

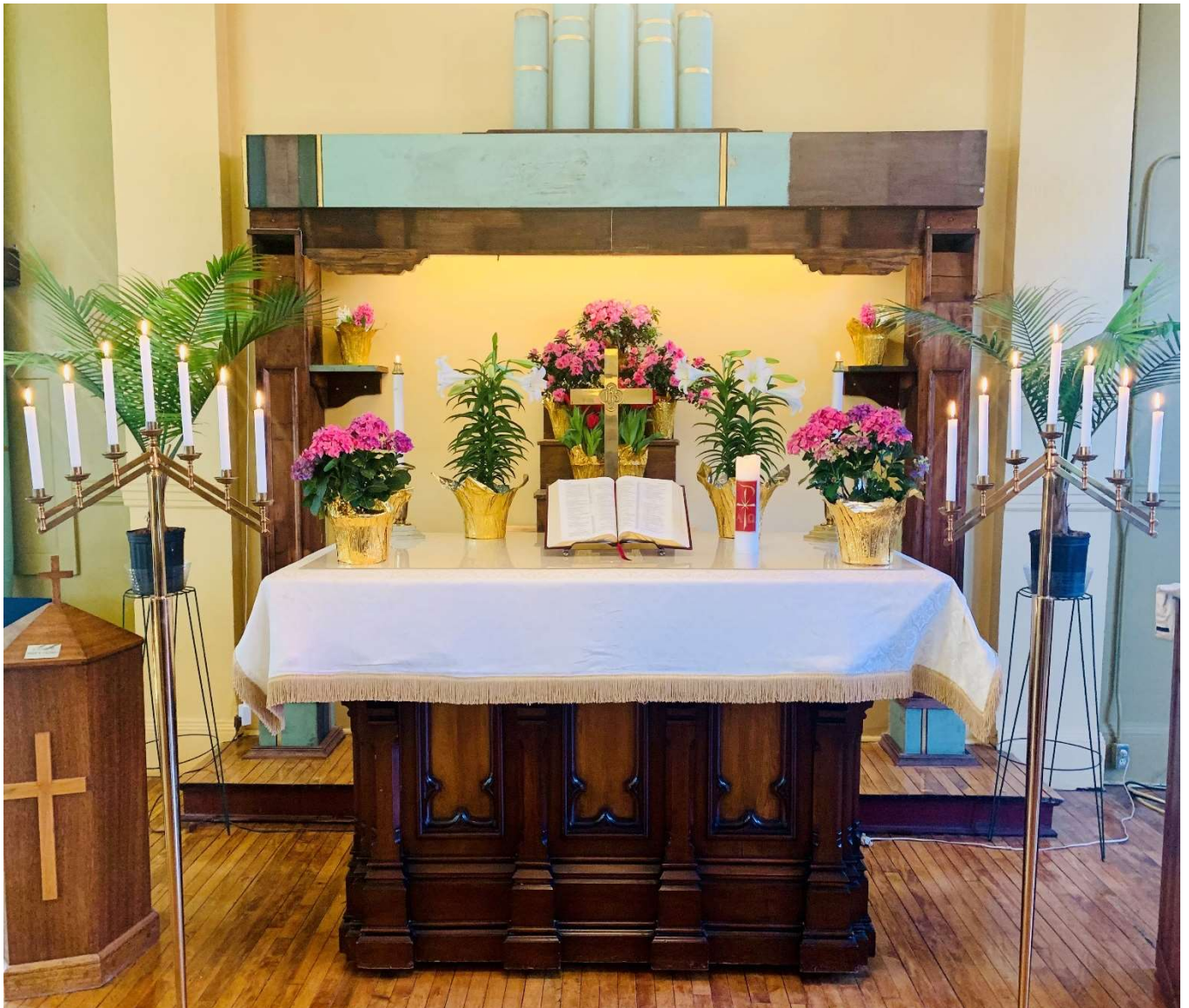
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

155th Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church

A Service of the Word



***155th Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church
1867 – 2022***

Photo: Easter Sunday 2022 – by Scott Rosenstein



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

May 15, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter
155th Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church
A Service of the Word

*"Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls
as well as a quantitative change in our lives."
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Betty Funk*

