

The United Methodist Church

Attica – Pershing, Zion

South Attica St.

Knoxville Iowa 50138

(641-943-2324)

July, August, September 2025



The Radical Nature of Jesus and Wild Christianity

When I decided to do a series on the parables this summer, I had no idea how eye opening it would be (and as I am writing this, I am only two weeks in!). Many of us are familiar with the parables, and perhaps we have come to a point where we are too familiar with some of these Jesus Stories to wonder and investigate them any further. For my research on this series, I am referencing a couple of books, one by Josh Scott called *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place* and another by Greg Carey called *Stories Jesus Told: How To Read A Parable*. What I have discovered in reading these books is that there is so much more to these parables than what I remember and they really give you an inside look into the radical nature and teachings of Jesus.

Jesus is a radical teacher. He came in teaching and preaching the ways of God and completely upset the Jewish applecart. The Jews and Israelites had become complacent. Sure, they followed the laws of the Old Testament, and they worshiped God, but they also were awfully judgmental and the Jewish leaders thought of themselves as holier than all other people. Somewhere over time, they had lost their way and lost the true meaning of what it meant to follow God. So, God sent them a not-so-subtle reminder in the form of Jesus.

When Jesus came, he didn't follow all the rules of the Old Testament, and he did things differently for a Jew. Jesus didn't care what circles he hung out with, and purposefully went and sat at the 'weird' kids table, befriending sinners and exiles, healing people that everyone else looked at as if they were the grinch and wouldn't touch with a 39 and a half foot pole. He worked on the Sabbath and sent his disciples out to perform miracles without him. Jesus went out of his way to make others feel seen and loved and welcomed in God's kingdom. He also assembled a very odd group of followers who were fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, a thief, and a woman who was infected with seven demons.

Jesus was radical for his time and still is today. He didn't give two kahoots if he followed the status quo or what people thought about him. All he cared about was showing God's love to all he met and teaching people how to bring God's kingdom to earth. Then and now, people are awfully worried about how others perceive them and their actions. No one wants to be the odd one out, the one people talk about behind your back. Everyone wants to belong and to be thought of as normal. But what does Jesus think about that? Take a look at some of his parables to find out. Does Jesus think we are normal for worrying about earthly things, or are we weird, inconsiderate, bullies even? I want to live a life that Jesus will be proud of, even if that means I will be considered a little different here on earth. Radical people get things done and make a difference, and that is what it will take to bring God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. Jesus' many parables tell us how we should live our lives and why we should do it that way. They also give us an insight into the radical nature of God's kingdom and how different it is from our earthly kingdoms. There are so many hidden gems and truths tucked away in these stories that they deserve at least one if not many more thorough readings and deep dives!

As we discovered in the parable of the mustard seed, Christianity is not meant to be tamed and conformed to earthly society. It is meant to be wild and unruly, to break through barriers, to cross all the lines, to touch and welcome all people of all types and kinds. Christianity is meant to spread like an infectious weed, the best weed we could ever want!

Let us embrace the radical nature of Jesus and live on the WILD side, spreading God's love throughout the world and not letting anything or anyone get in our way! Let's bring back that popular phrase, 'What Would Jesus Do?' Jesus would be wild and radical all in the name of God to change the world.

Now it is your turn. What will YOU do?!

Stay WILD my Friends!

Blessings,

Pastor Lauren

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Attica United Women of Faith – The Attica United Women of Faith met on June 5, 2025. Present were Lou Ann, Marlys, Bobbi and Sue. The meeting was opened with a scripture reading. Marlys gave the lesson on "Choose Fitness of Body-Mind and Spirit. The less listed many ways we could treat our bodies, minds and spirits.

Zion United Women of Faith - On May 7, 2025 meeting of the Zion UWF was held with 8 present. Pat Blom had the program How Do You Define Faith. She shared some vintage pictures. We discussed plans for the 2nd annual Pershing community garage sales. We closed our meeting with the reading of the Purpose. Leanna provided our refreshments.

Zion United Women of Faith - Zion held their June 4, 2025 UWF meeting with 8 present. Tina Maddison had the program. She read a piece from Billy Graham. Then she ended her program with the group painting crafts. Zion will not have UWF meetings in July or August but will resume on Sept. 3, 2025 at 1 pm. We closed the meeting with the reading of the Purpose. Jan provided the refreshments.

Don't forget to put October 11, 2025 on your calendar. Zion's UWF Fellowship Day!

RECAP OF PARISH EVENTS

Pershing Story Time in the Park - Our June story time at the Pershing Community Center was a lot of fun. Adults and children alike enjoyed our story 'Lumi the Light Learns to Shine' along with a fun craft making mini lanterns.

RECAP OF PARISH EVENTS CONTINUED

2nd Annual Pershing Community Garage Sales - The 2nd annual Pershing Community garage sales were held on Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28. Zion helps promote the sales by taking care of the advertising and signage. This year we held a bake sale in the basement of the church and made over \$200.00 to be given to the Twin Cedars school for school activities. Thank you to all who donated items for the bake sale and to those who came to support the community with this event.

New Members - On Mother's Day, May 11, 2025, our worship service was held at Zion .. During the worship service, we were blessed to have 7 adults join or transfer their membership to Zion. They were Pat Blom, Tina Maddison, Kristen McCombs, Jan Mortenson, Gina Ryan, Xavier Ryan, Jodi Swayne. We also had 2 baptisms, Jodi Swayne & Xavier Ryan. We are so happy to have them in our congregation and our church as members.

