



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

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August 23, 2026 – Encourage Others

Prelude

Gathering—We gather as one body, from many places and many stories, bound together by the love of Christ. Here, we do not have to carry our joys or our sorrows alone. Here, we are reminded that we belong to one another. So let us worship the God who calls us to love one another, to rejoice together, to weep together, and to encourage one another with our presence.

***Hymn**

In Christ There Is No East or West, 600

Prayer— Gracious God, we present our very lives as holy and living sacrifices to your purposes. During this time of worship, we seek the renewal of our minds and the strengthening of our spirits. Show us your will, that we may know what is good, acceptable, and perfect in your sight.~

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—Think of a time when you were going through something difficult and someone showed up for you. Who was it, and what did their presence mean to you?

Scripture

Romans 12:1-21 (NRSVUE)

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **6** We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; **7** ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; **8** the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; **10** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. **18** If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." **20** Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reflection

Encourage Others

Hymn

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, 575

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Siblings in Christ, as Paul encouraged the earliest Christians, I invite you now to present yourselves and your gifts as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.~ Through these gifts may Zion UCC be present in our community and a steady source of encouragement to all we meet.

August Benevolence

Our Church's Wider Mission

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

We Give Thanks— Ever-giving God, help us give as fully to you and to your world as you have given to us. Transform our gifts with your love, that they may become vessels of your love for others. Amen.~

Hymn

Go, My Children, with my Blessing, 719

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** – Community Center Task Force (Fellowship Hall)
- **Tuesday, 6:30 pm** – Care Team (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, 6 pm** – Council Finance Team (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 6:30 pm** – Open and Affirming Task Force (Zoom)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BE A BLESSING MAGNETS**—If you love our new banner, you could have your very own magnet version to put on your car or hang on our fridge. Share the Good News far and wide with a “Be a Blessing” or “Be the Church” magnet. An order form is available on the side table of the sanctuary. Magnets are \$5 each. Order by Sunday, September 6.
- **ON CALL**—Pastor Sarah will be on vacation August 28-31. Pastor Dennis and Linda Frische-Mouri will be on call for any pastoral care emergencies. Thank you to Greg Miller for preaching on August 30 and for council members for helping lead the rest

of our service.

- **EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER**—Thank you to those who were able to donate toward the Eagle Scout Project to repair our softball bleaches!
- **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.

SERVE

- **FLOOD RESPONSE**— Church, you're invited to help with flood relief happening in our community. Items that are especially needed include laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. Our Service Team has already taken several cases of diapers from our church supplies to the Washington Township Adult Center. Bring items with you to church through August 30. A full list of items being accepted can be found in the back of the sanctuary.
- **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 all who made it to our work day this Saturday! We are

so appreciative of the time and energy folks put in to caring for Zion. Our shelter is looking better as we prepare for our Bluegrass and Gospel Concert.

- **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.
- **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.