



February 22, 2026

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

*To share the gospel of Christ
in such a way that we find God,
grow our faith,
discover our purpose
and make a difference.*

First Sunday of Lent • 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC & BELLS

Toccata and Fugue in d minor

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mackenzie Ridenour accepted to VA Tech Veterinary School

PRELUDE

Processional on Lift High the Cross

*CALL TO COMMUNITY

One: As the Holy Spirit gathers us for worship on this first Sunday in Lent, we come carrying the weight of the world's needs. I invite you to lay those needs in God's hands. Come back to one simple need: the need to breathe.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that in the beginning, God breathed into us the breath of life.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto his friends and followers.

All: Breathe in, and breathe out,

One: remembering that the Holy Spirit intercedes for our needs and for every need with sighs too deep for words. We worship in the name of our triune God,

All: who gives us life, gives us breath, and gives us what we need the most:

One: God's own self, here in this place.

All: Amen.

*HYMN Purple 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God, help us say no when the voices speak of building up investments in the things of the world when you want us to invest ourselves in the ways of heaven.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God, help us say no to what the world tells us we need in the gathering up of

more and more stuff when you want us to let go of the stuff and rely on you instead.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God, help us say no to the easy answers and quick fixes when you long for us to take a lifetime to live and explore the questions.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God help us say no to using power and money to deal with the problems of hunger in our community when you wish we would live in a more equal relationship with those who are hungry throughout the world.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God help us say no to the easy way the world wants that involves no pain or hardship when you call us to carry crosses and trust the love that bears all.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God help us say no to conflicts that show humanity at its worst in violence and repression when you know we can live into ways that demonstrate the overflowing blessings of your love and the abundant grace of humanity.

All: Help us say no to the world and yes to you.

One: God help us say no to a faith that speaks empty words and is shown by hollow actions when we know of a word that brings the fullness of life and is carried by actions shaped by justice, mercy and love.

All: O God of Blessings, help us say no to the world and yes to you. Always and forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 32, An Interpretation by Nan Merrill

Lector: Rae Smith

I admitted my faults to the Most High,
and I made known my regret;
I cried out, "Forgive me, O Comforter,
for those times I have sinned in
my thoughts, my words, my deeds,"
And the Beloved created a clean heart within me.

Therefore, let everyone who is sincere
give thanks to the Beloved;
For whenever we feel overwhelmed by fear,
we shall be embraced by Love.
Dwelling in the heart of the Beloved,

we are free from distress,
free to live creatively.

O my Beloved, you are my guide
and my teacher,
Be watchful of me, give me your counsel.
I pray for the gifts of inner peace and wisdom,
For the gift of reverence for life.
One: Word of Life. Word Love.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord.

WORD WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:12-17, 23, New International Version

Lector: Rae Smith

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Magic and Light

Barb Hendershot

OFFERTORY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*DOXOLOGY

Then let us adore, and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing with angels above
and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen.

*HYMN Purple 720

Jesus Calls Us

MORNING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER JESUS TEACHES US

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

* HYMN Purple 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*BENEDICTION

Now may God,
who risks loving an imperfect people,
who forges weakness into divine strength,
who never leaves us or forsakes us,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Festival Processional on Christ Is the King

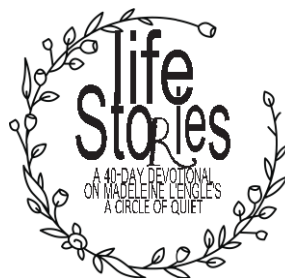
PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Join us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or who have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety around the world and to pray with and for our

Zion siblings:

Bruce Albright, Janis Albright, Eddie Barr, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Steve Cavey (Uncle of Tina Shafer), **Kim Cook, Erin Corrado and her 7yr old son Branson (friends of Holly Bell)**, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Jim Hatfield, Beth Hauver, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Mary Lorfing, Trish Lowman, Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman), Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's father), **George & Mary Pietsch**, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Angie Schaff, Tina Shafer, Staci Shafer, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), Traci Van Vogelpoel, Margaret Wagner, **Randy Waters (Rick Waters' brother)**, Christel, Christoph, and Anna Wolbring (friends of Kim Ridenour), Eric Wolbring, and Barry Yingling.

