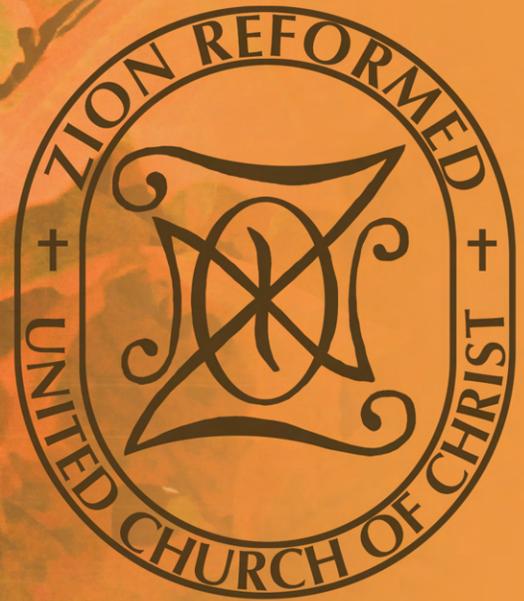


Zion News



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2022 - VOLUME 63 ISSUE 11

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 4:6

TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 20th

Throughout Christian history, the Church has remembered and continues to remember and celebrate the lives of faithful people who have died. Totenfest is a distinctive practice that grows out of the Evangelical tradition of the United Church of Christ.

Zion will be commemorating our loved ones who have died in the past year during our remembrance service.

In a spirit of prayerful thanksgiving, the names of our loved ones will be read and candles will be lit during our worship service.

If you have loved ones you wish to have remembered, contact the church office at zionrucc@myactv.net. Make sure to join us for this special time of remembrance.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please contact Pastor Katie or the church office if you are in need of, or want, special prayer for any reason. We would love to pray with you.

Turn Back the Clock



Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 6

Sunday Service: 11 am
Sunday School: 9:45am
Join online:

www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Address:
201 N. Potomac St.
Telephone:
301-739-7244
Email:
zionrucc@myactv.net





But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream - Amos 5:24

Last spring, we approved our new mission, vision and values statement. One of the things I love in it is the idea that our Discipleship in action happens where justice isn't about just us.

Sometimes it's tempting to come into our sanctuary and try to escape from the world. We want to hear only good news of hope and promise that makes us feel individually good. But this isn't what God requires of us. God's promise of hope encompasses us all and reaches out to those who are outside of our doors. God chose to live as one of us - that means God experienced the best and worst that humanity brings. And then God, as Jesus, reached out and pulled in those who were hurting, shunned, and hated, and brought them into God's welcoming arms.

Beloved, we are called to do the same. We are the hands, feet and voice of Christ, continuing this sacred work. We are called to reach out and welcome those who have been hurt - the transgender youth that was kicked out of his church, the pregnant woman seeking sanctuary, and the hungry stranger looking for a meal.

What does God require of you?

