



# ZION CHURCH NEWS

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION, DECLARE A HOLY FAST, CALL A SACRED ASSEMBLY. (JOEL 2:15)

## Sunday Services

We know Zion members are anxious to resume in-person services. Church leadership shares this same interest. We are monitoring the CDC and UCC Recommendations and we'll reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. When we do reopen we want to ensure everyone is safe. Your health and welfare continue to be of paramount importance to us!

Sunday worship services can be viewed on our website: [www.zionreformed.church](http://www.zionreformed.church). Worship services are posted Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. Past sermons are available on our [YouTube channel](#) to enjoy at your leisure. Simply search for "Zion Reformed UCC" on YouTube to find them.

## Words Of Faith and Strength

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit", says the Lord God. (Zechariah 4:6) God is saying to you "Trust Me" What's about to happen won't have anything to do with your power, your works, or your effort. It will be My power, My favor, and My purpose. You're about to receive an out of this world blessing! Receive it in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



## Prayer & Scripture

Dear Lord, we thank You for your faithfulness and the assurance that we are never defenseless, that your grace is always available and that you never fail. We thank You for giving us everything we need to face these upcoming days. May Your will be done in our lives. God, we pray you will give us peace when frustration creeps in. We pray You will give us the strength to press on when we're told "NO". God, we thank you for teaching us that "NO" is just a step to bigger and better "YES". In Jesus' mighty name. God's Word says, "No harm will overtake you; no illness will come near your home. God will command his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will carry you in their arms, and won't hurt your feet on the stones" (Psalm 91:10-12) Amen.

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 3

# MARCH

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### ZION REFORMED UCC

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Hagerstown, MD 21740  
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[www.zionreformed.church](http://www.zionreformed.church)  
Like us on Facebook

# 2021 MARCH

# Announcements

**Adult Sunday School**, led by Sue Graff meets every Sunday at 9:45 am each Sunday via Zoom and phone options. To join, go to <https://zoom.us/join> or by calling 301.715.8592. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937, and Passcode: 536055. \*Zoom users may use the [One-Click Join](#) option to join without entering meeting information.

**Children's Sunday School**, hosted by Kim Ridenour, continues to meet every Sunday at 9:45 am via Zoom or phone. If you have a young child that would like to participate please contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) or 240.313.0709 for more details.

*\*Sunday School information is available 24/7 at [www.zionreformed.church/education](http://www.zionreformed.church/education).*

**Fellowship Hours Now Available on Sunday's and Thursday's:** Grab your favorite snack and come enjoy a vibrant time of fellowship sharing our joys, concerns, and challenges with one another. As the classic song, "Lean On Me" echoes: "Lean on me, when you're not strong. And I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on." Let us lean on one another in friendship, community, and prayer!

**Join Sunday Fellowship Hour** at 12:30pm every Sunday by going to Zoom at <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 868 5404 1994 and Passcode: 519568.

\*Zoom users can join by Zoom using [One-Click Join](#) and skip entering meeting information.

**Join Thursday Fellowship Hour** at 5:30pm every Thursday by going to Zoom at <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 842 7267 6444 and Passcode: 337217

\*Zoom users can join by Zoom using [One-Click Join](#) and skip entering meeting information.

*\*Access this information at anytime at [www.zionreformed.church/fellowship](http://www.zionreformed.church/fellowship).*

**Zion Soup Kitchen** serves warm meals to the public even in the midst of the pandemic while following CDC guidelines for social distancing, face masks, frequent sanitation of equipment, limiting number of persons in the Fellowship Hall including number of volunteers, and offering carryout options. If you would like to volunteer, or donate food or money, it is always appreciated. Enjoy cooking? Volunteer to prepare a meal, either on-site or off-site to drop off for the on-site team to distribute. Contact the Church Office to coordinate or for more detail.

**REACH Cold Weather Shelter**, a ministry of the Hagerstown Area Religious Council, is looking for volunteers to prepare and serve food, and to assist with laundry, security, and check-in. The Cold Weather Shelter is open through April. Contact Carroll Sager for more information at [carroll.sager@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.sager@gmail.com).

**Questions or Concerns:** Please contact the Church Office at 301.739.7244 or [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net) with any questions, assistance, or concerns, or to make an announcement in future editions of the newsletter. Newsletter submissions are due the third Monday each month unless otherwise shared. To submit announcements in the weekly bulletin or service video, please contact Michael, our Multimedia Specialist, at [connectionssixeight@gmail.com](mailto:connectionssixeight@gmail.com) or 240.203.0854.

