

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:

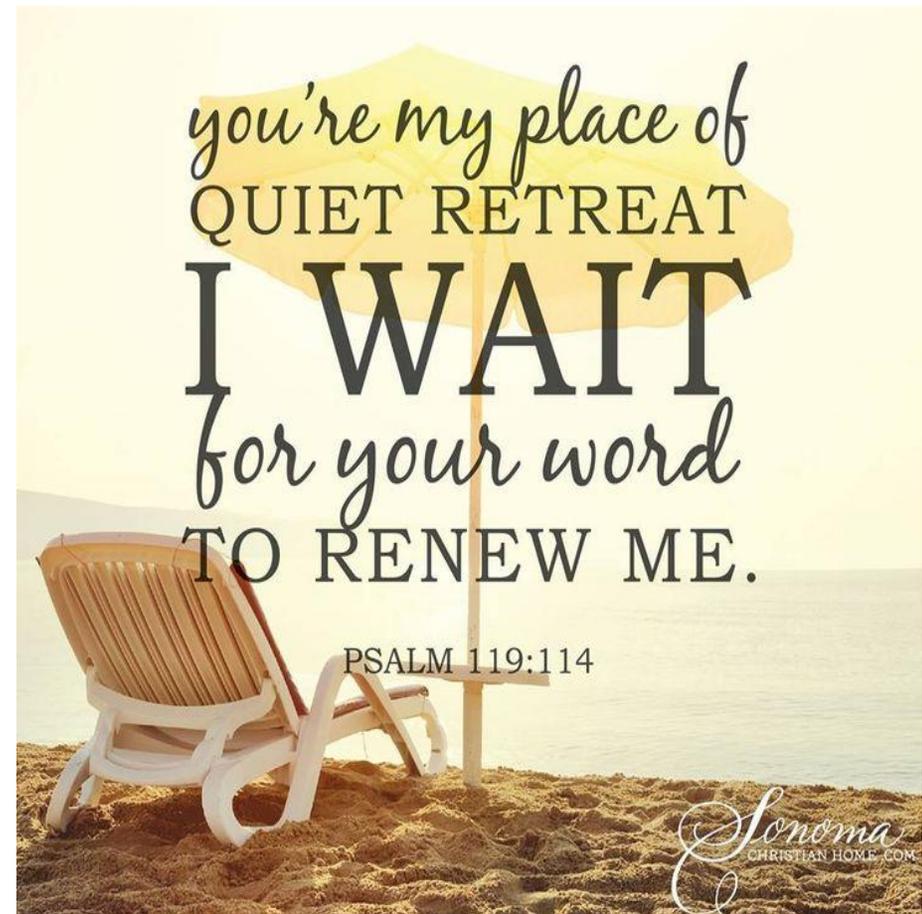
We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and are called to proclaim and show our love for God by loving our neighbors as God loves us. We believe that we are many members, but one body in Jesus the Christ, called to unite all people in God's enduring love. We therefore offer our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

August 10- September 14, 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ

Rev. Breddin

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

August 26 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

September 2 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

September 9 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

September 16 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

PASTOR VACATION

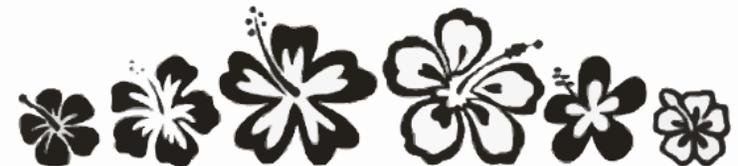
Pastor will be off **August 14th—26th**. John Diekmann will be the guest speaker **August 19**; Renea Starkey-Hunt will be the guest speaker **August 26**. Please come out and support these guest speakers as they share the word of God. If anyone is in need of pastoral care during this time, contact the office or Jeff Knauff and we will assist in finding pastoral care.

CHURCH PICNIC

The Annual Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 9**, in the social hall. Council decided to provide the meat and beverage. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a **covered picnic dish**. If you wish to come but are unable to bring a covered dish, a monetary donation may be made toward the meat and beverages. A **free will offering** basket will be available for monetary donations. We invite each of you to come in whatever you feel comfortable wearing and meet us in the **Social Hall** for coffee and **fellowship at 10:00 AM, worship at 11:00 AM**, and picnic luncheon to follow. Please join us and invite a friend!! **If you intend on bringing a covered dish, please sign the sheet in the narthex.**

MISSION REJOICE

Once again, our church will be hosting the Mission Rejoice at the Urban Mission on **Saturday, September 15th** beginning with the service at **5:00 PM** and then serving the dinner following. More details will follow, but if you would like to **help** in any way, please contact the church office or the pastor or Jeff Knauff and make them aware.



COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

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

August's item is **Sweet Potatoes**.

INFORMATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There have been 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. Mr. Lang will also be our guest speaker for worship.

From the Pastor



Over the summer I have been adjusting to life apart from my family. I've enjoyed the calm. I've relished the ability to cook and eat whatever I felt like. It's heaven knowing that when I do the laundry – it's all mine. I don't have to fight with anyone over what is on T.V. It hasn't all been easy, though. I miss the conversations, I miss the family meals, I miss silly tickle fights; I've even found myself missing the chaos that comes with having children. Family is important.

Every summer at churches across this country there is a marked decrease in attendance. We've experienced it here at Zion in sometimes a dramatic way. Faces that we had gotten used to seeing every Sunday, we feel as if we haven't seen in 'forever'. Summer is that time when life seems to get in the way (or at least we say it does) of our being part of our church family. Sure, we are all busy in the summer, but are we really any busier than in other times of the year?

When I think about the 'busyness' of the year, it always seems as if the holidays are the busiest of all. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, it feels like you rarely have time to catch your breath. Family gatherings, school holiday concerts, shopping trips, putting up decorations; there is more going on then than any other time of year. Yet, it is also the time of year when attendance is highest at churches.

In the 6th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel Jesus is teaching his followers about living out their faith: being charitable, how to pray, what should be of importance

to you. In the middle of the chapter he talks about 'treasures' and not attaching ourselves to ""things." He then declares, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well." (Matthew 6:21)

Where is your heart? With your husband or wife? Your children? Your family? What will you put off doing to pay attention to? What takes precedence in your life over other things? Sports? T.V.? Hobbies? Work? Going out? Where your precedence is, there too is your heart. Where does God, church, your church family fall on your list of preferences? On your list of treasures? If we were honest with ourselves for a minute, we might actually admit that our intention of making God and our faith #1 in our lives isn't working out so well.

Guess what, though? God is love. God is understanding. God is patient beyond all measure. God is waiting for you. So is your church family.

We'd love to have you join us again (now that summer is almost over). We'd love to be able to catch up on all the things that have been happening in your life. We'd love to hear how God has been moving in your life, and leading you down new and exciting paths. In Christ we were all made sisters and brothers, a family. Just as a family feels the loss when missing a member, the church feels it when you are not part of our family of faith.

What's more important than family?

With the Greatest of Hope!

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 Loyszczuk, 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.