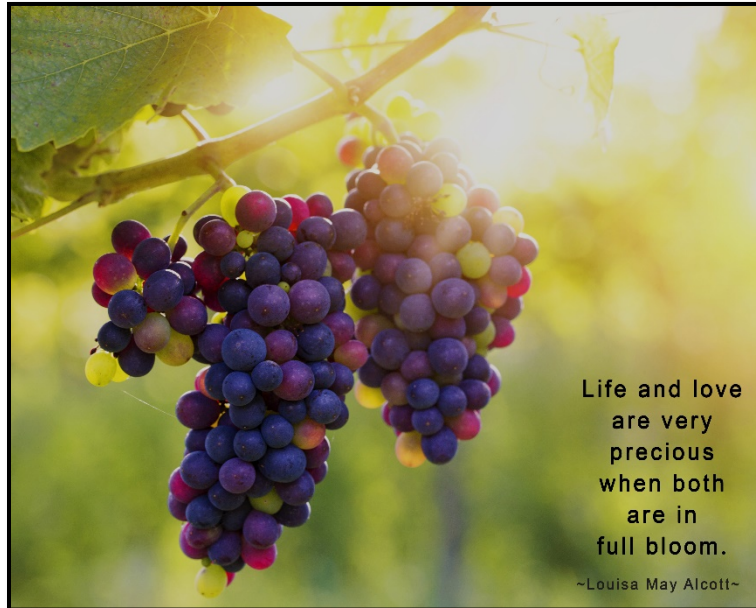


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2ND, 2021 @ 11A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Renewing: Is Anything too Wonderful for Our God? (Joy)

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! If you have been with us for some time, welcome! Welcome back to in-person worship! Please remember to properly wear your face mask at all times inside and to socially distance.

Abiding in the presence of Christ is our call this week, --to abide in Love. Abide is simply defined as accepting or acting in accordance with, but it means so much more in our relationship with Christ. To surrender to God, set self aside, and enter into the moment. It means we behave as God does, loving our neighbor always without judgment. We abide in God's love and are called to show that love by loving others unconditionally. Our focus is heightened as we bask or abide in the Scriptures finding comfort, solace, and challenge. We abide in music, pouring our hearts out in song as we bellow out praises or maybe we simply listen in contemplation. Silence is another way we abide in the presence of God. We abide in these moments of connecting with God who comforts us, loves us, and renews us so that we can then act, doing the same for others so that they too may experience the abiding love of God in which we find joy. We practice this abiding in Christ even as we worship together with the hope that it will continue after the benediction is pronounced and the postlude ends.

Let us abide in Christ together, renewing in God's grace and listening for that still-speaking voice to guide us to abide even better. Is anything too wonderful for our God?

WE GATHER

Gathering Music ✦

"Nocturnes Medley"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✦

"In Paradisium"

Call to Community (based on 1 John 4)

One: Let us love one another, for love is from God.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let us reach out to those in need, for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All: God's love calls us to recognize our family, to see Christ in each other.

One: Let us move beyond the margins and out of our comfort zone, into the world around us.

All: God's perfect love casts out all fear.

One: Come, let us worship our God, who is Love.

All: Come, let us worship in one spirit as the family of God.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, This is the day that You have made!

This is the day you have called Holy.

Sabbath day, a rest day, a time-out:

Out of the world and into the presence of God: a day for rejoicing.

Make us joyful this morning in God's House.

**Remove from us our distractions, our heart-worries,
our to-do lists, our should-haves and all the constant stress & strain.**

And in its place, O Holy One, give us more of You.

Here in your House, our hearts are filled with peace:

Our mouths with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy..

Fill us to overflowing with the joy of God: A good measure of the Sacred,
pressed down, shaken together and running over.

We are glad, yes, we are glad indeed, to be together in God's House!

Meditative Interlude ✦

"I Will Sing of Our Redeemer"

WE MEDITATE

Epistle Lesson

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)
Lector: Barb Hendershot

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Children's Time

Gospel Lesson ✦

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)
Pastor Katie

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Message

Abide in Love

Contemplative Interlude ✦

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

O God, let these gifts grow to reach the whole world with love. Remain in these gifts, O God, so that future generations might know that we love them as much as we love you. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks for the joy of God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Story

The Meal (We sup at the Lord's table)

The Prayer

Remain with us, O God. Make this feast the nourishment we need to grow more wild and wonderful. Graft us onto the vine of your Beloved so that we might grow more connected with you and all of creation. With this food and this drink, let us be the love that we have found in you and your Beloved, as we pray in the words our Savior gave us,

Prayer of Our Savior

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
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.**

Sending Forth

Let us go forth thankful that we have come.

Let us go forth renewed in God's abiding love.

And let us go forth rejoicing in the Good News, of Jesus Christ, whose love will never let us go.
Amen.

Prelude to Service ✦

"Nocturne in F-Major"



GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Week of May 2nd

Graduate Recognition



We want to honor all 2021 graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) with a blessing during a worship service in June. If you are graduating this year, or have a graduate to recognize, please submit their names and school graduating from, and degree if applicable to Pastor Katie or the Church Office. If they can't participate in the service, a picture can be submitted.

