



Serve & Enrich
**Zion United Church
of Christ**

**31 DAYS OF PRAYER
FOR OUR NEIGHBORS
OCTOBER 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: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Greg Miller

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Sunday, October 5, 2025 – World Communion Sunday

Prelude

Gathering (*in unison*)

The Prayer of St. Francis (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

***Gathering Song**

As We Gather At Your Table, 695

Prayer—Holy and Triune God, your table transcends time and space. As your disciples on World Communion Sunday, we join our voices to the songs and prayers offered to your name throughout the world. Increase our faith and give us grace to love and forgive one another, as you have loved and forgiven us. We remember all your beloved children who suffer this day— especially the victims and refugees of war [to those who experience violence right here in our own country and our own community]. Help us bear

witness to their suffering without fear. Give us the courage to live in love with you, in you, and for you. For the sake of all your beloved children, we pray.~

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

Luke 1:76-79 (CEB)—⁷⁶ You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace."

Matthew 5:9 (NRSVUE)—⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Reflection

Let It Begin with Me

Hymn

One Bread, One Body, 689

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

"Table Blessing" by Jan Richardson

A Prayer for Transformation (unison)—We confess that often we believe that peace is just not possible. It seems so elusive and the realities of war and violence are always with us. Move us out of our sense that "this is just the way it is" to a conviction that we all have a part to play in bringing peace in our time. Ignite in us a passion for making peace in ourselves, our families, our communities, our states, our nation and yes God, in our world. May peace prevail! Amen.=

Assurance of Grace—Peacemakers, know that in Christ we have been redeemed, reconciled, and forgiven. Another way is possible, a way of peace. Receive now the peace of Christ as you follow in the ways of the Prince of Peace.

Communion Song *In Remembrance*, Dennis Frische-Mouri and Martha Main

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—By this bread and cup, Holy Spirit, sustain us to be peacemakers in this world. Through the body and blood of Christ, broken and shed by acts of violence, may you nurture in us a different way, a way of peace. Bless these elements that they might heal our wounds so we can help heal the wounds of the world. 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—May the gifts we bring these days be a sign of our commitment to love our neighbors no only in our hearts but in our actions.

Poptabs

October Benevolence—Neighbors in Need & OCWM

Ministry Moment

Blood Drives, Paul Hilton

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God of all creation and all peoples, we give you thanks for the gift of your presence in our lives and the call you’ve given us to be peacemakers.

May the gifts we bring this day bring greater peace to your world. From the smallest poptab to every blood donation given here at Zion, from every cent to every moment of our lives, bless these gifts, multiply them, and use them for the healing of the world. Amen.

Hymn

Let There Be Peace on Earth, 614

Benediction

“A Blessing for World Communion Sunday” by Jan Richardson

Postlude

~ Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 225-226). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. =Kent Siladi. `Reprinted from *Book of Worship* ©2002 by permission of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team.

PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday – World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, after worship – Church 101: UCC
- Monday, 2:30 pm – Service Team (ZR)
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm – Worship Team (Z)
- Thursday, 12-6 pm – 4th Annual Steve Thomas Memorial Blood Drive (Gym)
- Sunday, October 12, 9 am – Choir Practice
- Sunday, October 12, 3 pm – Pet Memorial

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. The proposed budget and other meeting items are available to pick up in the sanctuary.
- **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**—Thank you to everyone who has brought in pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. We are grateful to Jerry and Jackie Keller for delivering them for us.
- **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.
- **OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE**—For over 25 years, donations to Neighbors in Need have supported justice and compassion work through direct service and advocacy. Today, your donation continues to fund grants, the Council for American Indian Ministries, and justice ministries at the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission helps our Indiana-Kentucky Conference to continue providing services, care, and leadership to local churches, including us here at Zion. They also help support the work of our denomination.

ENRICH

- **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.
- **MINISTRY MOMENT**—Sign up today to share a Ministry Moment with us in worship. This is a chance for you to tell the story of how God is at work through Zion and through the lives of our members.
- **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.

- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—Because of the Congregational Meeting on October 19, we will take a break from our 3rd Sunday Lunch this month. Join us in November as we head to The Depot!
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**—“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers” – Anne of Green Gables. Celebrate the beauty of this season with the Golden Friends at the Pleasant View Orchard (10721 N. 850 W., Fairland, IN) on Thursday, October 16. We’ll meet there at 11 am. Simple lunch items are available. Be sure to check out the Country Store for some goodies to take home. Let Pastor Sarah know if you plan to attend.
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**—The Young Adult Group is gearing up for a very enriching fall. They will meet outside of the Irvington Starbucks at 10 am on Saturday, October 25 for the Irvington Halloween Festival. Text Pastor Sarah if you plan to be there. The following weekend on November 1 at 10 am they will have a service day at Zion and will begin a book study on *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* by Brene Brown on November 3.