



EXPLORING OUR
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROOTS AND IDENTITY



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: Paula Prange

Tech Steward: Greg Miller

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Sunday, September 21, 2025 – Covenantal Relationship

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, 393

Prayer—Source of hope, bring us into the presence of hope. Inspire us with the strength of faith. Shower us with the waters of mercy and grace, that our hope may be renewed as we learn to trust your promise and love.~

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

Genesis 9:12-17 (CEB)

¹² God said, “This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. ¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth’s creatures.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth.”

Reflection

Covenantal Relationship

Hymn

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning, 551

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—As symbols of love and signs of hope, let us bring our gifts and offerings to God.~

September Benevolence—Horizon House

Ministry Moment

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—Trustworthy and trusting God, thank you for entrusting us with this good earth. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us. Help us live up to your trust, even as we learn to place our trust in you. Bless the gifts that we share, that they may honor the generosity you have shown us. In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, 344

Benediction—Go to be signs of hope for all the world to see: rainbows in the clouds, waters in the desert, love in a world of hate. Go to be signs of hope for all the world to know.~

Postlude

~Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 (p. 52). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday, after worship – 3rd Sunday Lunch at The Depot
- Monday, 6:30 pm – Young Adult Planning Session (Zoom)
- Wednesday, 6:30 pm – Council Finance Team (Zoom)
- Sunday, September 28, 9 am – Bell Choir Practice
- Sunday, September 28, after worship – Church 101 Class: Local Church, Association, and Conference

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **3RD SUNDAY LUNCH UPDATE**—Because of a change in reservation policy, we weren't able to get reservations at The Depot for our lunch. We will instead gather at Olive Garden at 8155 E. Washington St. Thank you for understanding!
- **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.
- **COUNCIL**—Our next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for October 19 after worship. At this meeting we will have elections for three council positions for the 2026/2027 term. Please prayerfully consider if you are called to serve in this way. See a council member with any questions you may have.
- **Capital Campaign**—Council is creating a Capital Campaign team to raise funds for building maintenance, repairs, and replacements needed in the next 12 – 18 months. Council is looking for 2 volunteers to be on this committee. If you're interested, please contact Terri Bennett or another council member.

SERVE

- **POPTABS**—Jerry and Jackie Keller are heading to the Ronald McDonald House to drop off poptabs. If you have any poptabs, please bring them to church by the end of the month so they can be delivered.
- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Our 4th Annual Steve Thomas Memorial Blood Drive is set for Thursday, October 9 from 12-6 pm in the gym. Help us make this one special by spreading the word and signing up to donate today. Steve donated blood countless times, and your support of this drive will help carry on that legacy. You can register at www.zionuccindy.net/blooddrive. Donations from our last drive were sent to the

following hospitals: Riley, IU Arnett in Lafayette, Mercy in Defiance, Ohio, Northwest in Valparaiso, and Dupont in Fort Wayne.

- **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

- **CHURCH 101**—In coordination with our September worship series on our UCC roots and identity, 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 and will be September 28 and October 5.
- **PRAY FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**—Last year, the Faith Formation Team led us in 30 Days of Prayer for Zion. This year, you’re invited to join us for 31 Days of Prayer for Our Neighbors throughout the month of October. We’ll focus on the areas of hunger, health, housing, and other humanitarian concerns. A calendar will be available to help guide your prayer practice. We hope it will be transforming, grow in us compassion for our neighbors, and move us toward action.
- **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.