

ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☞ September 26th, 2021 ☞ 11 A.M.

Blessing of the Animals



WORSHIP GUIDE

Words of Wisdom

Meditation of the Day

*"We should seek not so much to
pray but to become prayer."*

~ St. Francis of Assisi ~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

✦ Indicates Music Selection

Please silence all mobile devices.

Gathering Music✦

Shepherd Hymns

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

↑ Call to Community

Come, let us gather together.

Let us join the gathering: we bring fish and birds.

Come, all is ready for all of creation.

Let us join the gathering: we bring turtles, dogs, and cats.

Come let us praise our Creator.

We are loved: we bring all flora, fauna, and all the glory of God's creation.

Come, with all creation. As we gather, we are mindful that, as part of God's creation, we wish the best for one another, and for all that God called good. Within this faith community we express this in prayer and through blessing. Let us pass God's blessing among one another: Peace be with you!

And with your spirit.

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

Creator God, You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!

We adore you.

Creator God who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes,

We adore you.

We thank you for abundant life; for the birds we hear in the morning, for the drone of the bees when we are outside, for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,

We give you thanks.

We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions; For the joy they bring us, For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you; For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser, For the benefits they are to our health-and to our Spirit.

We give you thanks.

And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals; Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.

Forgive us.

Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions; when we have said we are too busy to play with them, when we have shooed them away; when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired...too busy...more important engagements have come up...so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.

Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.

Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture; when we have neglected the animals in the wild, the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport', or in the name of food production. Forgive us when we have focused only on our 'favorites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful, those who hold a lower public profile. Each year more animals are becoming extinct, or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your creation, forgive us when we neglect to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts, and that you give breath to all creation.

God is love. Through Christ your sins are forgiven Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life, knowing that you are forgiven, and deeply loved. Know that the Holy Spirit will enable you to live fully, richly, and deeply. Amen.

Words of Blessing

↓Meditative Interlude✦

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD
The Holy Scriptures

Hebrew Lesson

Genesis 1:20-25 (NRSV)
Lector: Rich Owens

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?’

The Message

Abundant Blessings

Contemplative Interlude ✦

"All Creatures of our God"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

May these gifts we give be a blessing to you, O God, just as these animals have been a blessing in our lives. May these blessings be shared so that the love of Christ is made known to in a world that God has created and called good. Amen.

BLESSING OUR ANIMALS

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that we may

not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Blessing of the Animals

You are invited to bring your pets forward for a special blessing at this time.

Use this time to also create a personal message on the Memorial Wall for those pets no longer with us.

↑Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in 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

Prelude to Service[✦]

"All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir"

GO FORTH IN PEACE,



AND SERVE IN LOVE!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of September 26th



Mask Policy

Not everyone is vaccinated, let us show our love for ALL of our neighbors by wearing our face masks at all times inside the Church, and by practicing social distancing when interacting with one another. #RootedInLove



World Communion Sunday **Next Week**

Join us next Sunday for World Communion Sunday as we celebrate our worldwide unity in Christ during worship. World Communion Sunday is a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. and that we are part of the whole body of believers. The Communion table will include breads representing various cultures. Zion believes in an open table, anyone may receive communion.



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering **Next Week**



Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. This years' offering, "Unfailing Love" is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.

FREE Family Movie Night

FREE Admission. FREE Food. Fun for All Ages! Plan to attend Zion's *Outdoor Family Movie Night* on October 9th in the Church parking lot for a viewing of Disney Pixar's animated movie, "Onward". Bring your lawn chair and/or blanket for some good fall family fun. Concessions open at 7pm with music and raffle drawings. Concessions include hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, hot coca, and more. Movie begins at 8pm. More Info: www.facebook.com/events/785473635486572.



Mummers' Parade Seats Available

Hagerstown's annual Mummers' Parade will be held October 30th from 6-11pm. Reserve your seat in front of Zion, right along the parade route! Tickets are on sale now through September 30th for Zion participants and will open to the public on October 1st. Sidewalk seats are \$6.00/ticket and wall seats are \$5.00/ticket. All proceeds raised go directly to Christian Education in support of the Rev. Arthur Grove Class, Young Adult Class, and Children's Class. We will be setting up the canopy and chairs beginning at 6am the morning of the parade, followed by breakfast at Golden Corral. All are welcome to come help out!



2022 Budget Proposals



Budget proposals for 2022 are due October 1st from each committee/department head. Please finalize your proposals with as much detail as possible taking into as much consideration as possible all possible expenditures for the year. Submit your final proposal to the Church Office by 12:30, October 1st. Thank you for your dedication and diligence!

