

The United Methodist Church

Attica – Pershing, Zion

South Attica St.

Knoxville Iowa 50138

(641-943-2324)

April, May and June 2025



Spring into New Beginnings

Spring is one of my favorite seasons. It brings about warmer weather, more sunshine, and new life sprouting. At home spring is filled with newborn lambs and calves, flowers starting to grow and bloom, the brown crunchy grass turning green and soft, and lots of additional time outdoors. I know in my house we are all itching to spend more time outside by the end of winter, tired of being cooped up in the house. The girls love to watch for the first flowers to bloom and are quick to show me the new flowers they see every day as they play outside. I also love how they request to spend more time outside than on the TV once the weather is nice. Spring is a time of new beginning and new life which brings me to reflect on the new beginnings the resurrection of Jesus offers us.

As we have journeyed through our Lenten series, looking at the post-resurrection accounts with Jesus, we have seen how His resurrection brought new life to so many different people. Mary Magdalene somberly walked to Jesus' grave on Easter morning, grieving his death, wondering what was next for her, where she would go, would her demons return. She was facing a new life, but not one she was rejoicing over, until as she sat bewildered and sad, crying at his tomb and Jesus calls her by name. In that moment a new beginning filled with hope and joy is underway for Mary. She now has hope that even if her demons return, Jesus will beat them just as he did before, for if he can overcome death, there is nothing that he cannot do. She took her new hope-full beginning and told the disciples the Good News and continued to share her testimony all over the land to members of the new church.

When we catch up with Simon Peter after the crucifixion, he is also trying to find his way in a new world without Jesus. He is filled with guilt and grief over his actions of denying Jesus in his final moments and isn't sure what to do next but go back to what he knows, fishing. Him and the other disciples fish all night and come up dry. Peter probably thought they deserved it after their actions in Jesus' final days. But then Jesus tells them to try again, and they are met with a bountiful catch. Jesus also speaks with Peter, offering him redemption and forgiveness, showing him that his past does not define his future and sends him out to care for his people, to lead the church. This is Peter's new beginning, one where his past can be forgiven and he can go and start fresh, following Jesus and helping others to join in the movement.

Saul was a righteous and holy Jewish man, who followed all the laws and did all the things he was supposed to do, and like many Jewish leaders, he did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. His beliefs in this were so strong that he led a life of persecuting those who followed Jesus. Saul's encounter with the risen Christ changed his whole perspective, his whole life, even his name. From that blinding moment of clarity on, Saul became Paul and led a life of transforming both Jews and Gentiles into Christians, sharing the Good News, and doing everything in his power to stand up for Jesus and his people. He had one of the most astonishing new beginnings that we see after the resurrection.

All these stories, and more from the Bible, show us how Christ's resurrection offers us a new beginning even today. We can find hope that God walks with us always, never leaving us, and will help us fight any evil that comes our way. We find hope in the forgiveness of our sins so that we may wipe the slate clean and start anew, leading a better life with Jesus at the center. We don't have to

dwelling in our past but look forward to our future filled with faith and love. The resurrection can even change who we are completely, helping us lead a new life centered around Christ, where we love and serve our neighbors, we share our own testimony and the Good News Jesus offers, and we work as the hands and feet of God to bring God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven.

Friends, as you rejoice in the blessings of spring, reflect on how God is calling you into a new beginning. Is he calling you to reconcile relationships? Is he calling you into action, serving others or trying something new? Is God calling you to set aside your fears and give your trust fully over to Him, acknowledging that God is in control and will take care of you? Is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone to do something new and exciting to help further His kingdom on earth? Take some time this spring as you smell the flowers and rejoice in the new birth happening all around you, to pray and listen for what new beginning God is calling you into. May God bless this next season of your life in bountiful and surprising ways!

Spring Blessings,
Pastor Lauren

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Attica United Women of Faith – The Attica United Women of Faith met February 6, 2025. Present were Lou Ann, Bobbi, Debbie, Marlys and Franes. Minutes were read and treasurers report given. Plans were made for the soup supper March 20. Lou Ann gave the lesson on “Call to Prayer and Self Denial”. A verse for the month is 1st Peter 3:15 “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. We lift up our Peruvian sisters who face hardship.”

