



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: Michael Law

Scripture Reader: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Greg Miller



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September 6, 2026 – The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Gathering (responsive)

One: The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Many: **We lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

One: We owe no one anything, except to love one another, for love is the fulfillment of the law.

Many: **We come to worship with hearts awakened, ready to cast off the old and embrace the new.**

One: Let us awaken to the call of God, to live as people of the day, and to shine God's love in all we do.

Many: **We worship the One who calls us into the light, to love one another as God has loved us.~**

*Hymn

Gather Us In, 649

Prayer—Loving God, as we gather in your presence, we seek to put on the armor of light, and to live as your children. Help us cast aside the darkness and embrace the love that fulfills our law. Awaken us to your call, that we may walk in the light of Christ each day.~

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 Guided Meditation on Loving Your Neighbor

Scripture

Romans 13:8-14 (CEB)

⁸ Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. ⁹ The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself*. ¹⁰ Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

¹¹ As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³ Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. ¹⁴ Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

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

Come, Share the Lord, 696

Our Invitation—Come to this table, where Christ's love makes room for all. We come not because we are perfect, but because we are loved. Receive this love, and let it strengthen you to love your neighbors. Come, for all are welcome at Christ's table.

We Confess our Brokenness—God of love, we confess that fear too often shapes us more than love. We judge what is unfamiliar, build walls between ourselves and our neighbors, and forget that every person is beloved by you. Open our hearts. Forgive us, and teach us to love more fully. Amen.

Assurance of Grace—Hear the good news: God's love does not depend on our perfection. We are loved, forgiven, and held by grace. May that love free us from fear and open our hearts to our neighbors. Amen.

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 of love, bless this bread and this cup and make them for us signs of your grace. As we receive them, remind us that we are deeply loved and that we belong to one another. Fill us with Christ’s love, so that we may carry that love beyond this table to all our neighbors. In the name of Jesus, who showed us the way of love. 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—In Christ, all gifts are welcome, both great and small. Bathed in love, led by compassion, let us share our gifts and offerings with God.

September Benevolence

Horizon House

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

We Give Thanks—Receive these gifts as offerings of love, O God. Bless them with your grace, that those who receive them may find compassion and hope. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

They’ll Know We Are Christians, 595

Benediction—Go now in the love of Christ. May you know yourself as beloved, may you see your neighbors with compassion, and may you carry God’s love into a world that needs it. Go in love. Go in grace. And wherever you go, may you make room for love to grow. 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** – 1st Sunday Fellowship
- **Tuesday, 11:30 am** – Service Team (Community Center)
- **Wednesday, 5:30 pm** – Worship Team (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 10 am** – Concert Prep (Shelter)
- **Thursday, 6:30 pm** – Finance Team (Zoom)
- **Saturday, 10 am** – Concert Set Up (Shelter)
- **Saturday, 12-2 pm** – Elkins Jamily Bluegrass and Gospel Concert (Shelter)
- **Sunday, September 13, 9 am** – Choir Practice

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.
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you to everyone who helped out with worship while Pastor Sarah was on vacation. A special thank you to Greg Miller for preaching!
- **OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE**—The ONA Task Force is at work 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. Old and new towels are also being collected for cleanup. Our Service Team has now made two deliveries, with donations now being collected at Glendale Christian Church. We are extending our collection through Sunday, September 6, and will continue to check in with the donation center about need. A full list of items is in the back of the sanctuary or on our Facebook page.
- **SEPTEMBER BENEVOLENCE: Horizon House**—The vision of Horizon House is simple yet powerful: to end homelessness. Because every individual's journey is unique, they provide coordinated, person-centered services that help neighbors overcome obstacles, access resources, and secure stable housing. Zion has been a proud partner in this mission for years! Together, we have made a real difference by providing meals, preparing grab-and-go snack packs, and donating critical clothing staples like socks, jeans, and underwear. Please prayerfully consider making a financial contribution. Every dollar directly impacts a life.
- **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

- **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.

- **1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**—Join us after worship this Sunday for some tasty treats and a chance to connect with your Zion friends.
- **CHOIR**—It's almost time for choir season! If you're interested in being part of our vocal choir, please reach out to Martha Main, and if you're interested in the bell choir, please reach out to Vivian Thomas. The vocal choir meeting September 13 at 9 am for their first practice and the bell choir on September 27 at 9 am.
- **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.
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**—Hang out with the Golden Friends on Thursday, September 17, at 2 pm! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for puzzles and games. Bring your favorite puzzle or game and a snack to share.