



Give Thanks **NOVEMBER 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: Debi Hamblet

Tech Steward:



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Sunday, November 23, 2025 – Thanksgiving Worship

Prelude

Gathering—Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice! For the goodness of God's bounty is sufficient for our needs each day. God's steadfast love never ends.~

***Gathering Song**

Give Thanks, 359 (2x)

Prayer—Almighty God, you have led us into a land flowing with milk and honey. As we rejoice in your manifold blessings, turn our thoughts to those who go hungry. As we celebrate the bounty of your table, focus our appetite on food that does not perish. Help us find our true sustenance in Christ, and move us to draw our nourishment from him.~

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

We Thank You, Lord

Exploring Together

Stewardship Bingo

Scripture—*Deuteronomy 26:1-12* (CEB): Once you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and are settled

there, ² take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the location the Lord your God selects for his name to reside. ³ Go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him: “I am declaring right now before the Lord my God that I have indeed arrived in the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

⁴ The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the Lord your God’s altar. ⁵ Then you should solemnly state before the Lord your God: “My father was a starving Aramean. He went down to Egypt, living as an immigrant there with few family members, but that is where he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. ⁶ The Egyptians treated us terribly, oppressing us and forcing hard labor on us. ⁷ So we cried out for help to the Lord, our ancestors’ God. The Lord heard our call. God saw our misery, our trouble, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land—a land full of milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I am bringing the early produce of the fertile ground that you, Lord, have given me.”

Set the produce before the Lord your God, bowing down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then celebrate all the good things the Lord your God has done for you and your family—each one of you along with the Levites and the immigrants who are among you. ¹² When you have finished paying the entire tenth part of your produce on the third year—that is the year for paying the tenth-part—you will give it to the Levites, the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows so they can eat in your cities until they are full.

Special Music

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, Kaylee Gephart, cello

Reflection

Celebrate All the Good Things

Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, 572

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—In our sharing with our neighbors, we rejoice. In the using of our gifts and talents, we rejoice. In the bringing our first-fruits to God, we rejoice.

Ministry Moment

3rd Sunday Lunch, Ted Schory

Offering Song

Bless This House, Bob Brown and Martha Main

November Benevolence—God’s Bounty

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God of overflowing abundance—you water the earth with live-giving rain; you deck the valleys with bountiful grain; you crown the year with your

manifest blessings. With what can we come before you? How can we repay you for your grace and mercy? Receive the fruit of our labor. [Receive especially these gifts for our neighbors at God's Bounty. May they be a reminder to our neighbors that they are not alone or forgotten.] Receive also the gift of our humble thanks, and keep our hearts safe in your Spirit. Amen.~

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God, 14, with Bell Choir

Benediction—With thanksgiving in your hearts, go out into the world to share the abundance of God's blessing. Offer your first fruits in remembrance of what God has done. Share generously as you serve and enrich your neighbors, and in all things rejoice.

Postlude

~Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year* (p. 245).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday, 9 am – Choir Practice
- Sunday, 10 am – Thanksgiving Worship
- Sunday, after worship – Thanksgiving Party and Pie Lunch
- Monday, 6 pm – Hanging of the Greens (sanctuary)
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm – Council (Zoom)
- Thursday – Thanksgiving
- Sunday, November 30, 9 am – Bell Choir Practice
- Sunday, November 30, 10 am – Blessing of the Nativities during worship

ADVENT AT ZION

- **HANGING OF THE GREENS**—It is almost time to deck the halls of our sanctuary! Help prepare our worship space on Monday, November 24, at 6 pm, as we get ready for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Pizza and treats will be provided.
- **NATIVITY SCENES**—Because the nativity scene is the anchor image for our Advent worship, you're invited to bring in a nativity set to help decorate the sanctuary. We will offer a blessing on the nativity sets on November 30 and will place them throughout the sanctuary after that worship service. Nativity sets will stay up through Epiphany on January 4.
- **ADVENT WREATH**—Help share the Good News of the Advent season by helping with our Advent Wreath readings. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary today.
- **CHRISTMAS IN WANAMAKER**—Our Fundraising Team will again have a booth at Christmas in Wanamaker on December 6, from 10 am – 3 pm, and will sell

ornaments, potholders, and mini bread loaves.

