



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: Rev. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

Sabbath Day Off: every Friday, along with Saturday, as the church calendar allows

Organist: Martha Main

Bell Choir Director: Vivian Thomas

Custodians: Michael Law

Scripture Tech Steward: Michael Law

Reader: Vivian Thomas

Office Manager: Michael Law

Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday
9 am – 12 pm

8916 East Troy Avenue

Indianapolis, Indiana 46239

(317) 862-4136

zionsecretary@sbcglobal.net

   www.zionuccindy.net

October 4, 2026 – Word Communion Sunday

Prelude

Gathering (from *Japan*)—In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one. Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will. What do we find at today's table? God's love, which endures all things and connects all things. What is not at today's table? The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others. Let us repent and give thanks for God's power to bring salvation to all...Let us worship together the God, who makes us one.'

***Hymn** *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*, 517 (written by a UCC Japan pastor)

Prayer—(*Australia*) We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith.'

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

October Kindness Challenge

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NRSVUE)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Reflection *Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, “Does Anyone Know What Covenant Means Any?”*

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

A Place at the Table, 617 (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Our Invitation—Today we come to Christ’s table with Christians around the world—across languages, cultures, countries, and traditions. Here, Christ breaks through the borders we insist up creating between ourselves and one another and instead draws us into the covenant of love we share with God and with each other. Come, let us celebrate the love of Christ that weaves us together as one.

Celebrating Our Global Partners

Learn more at www.globalministries.org

We Confess our Brokenness (responsive, *South Africa*)

One: For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry ‘Peace, peace’ when there is no peace,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don’t really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

All: God forgive us. Amen`

Assurance of Grace—(*Bangladesh*) Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God’s loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. 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—Holy Spirit, breathe upon this bread and this cup and upon all who receive them. As Christians around the world gather today, make us mindful of one another: of those who worship in crowded churches and those who gather in small communities; of those who celebrate with joyful music and dancing and those whose worship is quiet and contemplative; of those who have enough to eat and those who cry out for bread; of those who worship in freedom and those who gather amid conflict, displacement, or persecution. Make us one in the love of Christ. As this bread is broken and this cup is shared, teach us that communion is more than what happens here. Make us people who share what we have, who welcome the stranger, who seek reconciliation, who stand with those who suffer, and who work for the peace and flourishing of all creation. Amen.’

We Share the Bread and the Cup

We Give Thanks—God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people—those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you. Send us from this table as people of Christ’s peace. One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.’

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—As we share this table with Christians around the world, we remember that what we have is not ours alone. Let us give generously, in a spirit of gratitude and solidarity, so that God’s love may reach across every border.

October Benevolence

Neighbors in Need + OCWM

***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 strengthen your people near and far. May our giving become an expression of our covenant with one another and a sign of your love that knows no borders. Amen.

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, 393

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

Postlude

*If you are comfortably able and so called, you're invited to stand. `A Global Table of Grace, globalministries.org ~UCC Book of Worship.

