



THE SEASON OF EASTER



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



8916 East Troy Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46239
(317) 862-4136
zionsecretary@sbcglobal.net
www.zionuccindy.net

May 3, 2026 – The 5th Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Gathering—Come to Christ, our cornerstone. Christ has called us here. Trust in God, our firm foundation. God is with us here. Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace. May the Spirit guide our way.~

*Hymn

Sanctuary, 482 (3x)

Prayer—Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you.~

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

What do you think of when you hear the word "church"?

Scripture

1 Peter 2:1-10 (CEB)

Therefore, get rid of all ill will and all deceit, pretense, envy, and slander.

² Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, ³ since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. ⁵ You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Thus it is written in scripture, *Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed.* ⁷ So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. ⁸ This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. ¹⁰ Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reflection

The People of God

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation, 544

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—Here at this table, the pure milk of Christ's love is ours. Here at this table, the nourishment of God's salvation is ours. Here at this table, the strength of the Holy Spirit is ours. Come to be fed. Come to be nourished. Come to be strengthened, for all are welcome at this table of grace.~

We Confess our Brokenness—Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace—God’s faithful love is true, and God’s strength is enough. Rest in God’s love and trust in God’s strength, for these gifts are all we need.~

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, newborns longing for milk, we come to your table to be fed and nourished. Like the mother’s milk, from you we find all the sustenance we need. In the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, reveal Christ’s overflowing mercy to us. Make us living stones, alive and well, one people, ready to do your will. At this table, make you Spirit shine an amazing light into the darkness of our lives. 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—Through the resurrection of Christ, we have been given new birth and a living hope. In thanksgiving and praise, let us bring our gifts to God.~

May Benevolence Strengthen the Church and Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God, use the gifts we bring this day to strengthen your church. Work through them that the people of Zion United Church of Christ might be living, breathing stones in this world. Unite us as one people dedicated to serving and enriching your beloved world. Amen.

Hymn

We Are the Church, 550

Benediction—Even as God sends us into the world, Christ has prepared the way. Following Christ, we go to serve and love with faith and hope.~

Sung Response

Because He Lives (chorus only), 447

*Because he lives I can face tomorrow;
Because he lives all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because he lives.*

Postlude

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – First Sunday Fellowship
- **Sunday, after worship** – Young Adult Group at Rustic Gardens
- **Tuesday, 1 pm** – Matthew Small Group Study (Paula’s House)
- **Wednesday, 6 pm** – Pastor Parish Relations (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 2:30 pm** – Eastside Creation Care Network RecycleForce Tour
- **Saturday, 1-3 pm** – Services for Pat Snyder (Sanctuary)
- **Sunday, May 10, 9 am** – Choir Practice

SERVE

- **SERVICE STATION**—Last Sunday in worship, our Service Team shared with us an idea to help keep our service opportunities organized and in front of us as part of our worship. They, the Council, and Worship Team are proposing a “service station” under one set of windows on the west side of the sanctuary. It would be a counter with an oak finish, stained to match the sanctuary, that would house containers on casters where we could collect all of our service items—crayons, Play-Doh, canned goods, diapers, etc. Material and labor costs are all being donated. Please see a council member if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to move forward with this project soon.
- **APRIL BENEVOLENCE: Global Ministries**—Global Ministries is a joint partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Together we accompany and serve with over 250 global partners in about 90 countries. Sharing God’s love, we work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

ENRICH

- **MATTHEW SMALL GROUPS**—If you’ve not yet participated in our Gospel of Matthew Small Groups, you’re invited to join our in-person group on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm at Paula’s house. We have wrapped up all of our online groups. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate!
- **1st FELLOWSHIP HOUR**—Join us after worship this Sunday for donuts and a time to be together in community.
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**—The Young Adult Groups is heading to Rustic Gardens on Sunday, May 3, after the 1st Fellowship Hour. RSVP to Pastor Sarah if you plan to attend. It is \$10 for 9 holes.
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**— Join the Golden Friends at The Depot (240 W Mill St, Greenfield, IN) on May 21 at 11 am for a wonderful lunch and even better company. RSVP to Becky Osher if you plan to attend so that we can make sure we have enough seats reserved. A reminder that doors to the restaurant do not open until 11 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TREASURE TRUNK AND BAKE SALE**—Thank you to Becky and Joe Osher for coordinating our Treasure Trunk Sale and to our Fundraising for coordinating our Bake Sale and booth. A shout out to all of our volunteers, bakers, donors, and shoppers. We are grateful for another fantastic sale!
- **EASTSIDE CREATION CARE NETWORK (ECCN)**—The ECCN is a collaborative effort of churches on the eastside of Indianapolis to care for creation. They provide support for ministry Green Teams, as well as education for churches seeking to be good stewards of God’s creation. They will have a special meeting on Thursday, May 7, to tour RecycleForce at 816 N. Sherman Dr. RecycleForce is a 501(c)(3) committed to reducing crime through employment and job training while improving the environment through electronics recycling. Since 2006, RecycleForce has safely recycled more than 100 million pounds of electronic waste and recycles up to 97% of everything that comes through their doors. They also take plastic, metal, and Styrofoam. If you are interested in attending this tour, please let Pastor Sarah know.
- **CELEBRATION OF LIFE**—We will celebrate the life and legacy of Pat Snyder on Saturday, May 9, from 1-3 pm in the Zion sanctuary. An obituary for Pat is now available and can be found at <https://www.bellmortuary.com/obituaries/patricia-snyder>.
- **GRADUATION SUNDAY**—Graduation season is just around the corner! Join us during worship on Sunday, May 17, as we celebrate the graduates in our congregation and in your lives. We will present gifts to our Zion graduates, and you’ll be invited to name the graduates in your lives as we offer a blessing for them and all that’s ahead.