



Flowers appear on the earth, the  
season of singing has come, the  
cooing of doves is heard in our land.

Song of Songs 2:12



## Zion United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM SUNDAY**

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*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## A Psalm of Life

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream! —  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way;  
But to act, that each tomorrow  
Find us farther than today.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act, — act in the living Present!  
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us then be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

[www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)



### IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Marlene Rhueff, Steve Panyi, Toots Ross,,Rev. Walter Coy, Joyce Coy, Marlene Dumbaugh, Teresa Kaufmann, Judy Neiderhiser (John Diekmann's sister-in-law), John Luscher, John Diekmann

➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

### NOW LIVESTREAMING!

We're now livestreaming our church services on you tube. **Our services start at 10:00 AM** Check us out! Zion UCC Steubenville  
<https://youtube.com/@zionucc6794?si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

### Bible Study

Please join us **Sundays after worship** as Pastor John Harris leads a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark after worship.



## PASTORAL LETTER

June 2026

To all God's Beloved in the Zion United Church of Christ, Steubenville, OH, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from our Triune God, the Holy One of Israel.

I have been in and out of the pulpit a lot lately. On April 12<sup>th</sup> I was involved all day with my last four day intensive of the two-year Haden Institute Course in Spiritual Direction.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> I was in the middle of a five-day and four-night trip to the Lakota Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to meet and worship with indigenous Americans who are also Presbyterian. It was the second time I traveled out west on behalf of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery to meet and worship with Sioux brothers and sisters in Christ.

May 17<sup>th</sup> saw me at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Mt. Lebanon, PA to make a presentation about labyrinths to an adult Sunday School class.

May 31<sup>st</sup> was the last full day of the 2026 Haden Institute Dream and Spirituality Conference at the Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC. It was the third year in a row I attended the conference.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> I will be wrapping up the last day of the annual West Virginia Writers Conference at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV. I am a member of the Board of WV Writers, serving as its Parliamentarian. I have attended most of the annual conferences for the past dozen years and have found many of its workshops helpful as I author church newsletters, write sermons, and compose prayers.

The 2026 Haden Institute Dream and Spirituality Conference was my third in a row. I have always found them spiritually nourishing and at times intellectually challenging. It was after attending my first conference in 2024 that I decided to apply to the two-year Haden Institute Course in Spiritual Direction.

By the time you read this letter I should have graduated from the Haden Institute Course in Spiritual Direction, graduation being scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. After graduation I can consider myself a Certified Spiritual Director.

Spiritual Direction, also known as Spiritual Guidance, Spiritual Companionship, Spiritual Accompaniment, and Soul Friending dates to the early church when Christians would travel into the desert to seek guidance or direction from the Desert Mothers and Fathers, devout Christians who fled into the desert to escape the comfortable trappings of Imperial Christianity.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

John Edward Harris