Copies of **Life Stories** by Madeleine L'Engle's, a 40-day Lenten Devotional, are on the table with today's bulletins. Please help yourself to a copy.



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 9:45 Adult Sunday School – In-person and Zoom
Children’s Sunday School Class
Young Adult Class/Bible Study - Second and Fourth Sundays of the month
- 10:30 Children’s Choir in the Music Room
- 10:35 Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive
Children’s Church – every other week
- 12:00 Fellowship
- 12:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal

WORSHIP LEADERS

The lector this week is Rae Smith.

Ushers for this week are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, and TBD.

This week’s Children’s Church Leader is Tina Shafer.

NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is Rae Smith.

Next week’s ushers are Jamie Coates, Tina Shafer, Barb Ware, and Kathleen Wood.

- 2/23 Houses of Meeting 10:00am
- 2/24 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 2/25 Potluck and Study 6:00pm
- 2/26 Properties Team Meeting 1:00pm
Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 2/28 REACH Coldest Night of the Year 4:00pm

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/28 Kristin Kelly

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting Pudding Cups for the month of February. We are also in need of empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes.

Micah's Backpack is collecting Peanut Butter for the month of February.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

WEDNESDAY EVENING POTLUCK AND STUDY GROUP

Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent for food and Bible Study. This Wednesday we will be taking a closer look at Matthew 6: 5-15. Bring a dish to share with others and join in the discussions, fellowship and good food.

SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Every Sunday after worship a bunch of us get together and go out for lunch, fellowship and lots of laughter. Anyone and everyone are welcome to join us. We try to patronize a different local eatery each week. We meet up in the chapel right after worship and that is when we usually decide where we are going. Come join us whenever you can.

EASY-CISE CLASS

Join us at 9:00am on the second Saturday of each month for our Easy-cise Class. Easy-cise is a resistance-based fitness class that helps with core and arm workouts designed for beginners, those with limited mobility, or anyone who prefers seated exercises.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The ZION Walkers will be out raising money for REACH of Washington County during the Coldest Night of the Year Event on Saturday, February 28 at Hagerstown Community College. Walkers may check in at the ARCC beginning at 4 pm. The walk itself begins at 5 pm. It is followed by a light meal for the walkers. If you are not able to walk, please consider making a pledge or donation to the Zion Team. Questions? Ask Carroll Sager. Please use the following link to either register to be a participant or to donate to a member of the ZION Team: <https://cnoy.com/location/hagerstown>

CINDERELLA SHOP

March is right around the corner. That means it's Cinderella Shop time! The Shop will be open every Saturday morning in March from 9 am to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed to assist shoppers and to guard the door as visitors come and go. A volunteer sign-up sheet is located in the Chapel area.

Service Credits
CCLI Number: 6212519
February 22

Gathering music: *Toccata and Fugue in d minor*. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Processional on "Lift High the Cross."* Composed by S. H. Nicholson and A. S. Sullivan. Arr. by Alice Jordan. © 1985 by Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*. Purple 2291. Composed by James K. Manley (1976). Words by James K. Manley (1975). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Jesus Calls Us. Purple 720. Composed by William H. Jude (1887). Words by Cecil Frances Alexander (1852). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky. Purple 69. Tune: Here I Am. Composed by Jim Strathdee (1986). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Choir Anthem: *Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord*. Composed by Paul Baloche. Arr. by Jack Schrader. © 2011 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music. CCLI number: 2298355

Offertory: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Composed by C. C. Converse. Arr. by Robert W. Thygerson. © 1998 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: *Festival Processional on "Christ Is the King."* Composed by John Eggert. © 1996 by Concordia Publishing House. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.