Sunday School



Sunday School is offered every Sunday from 9:45am -10:45am during the fall/winter schedule. For more information, visit www.zionreformed.church/education or contact the Church Office.

Joys & Concerns

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Staci Shafer** (Sep 27th), **Claire Marie Moblard** (Sep 28th), **Andrew Patterson** (Sep 28th). 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 is 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.



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: [Barnhart Family](#), [Beanie](#), [Kelly Bedard](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Brackett](#), [John Byl](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Sonny Crebbs](#), [Firor Family](#), [Beth Gross](#), [Rusty Guessford](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Dee Krause](#), [Lulu Lane](#), [Mike Lorfing](#), [Ohlhoff Family](#), [Diane Pugh](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Lori and Norm Schmidt](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Thelma Summers](#), [Janet Taylor](#), [Eleanor Wible](#), and [Robert Yeoman](#).

Lector Ministry



Lector this week is **Rich Owens**. Next week's scheduled lector is **Amber Nilson**.

**If unable to serve as lector for your designated week, please let Michael know by the Wednesday prior to your scheduled date at connectionssixeight@gmail.com or 240.203.0854.*



Properties Committee – Sep 27th @ 2pm (Burhans Room/Hybrid)

Christian Education Committee – Sep 27th @ 4pm (Burhans Room/Hybrid)

Soup Kitchen / Food Pantry – Sep 28th from 5pm-6:30pm in the basement Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome! Social distancing and masks required when not seated!

www.facebook.com/events/742513769694683

Search & Call Committee – Sep 29th @ 5:30pm (Burhans Room/Hybrid)

Staff Meeting – Sep 30th @ 11am (Burhans Room)

Executive Meeting – Sep 30th @ 2pm (Burhans Room/Hybrid)

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Sep 30th at 4:30pm via Zoom.
<https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID [815 1055 0627](#) Passcode [899733](#).



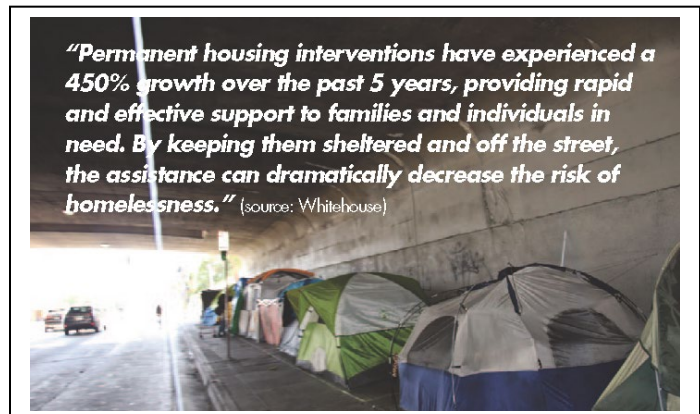
In a Just World,
 UCC advocates fight for
permanent shelters for
 those who are unhoused.

Did you know?

(5 facts as listed by US News & World Report)

- 1 **The average life expectancy of a homeless person is just 50 years.**
- 2 **39.8% of homeless persons are African Americans.**
- 3 **61% of homeless persons are men and boys.**
- 4 **20% of homeless persons are kids.**
- 5 **42% of street children identify as LGBT.**

Here's a promising statistic on homelessness That we want to ensure is made possible to more homeless persons. It states that permanent housing intervention has grown by 450% →



The most actionable bill to address housing access and homelessness is the **American Jobs Plan**. It proposes **\$213 billion** for housing programs, including **\$40 billion** to improve public housing. These investments emphasize affordable housing assistance. We'd like to see more focused on homelessness prevention programs, and there is legislation currently in negotiation.

Please join us in supporting the 2021 Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering on October 3rd as we place our attention on this important issue. Thank you!

In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!



ZION REFORMED UCC
PRESENTS

ONWARD

A DISNEY PIXAR ANIMATED PICTURE



FREE OUTDOOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET

OCTOBER 9TH, 2021

201 N. POTOMAC STREET, HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740

7PM CONCESSIONS OPEN * 8PM MOVIE STARTS

FREE HOT DOGS, STEAMERS, POPCORN, COTTON CANDY, HOT COCOA & WATER



FOR MORE INFO: ZIONRUCC@MYACTV.NET OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK @ZRUCC



JOIN US FOR 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

OCTOBER 6TH - NOVEMBER 20TH

40 Days * 38 Congregations * 1 Church United in Prayer

Even Paul knew that the mystery of Christ, the Kingdom of God, was irrevocably tied to prayer.

