



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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August 9, 2026 – Pray Often

Prelude

Gathering—Jesus often withdrew to pray—not to escape the world, but to be strengthened for it. In prayer, we discover the courage to face life's storms, the wisdom to discern God's way, and the compassion to reach out to those who are struggling. As we gather in worship today, may God meet us in prayer, steady our hearts, and send us into the world as a blessing to others. Let us worship God.

***Hymn**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, 489 (3x)

Prayer—Merciful Christ, fill us with your faith and courage, that we may never be overwhelmed by great needs, but rather with your great grace, your great strength, your great compassion, your great presence, your great hope. Fulfill your greatness in us and through us for the honor and glory of your name, for the saving of lives, for the redemption of our world.~

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

A Web of Connection – Who do you pray for?

Scripture

Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSVUE)

²² Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Reflection

Pray Often

Pray Often Litany (responsive)

One: Jesus, we see you calming storms, storm-tossed seas and stormy lives. Extend your power and grace again, upon us and all in need. Extend peace and healing over bodies and spirits overwhelmed by crashing waves of circumstance.

Many: Jesus, make peace. (Moment of silence.)

One: Extend peace and perspective over minds and hearts adrift in confusion or drowning in fear.

Many: Jesus, make peace. (Moment of silence.)

One: Extend peace and hope over people, families, and communities swamped by danger, injustice, and loss.

Many: Jesus, make peace. (Moment of silence.)

One: We lift up now the prayers of our hearts...Jesus, truly you are the Son of God. You are strong to save. Help us to pray often and find peace, strength, and courage in you. Amen.~

Hymn

Spirit of the Living God, 492 (2x)

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—The Spirit of God is with us showing us how to live generously. Jesus reaches out to us offering the strength and encouragement we need. May our wondrous God work through our lives and our gifts that other's, too, might be blessed beyond measure through Christ's church.

August Benevolence

Our Church's Wider Mission

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

We Give Thanks—Generous One, you reach down to raise us from fear and death. You reach down so that we may reach out with your hope and help. Bless, accept, and multiply this offering, so many may know you, your saving power, and your saving love. Amen.~

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, 393

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – Young Adult Planning Lunch at Sahm's Irvington
- **Wednesday, 5:30 pm** – Worship Team (Zoom)
- **Thursday-Saturday** – Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering, St. Peter's UCC, Carmel
- **Sunday, August 16, after worship** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Applebee's
- **Sunday, August 16, 10 am – 7 pm** – Eagle Scout Fundraiser

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.

- **EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER**—One of the scouts in our Troop has picked Zion as the recipient of his Eagle Project. Jermaine will be redoing the softball bleachers so spectators can once again have a safe and enjoyable place to watch practices and games. On Sunday, August 16, from 10 am – 7 pm, you’re invited to pick up a delicious meal at 1805 Wellesley Commons, near 16th and Franklin. Jermaine is offering a Southern style fish try, baked spaghetti, and assorted desserts. Plates are \$18, and proceeds will go to purchase materials for our bleachers.
- **COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE**—The Community Center Task Force will meet Sunday, August 23, after worship, as they continue to assess updates needed in the Fellowship Hall and Conference.
- **OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE**—The ONA Task Force met this past week to work on next steps in our discernment process as we consider what it would look like at Zion to fully welcome and embrace all, including LGBTQIA+ folks. We will have our first church-wide conversation on **Sunday, September 27, after worship**. At this gathering, we will lay the groundwork for the spirit of this process as we practice graceful engagement; we will consider hospitality and welcome in the scriptures; we will share in small groups about our own experiences; and we will gather at the table in fellowship for homemade pizza and cookies. We hope you will join us for this important conversation. *What does it mean to be ONA?* After a time of study, dialogue and prayer, churches adopt an Open and Affirming “covenant” committing their members to welcome LGBTQ+ seekers, support their relationships, and advocate for their basic rights. All sacraments and rites of an ONA congregation are available to LGBTQ+ people, including baptism, confirmation, communion, and marriage. ONA churches take seriously the Bible’s admonition to “accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NIV) Join us as we discern if this is God’s call for us at Zion UCC.
- **INDIANA KENTUCKY CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING**—The Indiana Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering is this coming weekend. Please hold our conference in your prayers as we consider deepening our relationship with the Heartland Conference and as we celebrate our Global Partnerships. Kim Hadley will serve as our lay delegate and Pastor Sarah as our clergy delegate. Pastor Sarah will also make a presentation on behalf of the IKC Sri Lanka Partnership Team and will share about their partnership trip earlier this year.

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**—Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our shelter work day. We appreciate all the time and energy that went into preparing our shelter for our upcoming concert.
- **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.
- **YOUNG ADULT PLANNING**—The Young Adult Group is heading to Sahm's Tavern in Irvington (5632 E. Washington St.) after worship this Sunday to plan their 2026/2027 calendar. RSVP to Pastor Sarah if you plan to attend.
- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—We are heading to Applebee's on Washington St. for our 3rd Sunday Lunch in August. RSVP to Becky Osher so that a reservation can be made. All are welcome. We'd love for you to join us
- **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.