October 11, 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

Prelude *Just As I Am*

*Call to Worship

One: It takes strength to be curious!
All: God is the source of our strength!
One: It takes resilience to be curious!
All: God is the author of resilience!
One: It takes openness to be curious!
All: Let us worship God in strength, openness, and resilience! Amen.

*Hymn Purple #701 *Christ Be Beside Me*

Call to Confession

It takes strength to ask questions. It takes resilience to await unknown or painful answers. Sometimes, we don't have the strength and resilience we need. Let us enter into a time of reconciliation, inviting God to renew our ability to be curious.

Prayer of Confession

One: God, our Creator, You have created us for growth, learning, and blessing.
All around us we see signs of healing and hope. And yet, we struggle to remain open.
We allow others to bear the pain of change. We allow injustice to persist.
All: Have mercy on us and ground us in curiosity. Give strength to our words and persistence to our hearts. Help us to seek peace with one another and with your creation. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God promised the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey – unimaginable when they were starving in the desert. In the same way, God promises us love beyond what we can imagine. God has all the strength and resilience we need to begin again. 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 "Perhaps the World Ends Here" by Joy Harjo.

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So, it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children.

They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

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

Anthem

Word for Children

Scripture Exodus 16:1-17, 31, 35; NRSV Tina Shafer

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the

glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.'" The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. ... The house of Israel called it manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.... The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a habitable land; they ate manna, until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

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 – Resilience E. Scott Winnette

*Hymn Purple #753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

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

One curious question can make such a difference in a conversation. One prayer can make such a difference on a journey to healing. One gift can make such a difference in the ministries of our community. We invite your curious questions, your prayers, and your gifts.

Offertory *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

*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 God and Source of All, thank you for the gifts of curiosity and community. We are grateful that your future for us continues to unfold. Bless these gifts as our commitment to hope and transformation, for our congregation and for the world. Amen.

*Hymn Purple #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Benediction

God gives us strength and resilience,
so that we can be open to new possibilities.
Go now to face the unknown with curiosity,
blessed by our Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. 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 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

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

MUMMERS PARADE TICKETS are for sale in the Church Office.

ZION INQUIRER'S CLASS – October 18th at 9:30am in the Parsonage – This is a class for anyone who would like to learn more about Zion and may be interested in joining the church. Please let Pastor Scott or Susie Clutz (Membership Chair) know of your interest.

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.

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.

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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING - Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

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,

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

WORSHIP LEADERS
The lector this week is: Tina Shafer
Ushers for this week are: Bernie Clutz, Susan Clutz, Becky Hohman and John Schnebly.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH Becky Hohman

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP 10/18 & CALENDAR
The lector for next week is: Alie Montgomery
Next week's ushers are: Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens and Rick Waters.

10/13 5-6:30pm Tuesday Ministry
10/14 6:30pm Potluck and Bible study
10/16 9:00am Zion Gathering Place

BIRTHDAYS
Beth Hauver 10/12,
Ruth Dwyer 10/13, and
Max Delosier 10/15

ANNIVERSARIES
Chris & Mary Emmert 10/11,
Curtis & Amber Nilson 10/13

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

MUSIC FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
CCLI NUMBER: 6212519

Prelude *Just As I Am* by William Bradbury.

Hymns
Glory to God #701, *Christ Be Beside Me*
Glory to God #753, *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*
Glory to God #611, *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

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

Offertory *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* by Charles C. Converse, arranged by Jenifer Cook, copyright: 2008 by Jenifer Cook

Postlude *Improvisation on Holy, Holy, Holy*

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