CHORAL INTROIT – Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

*Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Betty Funk*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have told stories of faith in Jesus Christ:

**Many: 155 years of Zion Church,
of love and service with all the saints.**

One: We give thanks and rejoice in our co-workers and companions:

**Many: 155 years sharing
ministry, challenge, struggle and blessing.**

One: We pray that the eyes of our hearts be opened

Many: to a future of wisdom and grace;

One: May we come to know more fully the God of Christ Jesus,
and recognize the hope to which we have been called:

**Many: Resurrection power at work in the world,
making all things new!**

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Gracious God we give thanks as we celebrate the 155th anniversary of Zion Church and the journey that started so many years ago – and so many plans ago – and so many dreams ago.

We celebrate all the joys that have been birthed in these 155 years. We celebrate all the happy times, all the accomplishments, and all the triumphs. Thank you, God, for blessing us.

We acknowledge that there have been, and will continue to be, struggles and heartaches. Yet we have travelled together under your protection and love. Thank you, God, for being with us in good times and bad.

We ask, God, that you would continue to protect us, guide us and sustain us as we go forth from this 155th anniversary celebration in the name of your Child, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HYMN – 436 NCH – God of Grace and God of Glory vv. 1, 2 & 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

A READING OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

The Revised Common Lectionary continues to use selections from Acts for the first reading during the season of Easter. In Acts 11, Peter is questioned by some of the other early Christian leaders for eating with Gentiles. Verse 2 refers to “the Jewish believers took issue with him,” yet at that time almost all the believers would have been Jewish. We must remember we are reading an account of events written perhaps 40-60 years after they occurred, from a time when Gentiles had already been included in some places and were a greater number than at the time of these events. These stories were needed to portray a universal message out of their roots in Judaism. Peter shared his vision that he beheld in chapter 10, how he was told that he must not call profane what God has made clean. Peter spoke of how the angel had sent him to the centurion’s home, and that the Holy Spirit came upon him as he spoke to this man and his household. If this Gentile soldier and his household believed in the same Jesus Christ and it was the same Holy Spirit, how could Peter hinder God? Then the other Christian leaders didn’t know what to say at first, except then they praised God for giving the Good News to the Gentiles.

11 1 The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God. 2 As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. 3 “So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?” they said.

4 Peter then explained the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning: 5 “One day when I was in the town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came quite close to me. 6 I watched it intently and saw in it all sorts of animals and wild beasts—everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. 7 Then I heard a voice that said to me, ‘Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat.’ 8 I replied, ‘I can’t, my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!’ 9 And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, ‘Don’t call profane what God has made clean.’ 10 This happened three times, then the sheet and what was in it was drawn up to heaven again.

11 “Just at that moment, three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, 12 and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them. These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius’ house. 13 He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, ‘Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; 14 he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.’

15 “I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, 16 and I remembered what Christ had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God’s way?”

18 This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, “God has granted the repentance that leads to life—even to Gentiles!”

A READING FROM THE PSALMS: Psalm 148 (Responsively)

Psalm 148 is a song of praise from all of creation to God. The psalmist calls all the heavenly beings, the celestial objects, everything God created above the earth to praise God. Then the psalmist turns to the earth: sea monsters and creatures from the birth of creation, all the meteorological elements, the earth itself, all animals and plants and birds of the air. Next, the psalmist calls upon the people: all rulers, leaders of all nations, young and old, women and men and all people, to praise God. God is above all, creator of all, and isvvvvv the advocate for the people. The psalmist concludes by praising the faithful, the people of Israel closest to God, and all praise God.

148 1 alleluia!

Praise God from the heavens;

praise God in the heights!

2 Praise God, all you angels;

praise God, all you hosts!

3 Praise God, sun and moon;

praise God, all you shining stars!

4 Praise God, you highest heavens;

and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the Name of God,

by whose command they were created.

6 God established them forever and ever

and gave a decree which won't pass away.

7 Praise God from the earth,

you sea creatures and ocean depths,

8 lightning and hail, snow and mist,

and storm winds that fulfill God's word,

9 mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and and cedars,

10 wild animals and and cattle,

small animals and flying birds,

11 rulers of the earth, leaders of all nations,

all the judges in the world,

12 young men and young women,

old people and children—

13 let them all praise the name of God

whose name alone is exalted,

14 whose majesty transcends heaven and

earth,

and who has raised up a Horn for God's people

to the praise of the faithful,

the children of Israel,

the people dear to God!

