

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:

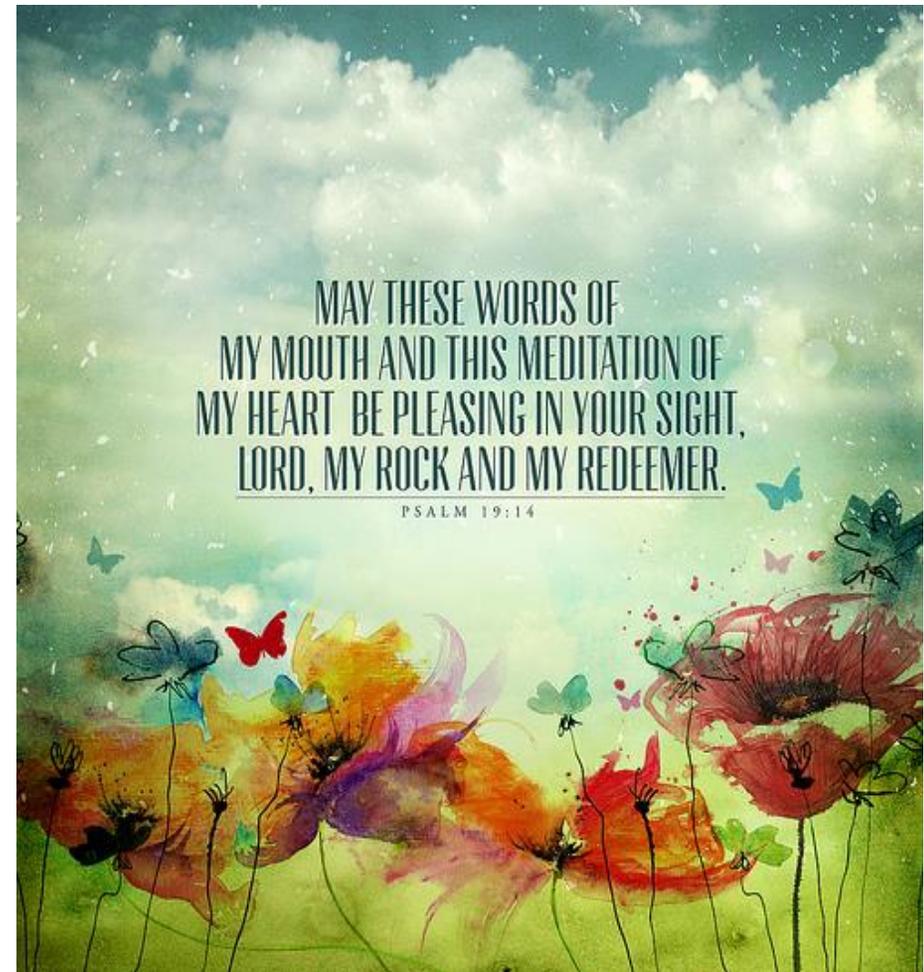
We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and are called to proclaim and show our love for God by loving our neighbors as God loves us. We believe that we are many members, but one body in Jesus the Christ, called to unite all people in God's enduring love. We therefore offer our 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

July 13- August 10, 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ

Rev. Breddin

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

July 15 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

July 22 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

July 29 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

August 5 11:00am

USHER Dave Hunt
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

August 12 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

August 19 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

Have you ever thought about teaching Sunday school? We are looking for folks to head up our Sunday school. It runs **September- May, 10:00 AM**. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

URBAN MISSION NEWS

Back to School Bash- August 16, 2018 Donations can be left at the church. Here is a list of items they are collecting:

- College rule filler paper
- Wide rule filler paper
- 1 Subject College Rule Notebooks
- 1 Subject Wide Rule Notebooks
- Elmer's Glue Bottles
- Colored Pencils
- # 2 Pencils

Thanksgiving Challenge- The Urban Mission has begun to collect supplies for their Thanksgiving food giveaway. All items may be brought to the church.

July's item is Canned Peaches.

HOT DOGS ON THE LAWN

Many thanks for another successful year of Hot Dogs on the Lawn. It was wonderful to see so many of our friends, relatives and neighbors. A good time of fellowship was had by all. We would also like to thank the following people for donating food, money, cakes, Jell-O salads and the labor to prepare for that day: Pastor Erik Breddin, John Diekmann, Renea Starkey-Hunt, Jeff Knauff, Tom Kaufmann, Melanie Delbrugge, Peggy Lohr, Dana Lohr, Missy Breddin, and Betty Sparr. We took in **\$505.75**.

