

# ZION NEWS

## *Lifted by Love*

For the God has chosen Zion; he has desired it for God's dwelling place: Psalm 132:13

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2022 – VOLUME 63 ISSUE 10



**Neighbors In Need special offering  
October 2nd.**



**Please contact Pastor Katie or the church office if you are in need of, or want, special prayers for any reason. We are always here for you.**

### **THE PARADE IS BACK**

**After two years without a parade Hagerstown's annual Mummers Parade is back. Come and join us on Saturday evening, October 29th, at 6:00pm for lots of fun and good food.**

**Tickets go on sale October 1st. Sidewalk seats are \$6 and Wall seats are \$5.**

### **Worship With Us**

**Winter Worship schedule begins Sept 4th. Church service starts at 11:00am and Sunday School resumes at 9:45am on Sept 11th.**

*Can't make it in-person?*  
Worship with us virtually at



[www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive](http://www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive) during worship or worship on-demand 24/7.



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God -  
Matthew 5:9

“People are saying...” These are some of the most damaging words to the Body of Christ. Words and ideas left dangling, with no way to respond because “people” have not said it to the person directly.

When I first came to you, I was told that communication was the biggest issue. I would challenge you to consider that Effective Communication is the greatest issue. And this ineffective communication causes conflict and hurt feelings.

In Matthew 18:15, Jesus reminds us that if we find fault with someone , we should “point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” The chapter goes on to lay out the steps to follow if your voice is not heard. I recommend that you read the full chapter because the recommendations are ones we should all live by if we want to live in the unity and love that will help this church grow and thrive.

This church is built on a strong foundation, and for almost three centuries, we have accepted the cost and joy of discipleship together. When all is said and done, when people gather together, let the words that are said be words of love.

Blessing in Christ’s love,  
Pastor Katie Penick

# Zion News

*"A merry heart does good like medicine."*  
Proverbs 22:17

## Book Club

The selection for the October 28th Book Club is "The Stranger In The Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord." And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

The group meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 7:00pm. Join them in person or via zoom for wonderful discussions! Contact Sue Graff or Carol Mooers for more information.

## Thursday Lunch Bunch

Join us on Thursdays at 11:30am in-person or via ZOOM for our newly launched Thursday Lunch Bunch group discussion study. We are currently discussing "Inspired—Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans. Come with us as we examine some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations. More info available at [www.zionreformed.church/Thursday](http://www.zionreformed.church/Thursday).

## Micah's Backpack, Tuesday's Supper and One Stop Shop

These outreach missions continue to need your help in any way you can participate. Watch the Sunday Bulletins for food products to purchase for Micah's Backpack. Help fill backpack bags on Sunday mornings. Volunteer on Tuesday evenings to help serve food or help our neighbors pick up food from the One Stop Shop. Anything you do will be greatly appreciated by everyone involved. Or just come to fellowship with our neighbors. Help pick up food from the food bank on Tuesdays. Anything, no matter how small, will help more than you realize. Contact Carol Mooers, Beth Hauver, Rae Smith or Pastor Katie.

## Welcome To Our New Employees

Brandon Hackett has been hired as our Multimedia Specialist. He will be assisting Michael Jones with the multimedia tasks and creating graphics for both our social media presence and publications. Brandon lives in Fairplay with his wife Amy and their 4 children, having recently moved to Hagerstown from Nebraska. He has a graphic design background having previously worked for Prison Fellowship International, Compassion International, and Veterans Affairs. One of the things that attracted his family to Zion is the fact that we have an open table communion every week.



Rae Smith has been hired as our Administrative Assistant after serving as interim for a little over a year. Rae has recently received her Notary Public Certification. If you are in need of Notary services, please contact her at the church office.

### Progressive Dinner

On Sunday, September 11th we were part of the Washington County Interfaith Coalition's Progressive Dinner. Frist stop was here at Zion for appetizers, next was Congregation B'nai Abraham for soup & salad, then on to The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints for the entrée, and finally to the Islamic Society of Western Maryland for dessert. The event was a huge success, 100 tickets were sold, and the feedback from all who attended was very positive.



# What's Happening at Zion

## **October 2nd - World Communion Sunday**

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday. Christian churches across the globe join for this celebration of unity among churches across all denominations. World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Join us on October 2nd as we share communion bread from around the world.

