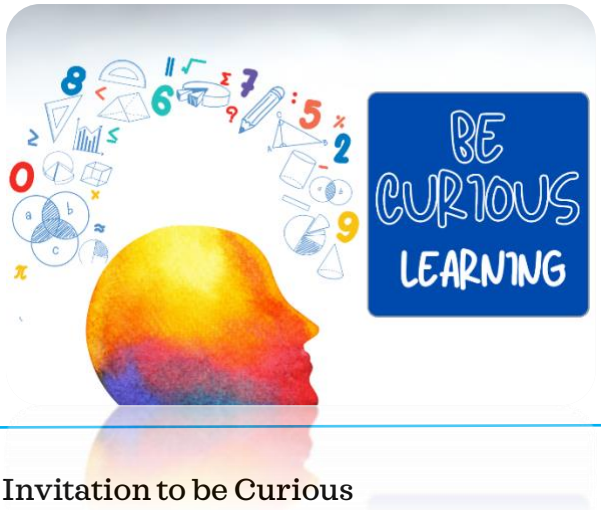

November 1, 2026

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.

Invitation to be Curious

We live in a society that thinks we can search and instantly find the answer for every question. What learning takes more time? How do we find wisdom? As we begin worship, focus on something that you know or would like to know that would take time to learn.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

One: Come, you who are filled with wonder.
All: Come, you who have unsettled questions in your heart.
One: Come, you who are weary and worn out.
All: Come, you who have hard-learned wisdom or fresh curiosity to share.
One: Come, however it is that you are. You are welcome here.
All: Let us worship the Still-Speaking God.

*Hymn Purple #730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Call to Confession

This is a time and place to be curious- about ourselves, about our world, and about our God. What do we still need to learn? Where is the world limiting God's love? How can we better survive and thrive? Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

One: Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,
You who taught thousands
And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,
We confess that we pretend to know
When in truth we still wonder.
All: Forgive our pretense,
That we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers,
To fresh ideas,
To one another,
To you.

One: Vulnerable Christ,
You who lived in generous love,
We confess that we have closed ourselves off,
That we have seen so much suffering
That we stop looking
Rather than see and respond to those in need.
All: Forgive our neglect
That we may care for one another
And follow in the example you set for us.
In your name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ, know that you are forgiven always and freed to begin anew through God's everlasting mercy and love. 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.

Modern Reading Posted on Facebook by Anne Lamott Rick Waters

My seven-year-old grandson sleeps just down the hall from me, and he wakes up a lot of mornings and he says, "You know, this could be the best day ever." And other times, in the middle of the night, he calls out in a tremulous voice, "Nana, will you ever get sick and die?"

I think this pretty much says it for me and for most of the people I know, that we're a mixed grill of happy anticipation and dread. So I sat down a few days before my 61st birthday, and I decided to compile a list of everything I know for sure. There's so little truth in the popular culture, and it's good to be sure of a few things.

One: Listen for what the Spirit is teaching.
All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Word for Children

Scripture Matthew 11:25-30 Rick Waters

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank* you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.* All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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.

Choral Prayer for Illumination — Kobe Brown

Sermon — Be Curious – Learning and Knowledge — E. Scott Winnette

*Hymn — Purple #475 — *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*

Sacrament of Communion

One: Come all who give thanks for the gift of life.
Come all who long for a just and happy world.
Come all who seek peace and pursue it; and together we will work transforming pain into hope, fear into love, crying into laughter.

All: Here in this place, the communion table is open to people of all races, creeds, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, ages: adults, teens, and children. Together, we join hands with the living who are learning to love; we dance with the dead whose vision still lives; we pause with the angels in remembrance.

One: This is Christ's table; all are invited to share the feast. God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: Let us continue in prayer. God who loves us all and sends us into the world to love each other, we thank you today for all those saints who have stood by our side, holding us in times of joy or sadness, listening to us when we needed an ear, speaking out for us when we needed a voice. In this quiet moment, we remember their names with a smile in our hearts … Holy God, within us and among us,

All: Help us share ourselves in Jesus' name.

One: We thank you today for those saints who have challenged us to grow, dared us to dream, inviting us to try new things or follow new paths. In this quiet moment, we remember the names of our teachers, our parents and grandparents and all those people who have been a window on the world for us … Holy God, within us and among us,

All: Help us share ourselves in Jesus' name.

One: We thank you today for all those saints who show us how to love each other, who touch those in trouble with their time and tenderness, caring for the sick, cheering the lonely, helping the poor. In this quiet moment, we remember the names of people around us who are in trouble, and think of those who are sick or lonely, those who are poor and anyone who needs a helping hand … Holy God, within us and among us,

All: Help us share ourselves in Jesus' name.

One: God of all the saints in every generation, we would be your saints alive in Jesus' name. Show us what we have to share with others day by day, for we give ourselves over to you as we name the beloved ones, we have lost this year.

Word of Institution
Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Commitment (in unison) — Celtic Version of the Lord's Prayer by John Philip Newell

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family

And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen.

Call for the Offering

Jesus said, 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me." May our gifts today reflect our gratitude for the Spirit's abiding, encouraging, and transforming presence in our lives.

Offertory

*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)

Loving God, as we seek to yoke our lives to the work and mission of Jesus, and as we seek to learn from the One who is gentle and humble in heart, we offer these gifts. Accept what we offer today: our monetary gifts, our brokenness, our hopes, our longings, and our lives. Bless and use what we offer to bring about the world you intend. Amen.

*Hymn Purple #649 *Amazing Grace*

*Benediction

Go now in peace and in joy, remembering that there is still more to learn! Let us Be Curious, so God can be our teacher. 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

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.

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, **Beth Hauver,** 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, Mary Ann Sanders, Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Rae Smith, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), 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.

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.

TUESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY - Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting hot chocolate and hot cider. 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 November, we are requesting donations of individual packages of oatmeal.

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 and open-ended, watching football, enjoying 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. 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.

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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The lector this week is: Rick Waters
Ushers for this week are: Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, and William Wantz.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP 11/8 & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is: Carol Mooers

Next week's ushers are: William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum and James Coates

11/1 Halloween Costume Party
11/6 9am -2pm Zion Gathering Place
5:30pm 1st Tour -Zion Ghost Tours
7:30 pm 2nd Tour

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

OFFICE HOURS - The church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9am-12am; 1pm-3pm.

GHOST TOURS – Friday November 6th, Zion's cemetery. 1st tour 5:30pm, 2nd 7pm. Jonathan Hager Zion Ghost Tours supported by Washington Co. Parks and Recreation.

MUSIC FOR October 25, 2026
CCLI NUMBER: 6212519

Prelude

Hymns
Glory to God #730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*
Glory to God #475 *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*
Glory to God #649 *Amazing Grace*

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

Offertory

Postlude

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