Alleluia!

SECOND READING – Revelation 21:1-6

John of Patmos beholds a vision of a new heaven and a new earth in this text. The first heaven and earth have passed away, the sea is no more. Then John witnesses the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven, and the division of heaven and earth is no more as God's home is now among humanity. All people are God's peoples, and God will be their God. John recalls the vision of Isaiah in 26:6-9, where God will wipe away all our tears, and there will be no more death and pain. John turns in his vision to the one seated on the throne, who declares they are making all things new (Isaiah 43:19). God is the Alpha and the Omega, Beginning and End, as John uses this phrase three times in this letter. Jesus is the water of the wellspring of eternal life, an image used in the gospel according to John.

21 1 Then I saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer. 2 I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

3 And I heard a loud voice calling from the throne, "Look! God's Tabernacle is among humankind! God will live with them; they will be God's people, and God will be fully present among them. 4 The Most High will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more, for the old order has fallen."

5 The One who sat on the throne said, "Look! I'm making everything new!" and added, "Write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true."

6 And that One continued, "It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life.

GOSPEL READING – John 13:31-35

In these verses of John 13, Jesus speaks of being glorified as God has been glorified in him. Jesus calls the disciples, "little children," a phrase also used by the writer of the letters of John, and tells them that he is about to leave them, and where he is going, they cannot come. However, Jesus has given them a new commandment that they love one another, just as he has loved them. By this, everyone will know they are Jesus' disciples.

13 31 Once Judas left, Jesus said,
"Now is the Chosen One glorified
and God is glorified as well.
32 If God has been glorified,
God will in turn glorify the Chosen One
and will do so very soon.
33 My little children,
I won't be with you much longer.
You'll look for me,
but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to
you:
where I am going,
you cannot come.
34 I give you a new commandment:

Love one another.
And you're to love one another
the way I have loved you.
35 This is how all will know that you're my
disciples:
that you truly love one another."

CHORAL RESPONSE – His Name Is Wonderful

*Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Betty Funk*

REFLECTION – Love One Another - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

The psalmist declares, "Where can we go from your spirit?
Where can we flee from your presence?"
O God, you are always with us,
even when it is hard to take notice.
When the world is falling apart,
you are carrying us through.
Your love sustains us
and is known through the love of others.
Remind us when things are most difficult
to carry on in love,
because it is our mutual love
that helps us survive.
Call us to become living hope
for one another,
because we cannot carry it all by ourselves.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN – NCH 376 – God, We Thank You for Our People**

God, We Thank You for Our People

Author: Ruth Duck, 1986

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: William Moore, 1825

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1 God we thank you for our people,
roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving,
strong for struggle, bold for toil,
faithful rock of generations,

**you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember
may our song to you be raised.**

**2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:
lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure,
passed to young ones by the old,
pranks and glories, songs and stories,
food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence
in our tears and laughter shared.**

**3. Still we must confess before you,
sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you,
sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing,
hearts estranged by ice or flame
you transform by ways forgiving.
Grace amazing! Grace, your name!**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

God of our past, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in the neighborhood, to those who put their names on a loan so it could come to happen, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen. And as we remember the efforts of the founders and builders we offer words of thanks and praise

God of growth, we remember too those who helped the new church to grow in wisdom and in faith. And so we think of pastors, choir directors and music directors, pianists and organists, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study group leaders and many others who provided leadership. We remember Elders, Deacons, Council and committee members, men and women who stepped forward to provide governance and leadership. And for all these varied forms of leadership we are grateful.

God of community, we remember events that brought us together:

- Church Suppers, Concerts, Bazaars, Mini Marts, Saturday Hot Meals, Rummage Sales, festival booths, potlucks, clambakes, picnics and many more. And for the gifts of friendship and fellowship we say thanks.**
- We think also of the many groups that have met in the buildings:
The Lively Ones, Project Literacy, Happyworks Daycare, the Food Pantry, AA groups, youth groups, Bible Study groups, block clubs and community groups, the book store, Christ Church, St. Stephen Community Church – Anglican and many others which provided times of fellowship and times of growth in community. And now, those with whom we share our**

campus, the management and residents of the San Sophia Apartments.