WORSHIP NOTES

- **PRAYGROUND**—At Zion we believe that God invites us to intergenerational worship where all are welcome just as they are. Our Prayground is located at the front of our sanctuary where little ones can get a clear view of what is going on in worship. This is sacred space for young worshippers and their families. At the Prayground, you will find quite toys, activity sheets, books, and more to help aid in age-appropriate worship. Activity bags are also available in the back of the sanctuary to take with to other parts of the sanctuary where you may want to worship.
- **OFFERING**—The generous support of our congregation allows us to live the mission God has given to us to serve and enrich our community. Visitors are not expected to make financial donations unless you feel so called. Regular offering envelopes and benevolence offering envelopes are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. You're invited to place your offerings in the basket in the back. You can donate online through PayPal at www.zionuccindy.net/donate. Additionally, you can mail your offering into the church office.
- **PLEASE BE COMFORTABLE**—Bottled waters are available on the tables in our entryway. Restrooms are through the door at the front right side of the sanctuary. You're welcome to get up and move during worship and are invited to bring fidgets and other activities that will help you engage in our time together.
- **CONNECT WITH ZION BEYOND WORSHIP**—Through our email list, we share weekly announcements and prayers each Saturday morning, along with our monthly newsletter. You can subscribe to our email list either by using the QR code or by going to our website at <https://www.zionuccindy.net/contact/>.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, during worship** – Covenant Tour with Rev. Chad Abbott
- **Sunday, after worship** – Covenant Tour Conversation and 1st Sunday Fellowship
- **Tuesday, 6 pm** – Care Team (Zion Room)
- **Wednesday, 7 pm** – Sri Lanka Partnership Video Presentation (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 12-6 pm** – 5th Annual Steve Thomas Memorial Blood Drive (Gym)
- **Sunday, October 11, after worship** – Cub Scout Popcorn Sale (Sanctuary)
- **Sunday, October 11, 11:30 pm** – Young Adult Pizza and Games (Fellowship Hall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—At our congregational meeting, on October 18 after worship, we will receive our budget and narrative budget and vote on council nominees. A meeting packet is now available for you to pick up in the sanctuary. 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. Bring your nominations to council to ensure another great year.
- **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 (ONA) TASK FORCE**—Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first All Church ONA conversation as we considered the welcome and hospitality of Jesus and what that means for us as a church. We had great participation. A big shoutout to Kristen for making homemade pizza for us, Kaylee for the delicious dessert, and task force member for helping with drinks and set up. If you were not able to attend this conversation, our meeting packet is available in the back of the sanctuary for you to pick up or you can download it in the weekly email. Stay tuned for upcoming events with our ONA Task Force. It is our hope that all participants in our ministry will engage these critical conversations.

SERVE

- **TREASURE TRUNK SALE**—Thank you to all who participated in our Treasure Trunk Sale! We were blessed by our organizers (Becky and Joe), Fundraising Team, volunteers, bakers, donors, participants, and shoppers. Well done!
- **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.
- **OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE: Horizon House**—Neighbors in Need is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports justice and compassion ministries across the United States. This year's theme, inspired by Ephesians 5:1-2, reminds us that our past does not dictate our future. When we unite for advocacy and justice, we show the world that real change is possible. Thank you for your generosity as we help build a just world for all! Donations to Our Church's Wider Mission helps our Indiana-Kentucky Conference and our national United Church of Christ to continue providing services, care, and leadership locally, nationally, and globally.
- **POPTABS**—Thank you to everyone who brought in pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House and to Jerry and Jackie for getting them delivered. Continue collecting those tabs all year. We tend to make one big delivery each September.

ENRICH

- **TWO MINUTE TUESDAY**—Join Pastor Sarah for a short video on ways to engage your faith during the week each Tuesday at 11 am. The video is posted on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Find links for each of our social media accounts through our website at www.zionuccindy.net. Make sure to follow and subscribe on each platform.
- **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 this Sunday, 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!

- **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. The Zoom link was included in our weekly email Saturday. A standalone email will be sent out on Wednesday, too.
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**—The Young Adults are gathering for games and pizza from the Ordinary in the Fellowship Hall after worship on October 11. Bring a board game and a drink. On Saturday, October 31, we are heading to the Irvington Halloween Festival. RSVP to Pastor Sarah. We'll meet at the IRV Starbucks at 10 am and will finish up at 12 pm.
- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**—The Golden Friends are headed to Pleasant View Orchard (10721 N 850 W, Fairland, IN 46126) for their gathering on October 15. Enjoy a fun afternoon picking apples, shopping at the country store, or enjoying a bite to eat. This group is open to people of all ages. Feel free to bring family, friends, grandkids, neighbors, or anyone looking for community. We will meet at the orchard at 11 am. Head out whenever you need to. We meet every 3rd Thursday.