Repairs Update

Repair work has begun in the bell tower. The leaky hatch has been moved and work continues on gutters, downspout, and flashing repairs. On Monday, work on the Sanctuary walls begins. Please look at paint color samples in the Sanctuary as 4 additional color choices have been added to give us more options before finalizing our color choice. Beginning today, we will meet in the Chapel and/or outdoors throughout the 6-week time frame estimated to complete this project.

Budget Committee Volunteers Needed



As we begin to plan our budget for next year (yes, next year) we need to review our budget and begin crafting a proposal now so that we are prepared for the end of year budget process. If you are interested in serving on this committee, envisioning our future and ensuring we are good stewards, let Becky Owens know or contact the Church Office.

Consistory Minutes Available Upon Request

Reviewing the monthly consistory minutes is a great way to stay informed of the latest news, projects, and concerns of the Church. Consistory minutes are available to anyone upon request. Contact the Church Office to get your copy.

Outdoor Worship Service

Mark your calendars and bring your lawn chairs! We will worship outside in our beautiful, newly enlarged parking lot, underneath the heavens as we celebrate the ascension of Christ on Ascension Sunday, May 16th.



Children's Sunday School



Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour meets at 9:45am this morning via Zoom as they continue their "Sermon on the Mount Series." Connect your child(ren) by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 865 7471 1577 and Passcode: YouthSS. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net, or the Church Office.

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today". (Matthew 6:34)



Journey Adult Class

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff at 9:45am this morning as we continue our study on Psalm 23, gaining new perspectives on this beloved passage. Connect to this class by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937 and Passcode: 536055. For more info go to www.zionreformed.church/adult.



**Zoom users may join using [One-Click Join](#) without entering meeting information.*

General Synod 33



Mark your calendars for this special edition 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 11th – 18th. This special edition general synod will be entirely virtual. Registration will open May 1st. Gathering under the theme: Rooted in Love, expect a vibrancy of spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. Come, expecting to learn more and connect with the UCC through various opportunities and lend to the forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. Let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in attending as a delegate for Zion or as a participant in general. Learn more at www.generalsynod.org.

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship: 31 participants and 8 online views | **Soup Kitchen:** 39 meals served.





Joys & Concerns



Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: [Kelly Bedard](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Bracket](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Crist Family](#), [Ruth Dwyer](#), [Elan Foutch](#), [Mike Heyser](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Richard Lohman](#), [Mike Lorfing](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Thelma Summers](#), [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Mark Shroyer** (May 3rd) and **Daniel Springer** (May 7th). May this year of your lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of each of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your lives are filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ Tithes and Offerings can be dropped in an offering plate located in the front and rear of the Chapel, or mailed to the Church, or given online at <https://zionreformed.church/give>. To make a special donation towards the Piano Fundraiser or Tech Fund, please send donations marked "Piano" or "Tech" respectively to the church.





IMPORTANT DATES

Week of May 2nd



Consistory Meeting

May 3rd at 7pm via Zoom

Staff Meeting

May 4th at 10am via Zoom

Soup Kitchen

May 4th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Cinco de Mayo

Happy Cinco de Mayo! (May 5th)

Service Workers

May 5th at 10am at the Church

Interfaith National Day of Prayer

May 6th

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Day_of_Prayer
and www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

May 6th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info or the Church Office.
We meet at <https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID 815 1055 0627 Passcode 899733.



Plan to Worship Next Sunday, May 9th at 11am (Mother's Day)

In-Person, or Virtually at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

Contact the Church Office or Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Journeys Adult Class via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/adult.



Activity Page

Week of May 2, 2021

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 15:1-8
Monday: Galatians 5:16-26
Tuesday: James 3:17-18
Wednesday: John 14:18-31
Thursday: Acts 10:1-34
Friday: Acts 10:34-43
Saturday: Mark 10:42-45

Reflection Verse

*“We love because
 He first loved us.”
 —1 John 4:19*

May 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	31					

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Using the clues provided, write the answers in the spaces provided. The first letter of each word should reveal a hidden message when read from top to bottom.

- King of the beasts _ _ _ _ _
- Short for margarine _ _ _ _ _
- Montpelier is its capitol _ _ _ _ _
- Electrical fish _ _ _ _
- Greasy _ _ _ _ _
- Counterpart to monk _ _ _ _
- Second book of the Bible _ _ _ _ _
- Continent south of Europe _ _ _ _ _
- Ark-builder _ _ _ _ _
- Egg-shaped _ _ _ _ _
- A levy on one's income _ _ _ _
- Top of human body _ _ _ _ _
- Associated with tides _ _ _ _
- Decay _ _ _ _

Message:

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Below are four 5-letter words. ALL of the letters are used only twice. Notice that there are two O's, so you can't use another O. Notice the J in the first word, for example. There's another J in these four words. Where is it? Fill in the blanks.

J _ _ T _ _ Y
 _ _ O _ _ R _ _
 B _ _ A _ _ D
 _ _ N _ _ O _ _

Answers to Double Trouble:
 JETTY
 BOARD
 BRAND
 ENJOY

Answers:
 1. lion
 2. oleo
 3. Vermont
 4. eel
 5. oily
 6. nun
 7. Exodus
 8. Africa
 9. Noah
 10. oval
 11. tax
 12. head
 13. ebb
 14. rot
Message:
 Love one another.

SERVICE CREDITS

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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