



EXPLORING OUR
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROOTS AND IDENTITY



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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: Collin Bennington

Tech Steward: Collin Bennington

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Sunday, September 14, 2025 – Congregational and Christian

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**

Morning Has Broken, 35

Prayer—Maker of Heaven and Earth, we rejoice in your presence. In you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. Speak to us again. Reveal your power in and through us. Show us your glory and be glorified in our worship. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your kingdom...+

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.

Choir

Exploring Together

Scripture

Galatians 3:23-29 (CEB)

²³ Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed, ²⁴ so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian. ²⁶ You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

Reflection

Congregational and Christian

Hymn

Amazing Grace, 422

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Let us give generously and lovingly to support the ministry of the gospel—loving our neighbors as ourselves through sharing the abundant gifts of 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—God our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people. We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment to being your church. Amen.+

Hymn

Blessed Assurance, 426

Benediction—God's peace go with you into the worlds in which you live; be nurtured by the time of the time of gathering, be faithful in the time apart. Love and serve each other in the name of the faithful God, who calls us to be God's people; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be with us always. Amen.'

Postlude

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PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday, 9 am – Choir Practice
- Monday, 6 pm – Pastor Parish Relations (Zoom)
- Wednesday, 6:30 pm – Council (Zoom)
- Thursday, 10:30 am – Golden Friends Carpool to the Indiana State Museum
- Sunday, September 21, after worship – 3rd Sunday Lunch at The Depot

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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.
- **BELL CHOIR**—Please consider joining our bell choir. If you can read music and count please consider joining. We are very excited about the upcoming season and the music we have picked out for the year ahead. We will be trying out some new styles with our growing abilities. Please see Vivian if you are considering joining. The first rehearsal is Sunday, September 28 at 9 am.
- **ECHO**—ECHO articles are due Monday, September 15.
- Pastor Sarah will be unavailable on Tuesday, September 16 because of jury duty.

SERVE

- **CRAYON AND HOT WHEELS DRIVE**—Thank you to all of those who were able to support our crayon and Hot Wheels drive for Riley Hospital for Children. We are grateful for your generosity! If you'd like to help package crayons, baggies and stickers are available for you to take home with you.
- **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.
- **CHURCH 101**—In coordination with our September worship series, we'll offer two opportunities to learn about how our wider church family works together. Each session will be after worship in the sanctuary and approximately one hour.
 - **September 28:** Local Church, Association, and Conference
 - **October 5:** The UCC and Our Many Ministries
- **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.
- **3RD SUNDAY LUNCH**—Please join us for our 3rd Sunday Lunch September 21st. We will be going to The Depot in Greenfield. Please RSVP to Becky Osher by Wednesday, September 17th.
- **PET MEMORIAL**—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.