And in this time of memory we take special note of the generations who have gone before us, some known to us and others not, for their faithfulness, love and service we are wondrously grateful.

God of our present, on this day we remember all that led this congregation to this day. For 155 years of ministry to and with the community, for 155 years of growing together in love, for all that has made us what we are now, we give you thanks, we give you praise. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We have the tools we need to love one another. Through our talents, treasures, and time, we can create God's Realm here on earth. Our contributions – no matter the size – will craft a world which reflects God's love.

THE OFFERTORY – *Betty Funk*

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-
We glorify you by sharing our gifts of love with this community.
We celebrate your presence by caring for your creation.
May these offerings today nourish a world craving
more love, peace, justice, and hope. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – using “debts” and “debtors”

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

CHOIR HYMN – Come, Christians, Come and Sing

*Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Betty Funk*

GOING FORTH

***PARTING HYMN – 386 NCH – The Church’s One Foundation**

The Church’s One Foundation

Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: 7.6.7.6. D.

Composer: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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**1 The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.**

**2 Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.**

**3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

***PRAYER OF HOPE**

God of our present and our future, as we gather today we look for hope. The future is uncertain, we wonder what it will bring. Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community. Help us find the choices that lead to life in abundance.

God of hope, in a time of uncertainty of the global pandemic and national polarization, we so often fall into fear and worry. Show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us to consider seriously where our priorities and loyalties lie, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth. God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as people, not only of faith, but of hope. May we share your hope and promise with the world in which we live. Amen.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: May the God of challenges call us to minister with renewed purpose and drive.

Many: May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

One: Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!

Many: Amen.

*POSTLUDE – Betty Funk

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship and the Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *All Things New: Worship Celebration Concluding the Fiftieth Anniversary Year*, prepared by the Reverend Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship, Liturgy and Spiritual Formation, and the Reverend Scott A. Ressman, Minister for Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts, Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ. All Saints' Sunday, November 4, 2007. Copyright 2007, Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, Cleveland. Permission is granted to reproduce or adapt for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Gathering Prayer is adapted from a *Parish Anniversary Prayers*, posted on *Parish Anniversary Prayers - Anglican Fellowship of Prayer*, anglicanprayer.org/docs/Parish%20Anniversary%20Prayers.pdf/
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for May 15th, 2022—Fifth Sunday of Easter*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, and posted May 6, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) The Prayer of Thanksgiving for Our Church Anniversary and the Prayer of Hope are adapted from *Prayers of Thanksgiving and Hope for an Anniversary Service*, written by the Rev. Gord Waldie, St. Paul's United Church in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada; posted on October 18, 2008, on the blog *Worship Offerings*, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/>
- (5) The Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from *Glorify God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter C*, written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, Senior Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois. Copyright 2022 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
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Ministers, *All of Us*

Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*

Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*

Keith Konet, *Council President*



NEWS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Easter tide –Festival Season in the liturgical calendar of Christianity, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – and our new resurrected life in the realm of God. It begins on Easter Sunday, which initiates Easter Week in Western Christianity, and Bright Week in Eastern Christianity. Traditionally lasting 40 days to commemorate the time the resurrected Jesus remained on earth before departing (the period between Easter Day and the Ascension), 20th century liturgical revision has led some western churches to expand Eastertide to 50 days to conclude on Pentecost.



Local volunteers help Hungarian Interchurch Aid distribute 500 food packages on March 17, 2022. The recipients were displaced people receiving aid for the first time since they left their homes due to fighting in Eastern Ukraine. Packages contained cooking oil, rice, pasta, canned food, sugar and tea.

Photo credit: Fekete Dániel/HIA-Hungary / ACT Alliance.

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

UPDATE: As Russia's war on Ukraine rages on, so does the suffering of the country's people. And they have been leaving their homes in record numbers. Donors in the United Church of Christ see them and have stepped up to send help.