Zion United Women of Faith - The Zion UWF held their monthly meeting on Jan 8, 2025 at 1 pm at the church. President Leanna Kennedy called the meeting to order. Linda Kizer read the secretary's report & gave the treasurer's report in Jo's absence. Leanna presented the program. For new business we planned a soup luncheon after the worship service on February 16. for everyone with soups & desserts. We closed our meeting with the reading of the purpose.

February Zion UWF meeting scheduled for February 5 was cancelled due to the weather.

The March 5 Zion UWF meeting was held at 1 pm with 10 members present. Jan Mortenson had our program. Old business included the cancellation of our scheduled soup luncheon due to the weather. New business included discussion on making some gift bags for the new visiting congregation. We will get the supplies needed and be ready to hand out. We also discussed the Easter Breakfast which is an annual tradition at Zion. This year breakfast will be at 8:30 with worship service to follow at 9:30. We also decided that October 11, 2025 will be the date for our annual UWF Fellowship Day. The April meeting of the Zion UWF was held on Apr. 3 with 10 members present. The Secretary & treasurer's reports were read & approved. Leanna read a piece about Easter 101. Linda read poems including "Lilacs" and "The Resurrection". Zion will provide cookies for the end of month meals in Knoxville. We finalized our plans for the Easter breakfast. Our meeting closed with the reading of the Purpose.

RECAP OF PARISH EVENTS

Puzzle & Pie Paloozas - Zion held their Puzzle & Pie Paloozas on January 27, February 24 and March 24. We draw cards to see who is on teams each time. We have a few "fast" puzzlers and some "social" puzzlers who like to visit & laugh while trying to put their puzzle together. Afterwards we all enjoy pie & more social time. Thank You to the ladies who bring the pies. We will take a break this summer and let you know when we start up in the fall.

Attica Annual Soup Supper – Attica held their annual Soup Supper on March 20. There was a variety of soups serviced along with a variety of desserts. We had such a great turn out that we ran out of nearly every soup. Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the meal and supported our church. A huge thank you to all who helped with making the soup supper happen.

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8th - All Church Picnic at the Park, 10am at Marion County Park

Join us for a wonderful multi-church worship and potluck at Marion County Park. Knoxville First UMC, Columbia UMC, First Presbyterian Church, and Attica and Zion are all invited for a wonderful worship service led by all four pastors followed by a potluck and games. This is a great way to kick off summer!

Summer Stories: The Parables of Jesus -Join us this summer as we dive into the parables of Jesus, discovering what he teaches us about how to live, the kingdom of God, the power of faith, and more. We will experience these stories in new and creative ways from June 22nd through August 10th

Attica Community Celebration – The Attica church will be hosting a Community Celebration on June 22nd, 5-8pm at the Attica park. The meal will be provided, we will be sending out more information closer to the date. Please join us and get acquainted with your neighbors, new and old.

Zion New Member Sunday - May 11th - We will be celebrating our new members through a profession of their faith during service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Zion or have questions about membership, please contact Pastor Lauren at 515-201-1082 or pastorlauren29@outlook.com.

REACHING OUT TO OUR SHUT-INS

It was decided to add a list of our shut-ins to each Challenger if you would like to reach out to someone. A friendly note or a visit is always welcomed.

Connie Baily, 2092 Hwy 156, Bussey, IA 50044
Harry Hart, Westridge Reb & Care Nursing Home, 904 W. Howard, Knoxville IA 50138
Rachel Hoehns, 1557 Hwy G76, Knoxville, IA 50138
Marilyn Rice, Homestead Assisted Living, 908 S Park LN Dr, Knoxville, IA 50138
Germaine Whitlatch, 1523 Hwy G76, Knoxville, IA 50138
Patty Fudge, 2042 Orange St., Knoxville, IA 50138
Carol Bruce, 1805 178th Place, Knoxville, IA 50138
Eloise Snow, West Ridge & Care Nursing Home, 904 W. Howard, Knoxville, IA 50138
Dick Rowland, 705 E. Robinson, Knoxville, IA 50138
Ruth Little, Homestead Assisted Living 908 S. Park Ln Dr., Knoxville, IA 50138
Vickie Rumley, 1826 178th Place, Knoxville, IA 50138
Dixie Foraker (Brown) – 608 S. 15th Street, Indianola IA 50125

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY SERVICE AND LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER: (All services will be held at 10:00 am) There will be fellowship/coffee time from 9:30-10:00 at Attica only.