## **October 2nd - neighbors in Need Special Offering**

Please give generously as we have been recipients of grants from Neighbors in Need that helped us with our Tuesday Supper and One Stop Shop outreach programs. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

## **October 2nd - REACH Taste of the Town**

REACH's annual fundraiser will be held at Green Gove Gardens in Greencastle, PA on Sunday, October 2nd at 4:45. there will be food samplings from local restaurants and businesses, raffle tickets, and a brief program. Tickets to the event are \$50 per person and all proceeds go to support the work of REACH. For tickets contact Carroll Sager at 240-313-0582 or REACH at 301-733-2371.

## **October 9th - Blessing of the Animals**

Christians worldwide celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals, with a blessing of animals and prayers for all of God's amazing creation. So, bring your beloved pets, or their picture, to church on Sunday, October 9th, for a special blessing. We will be holding our service out in our parking lot that day.

## **October 15th -Yard Sale**

**The yard sale has been postponed until further notice due to lack of responses.**

## **October 16th - Harvest Home Sunday**

Join us for a worship service of gratitude and thanks to Almighty God for the rich bounty that God has bestowed upon us. Bring in some canned or boxed goods to be distributed to our neighbors on Tuesday evenings.

## **October 29th - Mummers Parade**

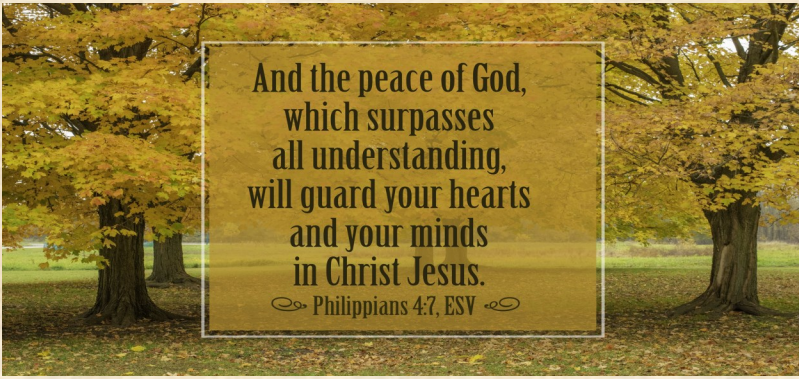
If you are really energetic you can join us at 6:00AM to set up chairs for the parade. We will follow that with breakfast at Golden Coral. Our concession stand will be open and serving hot dogs, pizza, and steamers during the parade.

## **November 19th - Dinner Theater**

Our annual Dinner Theater is scheduled for November 19th and rehearsals are scheduled to begin September 25th right after church service. More information and tickets will be available soon.

## **November 20—Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**

*St. Ann Catholic Church, 1525 Oak Hill Ave.* A unique and uplifting interfaith service of thanks, sponsored by the Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC). More information to come.



October 2022							November 2022						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

# Church Calendar

## OCTOBER WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

- Sunday Worship** — Every Sunday at 11am in the sanctuary and virtually at [www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive](http://www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive)
- Sunday School** — 9:45am Adult Sunday School in the Burhans Room or via ZOOM. Children’s Sunday School is Hybrid.
- Tuesday’s Supper and One Stop Shop** — Every Tuesday from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Thursday Lunch Bunch**—11:30am in the Burhan’s Room and is Hybrid
- 4-H Club** — Every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Chapel
- Consistory**—10/3 at 7:00pm in the Burhan’s Room and ZOOM
- ONA Team Meetings** — 10/4 & 10/18 at 12:30pm in the Burhan’s Room
- Service Workers**—10/5 at 10:00am in the Burhan’s Room
- Dinner Theater Rehearsals**— Starting 10/9 every Sunday 12:30pm in the Chapel
- Search & Call Team Meetings** — 10/10 at 5:30pm in the Burhan’s Room and ZOOM
- Staff Team Meetings** — 10/13 & 10/27 at 12:30 in the Burhan’s Room
- CE Team Meeting**—10/24 in the Burhan’s Room
- Zion Book Club** — 10/28 at 7pm at the home of Sue Graff and via ZOOM
- Mummers Parade**—10/29 6:00am Set up—Parade starts at 6:00pm