**God Bless and Stay Safe,**  
Darlene Covington  
Church Administrator

# Pastor's Pen

***Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; God will not fail you or forsake you. ~Deuteronomy 31:6~***

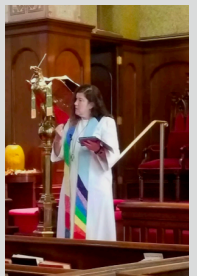
The past year has been a difficult one, and too much of it has been separated from one another. We have seen the world change right before our eyes, as millions died from a new disease, millions more protested in the streets, and our own government institutions were overrun by insurrectionists. Much of the events of the world passed before us on tv screens and newspaper articles, but lately the news has come closer to home. This year, 2021, has already been a year of loss for our congregation and I know many of you read this with heavy hearts. There are times that we feel as if we are stranded in the wilderness and all that is left are our memories of how things used to be. Too many of us have struggled with the aftermath of illness, suffering and death. Sorrow is the great equalizer and whenever we experience it, we want to push it away, numb the pain, and make it all go away.

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "Don't push the river, it flows by itself." The truth is that there are processes in life that operate at their own tempo—creativity, grief and faith, to name a few. Trying to push these processes through doesn't work very well, and can even make the process longer. Healing is like that. When we face the dark shadows of sorrow, we find that healing is often a slow process that tests our patience and our desire to get things done quickly.

While I wait for healing to be manifested in my life, I take comfort and gain courage from the words of Deuteronomy, as the people finally made their way out of the wilderness and walked towards the land promised to them for so long. I am not alone as I wait, and neither are you. And the sacred Presence that surrounds us when we need it most will make us stronger.

Take heart, be still, and know that our God and this community are with you every step of the way. May the love of God be with you, my friends.

Blessings,  
Pastor Katie



## Worship Services for March

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup>** 11am - 3rd Sunday in Lent (*Theme: Protest*)  
Communion Sunday

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>** 11am - 4th Sunday in Lent (*Theme: Salvation*)  
Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Mar 21<sup>st</sup>** 11am - 5th Sunday in Lent (*Theme: Covenant*)

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>** 11am - Palm Sunday (*Theme: Redemption*)

## Sunday Morning Schedule

**9:45am - Sunday School Classes via Zoom/Dial-In**  
Children and adult classes available (Details on [page 2](#))

**11am - Virtual Worship Service**  
[www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons)

**12:30 pm Virtual Fellowship Hour**  
See *Announcements* on [page 2](#) for details



# Consistory Highlights

## Dear Members & Friends,

These are difficult times, which requires difficult decisions. Please know that your church leadership is addressing the difficult question of when to resume in-person services with the utmost concern for the health and well-being of all. Yes, it's important to be together, but it isn't worth losing anyone because we were careless with each other. We're now blessed with an AV system in the Sanctuary that allows us to participate in worship services from home. We hope that everyone has been able to find them online by clicking on the "WorshipLive" link on our website at <https://zionreformed.church>. Sunday School options are offered every Sunday at 9:45am via Zoom and dial-in, for both, children and adults. Also offered twice weekly, via Zoom and dial-in, are Fellowship Hour opportunities on Sunday's at 12:30pm and Thursday's at 5:30pm. For more information regarding Sunday School or Fellowship Hour options, contact the Church Office or visit the "Faith Formation" section of our website.

Zion's Soup Kitchen and Micah's Backpack outreach ministries continue to ensure that any of our neighbors in need of food are fed. These vital outreach ministries continue even in the midst of a global pandemic as we ensure that the basic need of nutrition is met. Please know that all CDC guidelines are being followed during these outreach activities that cannot be offered virtually. Protocols have been implemented to ensure social distancing and use of masks, in addition to minimizing the number of people allowed in the building at a time. In accordance with our long tradition of community service, we stand ready to assist in whatever ways we can, sharing God's love by action. Kindly let us know of any unmet needs that you are aware of within our congregation and within the greater community.

After 12-years at Zion, Celebrate Recovery has decided to move to a new location at West End Baptist Church. While we are sad to see them leave, we wish them well in their valuable ministry as they continue to serve God and our neighbors!

The HVAC repairs in the front office suite have been completed. Repointing of the bell tower masonry is in process with more extensive structural repairs of the bell tower and Sanctuary are planned to commence in the Spring.

