

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

May 21st, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter and Ascension Sunday

156<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church

A Service of the Word



*156th Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church  
1867 – 2023*

*Photo: Easter 2023 – by Scott Rosenstein*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

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Seventh Sunday of Easter and Ascension Sunday  
156<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Zion Church  
A Service of the Word

**“Jesus addressing our Creator God in John 17:11, ‘And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.’”**

**- Rev. Kathleen Henrion**

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*please stand as you are able,*

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - *Betty Funk*

### \*Call to Worship

One: In this season of thoughtful preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

**Many: We come to be inspired by stories of love and joy.**

One: We come to listen for words of hope and renewal.

**Many: We come with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts. Blessed be our God.**

One: Come Let us worship our God - the One who holds all things in store for us  
in this season of refreshment.

### \*Gathering Prayer

**Gracious God we give thanks as we celebrate the anniversary of the founding 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 throughout the 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 156th 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 1: 6-14**

*The Seventh Sunday of Easter readings overlap a bit with Ascension Sunday, beginning with these verses in Acts 1. Following the ascension and the message of the angels in verse 11, the male disciples, along with the women disciples, Jesus's mother, and brothers, gathered in Jerusalem at the house they were staying and devoted themselves to prayer. They trusted in Jesus's words as they waited for the arrival of the Holy Spirit.*

**1** 6 While meeting together they asked, "Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?"

7 Jesus replied, "It's not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. 8 You will

receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

9 Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. 10 They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “You Galileans—why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you—this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

12 The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a mere Sabbath’s walk away. 13 Entering the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying—Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James ben-Alphaeus; Simon, a member of the Zealot sect; and Judah ben-Jacob. 14 Also in their company were some of the women who followed Jesus, his mother Mary, and some of Jesus’ sisters and brothers. With one mind, they devoted themselves to constant prayer.

**Psalm Response: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (Responsively)**

*These verses of Psalm 68 comprise a song of praise to God for victory in battle. The psalmist sees God as the defender and protector of the most vulnerable of society, becoming a parent to orphans, assurance to widows, and liberator to prisoners. God brings restoration to those who have lost everything. God led the people through the wilderness and showed power through nature, providing for the people. The psalmist concludes by calling all of creation and the people to praise God—because God is the one who will fight for those on the margins.*

**68** 1 Arise, O God, and scatter your enemies!

Make your enemies flee before you!

**2 As smoke disappears in the air, so make them disappear!**

**As wax melts in fire, let the violent vanish before you!**

3 But let the righteous be joyful!

Let them exult before God,  
let them be jubilant with joy!

**4 Sing praise to the Rider of the Clouds**

**whose Name is the Sovereign God!**

**Exult before God!**

5 A parent to the orphan

and protector of the defenseless  
is our God, who dwells in holiness!

**6 God creates families for those who are alone,**

**and leads captives to freedom;**

**but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

7 O God, when you went forth before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness, ——Selah—

**8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
before you, the One of Sinai—  
before you, the God of Israel.**

9 You gave rain in abundance, O God,  
you restored the land—our inheritance—when it  
languished;

**10 your tribe found a dwelling in it,  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for those in  
need.**

32 Sing to God, all the earth's realms!  
Sing praises to God! —Selah—

**33 Sing to the Rider of the ancient skies,  
who thunders forth with a powerful voice!**

34 Proclaim the power of God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
in the skies!

**35 O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!  
The God of Israel gives power and strength to the  
people. Blessed be God!**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*The Epistle reading concludes the series in 1 Peter with selected verses in chapters 4 and 5. The writer again assures the beloved community of Christ that they do not suffer alone. In the time when they are facing persecution, they are sharing in Christ's sufferings and are blessed by God's glory in those times. The author urges the listeners to be humble and steadfast with God and to resist evil. All believers are struggling and suffering around the known world, but the author gives assurance that Christ will restore, support, and strengthen those who are faithful.*

**4** 12 Don't be surprised, my dear friends, that a trial by fire is occurring in your midst. It is a test for you, but it shouldn't catch you off guard. **13** Rejoice, instead, insofar as you share the Savior's sufferings, so that when the glory of Christ is revealed, you will rejoice exceedingly. **14** Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in her glory has come to rest on you.