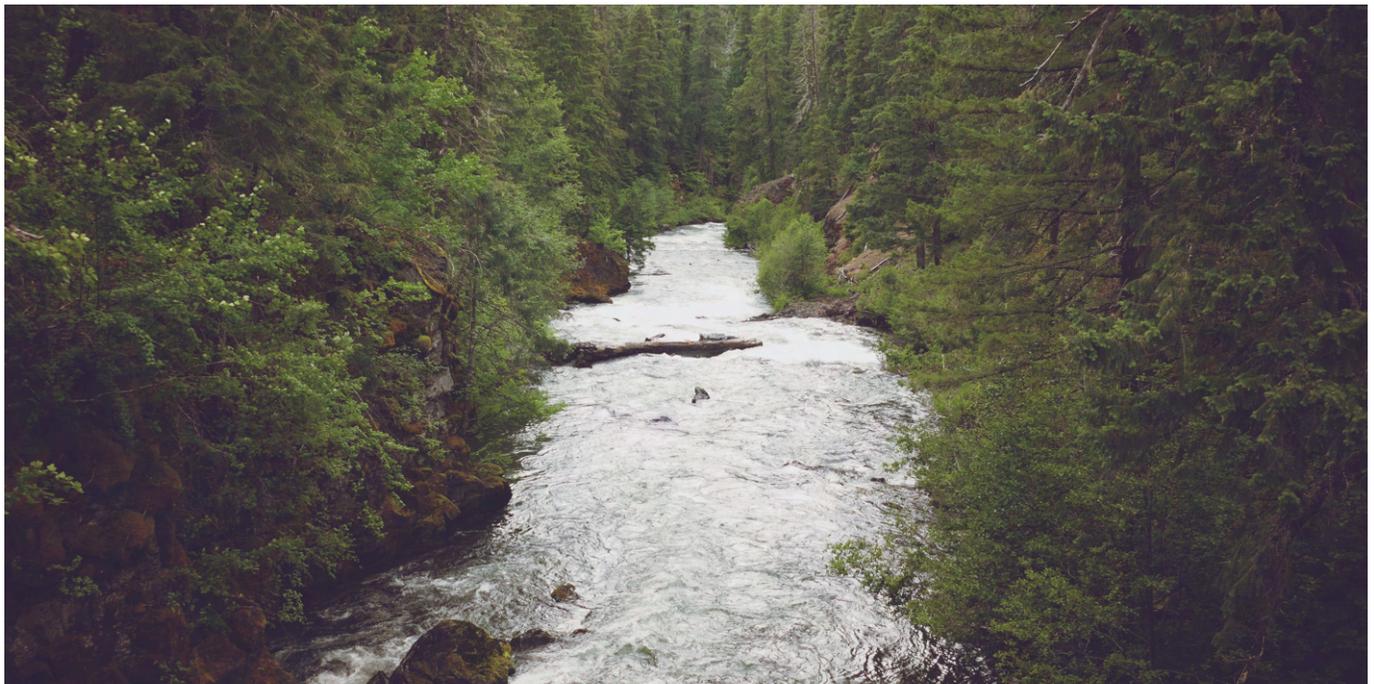
To do justice

Love kindness

And walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

Blessings in Christ's Love,

Pastor Katie



**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD**

November 11

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 12

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship – Every Sunday at 11am in the sanctuary and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive

Sunday School - 9:45am - Adult and Children's classes with hybrid options also available
More info at www.zionreformed.church/education

Tuesday's Supper and One Stop Shop – Every Tuesday from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday Lunch Bunch— Weekly (except Thanksgiving) at 11:30am in the Burhans Room and ZOOM
More info at <http://www.zionreformed.church/thursday>

Choir Practice - Every Thursday at 4:00pm in the Chapel

4-H Club – Every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Burhans Room

Consistory—11/7 at 7:00pm in the Burhans Room and ZOOM

ONA Team Meetings – 11/1, 11/15 and 11/29 at 12:30pm in the Burhans Room

Service Workers—11/2 at 1:30pm in the Burhans Room

Search & Call Team Meetings – 11/14 at 5:30pm in the Burhans Room and ZOOM

Staff Team Meeting – 11/10 at 12:30 in the Burhans Room

Christian Ed Team Meeting—11/28 at 4:00pm in the Burhans Room

November Birthdays

John Schnebly	11/02	Brandi Burchard	11/15
Wells Ridenour	11/03	Betty Patterson	11/16
Jeanette Rinehart	11/08	Kim Cook	11/18
Margaret Munroe	11/11	Byron Stay	11/20
Jane Hershey	11/13	Daisy Schlotterbeck	11/22
Bill Brewer	11/13	Matt McDonald	11/26
Curtis Nilson	11/13	Chris Emmert	11/30
Beth Gross	11/14		

November Anniversaries

Gerald and Lisa Saum 11/07

Notes from the Consistory

The October Consistory meeting opened with some interesting news. Lisa shared that the assessed value of our church is over \$2 million. While this is wonderful news, we should be thankful that Zion has nonprofit status or our tax bill would be staggering!

There have been several changes to the upcoming calendar of events and to our typical operations. The Yard Sale has been canceled. However, the Service Workers will begin meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30. There has been an increase in the uninvited foot traffic in our graveyard. As a result the back gate will be kept locked regularly except during Sunday Services and Tuesday's Supper. There will be additional cars in our parking lot Monday through Friday. They belong to a group of nursing students whose cars will wear a special parking permit.

The Consistory discussed the length of terms of Consistory members per Articles. Each term is 3 years long. Since we will be electing some new Consistory members in December, a nominating committee was set up to seek candidates. The Consistory meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm. Members are given an agenda and committee reports at least 3 days prior to each meeting. The Consistory attends to the spiritual and the financial operations of the church. If you are interested in serving, please contact a Consistory member.

It was noted that the Scrolls Revealed Workshop was a huge success and there was high praise for the speaker. For those who missed it, an audio recording of the presentation will be made and shared only within the church membership due to licensing limitations.

