

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 28TH, 2021 @ 11 A.M.
SUNDAY BULLETIN



Never be afraid to trust
an unknown future
to a known God.
~ Corrie Ten Boom ~

Sacrifice

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of God. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making. We invite you to consider making Zion Reformed UCC your church home if you haven't already and join us on the journey as we listen for the still-speaking voice of God together.

In the Scriptures this week we read of the covenant God made with Abram and Sarai, and their descendants through all ages. As a symbol of this covenant, God gives them new names or identities, Abraham and Sarah. The new covenant that Christ brought forth also requires new identities symbolically marking it. Or perhaps it would be better said that we become more fully ourselves when we walk before God with our whole selves, --new identities. God doesn't ask us to set aside who we are, but enables us to use the gifts within us to serve the kin-dom and the community of faith.

While we don't rename ourselves today, this new identity we take on comes in the name of disciple or follower. We take Christ's name as our name – Christian. This new identity doesn't come without a cost. To establish the new covenant, Christ laid down his life for us and requires us to seek Him instead of our self's desires. We must walk humbly before God and with others. This daily purging requires a sacrifice of self. It's not what we want but what God wants! Perhaps together we will discover that what God wants is exactly what we need for such a time as this.

Come! Let us Repair: For Such a Time as This!

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Ciaccona in D-Minor"

Call to Community

One: We come to worship this morning from different places.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Deny yourselves."

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Take up your cross."

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Follow me."

All: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives. Amen.

Call to Reconciliation

We hear the words from Jesus:

"Take up your cross and follow me."

These words scare us. We know what taking up a cross meant for Jesus. We do not feel able to sacrifice our lives. We are not even ready on most days to sacrifice smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom. So, let us take this moment and turn to God in prayer:

Prayer of Brokenness

O God we admit our fearfulness, our weaknesses, our worries, and our hesitations. As we look at the cross in front of us... As we remember the crosses that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, such a short time ago to begin our Lenten journey... As we think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards, may we find strength in

new places deep within our souls. May we find courage, hope, and the peace to really follow Jesus. May worship today help us throughout our Lenten journey towards finding our crosses and figuring out how to bear them. Hear our prayers, remind us of the grace that covers our sin and offers us the endurance to run the race of faith. Amen, and Amen.

~Silent Reflection~

Words of Blessing

Hear the Good News! God hears our prayers and promises to meet us where we are. God is right here and wherever you go today. Believe this and believe that God comes to you with love and blessings. Amen.

Meditative Interlude✦

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

WE MEDITATE

Hebrew Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

Lector: Rae Smith

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Gospel Lesson✦

Mark 8:31-38 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for

my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Message: *At Cross Purposes*

Contemplative Interlude[✦]

"Immortal Love, Forever Full"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Without talking back, without asking questions, let us move into God's love. We offer God our gifts, in whatever ways we are able to give. Let us give God our thanks.

Blessing Our Gifts (Prayer of Dedication)

God of hope and blessings, bless these gifts with your love so that we might share them with all who need a glimpse of your vision and dreams. Be with us as we join our voices together in prayer...

Our Savior's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sending Forth

Go and find the road that leads to life, and take the path that brings right relationships. May we pause to journey with others on the way, and may we meet with God somewhere between dawn and dusk. Amen.

Prelude to Service[✦]

"Praeludium in C-Major"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of February 28th



Fellowship Hour

Join us for Fellowship Hour on Sundays at 12:30pm or Thursdays at 5:30pm (or both). Grab your favorite food and drink and enjoy a vibrant time of fellowship! A relaxing, intimate time to socialize, share our joys, concerns, and even trials as we support one another, hanging out together safely in a world of social distancing. More information available at <https://zionreformed.church/fellowship>.

Join Sunday Fellowship Hour by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling **301.715.8592**, and when prompted enter Meeting ID: **868 5404 1994** and Passcode: **519568**. **Zoom users may join using [One-Click Join](#) without entering meeting information.*

Join Thursday Fellowship Hour by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling **301.715.8592**, and when prompted enter Meeting ID: **842 7267 6444** and Passcode: **337217**. **Zoom users may join using [One-Click Join](#) without entering meeting information.*


Adult Sunday School

Join Sue Graff via Zoom or dial-in from your phone (any phone, even landline or flip phone). Each session lasts approximately 40-45 minutes and is done in time for Sunday Worship at 11am. We are currently exploring the series, "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst, examining how we react when our lives undergo change and the Biblical perspective for dealing with change, fear, and anxiety. We hope you will join us! Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff by going to <https://zoom.us> or calling **301.715.8592**, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **894 3614 5937** and Passcode: **536055**. **Zoom users may join using [One-Click Join](#) without entering meeting information.* For more info or to find the connection details at any time, go to www.zionreformed.church/adult.

Lenten Worship Series Continues:

As Queen Esther was confronted with the difficult choice of personal safety or saving her people, her cousin helped her come to a decision with these profound words: "Perhaps God has brought you here for such a time as this!" Throughout Lent, we are exploring what it means for us to be "In Such A Time As This!" This is the time for us to repair our relationships with God and with one another. Each week, we focus on a different scriptural theme: 1) Wilderness, 2) Sacrifice, 3) Protest, 4) Salvation, 5) Covenant and the last Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday, we will explore the theme of redemption.