COUNCIL RESIGNATION

It is with great sadness that we announce the resignation of Opal Kleineke from council. Opal has transferred her membership to Georges Run Methodist Church. We have a vacancy on council. It is not necessary to replace her until January unless someone is interested in joining council now. Please call the church office if you are interested.

UCC YOUTH GROUP FROM MISSOURI

Zion will be hosting a youth group from Higginsville, Missouri **July 28**. There will be 19 people, aged 14-60+. They will spend the night at the church and will worship with us **July 29**. Council would like to have a continental breakfast with the group Sunday morning before worship at **10:00 AM**. **Volunteers and donations are needed for this. Please contact the church office if you would like to help in anyway.**

INFORMATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There have some major announcements at Zion recently. Pastor has suggested and council has agreed to have a congregational meeting in order to answer questions and concerns from the congregation. Andy Lang, Executive Director, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns, will be joining us. This meeting will be held **August 12** after worship in the social hall.

PASTOR VACATION

Pastor will be off **August 14th—26th**. **John Diekmann** will be the guest speaker **August 19**; **Renea Starkey-Hunt** will be the guest speaker **August 26**. Please come out and support these guest speakers as they share the word of God.

From the Pastor



Every year, summer comes around with its cookouts, lemonade, vacations, high electric bills, and lower numbers in church. It's a given you can pretty much plan on, the number of people coming to church on Sundays in the summer is lower than pretty much any other time in the year. Lower numbers means it can be harder to find the volunteers and attendees at meetings and events (people aren't there to hear the announcements). It also means that the amount of giving also goes down.

In the last few weeks I've spent some time looking at the giving here at Zion, and I want to share with you what I've found out. I think it's interesting and also challenging.

(All of these numbers are based on 2017)

Annually the members of Zion contribute \$17,945 in the offering plate. That averages out to \$345 per week. Our average attendance in 2017 was 27.91 so that means each person put \$12.36 in the plate per week. Now, our attendance numbers include infants and children so that's not really accurate; and, there are individuals who contribute to the church, but are not able to join us for worship on Sunday.

Of the 49 households that are members at Zion, 23 actually contributed. Not even 50%! That's shocking! In Jefferson County the median household income is \$42,327. If our 23 giving households contributed a tithe at that level the annual giving would be \$97,352.10 (MUCH larger than our current giving of \$17,945). Now, I fully realize that there are a large number of folks who don't make the median household income, and are on a

fixed income. Did you know the average Social Security disbursement is \$14,760 per person? If our 23 households (not all of whom are retired) gave a tithe at that level our annual income would be \$33, 948 – almost twice our current income.

These numbers were surprising, so I dug a little deeper with our Treasurer, Jeff Knauff's help. Of our 23 giving households only 3 contributed at least a tithe at the Social Security disbursement level (\$1476), and 6 contributed annually at half that (\$738). Of those 9 households, only 3 are not of retirement age, which means 6 are.

I share with you these numbers for several reasons: First, looking purely at the numbers it appears that few of us are following through on the Biblical call to give ten percent of what we make to God. I'm sure all of us can do better. I fully realize that many of us are living paycheck to paycheck and we give financially as we are able; there are other ways to contribute. So, secondly, when was the last time you volunteered to prepare or serve a meal? When was the last time you called the church to ask if you could help out planting flowers, or cleaning the nursery? When was the last time you served as a lay reader, a greeter, an usher?

So I challenge you: Are you giving what you can? Either in acts of service or money? What would it look like if you did? Can you imagine what the church could do to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ if all of us gave what we could? (Whether it's Summer, Fall, Winter, or Spring.)

With the Greatest of Hope!

Erik

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 Thompson, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, Thelma Cook, Barb Irvin, John Rhueff, Marie Brobston, Dakota Miller, Patricia Loyszczyk, Marlene Rhueff, Barb Mottice, Al Panyi, Alan Hunt, Robbie Mottice, BethAnn Postlewait, Alan Cochrane, Barbara Ross

*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.



Every **Wednesday**, Pastor is hosting Caffeinated Conversations at **Leonardo's Coffeehouse** from **7pm until 9pm**. Leonardo's is located at **159 N. Fourth Street Steubenville**. The format is simple: coffee, conversation, and God. Come bring your questions, bring a friend, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way. Join us for open and honest conversations about things that matter. A table at which all perspectives are welcome.

COUNCIL MEETING

There will not be a full council meeting in August but council will meet briefly **August 5** after worship.