

When Did We See You?

by Velda Love | published on May 27, 2021 Minister of Racial Justice

Some of the church folks in the crowd were confused, looked around and asked Jesus, “When did we see you hungry, thirsty, and imprisoned? And you say you were beaten, shot, and hung? When did we see you treated like an animal, and less than human?” Matthew 22:35-40 (The RSVP Remix)

“I will never forget the violence of the white mob when we left our home. I still see Black men being shot, Black bodies lying in the street. I still smell smoke and see fire. I still see Black businesses being burned. I still hear airplanes flying overhead. I hear the screams,” Viola Fletcher testified before a House Judiciary Subcommittee last week, commemorating 100 years since the tragedy occurred on May 31, 1921. She was 7 years old when her town was burned to the ground and over 300 black residents were killed without mercy over a period of two days. “I have lived through the massacre every day. Our country Jesus speaks, “Church folks, come and listen to what I have to say. Some of you believe and practice the great commandment to love God, and to love and welcome neighbors and strangers. The rest of you love your nation more than you love God. You serve idols and worship yourselves. You ignore my commandment to love. Your hatred unleashes genocide, ethnic cleansing, and ruthlessly kills my sacred family members.”

The remixed Matthew 22:35-40 text incorporates a contemporary feel so that our lived realities can be seen and felt while many of us know that justice will not prevail in our lifetime. Viola, her brother Hughes Van Ellis, and Lessie Benningfield Randall spoke with clarity as they recounted to lawmakers the day white anger was unleashed in Greenwood. Their testimony included a demand for reparations for the survivors.

“Some of you looked at me without judgment, fear, and hatred. You saw me! Yes, you saw me hungry, thirsty, naked, and imprisoned. You fed me, gave me clean water and clothes, and came to see about me while I was incarcerated. I had health concerns and pre-existing conditions, and you provided free healthcare and medicine. I was a stranger, separated from my family, and caged Racism is alive. Racism and racists never stop professing their love for country, guns, wealth, and a small white god. Racism killed George Floyd. It was May 25, 2020, that a human being with hatred in his heart murdered Floyd by kneeling on his neck until he stopped breathing. Not everyone wept and felt a sigh of relief when the verdict in favor of sending George Floyd’s murderer to prison was read.

Many Christians are horrified when justice and reparations are preached from the pulpit. Yet the visual horror of 300 black people murdered then and George Floyd’s murder a year ago ignited a flame around the world that had people shouting, marching, and protesting police brutality and demanding justice for black lives. Jesus’s justice and the Gospel was embodied in protestors who marched in Germany, France, Palestine, London, Australia, and North American cities.

Jesus replied, “You practiced love of neighbor to those who were oppressed and marginalized, stereotyped and hated, enslaved and put into cages. You stood in solidarity with those who suffered under apartheid conditions, lost their land, and experienced genocide. You provided safe passage to freedom for your siblings. You stood at gravesites with mothers and fathers whose children had been murdered by the state. You cared for grandmothers when hatred attacked them on the streets. are members of my family. Just as you did it for them, you did for me.”

Who were the 300 people killed in Greenwood, OK? Are their names remembered and written in churches across the country? Will they be forgotten after May 31st? Will George Floyd be forgotten? Will he remain a symbol that marked his public execution and a global uprising? Will those who claim to love Jesus remember that black lives are under attack?

Will Jesus continue to be denied justice? When Jesus is killed while protesting, will you care? When Jesus walks down the street and is shot dead by a white supremacist, will you advocate for stricter gun laws? When Jesus is arrested, forced to the ground and has a knee on his neck until he stops breathing, will you remain silent when neighbors blame Jesus for his death?

Will you see Jesus when he’s of African, Asian, Native and indigenous, or Latin descent?

“Just as you did it to them, you did it to me.”