## October Birthdays

Toby Wantz	10/2	Rob Grosh	10/15
Carroll Sager	10/4	Joanne Albright	10/16
Bill Cook	10/4	Megan Graff Bohn	10/19
David Richardson	10/8	Ed Patterson	10/26
James McDonald	10/10	Beth McDonald	10/26
Elizabeth Hauver	10/12	Nicholas Patterson	10/30
Ruth Dwyer	10/13	Toby Bell	10/31

## October Anniversaries

Michael & Carol Mooers	10/02
John & Ruth Dwyer	10/09
Scott & Margaret Richardson	10/09
Chris & Mary Emmert	10/11
Curtis & Amber Nilson	10/13
Corey & Jessica Green	10/23

## *Consistory Highlights for September 2022*

The Consistory has resumed its monthly meeting after the summer break. Kim welcomed everyone back and Pastor Katie began the meeting with a Daily Devotional Reading.

Much has taken place over the summer and this was a chance to catch up on the success of those events as well as to discuss upcoming events. One of the unique summer events was the Mental Health First Aid Training on June 11 offered through Brook Lane. Another was the Interfaith Day of Peace Progressive Dinner on September 11. Appetizers were served at ZION and a candle lighting ceremony was held in the Memorial Garden before the attendees moved on to the next dinner site. There also was a Back-to-School event and a movie shown in the chapel. Our Tuesday evening Outreach programs continue to attract a large group. All in all, we opened our doors to many folks in our community and our efforts were well-received.

ZION's Search Profile was officially submitted over the summer. Since then, we have received several responses. So the Search Committee is in high gear to review the responses and to find a new pastor. Updates will be shared as progress is made. Our amended Articles were resubmitted to the State and we are expecting a positive response soon. As part of the Medical Debt Relief effort, ZION raised \$262.16. Now HARC and ZION have set up another Medical Debt Relief Program for the Tristate area. More information will be available in the future. ZION also qualifies for food from the Maryland Food Bank to support our Tuesday Outreach programs. Additional volunteers are needed to transport and store this food supply on a weekly basis. The MD Food Bank will deliver the food if we can set up an area to receive this.

We also are welcoming two new employees! Please be sure to say hi to Brandon Hackett as our Media Specialist and Rae Smith as our Administrative Assistant!

On a disappointing note, we have continued to experience a leak in the area adjacent to the Choir loft where the new Sanctuary A/C was installed. Upon in person viewing of the situation and photographs of the areas, we were able to discern that there is a problem with our new A/C unit. Since this discovery, Comfort Central has twice visited to correct this issue. Hopefully it is resolved at this time and any charges for the repairs we have made and the service calls will be covered under the warranty.

ZION also has been approached by some community groups about the possible use of our facilities. Iglesia Church has inquired about using our church for their services. A group of nursing students asked about using our parking lot M-F during the day. The DAR would like to place a plaque for Jonathan Hager on our property. Each of these were discussed carefully and additional information has been solicited before additional discussions and final decisions are made.

Lisa has sent out 2023 Budget worksheets for our committees to complete by October 3. On December 11, the new budget and new members of the Consistory will be voted in immediately after the Sunday Service. If you are interested in serving on the Consistory, please see a Consistory member to have your name placed on the ballot.

Finally, there are lots of fall events including:

The Scrolls Revealed Workshop on September 24<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. This will be open to the entire community and will be held at ZION. This presentation and discussion is part of the ONA (Open and Affirming) process that ZION is engaged in.

4-H Week will be the start-up date of in-person activities for this group.

The CAC Annual Meeting will be held on October 4-8, 2022. Members interested in being a delegate to the conference should contact Katie for voting purposes. Kim will make a ZOOM share available to anyone who would like to listen in.

Zion's Community Sale is on October 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Mummers Parade will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

ZION's Annual Meeting will be conducted on December 11. New Consistory members and the 2023 budget will be voted on after the Sunday Service has concluded.

Unfortunately the Annual Tour of Houses of Worship is cancelled for this holiday season. But ZION will have plenty of activities during the holidays to keep everyone busy.

Fall is in the air! Keep the upcoming ZION events in mind as you plan for autumn activities.

