October 18, 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.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

ZGP, Ethiopian Coffee, October 23rd
Halloween Soup-Cook Off and Quiz Bowl, October 24th at 5pm.
Mummers Parade, October 31st.

Prelude *We'll Sing All Hail to Jesus' Name*

*Call to Worship

One: In the rhythms of creation, where seasons change and rivers bend, we are reminded of life's constant ebb and flow.
All: We come with hearts ready to adapt, finding strength in flexibility.
One: As the clay yields to the potter's hands, we too are shaped by experiences, challenges, and revelations.
All: With humility, we allow ourselves to be molded, acknowledging that we do not have all the answers.
One: The Spirit calls to us, challenging our certainties, urging us to be curious. We gather today, not as vessels that are full, but as cups that are open and ready to be filled anew.
All: We open our hearts and minds to God's still speaking voice. Amen.

*Hymn Purple #452 *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Call to Confession

Confession and reconciliation are grounded in openness and possibility. We haven't figured everything out. There is still more to learn and more to change. In this time of prayer, may God grant us the gift of flexibility.

Prayer of Confession

One: Humble God, we stand here, a mix of stubbornness and fragility, confessing the tight grip we have on what we think we know.
All: We admit, in our desire for solid ground, we've sometimes become inflexible in our opinions.
One: We often crave maps and manuals, unquestionable doctrines and statements of faith, searching for guarantees in a world built on the mystery of grace.
All: We confess our need for certainty, our refusal to dwell in the sacred mystery of "I don't know."

One: You, who whisper in the wind and speak in strangers' stories, invite us to listen, to learn, to be transformed.

All: And yet, we hesitate, paralyzed by fear of what we might discover and of the ways we might be asked to change.

One: God of endless opportunities, pull us from the trenches of comfort and complacency.

All: Remind us of the holy risk of curiosity, the liberation of flexibility, and the growth that comes from changing our minds. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

In the midst of our yearning for certainty, God whispers a tender reminder: You are loved, not for what you know, but for who you are. In every faltering step and every questioning heart, God's grace is enough and God's love will never fail. Amen.

Choral Response Purple #288 *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, NRSV Alie Montgomery

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you is not "Yes and No." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No," but in him it has always been "Yes." For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes." For this reason it is through him that we say the "Amen," to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, who has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.

One: Listen for what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Word for Children

Scripture Exodus 32:1-14, NRSV Alie Montgomery

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way

that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all
this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever."' And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

One: We have listened today in curiosity and in hope.
All: May our minds be renewed.
One: We have listened today in wonder and in imagination.
All: May our hearts be expanded.
One: We have listened today in bravery and in flexibility.
All: May the world be transformed. Amen.

Sermon Be Curious – Flexibility Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette

*Hymn Purple #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Morning Prayer

Prayer that Jesus Teaches Us (in unison)

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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
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.

Call for the Offering

Flexibility allows us to move with grace, adapt to the rhythm, and stretch towards new horizons. As we prepare our offerings, let us give with that same spirit, trusting that our gifts will be adapted to meet the needs of the world in unexpected, beautiful ways.

Offertory *Nearer My God to Thee*

*Doxology **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Holy One, as we dedicate these offerings, may they become tools in your hands, bending and stretching to meet needs, both seen and unseen, in our communities and beyond. May our gifts be channels of grace, flowing freely and flexibly to welcome, nurture, and transform. Amen.

*Hymn Purple #465 *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

*Benediction

We remember how God, when moved by Moses' plea, showed deep compassion and a willingness to change. As you go forth from worship today, may you be graced with a heart like God's—open to change, responsive in love, and always willing to see anew. Amen.

*Choral Response Purple #43 *On Eagle's Wings*

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Postlude *Improvisation on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

The sermon and liturgical series are from the materials, *Be Curious* provided by *This is the Day. This is the Day* is a community of professional women in ministry, who write and produce resources for the full life of the church.

The **BOLD FACE** indicates when the congregation is invited to speak in unison. The asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand in body or spirit.