Velda Love is a minister of Racial Justice for the United Church of Christ



Zion Prayer List

Last updated for May 2021

Jessie Lent, Melvin and Susan Zion, Setsuko Collings (Diana Maag’s mother), Sue Vetter, Leslie Leonardo, Tom Crowley, John Slaughter, Nora Louise Quick (Mitzi’s new granddaughter) born premature, Sadie Brown (Julian’s mother), the passing of Irene Gether, Kenneth Dantzler-Corbin on transplant list, Gavin Wood, 7 yr old, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma on his neck, Mitzi’s daughter who is having surgery, Lora and Pat Nunn, Michael Patch’s mom has breast cancer, Barbara Ranner, Cohen at Children’s Mercy, Debbie Coats, lost battle w/cancer, Sue’s friend for loss of loved ones, Reece Doyle, Childrens Mercy, Diana Deatherage, Robby Morten, Vince Crowley is on kidney list again, Sharon Smith, Lidia (Melindas sister) and her dog, Guszti, Sondra Quick, Cheri and Rick Miller, Ruth Fisher, Kim Medley, Corbin Fletchel, born premature, taken to Children’s Mercy, his parents Lindsey & Scotty, pray for Zion UCC, children of our community, and praying for no war with Venezuela, Iran, Syria and/or North Korea.

Please help keep this list current, with your updates.

If you have prayer concerns, joys, or announcements in general please let the office know. It is imperative that we reach out to our church family during this time away from each other. If you need to request a prayer quilt, please call Lora Ellen at 816-341-4037. Work is still being done to keep up with quilt requests. If you have any changes to the above prayer list, please call the office and leave a message.





Our 2021 Graduates

Bellamy Crowley—Preschool

Colton Danner—Preschool

Lux McBeth—Middle School

William Medley—Middle School

Megan Corcoran—MU University

Jessie Lent—Seminary

Congratulations to our graduates



We are very proud of our Graduates and happy to be a part of their life.