The response to the UCC's emergency appeal for Ukraine has been unprecedented. Some 3,700 donors have given more than \$1 million to the effort, launched days after Russia attacked Ukraine on Feb. 24. The \$1,073,208 in gifts as of April 5 may be the church's largest international relief effort ever.

As of April 6, more than 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled the country, the majority of them, 2.5 million, taking refuge in Poland, with others in Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said the war on Ukraine has created the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Added to that are more than 7.1 million people who remain displaced inside the war-torn country.

How gifts help

The United Church of Christ is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. Gifts to the UCC appeal will be sent to partners in Europe — through the ecumenical ACT Alliance — to help tend to the needs of those people.

“Our participation in the ACT Alliance means we are connected to a global network of church or church-related humanitarian response organizations,” said Josh Baird, team leader of Global H.O.P.E. “No one organization had the capacity to welcome the influx of refugees this conflict has driven or to receive and distribute the massive food and other goods needed over such an expansive geographic area.”

Baird said three large ACT members — Lutheran World Federation, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and Swiss Church Aid — are enabling the response of more than a dozen smaller organizations. Many of them are regional clusters of congregations in Poland, Hungary and the other countries receiving refugees. They are providing shelter, food, clothes, transportation, medical, psychosocial and spiritual care.

Needs increase outside Ukraine - Baird’s team, part of Wider Church Ministries, has regular check-in calls with the ACT Alliance. Partners on the ground are seeing more people, with fewer resources, as the conflict rages on.

Challenges inside Ukraine - Inside Ukraine, one of the larger partners is supporting around 100 shelters and activity centers in the western part of the country. These assist people forced from their homes but unwilling or unable to leave Ukraine. Baird said this includes a high number of seniors, as well as women with children whose husbands are fighting in the war.

Right now, Baird said, the UCC partners are trying to prepare for a surge in internally displaced Ukrainians as the increase in violence moves east. The Russian strikes are also making supply runs from neighboring countries more difficult.

“Between the various checkpoints and the condition of the roads themselves, it is incredibly difficult to deliver goods where they are needed,” he said, noting that runs that used to take a few hours are now taking more than a day.

Due to the generosity of UCC donors, the church is making plans to respond in the long term. All the money sent to the Ukraine appeal will be used to assist people who are fleeing the war now and after the conflict. No funds are used to cover UCC administrative costs.

“We are a part of a collaborative humanitarian response,” said the Rev. Georgia Thompson, associate general minister of Wider Church Ministries and Operations. “We are leveraging our resources for the greater good, contributing in a protracted way to ensure we are able to be present as additional needs emerge.”

DONATE NOW

All donations are deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for “Ukraine Relief.” Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. You can donate online at:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

You can also mail a check made payable to:

**United Church of Christ
PO BOX 71957
Cleveland, OH 44194.**

Please be sure to note “Ukraine Relief Fund” on your check in the memo section.

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- The families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, and Ma'Khia Bryant.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Tonga affected by the eruption of an undersea volcano and tsunami flooding.

- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 196 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of May 12, 2022. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- For those affected by recent wildfires around Boulder, Colorado, in California, and in the panhandle of Florida.
- For those affected by the approximately 30 tornadoes which hit parts of Kentucky, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee recently – particularly the people of Mayfield and Bowling Green, Kentucky – we pray for those who lost loved ones, friends, neighbors, homes, churches, and places of employment.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
 - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*)
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, and Michael Reed.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
 - Keith Konet
 - Elaine Lukacs (*fell at home and injured her knee and leg, presently at O'Neill Healthcare, Room 103, 7250 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 – 440.863.5624*)
 - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
 - Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
 - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)
 - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
 - The family of Michael O'Brien particularly his wife, Debbie Webb (*following Michael's death last Fall. Our love and sympathy to Debbie and Michael's family*).
 - Beverly Wurm (*recuperating*)
 - Kim (*friend of Bev Wurm – cancer*)



Zion Chapel at 2700 W. 14th Street in Tremont

Church's 155th Anniversary Celebration – Today - Sunday, May 15th, 2022

The historical Zion United Church of Christ (Zion Chapel), 2700 W. 14th Street in Tremont (which shares a campus with San Sofia Apartments) will celebrate its 155th Anniversary on Sunday, May 15th with a special Worship Service of Thanksgiving at 11:00 am. A celebratory Reception follows the worship service.

