



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: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Greg Miller

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

August 2, 2026 – Be a Blessing

Prelude

Gathering (responsive)

One: My people are hungry.

Many: There are too many to feed.

One: Give them something to eat.

Many: We have only five loaves and two fish.

One: You have everything you need.

Many: It would take a miracle.

One: With God, all things are possible.

Many: In Christ, new hope has dawned.~

*Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center, 477

Prayer— Even when our faith falters, O Lord, we will not let you go. Even though we are battered and bruised, O God, we will not let you go. Even when our bellies are empty,

we know your presence will satisfy us. We need your blessing, O God, and we will not let you go.~

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—Share an example of a time when someone has blessed you.

Scripture

Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSVUE)

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Reflection

Be a Blessing

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.*

Hymn

A Place at the Table, 617

Our Invitation—When hungry people gathered, Jesus did not hesitate to offer to them what they needed. Because of the generosity of one boy, thousands had their fill. At Christ's table there is always enough. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, there is a place for you, so come and be blessed.

We Confess our Brokenness—God of mystery and power, you call us home amid our fear and doubt. When we are hungry and weary, we yearn to be filled and revived. When our faith wavers, we long to forsake our clever schemes and find shelter in your ways. When faced with those in need, we dream of doing the impossible for you are with us and work through us. Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace—Awaken to the good news of God’s love: In Christ, we find strength for the journey and are fed by God’s gracious hand.~

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, in Jesus Christ you have poured out the blessings of your unending love. Make that love real for us in this bread and cup that we might be fed and nourished by a love that will not let us go. As we receive your blessings at this table, may be in turn rise to be a blessing for the world. 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—Faced with a hungry crowd and only five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed the multitude until all were satisfied. Faced with a hungry world, God invites us to show our faith and offer our gifts, that all might be satisfied.~

August Benevolence

Pastoral Emergency Fund, Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Ministry Moment

Matt Wagner, United Church Funds

***Doxology** (On screen. Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you.)

We Give Thanks—Source of Compassion, all you have given us is yours. May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger. May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid. Help us share our abundance with those in want, that the world may be fed and made whole again. Amen.~

Hymn

Now Let Us From This Table Rise, 715

Benediction—Go now with this truth: you are blessed. You are loved, held, and called by God. May the love you have received become the love you share. May God’s grace flow through you into the lives of others. May your words bring encouragement, your actions bring kindness, and your presence bring hope. Go into the world as a blessing—joining God in the healing, restoration, and renewal of all creation. Amen.

Postlude

*If you are comfortably able and so called, you’re invited to stand. ~From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. `UCC Book of Worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – Presentation from Matt Wanger, UCF, and 1st Sunday Fellowship
- **Tuesday, 6:30 pm** – Open and Affirming Task Force (Zoom)
- **Saturday, 10 am – 12 pm** – Shelter Work Day
- **Sunday, August 9, after worship** – Young Adult Planning Lunch at Sahm’s Irvington

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 as we consider the welcome and inclusion of all people to our church, including LGBTQIA+ folks. Stay tuned for more updates.

SERVE

- **AUGUST BENEVOLENCE: Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**— Your generosity to OCWM fuels the collective ministries of the United Church of Christ (UCC) locally, nationally, and globally. When you give to OCWM, your contributions directly impact lives and strengthen communities through the Indiana-Kentucky Conference (IKC) and UCC by providing resources, training, and worship materials. Your generosity funds disaster relief, addresses health and education disparities, and advocates for social justice. Thank you for your faithful support!
- **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!
- **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

- **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**— This Sunday, 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 Sahn'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.
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS ROAD TRIP**—Save the date for Thursday, August 20. The Golden Friends are heading to Carriage on the Square in Greensburg for the best BBQ around. We will carpool from the church at 10:30 am. Please RSVP to Pastor Sarah and let her know if you are available to drive and how many you can take in your car. You are also welcome to meet us there around 11:15 am. All are welcome.
- **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.