

EPIPHANY 2026 BY ANOTHER ROAD



Serve & Enrich
Zion 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: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Greg Miller



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January 4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

Gathering (Isaiah 60:1-6, NRSVUE)—Hear this reading from the prophet Isaiah: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord."

*Gathering Song

We Three Kings of Orient Are, 233

Prayer—Radiant and Revealing God, you dwell not in temples or thrones but among us—in caravans of mercy, in the faces of those returning home, in the shimmering abundance of the sea. You are the star that stirs our seeking, the Presence that refuses to be hidden, the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike. As we gather, let your justice take root in our hearts,

your joy rise on our lips, your compassion steady our hands, and your peace settle upon this world you so dearly love. Lift our eyes, O Holy One, so that we may see as you see—creation radiant, humanity restored, and your dwelling now among us.+

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.

Council Installation

President	Kaylee Gephart-Kile
Vice President	Nathan Law
Secretary	Kim Hadley
Treasurer	Terri Bennett
Financial Secretary	Cindy Yenna
Buildings and Grounds	Greg Law

Covenant with Our Council

Covenant with Our Congregation (in unison)—We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

see back of hymnal

Zion United Church of Christ Mission Statement—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.

Prayer

Declaration

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the

Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection

By Another Road

Star Words—*You’re invited to come forward to choose a Star Word to help guide you through the year ahead, wherever the road may take you. If you would like a Star Word brought to you, please raise your hand. For those worshipping at home, please contact Pastor Sarah if you’d like to receive one.*

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, 248

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, along with goldfish crackers for children.*

Our Invitation

A Prayer for Transformation

One: Holy One who dwells among us, you call us to rise, to see, and to rejoice—yet too often we turn inward, protecting our comfort instead of pursuing your justice. When your radiance invites us to lift our eyes, we close them against the pain of the world. When your abundance flows like the sea, we grasp rather than share. When your caravans of mercy draw near, we hesitate to join the journey.

Forgive us, O God. Lift us once more into your light of love. Transform the fear that keeps us small into courage that acts with compassion. Renew the weariness that dims our hope into joy that moves us toward peace.

Many: Look! God's dwelling is now among us. By grace, we are made new. Amen.+

Assurance of Grace

One: People of God, hear this good news: The Holy One has not remained distant or hidden. Look! God's dwelling is now among us—radiant with mercy, generous with forgiveness, overflowing with new life. In every act of justice, in every gesture of compassion, in every moment of peace, Christ is revealed.

Many: We lift our eyes and see. By grace, we are forgiven. By love, we are made whole. Thanks be to God!+

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—God, you sent the Light of the World into our lives to dispel all darkness and despair. May his radiant light shine forth at this table as we receive Christ's body and blood. Bless us and this meal with the gift of your Holy Spirit, with healing and grace, and with your redeeming love. 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— As the kings brought their gifts, so now we are invited to share our gifts. Whether giving online, in the offering plate, through the mail, or with our lives, our gifts are another way we give Christ our worship and we give God the glory. May the

Spirit flow through us and through our giving in this time of offering and in the year ahead.~

January Benevolence

Zion Emergency Assistance Fund

Ministry Moment

Recognition of 2025 Ministry Teams and Volunteers

*Doxology

We Give Thanks—Gracious God, bless these gifts, that they may be as impactful as the gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to the Christ child by kings long ago. May our treasures bring honor to your name and support justice in your world. May our worship bring humility to our hearts, and may our time and talents bring love to life in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.~

Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise, 243

Benediction—Arise, shine, as you go into the world! Be radiant with God’s love, and shine with the light of the Spirit, for all the world to see. Amen.

Postlude

~ Seifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Abingdon Press. +UCC Worship Ways. `UCC Book of Worship.

PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday – Epiphany Worship with Star Words and Council Installation
- Sunday, after worship – Unhanging of the Greens Part 1
- Monday, 6:30 pm – Care Team (Zoom)
- Sunday, January 11, 9 am – Choir Practice
- Sunday, January 11, 2 pm – Choir Practice
- Sunday, January 11, 3 pm – Pastor Sarah’s Ordination

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **EPIPHANY**—A great light guided the way of the magi long ago, and God’s light still guides us today. On Sunday, January 4 we will follow God’s guiding light for our lives and will receive our Epiphany Star Words to help guide us through the year.
- **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 18, after worship. We are at the point in the process for the roundabout that we need congregational approval for the sale of the land. A handout with updated information will be shared by January 4. We hope you can make it to this important meeting. If you have any questions please see the

Roundabout Taskforce or a council member.

- **MINISTRY MOMENT**—Sign up today to share a Ministry Moment. This moment could be about ministries you're involved in at Zion or ways that you are serving your neighbors or reaching out to others. See Pastor Sarah with any questions you might have about what you might share. We'd love to hear your witness about God at work in the world and at Zion.
- **SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP TRIP**—As the chair of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Sri Lanka Partnership Team, Pastor Sarah will help lead a delegation to visit our partners in Sri Lanka in the Church of the American Ceylon Mission. The trip is January 21-February 2. Hold our partnership team in your prayers as they set out to do this important work.
- **ORDINATION**—You're invited to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Sarah on Sunday, January 11. Worship begins at 3 pm in the sanctuary, and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot make it in-person. The choir will practice at 2 pm.

SERVE

- **COUNCIL INSTALLATION**—We are grateful for all those who have answered the call to serve on council for 2026. We will install our council members this Sunday in worship.
- **SAVE THE DATE: WORKDAY**—Roll up those sleeves and join us for a workday on January 24 from 9am-12pm in the sanctuary! Help us tidy up the sanctuary with a deep cleaning of our pews, an extra dusting, and more. We could use as many volunteers as possible to help us accomplish these tasks.
- **JANUARY BENEVOLENCE**—We never know when the call might come to serve our neighbors. We never know how it might come--a call at the office, a neighbor knocking on the door, a Facebook message. There are times when our neighbors turn to us in times of crisis and uncertainty. When that call comes, we want to be able to share our resources and our love generously and abundantly. Our *Emergency Assistance Fund* allows us to say, "yes," when our neighbors turn to us for support. Consider sharing your resources so that we don't have to turn anyone away.

ENRICH

- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**—Join the Golden Friends in the Fellowship Hall on January 15 at 11 am as we set our calendar for the new year. Some plans are already in the works for educational opportunities, but we need your help planning the fun!
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**—The Young Adult Group will gather on January 18 after the congregational meeting for pizza and games. Bring your favorite game and a drink. Be sure to invite family and friends to join us, too.