



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

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September 27, 2026 – The 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Gathering—We gather as people who are different from one another, with different stories, experiences, questions, and hopes. And still, Christ calls us together. Let us come with open hearts, with humility enough to listen, and with love enough to make room for one another. Let us welcome the Spirit who makes us one.

*Hymn

Be Still for the Spirit of the Lord, 129

Prayer—God of love, you have called us into community, where we learn from one another, care for one another, and discover more of your love together. Give us the humility to listen, the courage to be changed, and the grace to recognize your presence in one another. Make us one in your love and shape us into who you would have us be.

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.**

Bell Choir

Exploring Together

The Missing Piece

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13 (NRSVUE)

2 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, **2** make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. **5** Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
8 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
 and gave him the name
 that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.
12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,
13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

Reflection

Making Room

Hymn

We All Are One in Mission, 552

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—God has entrusted this community to all of us. Our time, our gifts, our resources, and our care for one another all help make this a place where people can encounter God's love. As we give, let us remember that we are not simply supporting a church. We are investing in a community where God's love can take root and grow. Let us share what we have with gratitude.

September Benevolence

Horizon House

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

We Give Thanks—God of abundance, receive these gifts and use them to strengthen this community. Help us use what we have been given to make room for one another, to care for those who are hurting, and to embody your love in the world. May all that we give—and all that we do—help us become more fully the people you are calling us to be. Amen.

Hymn

We Are Called to Be God's People, 580

Benediction—Go now as God's people. Be humble enough to listen, curious enough to learn, and generous enough to make room for one another. Remember that Christ is present among us and that we need one another on this journey. Go in love, go in peace, and go knowing that God's Spirit is at work in you and in all of us. 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, 9 am** – Bell Choir Practice
- **Sunday, after worship** – All-Church Open and Affirming Conversation and Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- **Monday, 6 pm** – Pastor Parish Relations (Zoom)
- **Thursday** – Faith Formation Kindness Calendar Begins
- **Friday, 4-7 pm** – Bake Sale Drop Off (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday, 7 am** – Treasure Trunk Sale Set Up
- **Saturday, 8 am – 2 pm** – Treasure Trunk Sale
- **Sunday, October 4, during worship** – Covenant Tour with Rev. Chad Abbott
- **Sunday, October 4, after worship** – Covenant Tour Conversation and 1st Sunday Fellowship

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 **this Sunday 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.

- **SUPPORT OUR PACK**—Our Cub Scout Pack has grown tremendously! There are now 34 kids in the Pack, with more set to join. The Pack does an amazing job helping young people in our community grow in character, confidence, leadership, and service. Help support this work through the Pack Popcorn Fundraiser. Members of the Pack will be in the sanctuary after worship on Sunday, October 11, to sell popcorn. Pick up a tasty treat, support a good cause, and get to know our Pack members.
- **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 pop tabs 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 this Sunday at 9 am and join us in worship that morning.
- **KINDNESS CHALLENGE WITH FAITH FORMATION**—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.