The Consistory also discussed the rate of vacation time earned by our administrative assistant and our media specialist. The current rate process is unfathomable and a more straightforward approach is needed. This will be discussed further. The Consistory also made a change to the paid holidays schedule beginning in 2023. Currently our employees are offered New Year's Day, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day (2 days), Christmas Day, and December 26 as paid holidays. A motion was made, amended, and passed to reflect the addition of Juneteenth and MLK Day as paid holidays and the dropping of December 26 as a paid holiday.

The 2023 Budget Review Team consists of Lisa Saum, Kim Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Michael Jones, and John Schnebly. All committees should have submitted their proposed budgets by October 3 to this committee for review. The committee will finalize the budget and present it to the Consistory for approval in November. The Congregation will vote to approve the budget on December 11 after the Sunday Service.

As you can see below, there are many special events planned throughout the rest of 2022. So mark your calendars to attend and/or to assist with the set up and presentation. Volunteers are always welcomed!

November 5 - Fall Association Meeting in Westminster

November 13 - Stewardship Sunday

November 20 - Totenfest

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

December 11 - Zion's Annual Meeting is held immediately after the Sunday Service.

New Consistory members and the 2023 annual budget will be voted on.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day Service - Time and service type to be determined

Stay safe and warm as we move further into the fall season.



From the Parish Nurse – Beauty Can Be Costly

Looking your best is great for your self-esteem; but it may come at a cost. By the time you leave your house in the morning, most people have been exposed to over 100 chemicals from personal care products. Although personal care products (soaps, perfumes, make-up, shampoos) are under U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation, they are treated differently than drugs. NO approval is needed from the FDA before a personal care product is available for purchase. The safety of these products is not questioned. Exceptions to this are personal care products designed to treat or prevent health conditions, such as dandruff shampoos and sunscreen. Cosmetics are among the least regulated products that consumers purchase.



The majority of personal care product ingredients are in the GRAS category- Generally Recognized As Safe. The frequency of exposure to a chemical can make that chemical harmful; the amount that is “safe” varies from person to person. Some products include lead and mercury; these metals can cause brain damage. Chemicals to prevent fungal and bacterial growth can also be present in personal care products. Chemicals, including phthalates, parabens, PFAS (polyfluorinated substances) and triclosan can disrupt normal function of your endocrine system (responsible for the hormones that regulate growth, cell activity and sexual development and function.) Formaldehyde is present in some hair care products or it is created when the product is heated; exposure to formaldehyde has been linked to developing cancer. A common ingredient in cosmetics is talc; although generally considered safe, talc may contain asbestos, another known cancer-causing agent. Even reading the labels of personal care products won’t necessarily protect you. A general term such as “fragrance” may be listed; this fragrance may contain a mixture of thousands of chemicals! Using hair straighteners frequently has been linked to ovarian and breast cancer. Permanent hair dye use has also been shown to be linked to the occurrence of breast cancer. Mia Davis, head of health and safety for the company Beautycounter (a personal care product company) warns that toxins from the products we use accumulate quickly when used daily. Davis further states that health conditions other than cancer that are linked to exposure to chemicals include asthma, autism, and reproductive issues.

Products that are generally considered safe can be harmful when used “off label” (in a manner other than the general use guidelines.) Hair or nail products can be unsafe when used on your skin or near your eyes. Following the directions on a product label may protect your health.

You may be more vulnerable to chemicals at different times in your life. Pregnancy is one of those times to be especially careful. Both early childhood and puberty are ages where chemicals that disrupt the endocrine system should be avoided. Some other cautions about personal care products include: stop using any product that causes irritation; do not share cosmetics (germs can be transferred); get rid of old products; use only eye specific products near your eyes (including color additives); do not dye eyebrows or eyelashes (harm and even blindness can result); and never mix hair dye products.

Be safe when using personal care products and you will be BEAUTIFUL!

Blessings and Health,
Barb Hendershot, RN
Parish Nurse

Sources:
NIH News in Health - August 2022
Harvard News, February 13, 2014
fda.gov



What's Happening at Zion

No Book Club November

The Zion Book Club will not be meeting in November because of Thanksgiving. BUT, make plans to join us for the next meeting on December 9th at 7pm at the home of Sue Graff. The group will be discussing the book *Dear Santa*. A special holiday wish list brings about hope, love, and second chances in this nostalgic novel from the queen of Christmas stories, Debbie Macomber. This will be the last book club of 2022.