**5** 6 Therefore, humble yourselves before God's mighty power, that you may be exalted by God on the appointed day.

7 Cast all your cares on God, who cares for you. **8** Be sober. Be watchful. For your adversary the Devil roams about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. **9** Stand up to the Devil as one strong in faith, fortified with the knowledge that your sisters and brothers throughout the world share the same afflictions.

**10** But the God of all grace, who called you to eternal glory through Jesus Christ, will fulfill, restore, strengthen and establish you after you have suffered a little while. **11** To God be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen.

## Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

*Jesus' final prayer for the disciples in John's account begins in John 17. Jesus prays that he might be glorified so that all people will know that God is the true God and he, Jesus, is the one whom God has sent. Jesus has finished the work God gave him to do, and now Jesus prays on behalf of the disciples, because they believed. They were sent by God to Jesus, and now Jesus prays that they will be protected by God as Jesus returns to God, and that the disciples may be one, as Jesus and God are one.*

**17** 1 After Jesus said this, he looked up to heaven and said,  
"Abba, the hour has come!  
Glorify your Only Begotten  
that I may glorify you,  
2 through the authority you've given me over all  
humankind,  
by bestowing eternal life on all those you gave me.  
3 And this is eternal life:  
to know you, the only true God,  
and the one you have sent,  
Jesus, the Messiah.  
4 I have given you glory on earth  
by finishing the work you gave me to do.  
5 Now, Abba, glorify me with your own glory,  
the glory I had with you before the world began.  
6 I have manifested your Name  
to those you gave me from the world.  
They were yours, and you gave them to me;  
and now they have kept your word.  
7 Now they know that everything you've entrusted to  
me  
does indeed come from you.  
8 I entrusted to them  
the message you entrusted to me,  
and they received it.  
They know that I really came from you;  
they believe it was you who sent me.  
9 And it's for them that I pray—  
not for the world,  
but for these you've given me—  
for they are really yours,  
10 just as all that belongs to me is yours,  
and all that belongs to you is mine.  
It is in them  
that I have been glorified.  
11 I am in the world no more,

but while I am coming to you,  
they are still in the world.  
Abba, holy God,  
protect those whom you have given me  
with your Name—  
the Name that you gave me—  
that they may be one,  
even as we are one.

### **Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful**

*Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959*  
*Choir: Keith Konet, Bob Bucklew and Barbara Rossington*  
*Accompanist: Betty Funk*

### **Reflection --That They May Be One - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

#### **We Respond**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

The Ascension is a mystery to us, O God. We know that Christ is not above us physically, but the oneness you have known from the beginning is the oneness Christ experienced at the Ascension, a oneness we live into as the Body of Christ on earth. It is a mystery how all of us, with all our differences, with all our struggles and challenges, can be one in you, but you have ordained it so. Help us to live into the Body of Christ with our diversity of gifts and strengths, to remember we need one another, and to build each other up. Christ is our head, we are the body, and we are joined at the heart by our love for one another. May we seek to share that love and oneness with the world. 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, Scriptoria Bookstore, 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 156 years of ministry to and with the community, for 156 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**

Be aware that the mood of both the epistle text and the psalm is one of joy. Yes, we are talking about serious things, suffering and enemies and difficulties aplenty. But the call is to know and experience joy in the depths of our being, even while we wrestle. Because that is the sign of faith, the sign of trusting in the one who cares for us. Make space for the expression of exuberant joy on this final week of Eastertide as we embrace the promise of the Risen Lord.