Prayer Requests

 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 praying one for another! Contact the Church Office to submit your prayer requests or request a list of names to include your Zion siblings who have requested prayer in your prayers.

Online Giving

Online giving is an alternative to mailing-in donations that you may want to consider that provides a secure, convenient alternative with 24/7 access allowing you to update your giving information verify scheduled donations, and retrieve giving reports at any time. Give online at www.zionreformed.church/give.

Bulletin and Newsletters

Submit weekly bulletin news and announcements to Michael at connectionssixeight@gmail.com or call 240.203.0854. Submit your newsletter news and announcements to Darlene at zionrucc@myactv.net or 301.739.7244.

Volunteer Opportunities

Let us serve together! Volunteers are needed to serve in the following areas: Search & Call Committee (Pastoral Search); Constitution & Bylaws Revision Taskforce; and Soup Kitchen (cook, server, or preparation). If you are willing to serve in one of these positions or have a talent to volunteer in a new and creative outreach ministry, please contact the church office.

Annual Gathering of the Council of Health & Human Service Ministries (CHHSM)

This annual gathering of the UCC's Health & Human Service Ministries is a free online event this year from March 2nd to March 4th. IT is a great opportunity to consider your service and ministry calling, or to just learn more and grow spiritually. [Registration](#) is open for this free online event. Learn more about the UCC's Health & Human Service Ministries by checking out their [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. This worldwide Day of Prayer is recognized by women in more than 170 countries and regions and is observed annually on the first Friday in March during [Women's History Month](#) and brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world. The 2021 World Day of Prayer theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation." [Link1](#) | [Link2](#)

Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ Please continue to schedule any in-person business with the church office prior to stopping in so we can ensure safety protocols are adhered to while navigating the pandemic.
- ❖ To make a special donation towards the new fridge or new piano fundraisers, please send donations marked "Fridge Fund" or "Piano Fund" respectively to the church or donate online at www.zionreformed.church/give.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 38 online views and 3 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 27 meals served.



IMPORTANT DATES

Week of February 21st



Sunday Fellowship Hour After Worship

February 28th at 12:30pm via Zoom

Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.

Consistory Meeting

March 1st, 7pm via Zoom.

Soup Kitchen

March 2nd from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.
Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Staff Meeting

March 4th at 10am via Zoom

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

March 4th, 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Thursday Fellowship Hour

March 4th, 5:30pm via Zoom

Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.



Next Sunday's Service Schedule

March 7th

Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/education

Sunday Worship (3rd Sunday in Lent), at 11am

Worship virtually at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

Sunday Fellowship Hour at 12:30pm

Details on previous page or visit www.zionreformed.church/fellowship.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are a community of believers who support one another in love, prayer, and faith! We celebrate one another's joys. Our hearts ache when one of our community hurts. We listen when one has a concern. Most importantly we love one another and support one another in any way that we can. We also pray for one another. Let us share our joys, concerns, and announcements with one another!

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week



Happy Birthday to **Kristen Kelly** (Feb 28th), **Page Wise** (Mar 3rd), **Billie Keller** (Mar 5th), and **Ellen Barr** (Mar 5th)! May this year of your life be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your life be filled with an abundance of blessings, and for those times of trial should any arise, that you find the perseverance in Christ to endure.

If your special day does not appear the week of your celebration, contact the church office and let us know.

Submit Your Joys, Concerns, & Announcements

Submit your joys, concerns, and announcements for inclusion in the weekly bulletin to Michael at connectionssixeight@gmail.com or call 240.203.0854 by Thursday to be included in Sunday's bulletin.



One Community, Many Voices

Seminary Sunday: The UCC's Seminary Sunday is today, February 28th, and is a day to explore the importance of theological education for our faith community. Check out one of these UCC affiliated institutions: [CTS Seminary](#), [PSR](#), [LTS](#), [Yale Divinity School](#), or one of the many other institutions on this [list](#).

Church Vocations Sunday: The UCC's Church Vocations Sunday is today, February 28th, and is a day to pray and reflect on your call to ministry and Christian service. We are all called to ministry and service whether clergy or laity. Pray and reflect on your call to ministry and Christian service. Where is God leading you to serve? [A Church Vocations Sunday Reflection](#)

Activity Page Answer Key:

How Did Jesus Reply to Peter?

"Get behind me, Satan!" He said "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

What did Jesus say?

"Who ever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me."

How did Jesus reply to Peter?

Starting with the second letter, cross out every other letter and write the remaining letters on the lines below.

→ G E E O T P B P E N H A I M N S D I

A H X A E V S E O I G N R M A I H M

M S S O A F B G H O M D S B T N H

T N N U I M F A C N T C K O I U C E

O I H I S O N T R I E G C N N O D T S

N R D Y N L A E N R A E E M B T A S

N A E L C C N D O G C F E E O H R T A

A O M D O U R O S Y A N I A N T S A

But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter.

“ _____, _____!”

He said, “ _____

_____, _____

_____.”

Jesus called to the crowd and His disciples.
What did Jesus say?

Find the missing sections of the words in the box to fill in the blanks.

de _____ wa _____ ciple
 _____ ke _____ llow _____ selves
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Me.”

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!”

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

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

SERVICE CREDITS

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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