# Parish Nurse Notes

Are you ready? It's time to think about winter (UGH!) There are several things you can do now to be ready for the cold and snow. Be sure you have working flashlights and plenty of batteries. If you use a wood stove or fireplace, it's time to clean the chimney. Using space heaters can be dangerous; they are the cause of most fatal house fires. If you are age 65 or older, you are 2.5 times as likely to die in a house fire than younger people, so limit your use of space heaters wisely. Your thermostat setting should not go below 68 degrees. Be sure to have adequate clothing so layers can be used to keep warm. When heating your home, more carbon monoxide is produced. Be sure your carbon monoxide monitor is working; if you don't have one, now is the time to get one installed.



Your pantry is the next item to prepare for winter. Be sure to have an adequate amount of non-perishable food (about one week's worth) for each family member. This also includes drinking water. Don't forget your pets! You should also have a food and water stash for them. A manual can-opener could be a life saver in an electrical outage, so be sure to invest in one. Any prescription medications as well as over the counter medicines (pain and fever reducers, cold medications, allergy relievers) need to be in adequate supply. This also includes pet medications. Have a good supply of first aid items on hand- band-aids, gauze, burn cream, elastic bandages, antibacterial cream, and a thermometer.

Watch your alcohol consumption as drinking alcohol causes loss of body heat. Being inside more during the winter months can cause a decrease in your Vitamin D levels (because you have less sunshine exposure). Milk, cheese, whole grains, seafood and eggs (the yolks) are good sources of this beneficial vitamin.

Take care in choosing your footwear when roads and walkways are snowy and icy. Non-skid soles are perfect for winter walking. Be aware of the temperature when you are out- freezing and refreezing can happen quickly when the temperatures dip. Shaded and less traveled areas can also be hazards.

Your car also needs some attention before winter sets in. Make sure your car's brakes are in good working order and that your tires have adequate tread for snow. Your battery should be checked as well as the condition of your windshield wipers. Keep these items in your car for winter emergencies: water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight, batteries and a cell phone charger.



Don't forget to maintain or even increase your social interactions during the darker, colder months. Interacting with others is **essential** for good mental health and avoiding depression. Make it a point to check in with a friend or loved one every day, especially if you live alone.

Follow these readiness tips and the winter months will be much less stressful for you!

Blessings and Health,

Barb Hendershot, RN  
Parish Nurse

Sources:

Lehmans Simpler Living Blog  
MedicareAdvantag.com  
chcw.org



# Thank you for Your Generosity

Your gifts to the Zion Ukrainian Relief Fund help our Ukrainian siblings obtain food, shelter, warmth, healthcare and more during the ferocious war still going on in their country. Gifts can be made at the church or online at



1300 East 9th St., Suite 1100  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
216.736.2105 ucc.org

August 3, 2022

Zion Evangelical and Reformed UCC  
201 N Potomac St  
Hagerstown, MD 21740-3812

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Your gift of \$359.50 was received on 7/11/2022. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Hand in hand with our Partners in Service and other volunteers, congregations, and conferences, UCC Disaster Ministries seeks to serve families and communities by identifying and meeting unmet needs and providing spiritual and emotional support.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our global partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at [giving@ucc.org](mailto:giving@ucc.org) or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.  
Please keep a copy of this letter as a receipt for your taxes.

#### Officers of the Church

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson  
Associate General Minister  
Wider Church Ministries and Operations  
Co-Executive of Global Ministries

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon  
Associate General Minister  
Justice and Local Church Ministries



200 Massachusetts Ave NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

September 2, 2022

Zion Reformed United Church Of Christ  
201 N Potomac St  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

**Re: Thank you for your donation!**

Dear Friend,

Thank you for choosing to donate **\$359.50** on **7/20/2022** in support of our response to the crisis in and around Ukraine. We are so grateful to have your support. No goods or services were received in exchange for this philanthropic contribution.

WCK has provided more than 200 million meals since 2010 in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises across the world. We are dedicated to being first to the frontlines with a fresh plate of food, wherever we are needed.

WCK is truly a people-powered organization. We are able to serve food in times of need because of incredible donors, local chefs, and volunteers who show up in different ways. In our response to the crisis in Ukraine alone, we have partnered with more than 500 restaurants, food trucks, and caterers - along with countless community organizations, volunteers, and supporters like you.

While we can't predict where the next crisis will occur, we know that we will continue to show up with hot, nourishing meals wherever we are needed. As WCK Founder José Andrés says, **"World Central Kitchen was born from the simple idea that food has the power to create a better world. A plate of food is a plate of hope, it is the fastest way to rebuild life and communities."**

I share our heartfelt gratitude from the entire WCK family. Thank you for your belief and trust in our mission.