### **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**

God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith and advocating for compassion and justice out of anxiety about the division in our world and in our neighborhood. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. Amen. (*1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11*)

### **Choir Hymn – NCH 386 - The Church's One Foundation**

*Author: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.  
Tune: AURELIA  
Composer: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864  
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington  
Accompanist and Choir Director: Betty Funk*

## 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,  
forever.  
Amen.

## GOING FORTH

### \*Parting Hymn - NCH 573 - Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

#### Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

Author: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

Word alterations (c) 1992 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.

Composer: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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**1 Lead on eternal Sovereign,  
we follow in your way;  
Loud rings your cry for justice,  
your call for peace this day:  
Through prayerful preparation,  
your grace will make us strong,  
To carry on the struggle  
to triumph over wrong.**

**2 Lead on eternal Sovereign,  
we follow not with fear,  
For in each human conflict  
your words of strength we hear:  
That when we serve with gladness,  
you will not let us fall,  
Our trust is in your promise  
that love will conquer all.**

**3 Lead on eternal Sovereign,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And all your saints together  
will sing a hymn of peace;  
Then all in your dominion  
will live with hearts set free,  
to love and serve each other  
for all eternity.**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: The hour has come to go into the world,  
**Many: where our worship of God will continue  
in every moment of our lives.**

One: The hour has come to serve those around us,  
**Many: to shoulder the burdens of our sisters,  
to ease the pain of our brothers.**

One: The hour has come to glorify God,  
**Many: with our prayers as well as our praise,  
with songs as well as acts of service. Amen.**

**\*Postlude - Betty Funk**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Call to Worship is adapted from *As We Are One: Service Prayers for Ascension Sunday*, written by Rev. Tender Rickysach, Pastor Chuukese Bible Ministry at Waipahu United Church of Christ, in Waipahu, Hawaii; an active member of Hawaii Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries UCC. Chuuk State, comprised of 290 islands and atolls, is one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia—the others being Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. Micronesian UCC churches are scattered throughout the United States of America with its highest concentration in Hawaii. Copyright 2023 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.
- (2) The Invocation is adapted from a *Parish Anniversary Prayers*, posted on *Parish Anniversary Prayers - Anglican Fellowship of Prayer*. [anglicanprayer.org/docs/Parish%20Anniversary%20Prayers.pdf/](http://anglicanprayer.org/docs/Parish%20Anniversary%20Prayers.pdf/)
- (3) Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for May 21st*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted May 14th, 2023, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>
- (4) Thanksgiving for Our Church Anniversary is 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 Blessings of the Gifts are adapted from *Casting Your Cares A Living Hope - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A*, on the website of *Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church*. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>.
- (6) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *alternate text with liturgy / communion for May 21st Easter 7-A* - written by Rev Thom M. Shuman , posted to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (7) Permission to stream music in this service obtained from One LICENSE, license#A-736636. All publishing rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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 placed in the offering basket or 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

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church ( 2700 W.14<sup>th</sup>) /home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2 pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## 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
- 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Hopes of finding people alive have dimmed and experts fear the toll could rise sharply. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- The people of California profoundly impacted by the atmospheric rivers, flooding rains and winter storms and snow. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 227 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of May 18th, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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.
- 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(health concerns) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, oh.
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music* ) receiving care in a medical rehab unit.
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - *prayers for recovery.*
  - Keith Konet and family.
  - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
  - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin* ) Prayers for her family at the loss of her brother Keith Matheny who grew up in the Zion Church. Also the loss of a dear friend Craig Lucas.
  - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)Prayers for Barbs cousin Robert for upcoming tests and procedures.
  - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
  - Debbie Webb
  - Beverly Wurm and family (grandchildren's Grandmother, Marilyn Vilar, passed away on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Church's 156th Anniversary Celebration – Today - Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023



*Zion Chapel at 2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Tremont*

The historical Zion United Church of Christ (Zion Chapel), 2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Tremont (which shares a campus with San Sofia Apartments) will celebrate its 156th Anniversary on Sunday, May 21st 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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.



