



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: Paula Prange

Tech Steward: Michael Law



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September 20, 2026 – The 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Gathering (responsive)

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: **God's love is wider than we imagine and reaches farther than we expect.**

One: Today we come before the God who continually surprises us with grace, who calls us beyond the boundaries we have drawn, and who welcomes us all into a love greater than we can comprehend.

Many: **Come, let us worship the God who is bigger than we think.**

*Hymn

Born Cry, 680

Prayer—Gracious and merciful God, you meet us with love before we know how to ask for it. Open our hearts today to the wideness of your mercy. As we celebrate this child and the gift of baptism, remind us that your grace is not something we earn, but a love in which we are invited to grow. Make us a people who receive your mercy and learn to extend it to others.

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.

Baptism`

Cassidy Monroe Frische-Mouri

Welcome

Statement of Faith (*in hymnal cover*)

The Questions and Promises

Congregational Support

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

Many: We promise our love, support, and care.

The Baptismal Prayer

The Ritual of Baptism

A Prayer for the Baptized

Scripture

Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NRSVUE)

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Reflection

God Is Bigger Than We Think

Hymn

Here I Am, Lord, 559

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Today we celebrate a child being welcomed into this community of faith. Our offering is one way we live out that welcome—not only for one child, but for all God's children. We give so that our church can be a place where people encounter grace, find community, and discover that God's love is wider than they imagined.

September Benevolence

Horizon House

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

We Give Thanks—Gracious God, receive these gifts and use them to widen your circle of love. May they become welcome for the stranger, hope for those who are weary, and mercy for those who need it. Make us generous with what you have first given us. Amen.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, 358

Benediction—Go into the world knowing that you are already held in God's grace. May you become people who are slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and generous with mercy. And whenever you are tempted to make God's circle smaller, remember: God's mercy is bigger than us. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

*If you are comfortably able and so called, you’re invited to stand. `UCC Book of Worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, during worship** – Baptism
- **Sunday, after worship** – 3rd Sunday Lunch at Olive Garden
- **Saturday, 10 am-4 pm** – IKC Anti-Racism Training at Friedens UCC

- **Sunday, September 27, 9 am** – Bell Choir Practice
- **Sunday, September 27, after worship** – All-Church Open and Affirming Conversation and Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BE A BLESSING MAGNETS**—Some of our “Be a Blessing” magnets have arrived. We ordered so many that some are on back order. If you ordered magnets, please feel free to go ahead and pick them. We do ask that you mark off on the order sheet once you have paid. You can place cash or checks in envelopes and put them in the offering baskets
- **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

- **TREASURE TRUNK SALE**—The Treasure Trunk Sale is back! Join us Saturday, October 3 from 8 am – 2 pm in the parking lot. If you’d like to reserve a spot for \$15 to sell your own items, please see Becky Osher. If you’d like to donate items for the church to sell, a donation box will be available soon. Items will be sold by offer. Volunteers are needed at 7 am on the morning of the event to help set up our tables and sale items and at the end of the event to clean up. A volunteer sign up sheet is available in the back of the sanctuary. The Fundraising Team is also having a bake sale and will feature their mini bread loaves. If you would like to bake, you’re invited to bake cookies. Bake Sale drop off is Friday, October 2, 4-7 pm.
- **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.

- **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 September.
- **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

- **BELL CHOIR**—We are excited to welcome back our bell choir this month! The bell choir will practice on September 27 at 9 am and join us in worship that morning.
- **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.
- **FAITH FORMATION KINDNESS CHALLENGE**—Each fall the Faith Formation Team presents an opportunity for us to grow in our faith through daily engagement of spiritual practices. This year we are sharing with you the October Kindness Calendar from the non-profit Random Acts of Kindness. Our world desperately needs more kindness. Let's join together in creating a kinder world. Calendars will be available to pick up next Sunday and will be available to download in the weekly email.
- **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.

- **SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP**—Join Pastor Sarah and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Sri Lanka Partnership for a special video presentation, written and produced by Pastor Sarah, on Wednesday, October 7, at 7 pm on Zoom. Learn how this historic global partnership has strengthened and enriched all those involved. Witness how our wider church family became advocates for justice and peace. Look for a Zoom link in the weekly email as we get closer to the event.