The Catoctin Association is 38 churches - a wide diversity of geography, faith, and practice, and yet one body. In essence the association could be represented by a patch quilt, each congregation an individual patch –different, unique and beautiful in its own way. But God uses the gift of prayer, weaving us all together as one united association supporting and complimenting one another in even mightier ways than imagined before. Separate and together, we labor side by side for a more just and generous world. That work is rooted in prayer - the prayers of our people, congregations, and the wider church. Those roots of prayer through the grace of God, roots love in the same instance so that we all may be one, rooted in prayer and love together.

On Oct. 6th, we will launch 40 Days of Prayer, where we will pray for each congregation, by name. We want to kneel in prayer as one association in prayer for each other through 40 days, to practice our covenant commitments to each other to love and support one another as siblings in Christ, to strengthen and encourage each other as a new chapter of faith emerges in our region.

If your congregation hasn't selected a day and submitted a prayer so that we can join with you in that prayer together, contact Sam Chamelin at sam@catoctinucc.org. Does your congregation need help writing your prayer or creating a video? Also reach out to Sam so we can have an association member work with you.

We're really excited about the power of 38 congregations praying together, as one body, for 40 days. We can't think of anything more UCC than living into our covenant with prayer and presence.



Every single patch is different and unique, and beautiful in its own way. . .
Listen to Rob Apgar talk about the patch quilt message at <https://fb.watch/8e0bcOw68j>

SERVICE CREDITS

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Gathering Music: *"Shepherd Hymn Medley"* – Medley arrangement by Barb Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC:
"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" – Tune, *"Crimond"* by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1872), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Francis Rous (1650), ©Public Domain. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).
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Prelude to Worship: *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* – Arranged by Craig Courtney, ©2003 by Beckenhorst Press Inc. All rights reserved. Based on the tune by Derek Hakes, ©Public Domain, and lyrics by Anonymous (1677) and translated by Joseph August Seiss (1873), ©Public Domain. *Source(s): Beckenhorst Press and [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

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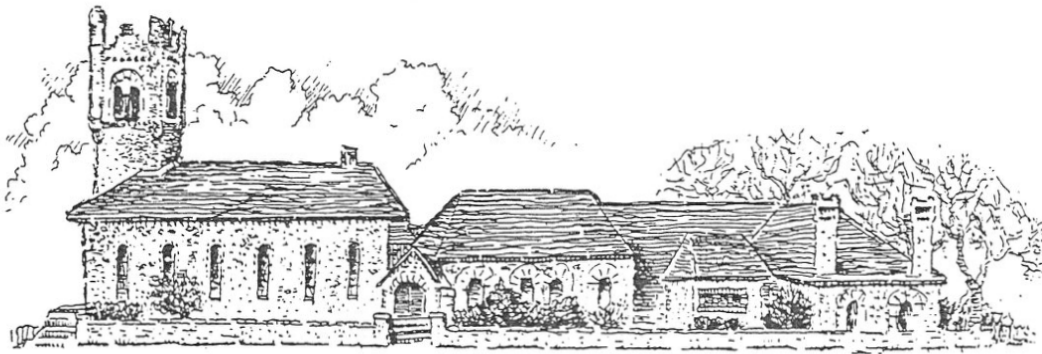
Gospel Segue: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* – Tune, *"Dix"* by Conrad Kocher (1838), ©Public Domain, and adapted by William H. Monk (1861), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Folliot S. Pierpoint (1864, stanzas 1-3), ©Public Domain and Miriam Therese Winter (1993, stanza 4), ©1993 by Medical Mission Sisters. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (organist), all rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Contemplative Interlude: *"All Creatures of our God and King"* – Tune, *"LASST UNS ERFREUEN,"* by Unknown, from Geistliche Kirchengesäng (1623), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by St. Francis of Assisi (1225), paraphrased by William H. Draper, ©Public domain. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Prelude to Service: *"A Place in the Choir"* (also known as *The Animal Song*, and also as *All God's Critters*) – Tune and lyrics (all versions) by American Folk Singer, Bill Staines, ©1983 by Mineral River Music (BMI), administered by Bug. *Source(s): [Music Notes \(A Place\)](http://musicnotes.com) (musicnotes.com), [musescore \(critters\)](http://musescore.com) (musescore.com), and [Irish Music Daily](http://irishmusicdaily.com) (irishmusicdaily.com).

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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