November 5th - Catoctin Association Fall Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for 9:30am (with registration from 9am-9:30am) and will be at St. Mary's UCC in Westminster, MD and via ZOOM. Register online (www.catoctinucc.org) by October 29, 2022. Please indicate whether you will be attending in-person or via Zoom.

November 12th - Dinner with the Munroe's

Former Zion Reverend Kevin Munroe and his wife, Margaret, will be visiting Zion at 5pm in the chapel and invite all who would like to join them for a time of fellowship and dinner.

November 13th - Stewardship Sunday

On this Stewardship Sunday, we look ahead with hope and make promises for how we, as individuals, will contribute to the health of the whole body of Christ in the year to come.

November 11th - Veteran's Day

Both in war and peace
To those who came home changed
And to those who didn't return
We honor you
We remember your sacrifices
We cherish your memory
Your nation is grateful

The UCC theme this year, *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*, is a reminder that we give out of the goodness and abundance that we have received from a loving God. Of course, we don't just need this message and reminder at Stewardship time. At all times of year, through scripture, study, prayer and connection with our community and the wider world, we can be recalled back to the God whose love for us overflows.

November 13th - Consistory Nominees

Would you consider serving Zion and its ministries by serving on the Consistory? Make sure you submit your name by Sunday, November 13th to Consistory President Kim Ridenour:

November 13th - Service of Installation of Rev. Kyle Powderly

The Catoctin Association invites us to celebrate our friend, Kyle Powderly, as he is installed as the pastor at Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Middletown. The installation service will begin at 1pm after a noon luncheon. The address of Christ Reformed UCC is 12 S. Church Street, Middletown, MD 21769.

November 20th - Totenfest

Join us for this service of remembrance of those who have died in the past year. This is a special time for our family to support each other and be reminded of our eternal hope found in the resurrected Christ.

November 20th - Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) is pleased to once again offer a unique and uplifting interfaith service, welcoming all members of the community to join together in giving thanks. Enjoy special music, readings and reflections from three different faith traditions, and an opportunity to reflect on gratitude in our own lives. Join us at St. Ann Catholic Church, 1525 Oak Hill Ave. 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

November 27th - First Sunday of Advent

Let's begin this season of waiting together - reading, singing and praying.

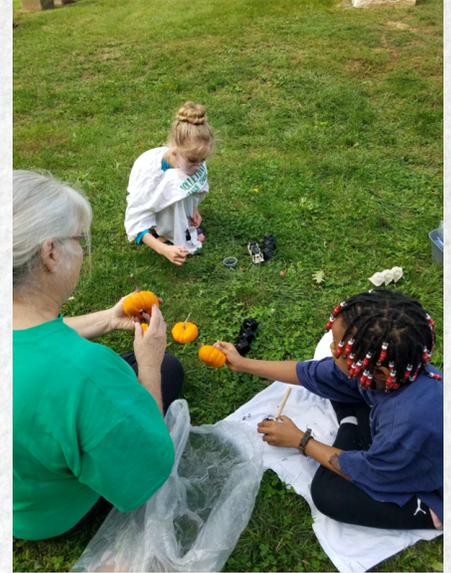
October Photo Gallery



October 2nd - Celebrating the baptism of Calvin Shroyer as a Zion family!



October Photo Gallery



TOP: Craft time with our downtown 4-H group

MIDDLE: Children's Sermon and activity.

Bottom: Tuesday's Supper and One-Stop Shop



Understanding Open and Affirming

The mission of the Open & Affirming (ONA) ministry within the United Church of Christ is to build a Church that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations to the table of Christ's communion and to the full life and leadership of the Church. Being an ONA congregation though is more about welcoming all of God's children regardless of the many differences found among us. ONA focuses on the sexual and gender minorities but is not limited to just them. They are the focus because they are the most marginalized group, but ONA is also about welcoming all ethnicities, all abilities (disabled or abled), all genders, all orientations, all sizes, and so forth. God created a diverse set of Children and requires us to love all of the children created by God. A church is **OPEN** when it commits to communicating its welcome publicly. This may come in many forms, and most churches do this in several ways: communicating their ONA status to Regional and General Church leadership, publishing their ONA statement on their website, in their Sunday bulletin and in their newsletter, and wherever possible naming itself 'an Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ'. A church is **AFFIRMING** when it commits to preaching and teaching the 'good news' of the gospel which understands that God does not reject or condemn people solely for their gender expression or sexual orientation (nor any of the other attributes). When we **WELCOME** persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations, we commit to including persons regardless of their gender expression or sexual orientation, welcoming all as Christ welcomes us. We do not use these attributes as a barrier to communion, membership, service, leadership, or employment in our ministry, nor as a barrier among those served.