WELCOME to Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, an Open and Affirming Church striving to welcome and value all people and creation. Wherever you may be in the journey of faith, we welcome you. We are a community where honest questions are valued and where faith is considered a process, not an arrival. Affirming that every person has worth as a unique creation and a child of God, we welcome into full participation people of every age, sex, race, color, ethnicity, culture, economic condition, physical and mental ability, marital status, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. If you are passing through, we extend God's blessings to you as you continue on your way. If you are seeking a home, we invite you to join us in the adventure of serving Jesus Christ in a challenging world. Pastor Scott

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 who 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, Beth Baseler, Naomi Brackett, Robert Brewer (cousin of Carol France), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Steve Cavey (Uncle of Tina Shafer), Kim Cook, Crystal Frazier's Dad, Family of Bobby Gross, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Karen Howser (friend of Barb & Charly Ware), Diane Huff, Jeanne Hvidding (Sister of Ralph Frances), Robert and Judy Miller, Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman), Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's father), Patricia Nix, The family of David Ridenour, Mary Ann Sanders, Scherry Sellers, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Staci Shafer, Rae Smith, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), Danielle Tiller, Traci Van Vogelpoel, Margaret Wagner, Christel Wolbring, and Barry Yingling.
Complete a Prayer Card and place it in the offering plate to have a prayer request added or reach out to Pastor Scott.

MUMMERS PARADE SEAT TICKETS - call the church office (301) 739-7244 to order your tickets ($8 street seats and $6 wall seats).
On October 31st we will set up chairs beginning at 6am, followed by breakfast. Parade starts at 6pm. This year we will have the following food trucks.
SIPS – drinks,
Dough Fathers – pizza, stromboli and panuzzo,
Almost Heaven – curly potatoes, funnel cakes, corn dogs
Lovely's

TUESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY - Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting cans of soup. We are also in need of empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes.

MICAH'S BACKPACK – School has begun and we are packing bags! For the month of October, we are requesting donations of single serve cups of pasta meals. Spaghetti o's, mac & cheese and lasagna, etc.

SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH - 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 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.

ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY – Friday October 23rd 11am -1:30pm Join us for a meaningful cultural experience centered on presence, conversation, and freshly prepared Ethiopian coffee. Guests will experience the roasting of green coffee beans, cultural storytelling, and the beauty of a cherished tradition that brings people together. RSVP required. Call the church office to secure a seat.

THANKSGIVING MEAL -November 26 You are invited to the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving at Zion. Last year was a big success. It will be very relaxed, open-ended, watch football, fellowship, etc. It will be semi-catered from the Honey Baked Ham store. People can bring their favorite dishes, but it is not expected. $20 per person per drop your money off at the church office. Please consider having your traditional extended

family gathering at Zion. The more the merrier! Sign up on the sheet in the chapel.

HALLOWEEN SOUP-COOK-OFF AND QUIZ BOWL - October 24th, 5pm. • Come compete with your favorite soup. • Set-up your team for Quizbowl. • Wear your Halloween costume or favorite fall outfit!

ALL SAINTS
WORSHIP LEADERS
The lector this week is: Alie Montgomery
Ushers for this week are: Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens and Rick Waters.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH Barb Hendershot

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP 10/25 & CALENDAR
The lector for next week is: Barb Ware

Next week's ushers are: Christine Coleman, Blaine Dockery, Judy Thompson and Barb Ware.

10/20 5-6:30pm Tuesday Ministry
10/21 6:30pm Wednesday Potluck and Bible Study
10/23 11am-1:30pm Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, RSVP required.

BIRTHDAYS
Meagan Graff 10/19

ANNIVERSARIES
Corey & Jessica Green 10/23

OFFICE HOURS - The church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 1pm-3pm and 9-12 M-F from October 12th through October 30th .

MUSIC FOR October 18, 2026
CCLI NUMBER: 6212519

Prelude *We'll Sing All Hail to Jesus' Name* written by Joseph Coslett, arranged by Terri Hutchings Copyright 2016 Terri Hutchings

Hymns
Glory to God #452 *Open the Eyes of My Heart*
Glory to God #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*
Glory to God # 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Choral Responses
Glory to God#288 *Spirit of the Living God*
Glory to God, #43 *On Eagles Wings*

Offertory *Nearer My God to Thee* Arranged by Michael Bailey Copyright 2020 Michael Bailey

Postlude *Improvisation on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
201 N Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301.739.7244
zionrucc@myactv.net
www.zionreformed.church

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette, Pastor
240-675-3227, pastorwinnette@gmail.com