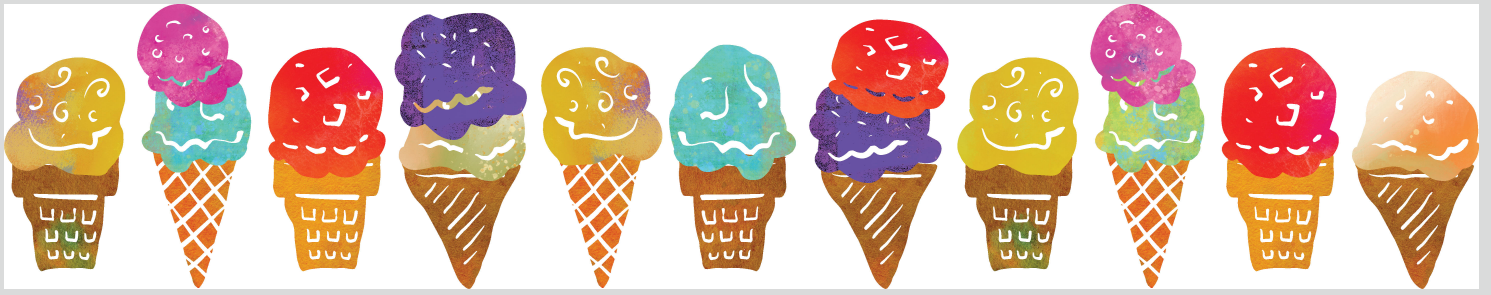
Please remember that our regular expenses haven't stopped during our physical absence from the church, sending in your tithes and offerings to help financially during this time is deeply appreciated. You may mail them to the church or contribute electronically through our secure giving portal on the church website.

**Grace and peace to you in these unusual times,**

Becky Owens

Consistory President





# Church Happenings

## Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at 7 pm at the home of Sue Graff. The book selection for March is "No One Ever Asked" by Katie Ganshert. The March meeting will meet on 3/19. Please join us for a great discussion and wonderful fellowship!

**Zion's Soup Kitchen serves warm meals to our community every Tuesday from 5 pm to 6:15 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Church Office.**

## Lector Ministry Schedule



3/07 Carroll Sager  
3/14 Michael Jones  
3/21 Rae Smith  
3/28 Aaron Kelly

## New Piano Fund Donations Needed

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the piano fund! Your contributions will help to enhance our music program and recital program for generations to come. We have not yet reached our goal but sincerely appreciate all of the contributions made so far. Call Darlene in the church office Monday through Friday or see the Music Director for more information.

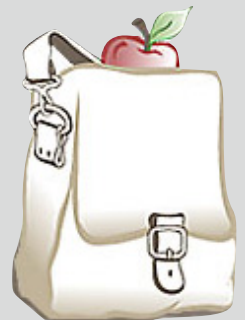


## Altar Flowers

We have started using artificial flowers on the altar in place of the real flowers. The only time we will be using real flowers will be at Christmas, Easter Sunday, and the Sunday before Decoration Day in May. Real flowers used on those days will be removed and taken to the cemetery and placed on the lot known as "The Family Lot" at Rose Hill Cemetery by the flower committee. The monthly coordinators or Scherry Sellers will place artificial flowers each month on the altar. There will be no cost for the flowers. However, donations to the church will be accepted. Contact Scherry Sellers at 301-797-9697 with any questions.

## Micah's Backpacks

Our 10th year of ministry is in full-gear currently providing meal backpacks to **20 children** at Bester Elementary School every Friday. If anyone would like to help, please see Scherry Sellers. All donations are welcome — food and monetary!



## Treasurer's Report

MONTHLY FIGURES	January	2021
Income	\$6,934.00	\$6,934.00
Transfer from Special Funds	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Expenses	-38,438.73	-38,438.73
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$6,504.73</b>	<b>-\$6,504.73</b>

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH 2021

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MON 3/1	Consistory Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 3/4	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	5:30 pm
SUN 3/7	Sunday School via Zoom	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
MON 3/8	Search & Call Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
TUE 3/9	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 3/11	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	5:30 pm
SUN 3/14	Sunday School via Zoom	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
MON 3/15	April Newsletter Deadline	12:00 pm
TUE 3/16	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
THU 3/18	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	5:30 pm
SUN 3/21	Sunday School via Zoom	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via	12:30 pm
TUE 3/23	Zoom Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm
WED 3/24	Search & Call Committee Meeting	5:30 pm
THU 3/25	Staff Meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
	4-H Club Meeting via Zoom	4:30 pm
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	5:30 pm
SUN 3/28	Sunday School via Zoom	9:45 am
	Worship Service	11:00 am
	Fellowship Hour via Zoom	12:30 pm
TUE 3/30	Soup Kitchen	5:00 pm