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

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



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

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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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 156 years of God's presence and blessings to the Zion Church congregation in our Worship Service of Thanksgiving today - Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 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 Shackelford

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

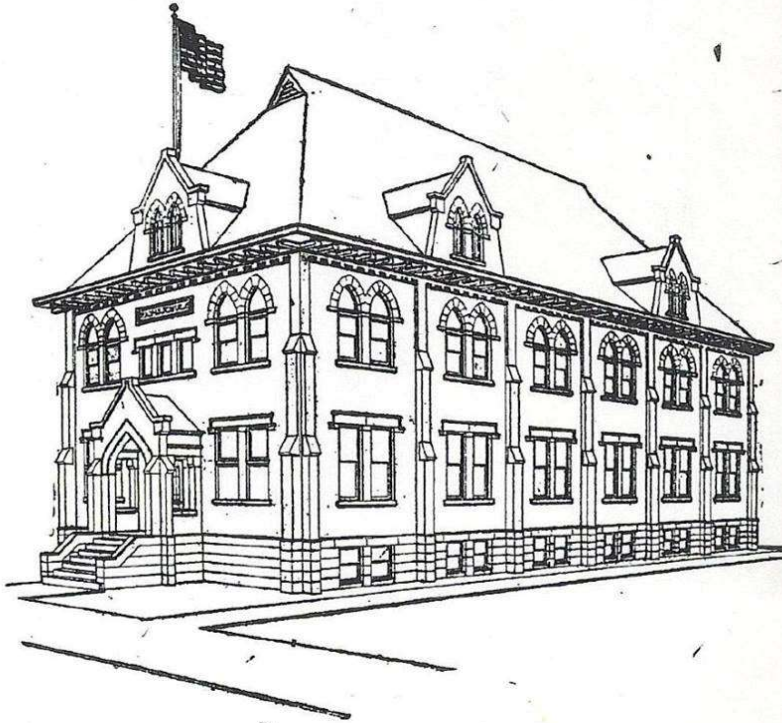
2013 - 2017 – Zion United Church of Christ – W. 14<sup>th</sup> and Branch – Rev. Scott Rosenstein

2017 – present – Zion Chapel/Zion United Church of Christ – 2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup> 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**



**Christmas Nativity - 2021**



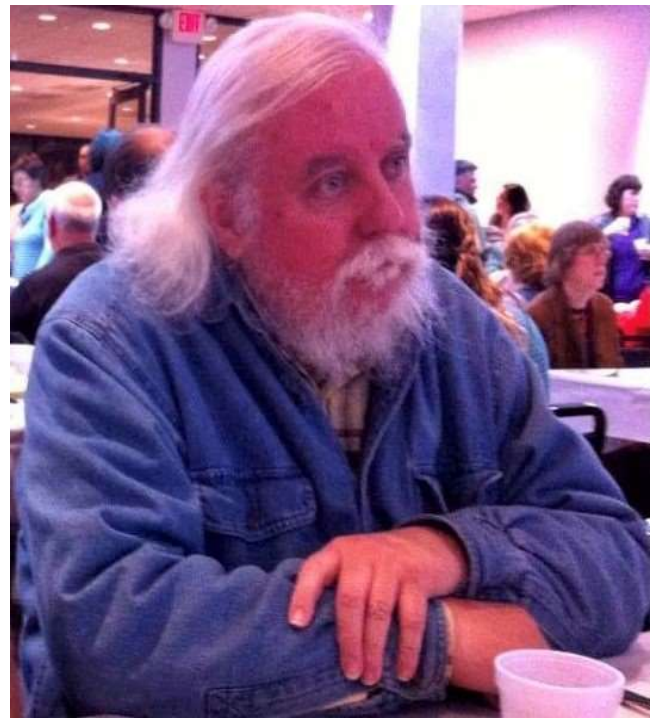
**Holy Communion, Easter 2021**



**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



**In Loving Memory**  
**Elaine Hambrecht Lukacs**  
Hunger Center Ministry &  
Saturday Hot Meals Program  
Lifelong member of Zion Church,  
1943 - 2023