



EXPLORING OUR
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROOTS AND IDENTITY



Sunday, September 7, 2025



Our Mission: United by Christ's loving embrace, a welcoming light in an unsure world, we serve and enrich the community and provide a safe gathering space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and self-exploration.

Our Vision: Transforming and caring for our community through Christ's love.

Pastor: Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

Organist: Martha Main

Bell Choir Director: Vivian Thomas

Office Manager: Michael Brown

Custodians: Anita and Greg Law

Scripture Reader:

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Sunday, September 7, 2025 – Evangelical and Reformed

Prelude

Gathering (*in unison*)—Celebrating our call as the United Church of Christ, we join together in affirming our purpose, vision, and mission as a united church.

Our Purpose: To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

Our Vision: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Our Mission: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

*Gathering Song

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, 507

Prayer—Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you...

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Exploring Together

Scripture

James 1:1-5, 22-27 (NRSVUE)

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Greetings.

² My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[d] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately

forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reflection

Evangelical and Reformed

Hymn

A Place at the Table, 617 (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—For those worshipping with us at home, please use whatever you have on hand to represent the bread and the cup. For those worshipping with us in-person, communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Our Invitation—Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. In the company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.`

A Prayer for Transformation—Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One. We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods. We have used each other. We have loved power more than people. Forgive us, O Holy One. Cleanse from us the illusion of innocence. Come into our hearts, and make us new again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.`

Assurance of Grace—In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live. Amen.`

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks..., broke it, and give it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way

also the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.’

Blessing Our Meal—Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ’s suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ’s resurrection, and awaiting Christ’s return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new. Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.’

We Share the Bread and the Cup

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.’

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Let everyone give, not grudgingly or of necessity, but from the fullness of our gratitude to God.’

September Benevolence—Horizon House: There are currently 1,800 people experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis, a 7% increase since the last count (WTHR). Horizon House serves these neighbors in all kinds of ways.

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of this church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our contributions. Amen.+

Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, 719

Benediction

One: Let us go forth into the new seasons of our lives.

Many: We go forth into growing and changing and living.

One: Let us go with caring awareness for the world and all that is in it.

Many: We go to discover the needs and opportunities around us.

One: Let us go forth in peace and be led out in joy.

All: We go in God's continuing presence, with the power to love and the strength to serve. Amen.`

Postlude

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PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday, after worship - Sabbatical Wrap Up Lunch
- Monday, 6 pm – Grief Group (Zion Room)
- Tuesday, 11 am – 2 Minute Tuesday (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)
- Tuesday, 3:30 pm – Faith Formation Team
- Sunday, September 14, 9 am – Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SABBATICAL WRAP UP LUNCH**—You're invited to celebrate the end of our sabbatical journey this Sunday after worship. We will gather for a catered lunch of BBQ and sushi, and Pastor Sarah will share more pictures and stories of her sabbatical.
- **CHOIR IS BACK**—It is the season of music to our ears. Welcome back our choir by joining! We need more people to be in our choir so more beautiful sounds can come to our congregation. You don't need to be the next "American Idol" to join. We have an amazing time on Sunday morning rehearsals. If you would like to join choir, please talk to Martha about it. Our first choir rehearsal is Sunday, September 14 at 9 am.
- **TREASURE TRUNK SALE**—Thank you to everyone who made it out to our Treasure Trunk Sale, including Jack's Donuts! We are grateful they were able to set up a table and share in this event. A special thank you to Becky and Joe Osher for their continued willingness to organize these sales.

SERVE

- **CRAYON AND HOT WHEELS DRIVE**—We will be collecting crayons and Hot Wheels for Riley Children's Hospital during the Treasure Trunk Sale on September 6. You can also drop these items off anytime in the sanctuary. Bags and stickers are available to take home if you'd like to go ahead and start packaging crayons.

- **SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE**— Horizon House’s mission is to provide support, aid, and care for Central Indiana’s homeless neighbors. They have been providing this service for 37 years. Recently, they expanded their support to include Compass on Washington, an affordable apartment building which not only provides housing but also social services. Zion’s partnership with Horizon House is also long-standing. We have helped to provide meals, socks, clothing, and snack packs. Please consider giving a monetary contribution to Horizon House to continue their mission.

ENRICH

- **SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES**—Join us for worship in September as we explore our United Church of Christ roots. We’ll learn from the wisdom of those who came before and celebrate the ways our four predecessor denominations shared the light of Christ and made commitments to be one.
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**— The Golden Friends are heading to the Indiana State Museum on Thursday, September 18. Tickets are \$17 for children and youth, \$23 for adults, and \$21 for seniors 60+. Current exhibits focus on art, marvels and oddities, pollinators, and more! We’ll meet at Zion at 10:30 am to carpool. Sign up in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall and also let us know if you can drive and how many passengers you can take.
- **PET MEMORIAL**—In our grief ministry at Zion, we recognize that all kinds of loss and transition bring grief, and that includes the loss of a pet. Whether you’ve lost a pet recently or it has been years since you’ve said goodbye, our pets hold a special place in our hearts. Join us on Sunday, October 12 at 3 pm as we remember and honor the love and joy our pets have brought to our lives. You’re invited to bring pictures to place on our memorial table of the pets you’d like to remember. Please invite others you know who are grieving their pets to find comfort in our community. You can join us for our regular Grief Group meetings the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 pm in the Zion Room at the Zion United Community Center.