The Zion ONA Team has been meeting since April exploring various topics and has recently held its first public session exploring the Scriptures and homosexuality. Those who attended the seminar were treated to an in-depth exploration of the Scriptures regarding this topic. We learned that the Scriptures don't actually condemn homosexuality as we often perceive them to do. We learned that understanding the culture, history, and context with which the Scriptures that are used to condemn homosexuality were written, and the translation process used to translate the Scriptures into English all play a crucial role in our interpreting and reading the Scriptures as they were intended. If you missed this interesting seminar, rest assured that was just the beginning of our ONA journey which will culminate in each of us voting whether to become an ONA congregation. As we prepare for our next discussion experience, we simply would like to share a few terms for each of us to read over and meditate upon. Please read them with fresh eyes, setting aside any perceived definitions, and in light of Micah 6:8 which reads, "...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

Privilege: Privilege refers to unearned access to resources and social power that are only available to some as a result of their advantaged social group membership and exists in many forms (e.g., ability, religion, socioeconomic, male, heterosexual, and white).

Intersectionality: Intersectionality is concerned with creating more equitable and socially just outcomes for those with minoritized identities through the lens of how intersecting identities or contribute to experiences of discrimination and oppression. Often, privileges for one group are directly linked to disadvantages or oppressions for other groups. Intersectionality is social justice and Biblical justice work that aims to interrogate and challenge inequality and exclusion. Biblical justice requires us to examine and transform the processes that initially contributed to unequal outcomes and marginalization of certain groups.

Justice: The Bible makes social justice a mandate of faith and a fundamental expression of Christian discipleship throughout its pages. Social justice has its biblical roots in a triune God who time and time again shows his love and compassion for the weak, the vulnerable, the marginalized, the disenfranchised, the disinherited. "For Christians, the pursuit of social justice for the poor and oppressed is the decisive mark of being people who submit to the will and way of God," writes Tim Dearborn in Reflections on Advocacy and Justice. Biblical references to the word "justice" mean "to make right." Justice is, first and foremost, a relational term – people living in right relationship with God, one another, and the natural creation. From a scriptural point of view, justice means loving our neighbor as we love ourselves and is rooted in the character and nature of God. As God is just and loving, so we are called to do justice and live in love. In other words, Biblical justice involves making individuals, communities, and the cosmos whole, by upholding both goodness and impartiality.

Humbly Serving Christ and Zion,
Your ONA Team



Announcements

OPPORTUNITIES TO **SERVE**



Contact the church office for more information: zionrucc@myactv.net or call 301-739-7244.

PASTORAL SEARCH

The Search Committee submitted our profile to the UCC on July 13th. We are currently receiving and reviewing applications. We ask for continued prayers as we all work through this process.

MORE THAN A RUBBER STAMP

Our very own Rae Smith, church Administrative Assistant, is a Notary Public. Reach out to her if you need notary services.



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8TH

"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it." – John Lewis, late civil rights activist

1. Ensure You are Registered to Vote
2. Remind Your Friends, Neighbors, and Family.
3. Get Out and Vote!

Our Faith, Our Vote: www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote

Get Out the Vote: www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote/get-out-the-vote

CAC Justice & Witness Network: <https://letjustice.org/>

Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N				
Philippians 1:9					H	
2 Peter 1:5						S
		A				2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32				S		
John 7:15			R			
				I		Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18					E	
	W					Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...
through _____ its rooms are filled with
rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, lesson, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge

OUR DISARMING GOD

We want the war horse.

Jesus rides a donkey.

We want the eagle.

The Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

We want to take up swords.

Jesus takes up a cross.

We want the roaring lion.

God comes as a slaughtered lamb.

We keep trying to arm God.

God keeps trying to disarm us.

—Rev. Benjamin Cremer (via Twitter)

Interim Minister: Rev. Katie Penick
(240) 418-8028, pastortk143@gmail.com

Admin Assistant: Rae Smith

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

Multimedia Specialist: Brandon Hackett

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.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am – 12:00 pm

Telephone: 301-739-7244

Email: zionrucc@myactv.net

Website: www.zionreformed.church

Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month prior to the month of publication.
All articles are subject to editing for space.

The medical information in this newsletter is provided without any
representations or warranties, express or implied. You must not rely on the
information in this newsletter as an alternative to medical advice from your
doctor or other professional healthcare provider.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

201 North Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

ZION REFORMED UCC



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