



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

Custodian: Michael Law

Scripture Reader: Collin Bennington

Tech Steward: Collin Bennington



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September 13, 2026 – The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Gathering—God's mercy flows like a stream, never ceasing—freely, abundantly, and without end. Here we remember that we are forgiven, loved, and held by grace. May that mercy fill us today, and may it flow through us into the world.

*Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, 68

Prayer—Loving God, thank you for the great mercy and grace that draw us close to your holiness. Flow through our worship and through our lives with your holy presence and your forgiving grace, that we may be people of holy love and gracious forgiveness. In your holy name, we pray.~

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.**

Choir

Exploring Together: *Streams of Mercy, Never Ceasing* – In what ways do we keep score in our society and in our lives?

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35 (CEB)

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

²⁹ “Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵ “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Hymn

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy, 61

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—As we offer our gifts today, may God use them to be tangible reminders to us and our neighbors of the great mercy, justice, compassion, and hope that we have in Jesus Christ. With generosity and open hearts, let us bring our gifts.

September Benevolence

Horizon House

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

We Give Thanks—Gracious God, we give you thanks for the streams of mercy that never cease. Receive these gifts and use them to carry your love into places of need, to widen the circle of compassion, and to make your abundant grace tangible in our world. May what we give become a blessing to others. Amen.

Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, 72

Benediction—Go now having received God’s abundant mercy. In turn, may you extend grace freely, offer mercy generously, and refuse to keep score. And wherever you go, may the streams of God’s love flow through you into the world. 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, 9 am** – Choir Practice
- **Wednesday, 6:30 pm** – Council (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 2 pm** – Golden Friends Puzzles and Games (Fellowship Hall)
- **Sunday, September 20, during worship** – Baptism
- **Sunday, September 20, after worship** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Olive Garden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BE A BLESSING MAGNETS**—We placed our order for magnets and will have them available to pick up in worship as soon as they arrive. If you have not yet paid, please use one of the offering envelopes and indicate that they payment is for magnets or pay via PayPal with a note that indicates the same.
- **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.

- **CUSTODIAL POSITION**—In case you missed it in the newsletter, council wanted to make sure everyone aware that Michael Law will be taking over our custodian position for the foreseeable future. Anita will take personal leave as she continues to support Greg through his recent health concerns. We are so grateful for all that Anita and Greg have both done to care for our sacred space, and we can't wait for Greg to improve. If there are any building emergencies or concerns, please contact Michael. Thank you for your understanding and grace as we make this transition, and thank you to Michael for agreeing to serve.

SERVE

- **5th ANNUAL STEVE THOMAS MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE**—Five years ago we began hosting blood drives with the Red Cross at Zion. It was one way we could honor the memory of Steve Thomas, who donated gallons of blood throughout his life. Roll up those sleeves October 8 as we carry on this important legacy of life-saving service. You'll find the link to register at www.zionuccindy.net/blooddrive.
- **FLOOD RESPONSE**—Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to support our neighbors impacted by the recent flooding. We are very grateful to Becky for making several trips to the Ravenswood neighborhood to drop off supplies. They are now well-stocked.
- **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**—Thank you to all those who have been working so hard to get ready for our concert with the Elkins Jamilly Band! A special thank you to Becky for dreaming up this idea. We appreciate all of our volunteers, those who donated to Riley, and the Elkins Jamilly for sharing their gifts with us!
- **CHOIR**—We are excited to welcome back our choir and bell choir this month! The vocal choir meets this Sunday at 9 am for their first practice and the bell choir on September 27 at 9 am.
- **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.
- **BAPTISM**—Join us in worship on Sunday, September 20, as we celebrate the baptism of Cassidy Frische-Mouri. We are excited to bless this little one and officially welcome her into the body of Christ.
- **3RD SUNDAY LUNCH**—We are heading to Olive Garden (8155 E. Washington St.) on Sunday, September 20, after worship. RSVP to Becky if you plan to attend so a reservation can be made.
- **COVENANT TOUR**—Your Indiana Kentucky Conference Minister and Associate Conference Minister have been on a tour to visit every congregation in the Conference. They are calling it a “Covenant Tour,” where they have the chance to talk with churches about where they are in ministry, what mutual covenantal support looks like between churches and conference settings, and to pray together. Zion is excited to welcome Rev. Chad Abbott, our Conference Minister, to worship on Sunday, October 4, and for an hour-long conversation following worship. It's so important that as many of us as possible are able to participate. We hope you can make it! This is a journey paved with connection, grace, and a genuine curiosity for how it is we live in covenant with one another in the days that are ahead.