

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: Collin Bennington

Tech Steward: Collin Bennington

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February 8, 2026 – The 5th Sunday After the Epiphany

Prelude

Gathering—In the beginning God brought forth light out of the darkness. This light has shown throughout the centuries in the lives of prophets and teachers, young and old, and in the life of Christ. This light still shines today in you. Let your light shine!~

*Gathering Song

Renew Your Church, 462

Prayer—Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day. For this we are grateful! As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need healing. May our hands be opened to do your good work. May our hearts be opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us. In the name of Christ, 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.**

Choir

Exploring Together

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-20 (CEB)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It’s good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection

Salt and Light

Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West, 600

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—We are told that giving freely to help others glorifies God. Let us bring our gifts to God, so that God’s love may be made known.~

February Benevolence

Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

Ministry Moment

Martha Main, Supporting the Global Church

*Doxology

We Give Thanks— Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore our community, so that all will flourish. Amen.~

Hymn

Pass It On, 557

Benediction—May the love of God bring forth healing and restoration all of your days. May the light of Christ guide your way. And may the Holy Spirit empower you to do the good work of God. Amen.~

Postlude

~ Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Abingdon Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- Sunday, 9 am – Chor Practice
- Sunday, 3 pm – Association Ecclesiastical Council (Zoom)
- Monday, 6:30 pm – Pastor Parish Relations (Zoom)
- Tuesday, 6:30 pm – Young Adult Matthew Study (Zoom)
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm – Worship Team (Zoom)
- Friday, 8 am-5:30 pm – Life Line Screening (Gym)
- Sunday, February 15, after worship – 3rd Sunday Lunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ANNUAL REPORTS**—Thank you to everyone who submitted their annual reports! Reports are available this Sunday ahead of our February 22 Congregational Meeting.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—Council invites you to join us for our February Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 22, after worship. We will receive our Annual Reports and share any updates council may have.
- **SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP TRIP**—Thank you to all of our worship leaders, council, and Pastor Ted who helped while Pastor Sarah was representing our conference in Sri Lanka.
- **LIFE LINE SCREENINGS**—February is National Heart Month, and we are hosting another Life Line Screening to serve people on their health journey. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build-up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on Friday, February 13. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call **1-844-591-7160** or go to <https://www.llsa.social/hasca> or **text** the word **circle** to **216-279-1607** for more information or to pre-register.

SERVE

- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Thank you to all who donated and volunteered for our first blood drive of the year! Together we have served and enriched our community and have

helped save lives. The next drive is scheduled for April 23.

- **FEBRUARY BENEVOLENCE: Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)**—The CUE regional seminary support program brings together over 2,000 United Church of Christ churches in mid-America in support of our three UCC seminaries of the region. The goal of this offering is to support our seminaries in equipping prophetic and compassionate leaders for ministry and providing financial support for theological education.

ENRICH

- **MATTHEW SMALL GROUPS**—The Faith Formation Team invites everyone in the church to join one of the small groups that will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew. The Young Adult Group will begin their small group on February 10 at 6:30 pm on Zoom and will meet on Tuesdays during Lent. Another Zoom small group will be offered on Thursdays during Lent, starting on February 19 at 7 pm. An in-person group will be offered on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm starting in April at Paula’s house. We hope this will be a nurturing practice that not only strengthens our spirits but deepens our relationships with each other.
- **LENT**—Lent begins February 18. Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 pm, either in-person or online. Our Lenten Worship Series this year is based on the book *Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (and Other Wanderers)* by Eric Elnes. The series is about “seeing life through new” eyes, recognizing that experiences of failure, emptiness, and uncertainty are as critical for finding our way through life as they are unavoidable.” We will see how experiences of life through the “dark wood” are actually clues to our “calling” or “life path.” How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fulness of life?
- **3RD SUNDAY LUNCH**—We are hoping to have a 3rd Sunday Lunch in February. Be on the lookout for more details soon.