3/3	Page Wise
3/5	Billie Keller
	Ellen Barr
3/7	Linda Franks
	Tina Shafer
3/8	Christian Grosh
3/9	Liz Dattilio
3/11	Julia Patterson
3/14	Christine Coleman
3/17	Bonnie Hart
3/18	Hallie Green
3/20	Kent Shafer
3/22	Brenda Lohman
3/25	A.J. Artwell
3/28	Carl Ferguson
3/29	Ralph Hess
3/31	Sue Graff



*What Was That???*  
*A Parish Nurse Note March 2021*

It's the third most prevalent chronic condition for older adults and it's a national problem-untreated hearing loss. In 2012, 36 million Americans had hearing loss, 17% of which were adults. Almost half of those older than 75 have hearing loss and one third of those ages 65 to 74 are also affected. Think of everyone you know that is between 65 and 74; 1 in 3 of them has significant hearing loss.

Many factors can contribute to hearing loss; these include genetics, noise exposure, age and chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and chronic kidney disease. Age related hearing loss is usually slow and progressive. One of the initial signs of hearing loss is not being able to hear or understand speech when there is a lot of background noise.

There seems to be a stigma attached to hearing loss; many people feel they are a disgrace because they cannot hear adequately. The majority of those with hearing loss wait 5 to 7 years before seeking treatment. This is frustrating for the individual as well as their loved ones.

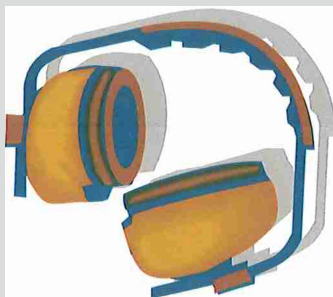
Maybe you have noticed this over the past several months; wearing a face covering can lessen sound by 30%, causing problems for even those with normal hearing, not to mention those with hearing loss.

Hearing loss can affect other areas of your health. A study by Johns Hopkins University and the National Institutes of Health showed that the risk of getting dementia (including Alzheimer's disease) is **increased up to 300 times** and the risk of clinical depression (persistent depression that impacts daily living) **increases by 500%** for those with untreated hearing loss.



In addition, the risk of falls and broken bones is greater for those with hearing loss. Untreated hearing loss will greatly affect your quality of life. Difficulty concentrating, anger, depression and loss of self esteem can be directly related to hearing loss. The individual with hearing loss may also develop feelings of isolation. People may think you are rude because you don't respond or you give a nonsensical answer; maybe it's because you just didn't hear!!

How should you handle hearing loss? Begin with getting a hearing screening after the age of 50. If you suspect hearing loss, the best treatment is rendered by an audiologist- a licensed professional that can identify, assess and manage problems with hearing, balance and other issues with the ears (such as tinnitus- ringing in the ears.) They can also provide speech and hearing rehabilitation programs.



The most common treatment for hearing loss is hearing aids. This helps you not only hear better, but also understand others' speech. Don't wait! Get your hearing checked by a licensed professional and make 2021 the Year of the Ear!

**Blessings and Health,**

Barb Hendershot, RN  
Parish Nurse

Sources: [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

"Senior Life," *Herald Mail* 12/15/20



# Family Fun

Family Activities for Spending Time Together

## Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV



The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

### What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.



# Just for Kids

(and the Kid's at heart)

## Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

## Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

# Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Services 2021



## Worship with Us!



**Lent:** The season of Lent is a time for personal reflection, repentance, and growth. It is a season where we focus upon prayer, fasting, and works of love as expressions of our faith. A season of renewal and grace, restoring right relationships, letting God lead, and the light shine out of the darkness as we journey to the cross. While a solemn season of penitence and reflection, Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, and reflection that ultimately lead to celebration. This Lent we will focus on repair, "Repairing: For Such a time as this!"

<b>Ash Wednesday Virtual Worship Service</b> , February 17 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm	✦	(Lent Begins)
<b>First Week in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , February 21 <sup>st</sup> at 11am	✦	(Wilderness)
<b>Second Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , February 28 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Sacrifice)
<b>Third Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 7 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Protest)
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 14 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Salvation)
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday Worship</b> , March 21 <sup>st</sup> at 11am	✦	(Covenant)
<b>Palm Sunday Virtual Worship Service</b> , March 28 <sup>th</sup> at 11am	✦	(Redemption)

\*All Worship Services available virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>.

