



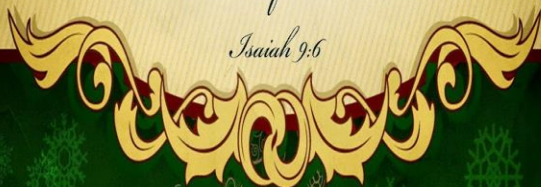
Jesus

And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Welcome to Zion UCC

"Another Road"

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

*Stand in body or spirit.

*(Join in speaking aloud the **bolded** portions.)*

Prelude

Coming Together to Share the Light

Greeting & Proclamation

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

Marcel Proust, 20th Century

Welcome and Announcements

Litany of Sunday Celebration

Arise; shine, for your light has come!

We are called out of our darkness into light.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

We rejoice in the gift of light.

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

We come to kneel before the Christ Child, the light incarnate.

Prayer of Invocation

The Prayer of Jesus

(All are invited to use whatever language and wording is most comfortable.)

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/debts/trespasses*, as we forgive *our debtors/those who sin/trespass 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. AMEN.

A Lesson for All Ages

***Hymn of Worship # 173** *As with Gladness"*

Prayer for Our Humanity

... and there is much we need to learn.

Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. AMEN.

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

... to show us the undeserved favor of God.

Glory to God! Alleluia! AMEN.

Installation of 2025 Church Council

Greeting

Introduction

Presentation

President: Rick Rosenfeld

Vice President: Kevin Langenfelder

Recording Secretary: Susan Elste

Financial Secretary: Frank Winter

Council Members:

Mary Ann Bantz, Becca Dimick, Kathy McElroy,
Krista DiPaula, Terry Reed, Allen Thompson

Covenant

***PEOPLE: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Prayer & Declaration

Greeting of Christian Love

Message in Music *"What a Wonderful Child"*

First Scripture Lesson Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalm Lesson # 767 w/ R *"Psalm 147:1-6"*

***Gospel Lesson** John 1:1–18

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Meditation Pastor Craig

***Hymn of Reflection # 97** *"Fairest Lord Jesus"*

Invitation to Joyful Giving

Offertory

***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.*

***Sung Prayer of Dedication** (sung to tune above)

*Praise Love who made all time and space;
praise love who came in truth and grace;
praise Love on humankind outpoured,
that all may love forevermore. AMEN.*

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

A Prayer for Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

(To this table of love and grace, all who desire are invited to partake. Children of any age are welcome at the discretion of their parents.)

An Apostolic Affirmation of Faith # 358

(Recited in Unison)

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 peace of God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

***Passing the Peace**

Peace be with you. **And also, with you.**

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn # 150**

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Benediction

Bring Light out into the World

Postlude

We Focus on Our Life Together...

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. No matter who or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please join us downstairs in The Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after this morning's service.

Leader: Pastor Craig Sparks

Music Director: Thaddeus Paulhamus

Musician: Clinton Adams

Message in Music: Zion UCC Choir

This Week at Zion...

- 6:** Busy Hands Crafters (10 am) Upper Hall
Turner Seniors (11 am) Lower Hall
- 7:** Bible Study (6 pm) Gathering Place
Choir Rehearsal (7 pm) Sanctuary
N.A. "Stronger Ties" (7 pm) Lower Hall
- 9:** Women's Guild (11 am) Lower Hall
- 11:** Book Sale & Thrift Shop (10-1) Lower Hall

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Bryan Barbalace, Kevin Barbalace, Charlene Berk, Cheryl Blackburn*, Vince Blackburn, June Bocek*, Casey Brewer, Les & Vivian Bowser*, Les Bowser Jr, Anna Denoe*, Anna Golden, Tom Hayman, Marie Kachinski, June Kinnear*, Henry & Gerri Krotee, Barbara Langenfelder*, John Langenfelder, Vera Leimbach, Barbara Makin, Dick Mitchell (Turner Seniors), Pete Mitchell, Joyce Murphy, Amanda O'Neil, Judith Panian*, John Pflugrad, John Reali, Shirley Ritter*, Elaine Roberts, Carol Shrader, Mary Sturm, Barbara Thompson, service men & women, people in need worldwide, Peace on Earth.

Sunday School News...

Sunday School meets downstairs during worship in the Nursery/Sunday School Room (located behind the Gathering Place) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Children are invited to make a small craft, listen to a bible story, and have some little people fellowship. Please join us this morning!

UCC MISSION MOMENT

John 1:1-18 Another Road

Many church stewardship teams breathe a collective sigh of relief at this time of year. If your stewardship season arrives with autumn and winds up around Advent, the new year is often a time to take a break. But the thing is, God's grace is evident through faithful giving all year long.

So, it might be time to imagine a new rhythm of stewardship that weaves stewardship into every season of the church year.

Here are suggested stewardship activities for every month of the year. Which of them are you already doing? Which of them seem like they might be helpful? What would you add to this calendar?

January: Send a message from the Pastor with help in laying the biblical foundation of how church giving is different from your members' other giving options.

February: Invite each of the ministries of the church to communicate how their work reflects the greater mission of the church.

March: If you send a quarterly giving statement, consider adding a brief communication about how the gifts are used to further the church's mission. Include pictures!

April: Send a message from an elder member, reflecting on why they give to the church, and how their giving has changed over their lifetime.

May: Encourage church members to write wills and make estate plans that reflect their faith commitments.

June: Assemble a group to lead a fall stewardship campaign and spend the first meeting inviting sharing about why each person gives to the church.

July: Share a message from a member of the wider church staff and host a conversation on how that message relates to your local congregation's work.

August: Take a retreat day as a community to pray about how each person's gifts and graces might be utilized to grow your church in both numbers and in spirit.

September: Create and share a chart that shows the average giving to the congregation. Ask members to prayerfully consider where they are on the chart and where they want to be.

October: Send a message from a younger church member about how their giving relates to their faith.

November: During your church Thanksgiving celebrations, find a personal way to thank those who give to the church.

December: Ask how the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love encourage church members to be generous, extravagant givers.

Zion UCC Church Staff

Ministers	All members of Zion UCC	
Craig S. Sparks	Pastor	443-896-6815 Email: <i>craigssparks@gmail.com</i>
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Rick Rosenfeld	President	443-691-2797 Email: <i>erosenfeld12@gmail.com</i>
Linda Kirstein	Congregational Care	410-652-9990
Thad Paulhamus	Music Director	443-610-7844
Clinton Adams	Musician	
The Rev. Hugh Nash	Pastor Emeritus	

Administrative Office: 410-687-0980

- * Press 1 to leave voicemail message
- * Press 3 to contact Council President
- * Press 4 to contact Cemetery Superintendent

Pastor Craig will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. The phone and email continue to be monitored, and all incoming mail is processed daily. For your convenience, you may leave your offering envelopes in the locked mailbox on the office side porch. Messengers, Bulletins, and Upper Room Devotionals are also available.

If you require pastoral services, please call Pastor Craig Sparks at 443-896-6815 or send an email to *craigssparks@gmail.com*.

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