The first congregation was formed in 1867 by 40 German immigrant families who had been attending West Side Church on W. 38th St. A small frame church was built on the corner of College and Tremont and was known as the United German Evangelical Protestant Church of University Heights (present day Tremont). In 1868 a parochial school was formed. In 1872 two lots were purchased on Jennings (now W. 14th Street) at the corner of Branch Avenue, from Sarah and Francis Branch and the church on College Ave. was moved to the new site, renovated and enlarged. In 1873 another building was moved to the site and remodeled for a school. For 30 years Zion was known as "Leonhardt's"

church, under Pastor Leonhardt. The Church joined the German Evangelical Synod in 1874 and the name was changed to Zion Evangelical Protestant Church. In 1884 a cornerstone was laid and in 1885 a new brick Gothic type church was dedicated. A new school building was built in 1906. The German language was used exclusively until 1916 and by 1923 both German and English services were held.



School building built in 1906 - now San Sofia Apartments and Zion Chapel

The last German services were held in the 1950's and English services have continued in the years since. An important event in church history, was that Zion Church was the merger site for the union of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Synod in 1934. After this, the church was known as Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1957 this Synod merged with Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ, and Zion was then called Zion United Church of Christ.



Zion Church sanctuary, 1885-2017 – now site of San Sofia Apartments

With a small congregation and the increasingly difficult challenge of large buildings to maintain, in 2016 the church's governing body agreed to sell its real estate to Dan Siegel, a local apartment landlord who teamed up with high-end residential developer Andrew Brickman on plans to fill the building with 26 rental units – the San Sophia Apartments. Siegel, who owns roughly 6,000 apartment units across the region, and Brickman divided the sanctuary, entrance and bell tower at the church into 14 apartments. They kept the central aisle open from floor to apex, creating a dramatic corridor flanked by a second-story catwalk. Construction is completed and the new residents for the apartments began arriving in the Fall of 2020. The school building houses a dozen apartments between the basement, which sits partially above ground and is lined with light wells, and the second floor, where lofts stretch into the attic.

In a wonderful – and somewhat unusual – arrangement the original Zion congregation didn't disband, move to the suburbs, or merge with another church. Instead, Zion UCC is staying put as a tenant in the Zion Schule school building, where money from the sale of the property and other assets, including the bronze church bells, are paying for renovations to the group's space. Zion UCC has a long-term, essentially rent-free lease that allows the congregation to continue to worship and have office and meeting space on the first floor of the former School Building (2700 W. 14th Street). Today, the congregation of Zion Church seeks God's presence and guidance in the present, while moving forward into God's future with hope – respecting tradition and embracing progress. We worship in-person at Zion Chapel and on Zoom each Sunday at 11:00 am.

We give thanks to God for 155 years of God's presence and blessings to the Zion Church congregation in our Worship Service of Thanksgiving today - Sunday, May 15th, 2022 at 11:00 am – followed by a special celebratory Reception. Please join us!

Names of the Church during Various Years of Its History:

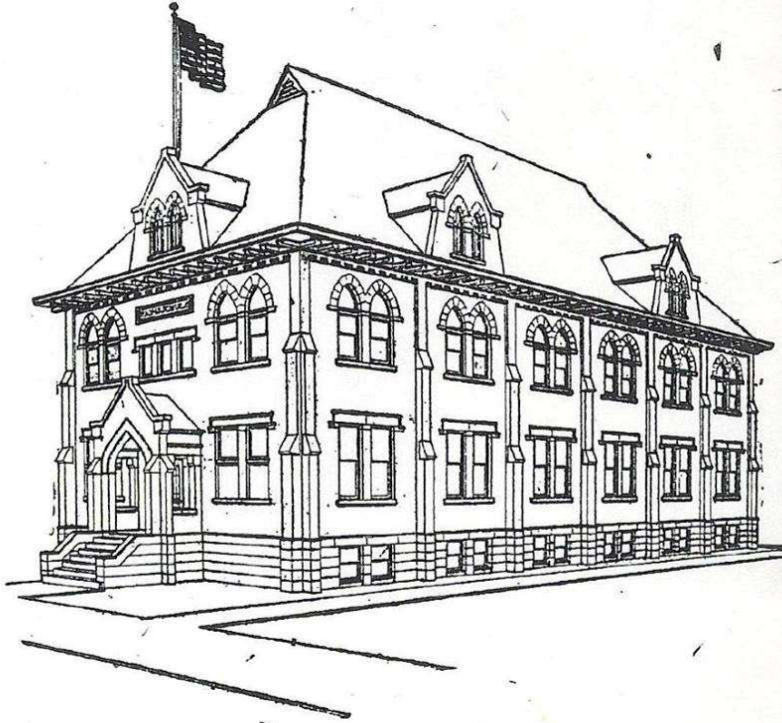
1867 – 1874 – The German Evangelical Protestant Church
1874 – 1934 – Zion Evangelical Protestant Church
1934 – 1957 – Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church
1957 – 2017 – Zion United Church of Christ
2017 – present – Zion Chapel/Zion United Church of Christ

