



The Saltshaker

October 2026

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

I just recently returned from General Conference in Johannesburg. South Africa. First, I want to thank the church for the opportunity to go and serve at GC. This was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity and I greatly appreciate the opportunity. Second, I thought I might share some of my thoughts from being there. I won't be able to share all the legislation that was passed because there was a lot. If you are interested in seeing a recap of each day you can go to [General Conference 2026 | Global Methodist | Johannesburg](#) and look under the news and updates tab. The theme was the Beauty of Holiness and all of our worship sessions centered around what it means to be holy.

1) I appreciate how we started each day with worship. Jesus said (Matthew 6:33) to seek first the kingdom of God and I think it is significant that as a denomination during our global business meeting we started with worship. 2) One of the significant pieces of legislation was the passing of the articles of religion. Denominationally we did the hard work of taking our historical faith documents from the Evangelical United Brethren, the Methodist church and our confessional creeds to produce a concise document for what we believe. I appreciate how we are willing to do the hard work not only on this topic but on others, some of which are not yet resolved, rather than just slapping a quick fix band-aid on it. 3) I was also struck again, as I am when I traveled internationally, about what we have and what others have. This isn't about privilege but is rather a recognition of how we have no excuse when it comes to resources we have for Kingdom of God work. To be honest it isn't about what we don't have but what we are not willing to give or use. 4) I was also struck by the resourcefulness of the people. They did not see what they did not have but rather used what they did have to make worship and discipleship happen. 5) We can learn from the Africans how to make disciples and do church planting. One church, whose building would fit in half our sanctuary, was sponsoring 13 different church plants throughout their extended community and saw even more opportunities. 6) There is a need for resources for church planting and discipleship in South Africa. There is a need from everything from literature to building supplies. 7) I was reminded of how awkward it is to be the outsider and not know what was going on or understand the language. How often do we not explain operational procedures (how we do stuff) well for those who may not be familiar with our church or how often do we use church language that those new to church may not understand? it reminded me of the necessity of doing communication well to do the best we can at making people comfortable in church. The more barriers we remove the easier it is for people to meet Jesus. Thank you again for the opportunity to go, serve and be a part of what our denomination is doing. It was good to go but it is very good to be home. Blessings,

Pastor Keith

Operation Christmas Child



Kokomo Zion's collection for Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** is quickly approaching. Shoeboxes are available in the hall outside the sanctuary – please pick up a box or two....or 10! **Filled boxes will need to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, November 15th.** If you need information or suggestions, visit the Samaritan's Purse website at: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org> - click the "Get Involved" tab, then select "Operation Christmas Child". There you will find tons of information about how and what to pack in a Christmas shoebox. OR – talk with Sheila Lamb for ideas. One thing many people forget to do is include a short personal note and/or a picture to the child. To save space – this can even be done by writing or drawing on the inside of the shoebox lid! This is a great way to get the children in your home involved as well. Please include \$10 for shipping fees.

There are a variety of way to participate in Operation Christmas Child – even if you are unable to take and fill a box. Boxes can be ordered online – you can customize your box, or have the staff build it for you. Or, you can place a check in the offering marked "OCC" and Sheila will order your box online for you. Online boxes are \$30 and include the \$10 shipping. Boxes ordered online will have tracking, so later in the year you will be able to find out where your box was delivered to. Last year, most of our boxes went to Muldova and Ukraine.

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION FOR 2026: Do **NOT** pack **Pokemon** or **Harry Potter** items in shoeboxes -- they will be removed at the inspection sites. Other prohibited items were listed in the Sept. Saltshaker, and can be found at the website above. The website also has a Look-Up Tool for any other questionable items.

One question often asked about packing – "should I leave wrapping and tags on the items?" Answer – that's entirely up to you. However, keep in mind that third-world countries do not have a Waste Management truck that pulls to their curb to pick up trash. I personally remove packaging and tags in order to dispose of in a eco-friendly manner. Plus – it allows room for more goodies for the child!

Don't forget to pray over your box and the child who will receive it as you pack. Happy Packing!

If you have any changes to your address, phone number or email, please let LeAnne know in the office. It helps me keep the files updated.

Thank you,



. Scripture Sisters will meet at 10:00 AM in the Beamer Room (come to the kitchen door).

October 5th for James 3:1-12

October 19th for James 3:13-18

Feel free to join us at any time. We are studying the passages on our own and then bringing insights to share with the group. For study ideas see the booklet on the bulletin board. Questions? See Cindy Einselen



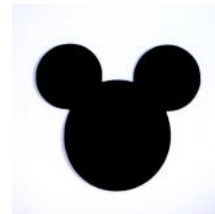
Nate Steury will be at Zion on November 4th @ 7:00. He will be sharing updates on Kafakumba.

Everyone is invited to attend.

I will be out of the office starting October 2nd until October 12th. I will be back in the office on the 13th. Dana Chanley will be helping me out in the office while I am gone.

I will work a 1/2 day on October 1st.

LeAnne



Matt's Concert

October 25th @ 3:00 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music.



2026 FISH FRY

There's something really beautiful and energizing about working together with brothers and sisters in Christ on a project focused on building God's Kingdom and glorifying Christ! That's what was experienced at this year's fish fry! It was a true blessing to have several of Urban Outreach's UP kids help during the fry – they were so hard working, kind and courteous, helpful, and just a joy to have with us – we hope we can partner again with them! The day did not go without a couple of minor glitches – but Team Zion rallied and folks made adjustments, were flexible, and worked like a finely tuned engine to make the day a huge success. To God be the Glory!! We had a huge crowd, and it was a joy to see the fellowship hall filled to capacity with friends and neighbors enjoying not only good food, but great fellowship.

I know everyone is anxious about the numbers – and those will come soon, but not in time to meet the Saltshaker deadline. What we can tell you is that we served approximately 740 – over 300 of those through the drive-thru! Our free-will offering was over \$16,000. We still have some monies coming in, and we have a couple of bills outstanding. We can safely say it was a VERY successful fish fry and we are so very pleased to be able to support the Kokomo Rescue Mission and Kokomo Urban Outreach in a big way. THANK YOU to everyone who helped in every way!

Sheila and LeAnne