribution to Nothing But Nets covers the cost of purchasing a long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net, distributing it, and educating communities on its use, thereby saving lives, especially the lives of children.

Bed nets work by creating a protective barrier against deadly-malaria carrying mosquitoes that bite at night. A family of four can sleep under these insecticide-treated bed nets, safe from malaria, for three years. This month, our church will be raising awareness and raising funds to

purchase the much-needed bed nets. Won't you join the global fight against malaria by sending a net and saving a life?

### **Missionary Focus: Paul Webster**

Zion will be supporting Paul Webster, a Wisconsin native, as our missionary for the next three years. Our commitment is \$800.00 per year which is \$5.00 per member.

Paul has served as a missionary in Zambia since 1992. He works as a rural economic specialist serving the needs of poor, rural people. The projects promote education, health, sustainable agriculture evangelism and church construction. Some of you may remember when Paul was on leave a few year ago as he served as pastor in Ladysmith.

The Outreach Committee will keep you updated on this ministry as we receive e-mails from Paul. We also hope to have him visit Zion church the next time he is in the U.S.

## Other News to Note

⇒ Don Ewald's new email address is don\_e1@charter.net. Please update your directories!

⇒ **The Messenger is Going Green!**  
In our efforts to "go green" and save money, our monthly newsletter, "The Messenger" will soon be sent via email to those on our church email distribution list. Hard copies of the newsletter will be placed in the narthex for those who prefer that form. If you want to make sure your email address is included on the distribution list, send a quick note to zionumcnewsletter@yahoo.com.



## 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)