\*\*For more info about Sunday Fellowship Hour and Thursday Fellowship Hour: <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.



**Holy Week & Easter:** Holy Week continues our journey toward the cross, taking us through the shame and suffering endured by Christ to those torturous final moments upon the cross. But Easter is only around the corner, that glorious morning we know all so well! That morning when Christ conquered death and rose from the dead giving us new life, ensuring that grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love are available to us every day, anytime we need it. And, oh how we need it every day! As we celebrate the transformative power of the new life Christ offers us this Easter season, we will focus our attention on "Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God?"

<b>Maundy Thursday Zoom Service</b> , April 1 <sup>st</sup> at 7pm	✦	(Bread & Cup of Life)
<b>Good Friday Virtual Service</b> , April 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 7pm	✦	(It is Finished)
<b>Easter Sunday Virtual Service</b> , April 4 <sup>th</sup> (Available at Sunrise)	✦	(New Life)

\*Maundy Thursday Service will be via Zoom/dial-in and will be uploaded to the website at the conclusion of the service. There will be **no Thursday Fellowship Hour this evening as fellowship will be incorporated into this special service**. Virtual Worship services are available at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>.

\*\*There will be **no Sunday School classes or Fellowship Hour on Easter Sunday** due to family gatherings. Sunday School will resume the following week via Zoom and dial-in at 9:45am. Thursday Fellowship will be unaffected by the holiday celebrations. Sunday School info can be found at <https://zionreformed.church/education>. Fellowship Hours information can be found at: <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

**This congregation shall be known by the name of Zion Reformed, and shall be part of the United Church of Christ. The mission of this Congregation is:**

- ❖ **To worship God**
- ❖ **To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **To celebrate the Sacraments**
- ❖ **To share Christian fellowship and unity within our Congregation, community, and world**
- ❖ **To render loving service toward all people**
- ❖ **To strive for righteousness, justice and peace, and**
- ❖ **To grow in spirit and in membership.**

*Adapted from Zion's Constitution and Bylaws  
(Established 1770, Incorporated 1774; Amended 2009)*

## **Come and Worship!**



**Join us *Virtually* Sunday Mornings!**

Sunday School @ 9:45 am by Zoom or Dial-In

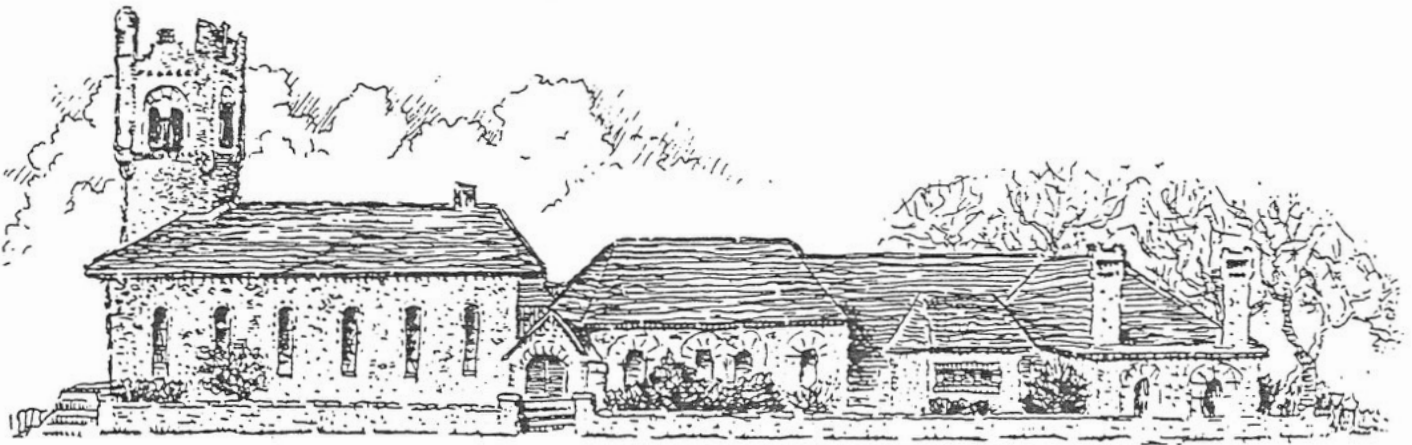
Virtual Worship at 11am on website

.....  
**ALL Are Welcome!**

Web: [www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ZionRUCC](https://www.facebook.com/ZionRUCC)

ZION REFORMED UCC  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