

Open and Affirming Declaration

We, the members of Zion United Church of Christ in Steubenville, Ohio, seek to continue the faithful presence and witness to God's love that has been maintained by our denominational predecessors for more than 150 years. Our ultimate goal is to have the Message of Jesus Christ permeate all that we profess, through our words and by our actions. To that end, we join together on this day of the celebration of the Feast of Transfiguration, February 10, 2013, to joyously proclaim:

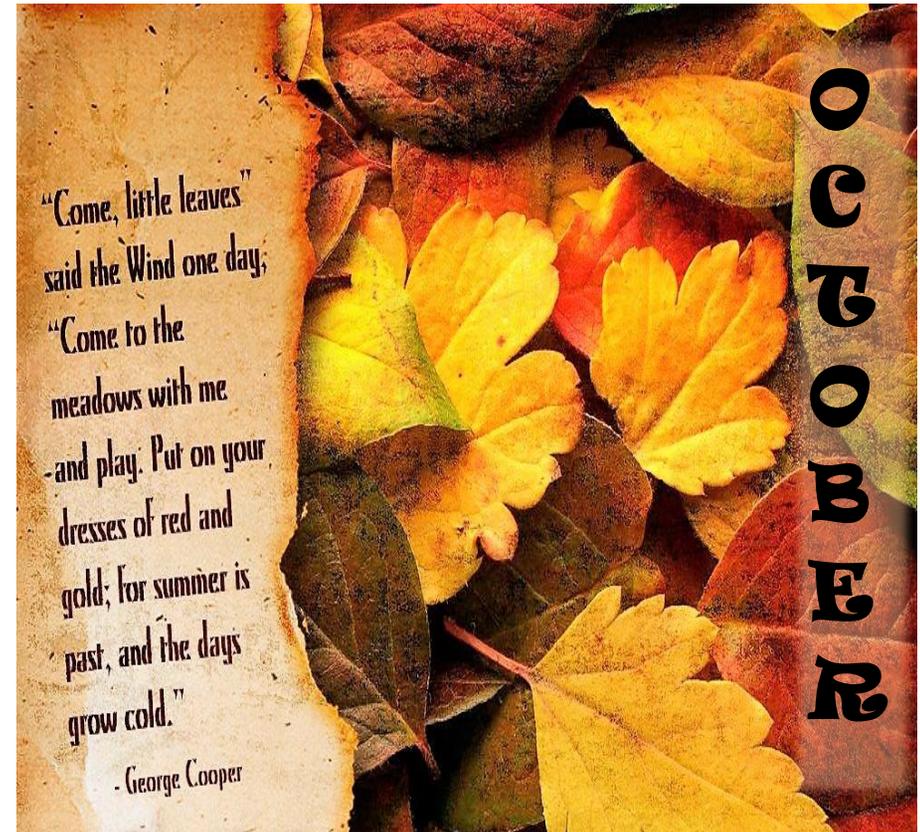
We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and are called to proclaim and show our love for God by loving our neighbors as God loves us. We believe that we are many members, but one body in Jesus the Christ, called to unite all people in God's enduring love. We therefore offer our Open and Affirming pledge of Radical Hospitality to all God's created, with a commitment to extend God's Extravagant Welcome to persons of every gender, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, social and economic status, faith background, political and theological beliefs, marital standing and family structure. Remembering the time frame in which our church was founded, we particularly affirm President Abraham Lincoln's call that all of our words and actions must reflect "malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right....".

The People of Zion United Church of Christ



Joyful Noiz

October 12- November 16, 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ

Rev. Breddin

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

October 14 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

October 21 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

October 28 Harvest Dinner 11:00am

USHER Dana Lohr
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

November 4 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

November 11 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

November 18 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

Autumn

We watch the leaves fall from the trees,
It causes reflection in times like these.

An autumn day from long ago,
Remembering ones we used to know.

One season ends, another begins,
Like leaves being taken away by autumn winds.

Do not fret for things lost,
All will be anew after the last winter frost.

-Renea Starkey-Hunt
October 23, 2013

HARVEST DINNER

Our annual Harvest dinner will be held **October 28th**. A reservation slip is included in this newsletter. If you would like to help with the dinner, please contact Jeff Knauff. Reservations due **October 21st**.

From the Pastor



Dear Zion Family,

Over the last few months there has been a fair amount of conflict, of feelings of unease and worry. Most of this been a direct result of my announcement in June of my intention to transition from Erik to Erika.

I did not make the decision to announce my plans in the best way, doing so without giving Council the respect of communicating my intentions with them first. Making that announcement so closely after the announcement of Missy's departure caused a great deal of additional unnecessary shock and pain. For that I am sorry, and fully admit my failings and fault.

While I did not think that my announcement and decision would be without controversy, it had been my belief that our covenant to be an Open and Affirming congregation would be the base upon which, we as a congregation could unite in our questions and worries, and together find a way forward. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. That is a reality that grieves me greatly.

My love and concern for this fellowship of faith is deep and great. Over the last few weeks it has become clear to me that my continued presence as the pastor of Zion is not a presence that promotes healing, it instead creates further division. Division has never been, and will never be my desire. I wish it were possible for all of the people of Zion to find a way to move forward and find healing under my pastoral leadership; unfortunately, that is not the reality we are living with. During the Council meeting on October 3, I offered my



resignation. It was accepted. My last Sunday will be Dec. 30th.

I fully recognize that my departure is not one of happiness and joy. In fact, there is a great deal of sorrow, grief and even anger being felt. By me, and by the congregation. Yet, you cannot allow those emotions to become barriers from coming together as a congregation and finding a path forward together.

My hope and prayer is that the entire congregation will enter into a time of reflection, prayer and decision making. Who is Zion? Who does Zion want to be? What are the hopes and dreams of Zion's membership that will guide and carry it into the future? What has been learned from the experiences of the last few months? Who is God calling you to be? What is the voice God has given you that needs to be heard?

When I accepted the call to Zion four years ago, I did so with a great deal of hope and many dreams of our future together. I prayed that Zion would become a very special place in the Ohio Valley. A place where the love of God was declared and felt by all, where our welcome was truly extravagant. A church where an inclusive and progressive Christian faith would be our claim and our pride. I hope and pray, that you will fulfill those hopes and dreams.

With the Greatest of Hope.
Rev. E. E. Breddin



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

If you haven't checked out our website, take a look!

www.zionuccsteubenville.com

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, Thelma Cook, John Rhueff, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Barb Mottice, Al Panyi, BethAnn Postlewait, Alan Cochrane, Howard Ross, John Diekmann, Pat Loyszczyk

*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.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

October 3, at the church council meeting, Pastor Breddin submitted a heartfelt resignation. After a lengthy discussion, council voted by majority to accept the resignation. Pastor will be with us until **December 30, 2018**. We wish the best to the pastor in all future endeavors.

COUNCIL MEETING

The next council meeting will be **November 7, 5:00 PM** at the church. Minutes from the last meeting are in the back of the church.

URBAN MISSION NEWS

Thanksgiving Challenge- The Urban Mission is collecting supplies for their Thanksgiving food giveaway. All items may be brought to the church. Here is a list of things they are still collecting: **Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Peaches, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Vanilla Frosting, and Vanilla Cake Mix.**