Pastors Who've Served the Church during Its History:

1867 - 1868 – The German Evangelical Protestant Church - College and Tremont, Rev. A. Bauer
1868 - 1871 – The German Evangelical Protestant Church - College and Tremont, Rev. G. Bochert
1872 - 1874 - The German Evangelical Protestant Church - Jennings and Branch, Rev. Otto W. Shettler
1874 – 1878 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - Jennings and Branch, Rev. Otto W. Shettler
1878 - 1883 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - Jennings and Branch, Rev. Albert Klein
1883 - 1906 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - Jennings and Branch, Rev. Theophil Leonhardt
1908 - 1913 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - W. 14th and Branch, Rev. Theophil Leonhardt
1914 - 1916 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - W. 14th and Branch, Rev. T. Thomas
1916 - 1921 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - W. 14th and Branch, Rev. B.F. Wulfman
1922 – 1934 - Zion Evangelical Protestant Church - W. 14th and Branch, Rev. Otto Wittlinger
1934 - 1950 - Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Otto Wittlinger
1951 - 1957 - Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. C.E. Kiewit
1957 – 1965 – Zion United Church of Christ - Rev. C.E. Kiewit
1965 - 1971 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. B.B. Hanscom
1971 - 1982 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Kenneth Rankin
1982 - 1983 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. William Shackleford
1984 - 1990 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Norman Thresher
1991 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Scott Rosenstein
1991 - 1995 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Norman Thresher
1995 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Beulah Knieriem
1995 - 2002 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Scott Rosenstein
2002 - 2013 - Zion United Church of Christ - W. 14th and Branch - Rev. Joyce Morris
2013 - 2017 – Zion United Church of Christ – W. 14th and Branch – Rev. Scott Rosenstein
2017 – present – Zion Chapel/Zion United Church of Christ – 2700 W. 14th Street – Rev. Scott Rosenstein

Adapted from <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~officer/pastors6Evangelical.html>

NEW PAROCHIAL SCHOOL BUILDING.



Work has been started on the new parochial school building and assembly hall for the Evangelical Zion congregation, which will be erected on W. 14th-st., corner of Branch-av. The building will be of brick with stone trimmings, two stories in height. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000. Paul Matzinger is the architect.

