



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: Greg Miller

Tech Steward: Michael Law



8916 East Troy Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46239

(317) 862-4136

zionsecretary@sbcglobal.net

www.zionuccindy.net

July 26, 2026 – Freeing Jesus Series: Jesus as Way

Prelude

Gathering—Bring all that you are to worship this day—your sorrows and celebrations, your questions and longings, your hopes and your fears. Jesus promises that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is among us. Come, meet Jesus our Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. Jesus is here.

Back to School Blessing

***Hymn**

Open the Eyes of My Heart, 656 and on screen

Prayer—Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, that we may see Jesus, and as we see Jesus more clearly, help us to simply enjoy being in Jesus' presence.~

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—In what ways do you/have you experienced the presence of Jesus in your life? When this happens, where are you, what are you doing, who are you with?

Scripture

Matthew 1:23b (NRSVUE)

“...they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

Matthew 18:20 (NRSVUE)

“...For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 28:20b (NRSVUE)

“...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflection

Jesus as Presence

Bass shares this idea from theologian Grace Ji-Sun Kim: “The Christian faith is different from what the word teaches. The Christian faith is not ‘seeing is believing,’ but rather, ‘believing is seeing.’ We must open our eyes and hearts and see Jesus’ presence in our lives. We need to see him in the places that we dare not look and dare not to think about” (p.245). Where is one place in your life that you really want or need to see Jesus? How might Jesus show up?~

Hymn

Surely the Presence, 131 (2x)

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Jesus is right here in our midst, present in our lives, ready to show us the way, and Jesus invites us to be his hands and feet, embodying his presence in this world. We are the body of Christ, the presence of Christ for others. May the gifts we bring this day be used so that others, too, might come to know Jesus here among us.

July Benevolence

Pastoral Emergency Fund, Indiana-Kentucky Conference

*Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus’ presence among us. Use these gifts and our very lives that others might see clearly that Jesus is here with us now, calling out to us to follow him. Empower us through our ministry at Zion United Church of Christ so that the presence of Jesus might be known. Amen.

Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story, 560

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

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, during worship** – Back to School Blessing
- **Sunday, August 2, after worship** – Presentation from Matt Wanger, UCF, and 1st Sunday Fellowship

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.
- **DIRECTORY**—There is a copy of our Directory in the back of the sanctuary for people to confirm or update their contact info and addresses. You can call or email the church office if you are unable to make it to worship in person.
- **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES**
 - **COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE**—The Community Center Task Force met on July 12th to walk through the Fellowship Hall and Conference Room to see what needed to be added to the list of improvements originally put in the strategic plan. We are beginning the task of researching and setting goals and priorities for what needs to be done to each room. We are excited to get this project rolling and for the future of our Community Center!
 - **OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE**—The ONA Task Force will have their first meeting on August 4. We will be sharing updates with you as we make plans for Bible Studies, conversations, and what this process of discernment will look like. Stay tuned for more updates.

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.
- **WORK DAY**—On August 8th from 10 am – 12 pm, we will be having another work day to clean up our space so we may use it more intentionally. We will be working in the gym closet to clean and organize as well as in our shelter building. We are wanting to clean up our shelter building before our upcoming Gospel and Bluegrass Concert in September. Many hands make light work, so we hope to see you there!

- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Thank you to everyone who helped support our Red Cross Blood Drive in July as the country faced emergency blood shortages. Whether you donated, volunteered, helped spread the word, or prayed, you made a difference and helped save lives. Save the date for our 5th Annual Steve Thomas Memorial Drive on October 8.
- **RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**—The Riley Cheer Guild is in desperate need of Hot Wheels. Please be on the lookout for sales. It's also back to school season and a great time to find deals on crayons.

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.
- **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 this Sunday, as we offer a special blessing to all those returning to school.
- **BE A BLESSING WORSHIP SERIES**—Our August worship will focus on what it means to be a blessing, inspired by the new banner outside our sanctuary. Following the lectionary readings, we will consider the call we have been given to help make this world and our society more like the Kin-dom of God. Invite your friends and family to be blessed in our worship and ministry.
- **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.

- **YOUNG ADULT PLANNING**— The Young Adult Group is heading to Sahm's Tavern in Irvington (5632 E. Washington St.) after worship on August 9 to plan their 2026/2027 calendar. RSVP to Pastor Sarah if you plan to attend.
- **BLUEGRASS AND GOSPEL CONCERT**—We are excited to welcome the Elkins Jamily 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.