Thank you Wanita Banks for handing out the Mother's Day cards and to Robbie Johnson overseeing that carnations were given to all women and girls.

Parish Donation after the Parsonage Sale - Randy & Sheryl Chambers, who were the realtors with Iowa Realty that we chose to help us sell the parsonage, gave our parish a \$500.00 check for allowing them to work with us on the sale of the parsonage. Thank you from our parish.

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not an upcoming event but news you should know. Attica and Zion Parish now have a website and it is live! Our website address is www.atticazionumc.org.

Bluegrass Blondies - On July 6, 2025 Zion will be having the Blue Grass Blondies during our service. They are a family, father, mother and 3 grown daughters, from Ottumwa who have been to Zion before. Please join us for a musical message.

State Fair Coffeetime - Please join us on Thursday, July 17 at Zion at 9 a.m. as we will have another State Fair event with State Fair games and eats to follow.. Last year we had some good laughs with the chicken toss and the husband calling contest. followed with funnel cake. Join us this year to see what competitions we have selected. Bring your kids & grandkids also.

Attica Story Time at the Park -July 24th at 10am, we will be gathering at the shelter at the Attica Park to read the story 'The Storm that Stopped' and enjoy fun games and crafts related to the story. This is geared toward kids in preschool and early elementary but all are welcome!

Pershing Story Time at the Park -July 29th at 10am at the Pershing Community Center, please join us as we read the story 'My Breakfast with Jesus,' enjoy snacks, crafts, and games all centered around our favorite breakfast foods. This event is free and geared toward kids in preschool and early elementary, but all are welcome!

Mark your calendars for Zion United Women of Faith's Fellowship Day on October 11, 2025.

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

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

JULY

July 6 – Blue Grass Blondies @ Zion
July 13 – Marlys Hollingshead @ Attica,
July 20 – Jan Mortenson @ Zion, **Communion**
July 27 – Lou Ann Willis @ Attica

AUGUST

August 3 – Linda Kizer @ Zion - **Communion**
August 10 – Debbie Phipps @ Attica
August 17 – Leanna Kennedy @ Zion – Kodis Rawlings
will be speaking
August 24 – Bobbi Bassett @ Attica
August 31 - Jan Mortenson @ Zion

SEPTEMBER

September 7 – Tim DeGeest @ Attica, **Communion**
September 14 – Jan Mortenson @ Zion
September 21 – Marlys Hollingshead @ Attica
September 28 – Leanna Kennedy @ Zion

ATTENDANCE

ATTICA: April: 6-18, 13-19, 18-17, 20-Unknown, 27-8, **May:** 4-22, 11-15, 18-17, 25-11
June 1-12, 8-8, 15- 16, 22- 16, 29-14

ZION: April: 6-11, 13-11, 18-8, 20-Unknown, 27-14, **May** – 4-7, 11-21, 18-7 25-10
June 1-8, 8-4, 15- 12, 22- 9, 29-5

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
Linda Kizer
Dwain Kennedy
Harry Hart

Max Smith
Charlene Stevens
Heather Brown
Vickie Rumley
Casey Ryan
Eloise Snow
Vern Milledge

July, 2025

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE Jul 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
			No Zion UWF I	Mary Clifford I Zion Coffee Ti 1pm No Attic	John Bryson, .	Andrew Malloi
6 Bluegrass Blor	7	8 Kevin Stittswo Tom & Joy Sm	9	10 Zion Coffee Ti	11 Danielle Feagi	12 Wanita Banks
13	14	15	16 Aaron & Wanil Michael Bruce	17 State Fair Cofl	18 Jon & Darla W	19
20 Aiden Zoutte (Communion-Z	21 Jim Pelong (z)	22	23	24 Attica Story Ti Gary Swayne I Zion Coffee Ti	25 Amy Zoutte (z)	26 Doug & Debbi
27	28 Zion Story Titr	29	30	31 Zion Coffee Ti	Aug 1	2



August, 2025

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI Aug 1	SAT 2
	Zion Story Tir			Zion Coffee Ti		
3	4	5	6 Jim & Sue Pel No Zion UWF- Tom Smith (z)	7 Debbie Phipps Zion Coffee Ti 1pm No Attic	8	9
10 Ashkeya Flem La Marjorie Cc	11	12	13	14 Zion Coffee Ti	15	16 Benjamin Clar
17	18 Dwight & Arle Leanna Kenne	19	20 John & Jo Est	21 Zion Coffee Ti	22 Bobbi Bassett	23
24	25	26	27 Jon Whitlatch Frank & Robbi	28 Dan & Marlys Zion Coffee Ti	29	30
31 Vickie Rumley	Sep 1	2	3 Tristan Bakala Zion UWF- 1pr	4 Kevin & Sally C Zion Coffee Ti 1pm Attica U	5 John Bryson, !	6

September, 2025

SUN 31	MON Sep 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
Vickie Rumley			Tristan Bakala Zion UWF- 1pr	Kevin & Sally C Zion Coffee Ti 1pm Attica U	John Bryson, :	
7 Jo Heigele (z)	8 Pat Blom (z)	9	10 Jerry Weldon	11 Zion Coffee Ti	12	13 Dwain Kenned
14	15	16	17	18 Zion Coffee Ti	19 Michael & Car	20
21 Alan Amy Zoui	22 Don Goemaat Devon Cannor	23 Tim Milledge (	24	25 Zion Coffee Ti	26	27
28	29	30	Oct 1 Zion UWF- 1pr	2 Zion Coffee Ti 1pm Attica U	3 Joy McDaniel	4