- **CHRISTMAS IN WANAMAKER PARADE**—All are invited to walk in the Christmas in Wanamaker Parade on December 6 as we invite our neighbors to join us for worship. Line up begins at 12 pm, with the parade at 1 pm. Sign up today!
- **CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR JAPAN**—Following the 2011 Fukushima triple disaster of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear catastrophe, Global Ministries began a ministry of partnership with our partner churches in Japan, matching them with congregations in the US so we could hold one another in prayer and offer encouragement and support in the Christmas season. We've been paired with two congregations, Sendai Nishi Church and Shinjo Church. Christmas cards will be available for you to sign. Please pray for these churches throughout the season.
- **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**—Join us at 12 pm at Hollyhock Hill (8110 N. College Ave.) on Sunday, December 7. Be sure to RSVP to Becky. We've already made a reservation for 20 to secure our spot. Lunch is family style.
- **BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**—The Advent and Christmas seasons can be challenging for those who know loss and grief. While others celebrate, you may find yourself feeling blue. Gather in community to bring your losses before God and find comfort in God's care. The service begins at 6 pm on Monday, December 8.
- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**—The Good Time Singers are back and are preparing a wonderful Christmas Concert for us and the wider community. Join us Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm in the gym. Refreshments will be provided. Please sign up if you can help set up or take down tables and chairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **STEWARDSHIP BINGO**—Thank you to council for leading us in Stewardship Bingo! Continue to tend to your faith and share the good news with others.
- **PICNIC SHELTER ROOF UPDATE**— Council thanks the congregation for their thoughtful and heartfelt discussion regarding the replacement of the picnic shelter roof. We are deeply grateful for the generous donation of \$5,000 to help offset the cost. To cover the remaining balance of \$10,000, Council has approved using funds from Zion's savings account. This will allow Zion to enter a contract with Custom Exteriors and, with the anticipated rise in building supply costs, prevent additional expenses. By drawing from the savings account, the general fund—used for Zion's daily operating expenses—will remain unaffected. For any questions, please contact a Council member. —Terri Bennett, Kim Hadley, Kaylee Gephart Kile, Greg Law, Michelle Van Dyke, Cindy Yenna
- **SANCTUARY PEWS**—Pursuant to a previous congregational conversation, Council has approved removing the front two pews in the sanctuary during the Advent season.

This adjustment will provide additional space for Advent activities, Prayground, special music, and the bell choir. The pews will be relocated by a professional mover to the Community Center hallway, with Council re-evaluating the change in early 2026. For questions or concerns, please contact a Council member: Terri Bennett, Kim Hadley, Kaylee Gephart Kile, Greg Law, Michelle Van Dyke, Cindy Yenna

- **BUILDING TASK FORCE FORMING**—Council is forming a Building Task Force, led by Greg Law, to help care for and maintain our buildings. Responsibilities include routine inspections, preventive maintenance, and determining needed repairs. The first assignment will be to inventory and create a building maintenance checklist, identifying maintenance, repairs, and replacements anticipated in the next 12–18 months. We are seeking volunteers to be on this Task Force. If interested, please contact Greg.

SERVE

- **ANGEL TREE**—Thank you to everyone who has been able to participate in the Angel Tree this year. Unwrapped gifts with tags are due November 30.
- **NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE**—The holiday season is right around the corner, and we want to help make sure our neighbors have food to eat. Help us fill the chancel with non-perishable food donations. Bring your donations now through November 23.
- **NOVEMBER BENEVOLENCE**—This month we are supporting the work of God's Bounty in all kinds of ways as they serve neighbors right here in our community facing food insecurity. In addition to supporting our food drive, you can also make monetary donations to God's Bounty so they can purchase exactly what they need and keep up with the expenses of running the pantry.

ENRICH

- **THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION & LUNCH**—After worship today you're invited to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Party and Pie Celebration. Thank you to the Kitchen Team for organizing this and all who are able to share a pie!