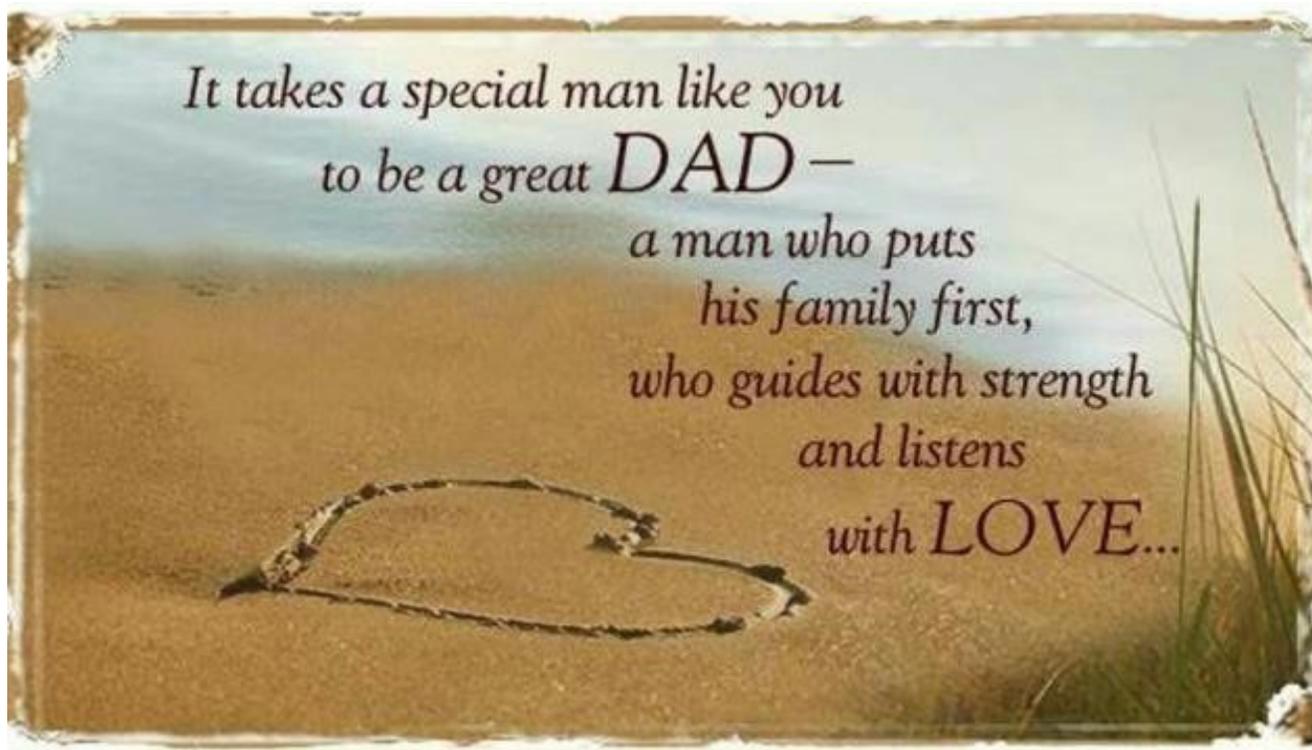
News

Thank you all very much for the beautiful Birthday Card for Laura Rose Nunn.
It made her day much brighter. Lloyd

New Address for CJ & Sue Vetter: 3043 Twin Pines Pointe, Elkhart, IN 46514

Dear Congregation of Zion United Church of Christ,
On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Open Door Food Kitchen, thank you for your generous donation from your Good Friday offering in collaborations with Christ Episcopal Church.
Your generosity and support are very much appreciated.
With Warm regards, Marsha Rosenthal—President

To celebrate Fathers Day Zion will have donuts and water following worship. Help is needed for setting up and taking down. Call Shelley 816-617-2489 or Lora 816-341-4037 to help.



AFL-CIO Community Services making novel plans for the 2021 Soles for Christ shoe distribution, including a move to a larger venue and a schedule change. This year's distribution will be held at the St. Joseph Civic Arena, 100 N 4th St., as a precaution against potential COVID-related issues, including avoiding large crowds social distancing limitations for the traditional agency space, and providing means to extend and spread out those waiting in line. To cut down on daily attendance numbers, the formerly two-day event is being extended to three days and will run from Tuesday, August 17th, through Thursday, August 19th. This will be the 19th years for the perpetual program that offers shoes to children from pre-school to 12th grade living in Andrew and Buchanan counties in MO, as well as Doniphan County, KS.

Donors can contribute to this program by donation new tennis shoes, making monetary donations or by volunteering during the distribution days.

NEW shoes can be donated at the agency, 1203 N 6th St., through Friday August 13th. Hours for drop off are 8 am– 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Volunteers for the program would help size and fit the children with their shoes, keep stock organized, or help with the family registration. Monetary Donations are welcome and all donations are tax deductible.

If interested in volunteering or to make a donation by phone, please contact our office at 816-364-1131. Donations may also be made online at helpenow.org or by mail. **Zion's last date for shoes and/or cash is August 8.**

Donation suggestions

*_New tennis shoes, as schools do not allow flip-flop, dress or slip-on styles to be used in gym class. * Shoes needed included toddler 5-10, youth 11-6 and all adult sizes.* Monetary donations are used to purchase shoes when we run out of a size and for special needs.





June Birthdays

- 8 Bill Luce
- 12 Matt Crowley
- 13 Stephen Crowley
- Quinlan Crowley
- 19 Vince Crowley
- 21 Colton Danner

Anniversaries

- 3 CJ & Sue Vetter
- 8 Chuck & Betty Davis
- 22 Melvin & Susan Zion
- 26 Wesley & Michelle Robinson



Visit our website!

<https://zionuccsaintjoseph.com>

Messenger deadline is the 25th of each month. If your item is received after the 25th, it will not be included until the following month.

Submit items electronically to zionchurchoffice@yahoo.com **OR** place items in the basket on the counter in the church office.

Thank you.



June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Quilt Information Millie 816-344-6206 Shelley 238-5706	4	5 5:30 First Christian Church Jessie Lent - Ordination
6 Communion What Was That? Rev. Kimi Liturgist: Jessica	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mustard Seed? Rev. Jessie Lent Liturgist: Bill	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day Open Window, Storm Tossed Boast Rev. Kimi Liturgist: Shelley	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Get Up! Rev. Jessie Lent Liturgist: Bill	28	29	30			