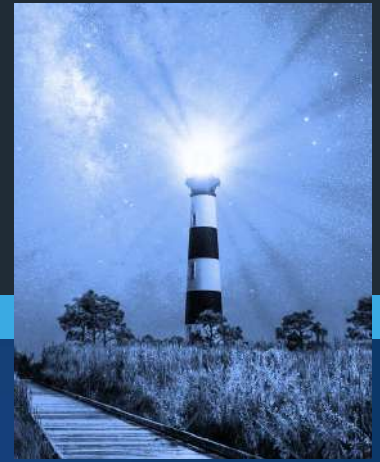


# ZIONBeacon

Shining GOD's Light and Love



– MARCH 2023 –

## Welcome to our monthly newsletter

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:

We are in the season of Lent – forty days of reflection leading up to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. It is a season in which we hear Jesus once again say, “Follow me.” We, then, are called to consider three things in light of these words:

- A) Who are we invited to follow?
- B) What is our response to the invitation?
- C) What impact does this invitation have on our lives?

In Mark 1:14-20, we find Jesus walking along the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee and hear him call out, first to one set of brothers and then to another set, all fishermen, “Follow me.” These practical, family men “at once ... without delay” left their nets (the source of their income) and their father (their family) “and followed him.” They would learn along the Way what this “following Jesus” would mean and it transformed them, individually, and their obedience transformed the world. *(continued on page 2)*

### Reaching Out to Our Community

Zion recently donated two wheel chairs to New Hope Ministries in Centerville, IA. New Hope Ministry is a



non-denominational ministry supported by the generous contributions of individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations.

<https://newhopeministrycc.org>

“...we are all invited to “follow” Jesus, to walk this journey called Life with Him.”

We are not all called to leave our income, our homes, and our families. However, we are all invited to “follow” Jesus, to walk this journey called Life with Him. In this season, I invite you to once again consider this One whom you have been invited to follow to get to know Him in new and fresh ways. I invite you to consider your response to His invitation: have you responded “at once”? Have you responded with joy and wonderment or with grudging assent? I invite you to consider the impact of your response to this call to follow Him. Has it changed anything? Has it changed everything?

This time of introspection and reflection then leads us, with tears of sorrow and of gratitude, to the cross of Good Friday. This day is “good” because of Love – love that pursued and so loved us that Love went to the cross in our place. Amazing grace! Then, we are enabled to rise on Easter Sunday morning with our joy renewed as we rejoice again in His Resurrection and the power of His Life in our lives.

Will you join us for Sunday morning services at 9:30 am, followed by Sunday school, and then also for Holy Week services, beginning with Palm Sunday, April 2, at 9:30 am. We will then participate in Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm and Easter Sunday, Sunrise service at 7:00 am followed by breakfast and our regular worship service at 9:30 am with Sunday school following.

May the peace of Christ reign within,  
Interim Pastor Margaret Kirby

**Something Fun: How many words can you make from the letters in RESURRECTION ??**



**“Spring is just around the corner!”**

*Do you enjoy being outside and getting a little dirty? **Come join our mowing crew!** The grass will be green before you know it.*



**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.*



[www.zionchurchottumwa.com](http://www.zionchurchottumwa.com)

**Coming Soon:  
New Website!  
& other technology too!**

Scan this QR code with your phone  
to quickly go to the new website!



**Zion Community Church of God recently connected with the Iowa State Assembly of the Churches of God for an important meeting regarding technology and having a greater online presence.**

Part of that meeting revolved around making sure all of the Iowa Church of God churches have a POWERFUL, IMPACTFUL, INFLUENTIAL ONLINE PRESENCE. To go along with that desire, there was the notification and intent to utilize state funds to help all the churches get the equipment, technology and training assistance necessary to be able to live-stream services, have an active and engaging website, and greater connect with their communities and the world. Some churches have a head start and may only need a portion of the help to achieve this goal.

Zion is already streaming services, but did not have a website. That has changed! With the funds that were available to us, we have chosen a couple of new platforms to utilize in creating our website and built-in streaming location at zero cost to Zion for the first year. We have also installed a newer camera with an auto-tracking feature that will help follow particular speakers that like to move about the worship area. A new church computer will also be made available for volunteers to utilize in various tasks required to facilitate the ministry needs of our church.

*More specifics will be announced in the coming weeks during services or through this newsletter. STAY TUNED!*

## TEAM UPDATES

**Transition Team** - is a combination of leaders from the Church Health Teams: **Effective Structures**-Ed McDowell, **Inspiring Worship**-Annette Farrell, **First Impressions**-Roy Howk & Sandy Cormeny, **Communication**-Shirley Waite, **Need Oriented Evangelism**-John Waite. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please reach out to Pastor Margaret or the Team Leaders.



**Prayer Team** - (Delbert & Sandy Cormeny, Dave & Millie Strong, Doug Cain, Natasha Musgrove, Jan Williamson) are praying with Prayer Partners for the many needs of the church and

for persecuted Christians throughout the world. If you have requests or praises, post a mitten on the Prayer Board or contact a Prayer Team member.

**Pastoral Search Team** - is now accepting 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.

**April Cleaning Team** - Judi Couch, Paulette Speer, John & Shirley Waite

## Dates to be aware of:

March 28 - CWC meeting 4:30 pm

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Service

April 9 - Easter

7:00 AM - Sunrise Service

7:45 AM - Carry-in Breakfast

9:30 AM - Regular Service

followed by Sunday School

April 14 - Fun 'n Fellowship 6:30 pm

### March Birthdays:

Ted Couch – 3

Dean Harter – 4

Roy Howk – 4

Marlene Poncy – 9

Sandi Speer – 12

Stan Reiley – 13

Jane Haines – 26

Ed McDowell – 28

### April Birthdays:

Delbert Cormeny – 6

Eric Harter – 6

Judi Couch – 9

Pauline Stice – 21

### Anniversaries

Dennis & Sandi Speer – April 21



## ROY HOWK

### FEATURED LEADER OF THE MONTH

Roy is one of the leaders involved with audio, visuals and technology used in our worship services and throughout the church. He is also currently serving on the Pastoral Search Team and the Transition Team. Roy has a servant's heart and a desire to grow the church and see more young families call Zion "home."