



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: Paula Prange

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August 16, 2026 – Be Kind

Prelude

Gathering (responsive)

One: When hatred and division separate us,
Many: God's love binds us together.
One: When quarrels estrange us,
Many: Christ's grace brings reconciliation.
One: When we feel excluded and left out,
Many: The Spirit's peace eases our pain.
One: Come! Let us worship the One who makes us one.~

***Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, 61

Prayer—Gracious and Healing God, in your presence, we find the fullness of joy, love, and life. Expand our vision and write a new way forward upon our hearts. We seek your wisdom and guidance. We need your comfort and conviction. We trust your provision

and power. As we come near to you, we affirm your goodness and the goodness within us. Receive our presence and our dreams of the world you help us make possible.+

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 *What were the foundational values you were taught growing up?*

Scripture

Matthew 15:10-28 (NRSVUE)

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Reflection

Be Kind

Hymn

Healer of Our Every Ill, 630

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—From the kindness of our hearts, let goodness and mercy flow. Today, let us be generous with our lives and with our gifts that God might bring healing to our world through our ministry at Zion United Church of Christ.

August Benevolence

Our Church's Wider Mission

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

We Give Thanks—God, you offer to us generous mercy and steadfast kindness. In gratitude for your blessings, we now give back a portion of what we have, knowing you much with whatever we have to bring. Work through these gifts and through this community of faith that we might bless your beloved. Amen.

Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations, 621

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 Worship Ways.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, after worship** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Applebee's
- **Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm** – Eagle Scout Fundraiser
- **Wednesday, 1 pm** – Fundraising Team (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, 7 pm** – Global Ministries 30th Anniversary Webinar (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 10:30 am** – Golden Friends Road Trip to Carriage on the Square
- **Thursday, 6:30 pm** – Council (Zoom)
- **Saturday, 10 am – 12 pm** – Shelter Work Day
- **Sunday, August 23, after worship** – Community Center Task Force (Fellowship Hall)

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. This Sunday 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**—Thank you to Kim Hadley for serving as our lay delegate to the IKC Annual Gathering!

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**—We still have more blocks to move and weeds to pull! If you are

available, we could use your help for another work day in the shelter on Saturday, August 22 from 10 am – 12 pm.

- **POPTABS**—Jerry and Jackie Keller will be delivering poptabs to the Ronald McDonald House in September. Thank you to everyone who has been collecting tabs! Please bring them to worship with you by the end of August.
- **COUNCIL**— This upcoming year, we will have 3 spots opening up on council. The positions will be: Vice President, Treasurer, and Buildings and Grounds. We need you to brainstorm who you think would best fit these roles from our congregation. Bring your nominations to council so we can have another successful year of running our church and making it an amazing place to worship and learn about our faith.

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.
- **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
- **GLOBAL MINISTRIES WEBINAR**— Global Ministries is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year! This ministry is a unique way of doing global partnerships with two denominations (the UCC and Disciples of Christ) coming together to do this work. A series of webinars is being presented to celebrate. Pastor Sarah will be on a panel for one of the webinars on August 19 at 7 pm. Register for the webinar at <https://www.globalministries.org/congregations-doing-christs-work-30th-anniversary-webinar/>.
- **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.