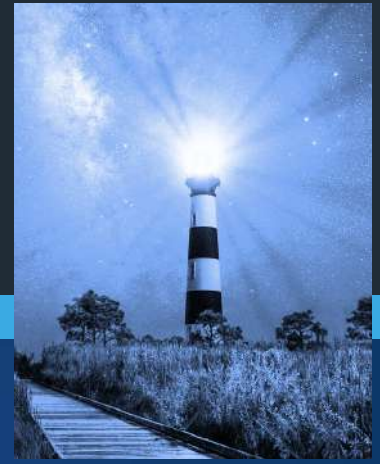


ZION Beacon

Shining GOD's Light and Love



- MAY 2023 -

Sharing God's love in tangible ways.

Reaching Out to our Community and Nation

-Tornado clean-up at Tucker Black and Leroy & Nancy

Sanders farm on the Agency Hedrick Road, Wapello County



-Donations collected to help survivors of tornado damage in Rolling Forks, MS.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

A BRIEF WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

"April showers bring May flowers"

Since I was very young, I have heard this saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Growing up in central Indiana, this saying seemed to ring true. Every year April would bring in the rain and we would begin to see the hints of flowers popping up through the fertile soil and, by May, many would be in full bloom. Even as I sit here in southeast Iowa on this mid-April afternoon, I have been listening to the rain, looking out at the verdant green lawn and seeing the buds on the trees. The winds and the rains are not always pleasant when we are in the midst of them, but they do bring delight and nourishment to our bodies and souls.

Peter speaks to believers in the first decades after the resurrection of Jesus and His return to heaven. In these first thirty years there has been a variety of reactions to the teachings of Jesus and His followers. Many have believed and yet, many more have not. Those who haven't believed, especially in leadership, have heavily persecuted the believers.

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Peter, in a letter we now know as 1 Peter in the Bible, speaks to their sufferings and yet, he tells them, in Christ, we have been given hope – “a living hope”-- and can rejoice. He writes: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3, NIV).

Wait there is more. Not only are we empowered in this living hope for life here on earth, but we have “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven” (1:4) for us. Through Christ and our belief in Him, we are inheritors, rich beyond earthly measure! Peter goes on to write: “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1:6-7).

We will have showers and trials in this life. Yet, in Christ, we can have joy even now. What’s more, we can rejoice for the bright future we have, beauty beyond comparison. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

-Pastor Margaret



Praising the King.

Lifting palm branches as we praise and worship Jesus, while remembering his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Feeling called to make a difference?

*We are always in need of volunteers for various needs in our church - from cleaning to technology to teaching or maintenance. There is a place for YOU! Don't Wait! Contact a ministry leader to see where you best fit and join our Kingdom work. **Where can you share your gifts and talents?***





REMEMBER AND HONOR
MEMORIAL DAY



Remembering those who
have served in the past
and those currently serving
Thank You!

Beacon Email: Do you have a picture, event or info that you would like shared in the newsletter? Email it to: beacon@zionchurchottumwa.com

Honoring our Mothers

Proverbs 31:25-30 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Mom Quotes:

- ❖ *“A mother can hug you just with her smile.”*
- ❖ *“Moms are the biggest blooms in the bouquet of life.”*
- ❖ *“Moms do it all. They are counselors, teachers, bakers, managers, and cheerleaders, and they do it without breaking a sweat!”*

TEAM UPDATES



Transition Team & Prayer Team

are now in partnership together actively pursuing:

Communications-connecting with families in the church and community to pray for them. **Need Oriented Evangelism**-is pursuing community outreach with groups such as the Blessings Soup Kitchen and Wapello County Disaster Team. **First Impressions**-technology through Church Trac Website and App and developing a Welcome Crew

Pastoral Search Team - is continuing to receive and review resumes and contacts to consider for the new pastor position. Pray for guidance during this important season in their lives as they follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

May Cleaning Team - Delbert & Sandy Cormeny and Ed & Andrea McDowell

Dates to be aware of:

May 2 - CWC 4:30 pm at Millie's

May 11 - 5:30 Board of CE

- 6:15 Church Council

- 7:00 Board of Trustees

May 12 - Fun 'n Fellowship 6:30 pm

May 14 - Mother's Day

May 20 - All Church Clean Day in AM

May 29 - Memorial Day

June 1 - Board of Trustees at 4:30

June 9 - Fun 'n Fellowship 6:30 pm

May Birthdays:

4 - Jan Williamson

10 - Millie Strong

20 - Caroline Howk

30 - Kelly Bragg

30 - Bette Gear

May Anniversaries:

3 - Kelly & Sherry Bragg

10 - Charlie & Kathy

12 - Roy & Sarah Howk

June Birthdays:

16 - Jean Henderson

16 - Tripp Kitterman

June Anniversaries:

6 - Dean & Pat Harter

21 - Frank & Brenda Holley



ANNETTE FARRELL

FEATURED LEADER OF THE MONTH

Annette and her family began attending Zion in 2005 because of the Bible preaching, and have fallen in love with the church family. She is currently the Worship Team Leader, leading us in a mix of old hymns and modern worship songs. Through the years she has been a Sunday School teacher and SS superintendent. She has been involved with VBS, Women's group, and Wood Ministry. Her smile is contagious.