



ORDINARY TIME



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 Law

Custodians: Anita and Greg Law

Scripture Reader: Collin Bennington

Tech Steward: Collin Bennington



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July 12, 2026 – Freeing Jesus Series: Jesus as Lord

Prelude

Gathering—Jesus, our Lord, came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of God's favor. He came to turn the world upside down so that justice, peace, and love might reign. May our Lord inspire not only our worship but our living as we share the hope we have in Christ for a better world.

*Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come, 231

Prayer—As a people of hope, we come together to grow in our faith. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

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—When you hear the word “Lord,” what comes to mind? When you hear the declaration, “Jesus is Lord,” what does that mean to you?

Scripture

Luke 4:16-19 (NRSVUE)

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 22:24-27 (NRSVUE)

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ But he said to them, “The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NRSVUE)

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Reflection

Jesus as Lord

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus exercises authority by serving, healing, feeding, forgiving, welcoming outsiders, and confronting injustice. If this is what God's reign looks like, this helps shape our understanding of the kind of “Lord” Jesus came to be. Now imagine our church, our community, and our world if we actually lived under that kind of lordship. What would be different? What would people experience?

Hymn

The Summons, 350

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Jesus offered a vision of a world turned upside down, where the first are last, where rules are identified by their servanthood, where the oppressed are free. Through our gifts and our ministry may we help realign the ways of our world where the love, justice, and peace of our Lord reign.

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—God, use these gifts that they might bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, healing to our neighbors, and freedom from oppression. Work through our ministry that we might proclaim Jesus is Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, 358

Benediction—As you go forth this week to follow in the ways of Jesus, know that you go forth, not alone, but with Jesus, your Lord, ready to guide your way. Go forth to serve and enrich with the love of Jesus. Amen.

Postlude

*If you are comfortably able and so called, you're invited to stand. ~Cathedral of Hope *Freeing Jesus*
Study Guide by Dr. Greg Smith, sowhatfaith.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – Community Center Task Force (Fellowship Hall)
- **Wednesday, 6:30 pm** – Council (Zoom)
- **Sunday, July 19, 12 pm** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Tian Fu (7525 E. Washington St.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUMMER SLOW DOWN**—Our council and ministry teams are working at keeping our July calendar as light as possible. We've been busy at Zion, and our volunteers deserve a little break.
- **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**—We are so grateful to those who were able to participate in our Strategic Plan Retreat. We focused on two areas of the plan that still need our attention—the “Zion United Community Center” and “Welcoming Families and New Generations.” At our Congregational Meeting on June 28, we proposed forming a task force for each of these areas. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to be on the task forces for these areas. God is up to some exciting things as we enter the fifth and final year of this plan. If you have any questions about this work, please see a council member.
 - **COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE**— Based on your feedback, we are scaling back our work on the Community Center to focus on updating two specific areas to prepare for greater community use, the Fellowship Hall and the Conference Room. The task force will help determine updates needed in these

rooms and will offer clarity for our rental process. The task force includes Kaylee Gephart-Kile, Kristen Gephart, Michael Law, and Greg Miller.

- **OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE**—At our retreat, we listened carefully to the young adults in our church as they shared with us what is vital to connecting with new generations. We listened to everyone as folks shared from their heart about how important it is for Zion to be a safe place that truly welcomes all. The big takeaway was that Zion needs to be clear in our welcome. Conversation at the retreat focused on what it would take for Zion to become Open and Affirming (ONA) as we widen our welcome and embrace of God's beloved. What does it mean to be ONA? It means that a church has made a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The ONA Task Force will help lead us through a discernment process as together we listen for God's call for our ministry and what it would take to ensure the LGBTQAI+ community is welcome here. The task force includes Kaylee Gephart-Kile, Kristen Gephart, Barb Huffman, Michael Law, Nathan Law, and Becky Osher.
- **CELEBRATE**—Rev. Beverly Kahle is retiring, and you're invited to celebrate with her. Please sign the card from the Care Team on the side table in the sanctuary. If you'd like to send your own card, you may send it to Pastor Bev's church at St. Paul UCC, 330 N. Buhrman St., Nashville, IL 62263. The church asks that cards arrive by August 13. A celebration will be held at St. Paul UCC on Sunday, August 16, with worship at 9 am and a meal at 11 am. Please RSVP for the meal by August 1 to 618-327-4326 or welcome.stpauluccnashville@gmail.com.

SERVE

- **JULY BENEVOLENCE: Indiana Kentucky Conference Pastoral Emergency Fund**—Our church leaders are always there for us. The Indiana Kentucky Conference Pastoral Emergency Fund ensures we are there for them when crisis strikes. This vital fund provides urgent financial aid, salary continuation, and an emergency guest pastor for active and retired clergy, lay staff, and their families during unexpected hardships. Please consider making a financial gift to lift up those who serve our congregations.
- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Save the date for our next Red Cross Blood Drive, scheduled for July 23 from 12-6 pm. Registration is now open for donors. Help us spread the word as we join this community partner to help save lives.

ENRICH

- **SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES**—Join us for our summer worship series. Worship will be a bit more conversation this summer as we explore themes from *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* by

Diana Butler Bass. You do not need to read the book to be part of this worship series or our conversations.

- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—Join us at Tian Fu on Sunday, July 19. RSVP to Becky Osher if you plan to attend. The restaurant opens at 12 pm, so no rush to get over there after worship. Tian Fu offers a wide variety of Asian cuisine, so there's something for everyone.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING**—It might feel like summer just started, but folks are heading back to school starting the end of July. Join us on Sunday, July 26, as we offer a special blessing to all those returning to school.
- **UNITED CHURCH FUNDS**— On Sunday, August 2, you're invited to join us for a post-worship fellowship and discussion on financial stewardship and sustainability, presented by Matt Wagner, VP Institutional Relationships at United Church Funds (UCF). UCF is a partner to institutions of the United Church of Christ, providing professionally managed investment funds, educational resources, and other services to help churches and other ministry organization invest for the future in ways that align with sustainability and values. Cumulatively, UCF partners with over 1,200 institutional investors and is responsible for assets under management of \$1.5 billion. You can learn more about UCF at ucfunds.org. Our Zion UCC investments are through UCF. During our discussion, Matt will share about the sustainable and responsible investing strategies that United Church Funds uses in our investments with United Church Funds, as well as information and resources about planned giving and future sustainability for our congregation. We invite you to be a part of this time with our investment partner, United Church Funds.
- **BLUEGRASS AND GOSPEL CONCERT**—We are excited to welcome the Elkins Jammy to Zion! They are a father-daughter duo from Brown County and relatives of Becky Osher. They will offer a free concert on Saturday, September 12, from 12-2 pm in our shelter. Please RSVP to our Facebook Event and share it with your friends to help start spreading the word.