Sincerely,

Erin Gore  
Senior VP, Development

p.s. - We hope that you follow us on Twitter (@WCKitchen), Facebook (@WorldCentralKitchen) and Instagram (@wckitchen) for the latest updates on our work.

WCK is a 501(c) 3 exempt organization (EIN: 27-3521132). Please keep this receipt for your records.



## Our ONA Journey: Interpreting the Scriptures

On September 24th, the ONA Team hosted Rev. Harry Stock from Scrolls Revealed Ministries to facilitate his seminar *Biblical Translation for Gay Liberation: How the Bible Does Not Condemn Homosexuality, An In-Depth Study*. This seminar was the first large scale congregational educational opportunity and was it ever a success! Rev. Harry has extensively researched the “clobber passages” (those verses commonly used to condemn LGBTQIA+ persons) over the course of the last 42 years . From what originally began as the topic of his seminary thesis paper to a Sunday School class, a mini-lecture series, a workshop and finally turned into this informative and exciting seminar. Rev. Harry has faithfully presented this seminar for 42 years according to him, “because he believes the truth and love of God will always win over the homophobia and hatred of those who distort the Scriptures and use them to discriminate and oppress people.” That’s right, the Bible doesn’t condemn homosexuality but certain acts, some of which involved same-sex activities.



There are 993 pages in the Old Testament and 288 pages in the New Testament. That’s 1,281 pages that make up the 66 books of the Bible. It took over a period of 1,200 years to write the Bible and out of all that , there are only 9 references that take up less than 8 pages out of the 1,281 pages that address certain same-sex acts and not homosexuality in general. But I read it myself , you may say, I saw it with my own eyes that the Bible condemns homosexuality. But anytime we read the Scriptures we must remember there are two very different ways to read the Bible. The first way is “Historical-Critical Reading” which states that the text means whatever it meant to the people who wrote it long ago and not necessarily the same to those reading it today. One such example is in Matthew 19 where Jesus tells the rich man that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Did you know that this passage does not refer to the eye of a needle as we commonly think today but instead was a cultural and historical reference to a city gate in Biblical times known as the “Eye of the Needle” gate?

The second way of reading or interpreting the Bible is “Literal Reading” which is merely reading it as it is written. In this case the text means whatever it means to the reader as it is being read –being interpreted by the reader– seeing it as the reader wants to see it. So in other words, with the Matthew 19 reference, we are going to keep visioning a camel trying to fit through the eye of a threading needle and not really understand the point of the passage. This can be a dangerous method to use to understand and grow in our faith.

Watch for the ONA article over the course of the next few months as we begin to dive into a different “clobber passage” each month through the lens of cultural, historical, and spiritual lenses to better understand what God’s Words says on this controversial topic to not only grow in our faith, but to be able to make an informed decision when it is time to vote to be or not to be an ONA congregation.



# PUZZLE



## A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

*Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.*



son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ ○ \_ \_ \_ ○
2. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
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\_ono\_ your \_ather and \_our mo\_h\_r,  
 so t\_at y\_u may \_i\_e l\_ng in t\_e land  
 the L\_RD \_ou\_ God i\_ givi\_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter; 2. family; 3. father; 4. home; 5. honor; 6. love; 7. mother; 8. obey; 9. respect; 10. son; Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



Pray for Our Students



designed by freepik.com

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Katie Penick (240) 418-8028

**Interim Admin. Assistant:** Rae Smith

**Tech. & Multimedia Director:** Michael Jones (240) 883-4544

**Music Director/Organist:** Claire-Marie Moblard

**Choir Director:** Byron L. Stay

**Treasurer:** Lisa Saum

**Special Funds Treasurer:** Carol Mooers

**Parish Nurse:** Barb Hendershot

**Consistory Elders:** Kim Ridenour - President, Michael Jones - VP, Carroll Sager - Secretary, Susan Clutz, & Carol Mooers.

**Consistory Deacons:** Dee Krause, Calvin Livingston, Rich Owens, Daisy Schlotterbeck, & Tina Shafer.

**Zion News** is published monthly by Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, 201 North Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

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ZION REFORMED UCC  
201 North Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Zion Reformed United Church of Christ