1906



Chapel prepared for Christmas, 2021



Holy Communion, Easter 2021

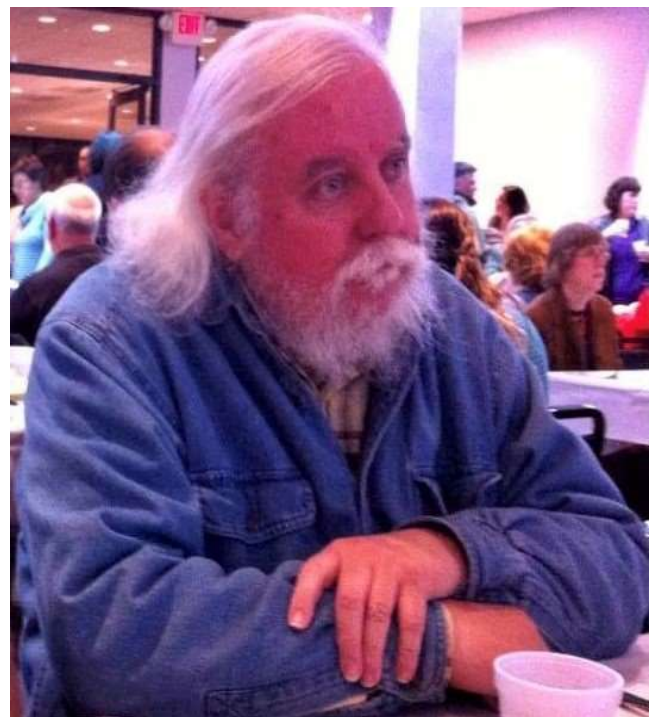


Christmas Nativity - 2021

Choir, February, 2020



**In Loving Memory
Tina Fitzgerald
Tina attended Zion Church - 1996 – 2020**



**In Loving Memory
Michael O'Brien
Owner of Scriptoria Books, 2009-2018
Michael attended Zion Church – 2009 - 2021**

MAY 12, 2022

SPEAK TRUTH, DO JUSTICE

From Michael Howard, Minister of Faith in Action, Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, UCC



I'm deeply grateful to live and work with so many community leaders who are women. When the initial draft of the Supreme Court opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was leaked to *Politico* last week, I knew I had to be visibly present to support my fellow community leaders. On Saturday afternoon, I took my six year-old daughter to join the crowd that had gathered in front of the Federal Courthouse in Akron. It was important for her to be there, though she didn't fully understand the issue.

Standing next to my City Councilwoman, Nancy Holland, I watched one of my dearest friends cry as she told her personal story to the crowd. At one point, my daughter grabbed my hand and looked up at me with tears in her eyes and said, "Why are men so mean?" I was tempted to tell her that most men don't know better. I didn't. I knew that would be a lie. Many men do know better yet choose to do nothing.

The prophet Micah taught what God requires of us: "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly." Most of us recognize that doing justice requires us to speak truth to power. If we are serious about creating social change, however, we first must learn to speak truth to each other. When it comes to reproductive rights, men need to do justice by listening to the stories of women and lifting them up in the presence of other men.

The fight for free, safe, and legal abortion is almost always seen as a women's issue—as if men don't have to think about it. The sexual activity and decision-making of men is hardly mentioned. There's a shared responsibility to ensure safe and effective use of birth control. Women not only carry the physical burden of pregnancy, they are largely left to carry the financial and social burdens as well. This is clearly why women tend to be more conscientious than men. When contraception is not used, it is often because of the resistance of men to wearing condoms; that puts to moral weight of reproductive rights squarely on us.

Current conversations about abortion tend to focus on exceptions, on who can have access to them and under what conditions. These approaches, however,

use a legal framework that maintains control over women's bodies. What about reproductive liberty? Under the pro-choice banner, reform seems to always carry the day; arguments for full reproductive liberty somehow don't enter most of our public conversations.

In her book *Without Apology: The Abortion Struggle Now*, Jenny Brown explains that it was the women's liberation movement that brought thousands to the streets and ultimately "forced a reluctant Supreme Court to legalize most abortions across the country." As Brown narrates that history, it was the 1969 *Redstockings Abortion Speakout* that initially spurred the public conversation forward. The winning strategy, she explains, used a method of public conversations that had been adapted from the Southern Civil Rights Movement's "Tell It Like It Is" sessions. Across the country, women gathered for public conversations and went around the room telling their personal stories. Brown quotes from *Peggy Dobbins*:

"If you spoke your personal experience, you discovered it was shared. If it was shared, it was social. And if it was social, it was political. And if it was political, you could do something about it."

For too long, and too frequently, men have quieted the voices of women in public conversations. This happens even when their opinions are not requested, even if the women who are present have more experience and/or expertise. Today, we call this *mansplaining*.

Why is it that men always feel they need to present themselves as the smartest in the room? When men's voices are needed to support the rights of women, so many men are silent.

What if instead of debating the best ways to control what happens to women's bodies, we offered our voices in support of women? What if this time around, the men in the room decided to de-center ourselves and instead centered the voices of women? What if we listened for the truth before we feel compelled to speak it? What if we did justice?