APRIL

April 6 – Tim DeGeest @ Attica, **Communion**
April 13 – Bobbi Bassett @ Attica, **Palm Sunday**
April 20 – @ Zion – Leanna Kennedy, **Easter Service , Breakfast @ 8:30 am, service following at 9:30 am**
April 27 – @ Zion – Speaker,. Susan Helmers

MAY

May 4 – Marlys Hollingshead @ Attica, **Communion**
May 11 – Linda Kizer @ Zion
May 18 – Debbie Phipps @ Attica
May 25 – Jan Mortenson @ Zion

JUNE

June 1 – Lou Ann @ Attica, **Communion**
June 8 – Linda Kizer @ Zion
June 15 – Bobbi Bassett @ Attica
June 22 – Leanna Kennedy @ Zion
June 29 – Tim DeGeest @ Attica

ATTENDANCE

ATTICA: January: 5-8, 12-9, 19- Bad Weather, 26-10, **February:** 2-10, 9-13, 16-Bad Weather, 23-13, **March** 2-9, 9-11, 16-13, 23-15, 30-14

ZION: January: 5-13, 12-2, 19-Bad Weather, 26-6, **February** – 2-15, 9-8, 16-Bad Weather, 23-9, **March** 2-15, 9-5, 16-11, 23-10, 30-14

Prayer Concerns (including families)

Carole Bruce
Germaine Whitlatch
Pastor Bud Lane
Wanita Banks
Connie Bailey
Mary Clifford
Jim Pelong

Sue Pelong
Rachel Hoehns
Bertha Gibbons
Mary Pinegar
Dwain Kennedy
Harry Hart
Max Smith

Charlene Stevens
Heather Brown
Vickie Rumley
Casey Ryan
Vern Milledge

April, 2025

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Apr 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
Ruth Little (z)			Bible Study-1C Zion UWF- 1pr	Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Attica U 1pm Bible Stu		
6	7	8 Natasha Cann	9	10 Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Bible Stu	11	12
13 Palm Sunday (	14	15 Challenger De	16	17 Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Bible Stu	18 7pm Good Fr	19
20 Easter Sunday 8:30am Zion 9:30am Zion	21 John Smith (a	22	23 Sally Clark (a)	24 Zion Coffee Tii	25	26
27 Jeanne Smith Susan Helmer: Katelyn Bakal:	28	29	30	May 1 Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Attica U	2 Jodi Swayne (	3 Buck & Cindy



May, 2025

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU May 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
Jeanne Smith Susan Helmer: Katelyn Bakal:				Zion Coffee Tii ● 1pm Attica U	Jodi Swayne (	Buck & Cindy
4	5	6 Tim DeGeest (	7 Dude & Rache Zion UWF- 1pr	8 Zion Coffee Tii	9 Dude Hoehns	10 Rick & Jan Mo
11 Chandera Mal	12 Eloise Snow (z	13 Nora Petersen	14	15 Sue Mallory (a Zion Coffee Tii	16 Lou Ann Willis	17
18	19	20 Eric Clark (a)	21 ● 6:30pm Attic	22 Zion Coffee Tii	23	24 Gary Swayne (
25	26 Robert Pinega	27	28	29 Zion Coffee Tii	30 Corey Bakalar	31

June, 2025

SUN Jun 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
		Tim & Ronda L	Zion UWF- 1pr	Steve Hoehns Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Attica U		Rachel Hoehn
8 Church in the	9	10	11	12 Zion Coffee Tii	13	14
15 Annual Confer	16	17	18	19 Zion Coffee Tii	20 Mark Clifford I	21 Dwain & Leani
22 Attica Commu	23	24	25	26 Zion Coffee Tii	27	28 Bob & Sue Ma
29	30	Jul 1	2 Zion UWF- 1pr	3 Mary Clifford I Zion Coffee Tii 1pm Attica U	4 John Bryson, .	5 Andrew Mallor