



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: Collin Bennington

Tech Steward: Collin Bennington



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May 10, 2026 – The 6th Sunday of Easter

Prelude

A Blessing for Mother's Day

By Kate Bowler

Gathering—Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Through the resurrected Christ we have not only hope eternal but hope for here and now. Wherever we worship this day—at Zion, at home, in your car with the livestream going—you dwell on holy ground because truly the Spirit of the Lord is with us. Let us worship with hope that is confident and sure.

*Hymn

Be Still, for the Spirit of the Lord, 129

Prayer—God of hope, we thank you that through Christ you draw us into your presence. There is nowhere we could go, no circumstance we could face, nothing we could do that would separate us from your love. Help us to live as people of hope, patient for what is to come yet persistent in doing good now.

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

What does hope look like to you?

Scripture

1 Peter 3:13-22 (CEB)

¹³ Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? ¹⁴ But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. ¹⁵ Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. ¹⁶ Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. ¹⁷ It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil.

¹⁸ Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. ¹⁹ And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. ²⁰ In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. ²¹ Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

Reflection

Hope Returns

“It is through faith that [one] finds the path of true life, but it is only hope that keeps [one] on that path.” Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope*

Hymn

Called As Partners in Christ's Service, 581

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

“Hope is a passion for the possible.” Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

Invitation—We have living hope in Christ our Savior. We bring our gifts to God this day with hope, ready to do good in this world, to bring a little glimpse of God's kingdom to this very earth.

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

Ministry Moment

RecycleForce

*Doxology

We Give Thanks—We offer to you these gifts, O God, trusting that you can and will work through them. May good be done with these gifts as they support the ministry of your church. May they be signs of hope in this world as we live into all the possibility you have for our work together. Amen.

Hymn

How Can I Keep from Singing, 242

Benediction—Go forth knowing God’s presence goes with you, the resurrected Christ lives in you, and the Spirit calls you to do good. With hope may you serve and enrich God’s beloved. Amen.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, 9 am** – Choir Practice
- **Monday, 6:30 pm** – Care Team (Zoom)
- **Tuesday, 1 pm** – Matthew Small Group Study (Paula’s House)
- **Wednesday, 5:30 pm** – Worship Team (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 10 am** – Service Team (Community Center)
- **Sunday, May 17, 10 am** – Graduation Sunday
- **Sunday, May 17, after worship** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Friend’s Diner

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.
- **MAY BENEVOLENCE: Strengthen the Church and Our Church’s Wider Mission**— How can we follow the Spirit to bless emerging ministries in the United

Church of Christ? Through the Strengthen the Church Offering you support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church. Thank you for your gifts to Strengthen the Church! Gifts to OCWM make it possible for the UCC and our Indiana-Kentucky Conference to help spread God's love to more people in more places than any one of us can do alone.

ENRICH

- **MATTHEW SMALL GROUPS**—You're invited to join our in-person Gospel of Matthew Small Group on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm at Paula's house. Thank you to Paula for hosting us and leading us!
- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—We are venturing to a new place for our 3rd Sunday Lunch in May. Join us for some comfort food at the Friend's Diner (3915 Madison Ave.) after worship. RSVP to Becky Osher if you would like to attend. All are welcome!
- **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

- **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.
- **GOOD TIME SINGERS CONCERT**—Join us Saturday, June 13, at 3 pm in the gym for a Good Time Singers Concert. Doors will open at 2:30, and refreshments will be provided following the concert.
- **ALL CHURCH RETREAT**—On Sunday, June 14, following a shortened worship service in the Fellowship Hall, council will be hosting a celebration of the things we have accomplished so far in our Strategic Plan. Afterwards we will have a time of discussion about the items that still need our attention. Our Kitchen Team will provide lunch during the discussion portion of our event. Please stay to help us celebrate and discuss how we want to shape our future.