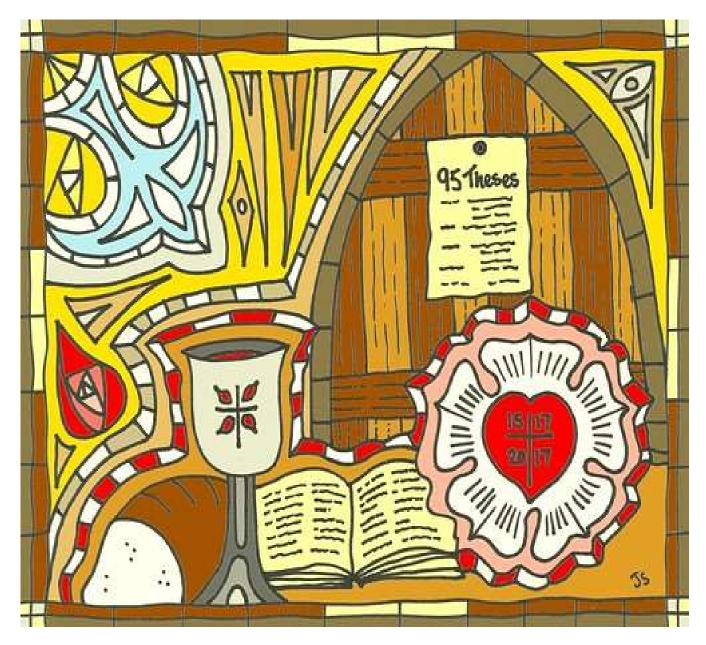
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

October 29th, 2023 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Reformation-Reconciliation Sunday (Pentecost 22/Trinity 21/Ordinary 30-A) A Service of the Word



Reformation Sunday

Bulletin Cover Art by Stushie A Scottish Pastor, ministering in East Tennessee Stushie Art - Unique crayon and digital worship art https://stushieart.com/2023/10/11/reformation-sunday-art-and-coloring-pages/



October 29th, 2023 22ndSunday after Pentecost Reformation-Reconciliation Sunday Pentecost 22/Trinity 21/Ordinary 30-A A Service of the Word

"The United Church of Christ ... claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God." Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 96)

One: O sing to God a new song! Many: Sing to God, all of us throughout this earth.

One: Sing throughout our lives. In our song, bless the name of God. Many: Exclaim God's salvation from morning until night.

One: Declare God's glory and marvelous works Many: For great is God, and with excitement, we join in praise.

* Invocation

God of all time and spaces, we know that through your magnificent creative Spirit our world and our lives came into being. And yet, you are not completely finished with creation. You continue to speak. As you nudge us to newness, grant us renewal as we observe creation with refreshed souls. Help us to appreciate the boldness of Jesus the Christ, along with the reformer's fire of Luther, Calvin, and Wesley, and Mary Dyer, Susan B. Anthony, and Ida B. Wells, and other reformers throughout history. Give us the courage to change what needs to be transformed in order for your Church to grow. Amen.

*Hymn– NCH 22 – Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Hebrew scripture reading turns to the third book of the Bible with these verses from Leviticus 19. In this part of the law, God told Moses that the people of Israel were to be holy because God is holy. Verses 15-18 are a reminder of how the people are to live among their neighbors, ending with "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

19 1 YHWH told Moses 2 to tell the entire Israelite community these things: Be holy, for I, YHWH, am holy.

15 Do not be corrupt in administering justice. Do not show partiality to those who are poor or give honor to those who are great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. 16 Do not go about slandering others. Do not profit by the blood of your neighbor. I am YHWH. 17 Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. 18 Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am YHWH.

Psalm Response: Psalm 1 (Responsively)

The very first psalm in the book of Psalms is a reminder that for those who seek wisdom, they are like a tree planted by a stream of water who bear fruit and never wither. They are strong in the law of God, which they meditate on day and night and ignore the voices of evil. Those who are wicked, unfortunately, are like chaff blown away, with no roots. Those who are righteous are the ones who are in the congregation and remain firm in righteousness, for they are faithful to God.

1 1 Happiness comes to those

who reject the path of violence,

who refuse to associate with criminals or even to sit with people who belittle others.

- 2 Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of God and meditate on it day and night.
- 3 They're like trees planted by flowing water they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper.
- 4 But not wrongdoers! They're like chaff that the wind blows away.
- 5 They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the Gathering of the Just.
- 6 God watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The Epistle reading continues the series in 1 Thessalonians with these verses in chapter 2. The apostle Paul speaks of the deep care he and his companions have for the church in Thessalonica and contrasts that to an incident in Philippi where he and his companions were not treated well. Most scholars believe that 1 Thessalonians is earlier than the letter to the Philippians and refers to something not addressed in that letter. In spite of how they were treated, Paul and others had the courage to share the gospel, and they did this, not for their own gain, but to please God. The Thessalonians have become dear to Paul, like a nurse caring for the children in her charge.

1 And you yourselves know, sisters and brothers, that our coming among you was not without effect. 2 We had, as you know, been given rough treatment at Philippi, and it was our God who gave us the courage to proclaim the Good News to you in the face of stiff opposition. 3 We don't preach because of impure motives or deceit or any sort of trickery; 4 rather, it was God who decided that we are fit to be entrusted with the Good News, and when we are speaking, we're trying to please not mortals, but God, who can read our inmost thoughts.

5 You know very well—and we can swear it before God—that never at any time has our speech been simple flattery or a cover for trying to get money; 6 nor have we ever looked for any special honor from you or from anyone else—even though we could have imposed ourselves on you as apostles of Christ. 7 On the contrary, while we were with you we were as gentle as any nursing mother caring for her little ones. 8 So well disposed were we toward you, in fact, that we were willing to share with you not only the Good News, but our very lives as well—you had become that dear to us.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Jesus continues to be challenged in the temple in these verses in Matthew 22. In last week's reading, Jesus was challenged by the Herodians on paying taxes. The lectionary skips over Jesus' challenge by the Sadducees on the resurrection, and now he is questioned by some Pharisees over which commandment is the greatest. This is different than Mark's account, in which a scribe asks this question but in curiosity because Jesus answered the others well. Debates were how rabbis taught and learned from each other, and while Matthew makes these different groups opposed to Jesus, it is possible, like in Mark's account, they were not all opposed but curious. Jesus replies with Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Then Jesus replies with a question of who the Messiah is by quoting Psalm 110:1, that the Messiah is not David's child, but God's child, since parents would never address their own child as Sovereign (or "Lord". Jesus uses both the question about the greatest commandment, and his own question on who is the Messiah's child as a way to demonstrate his authority.

22 34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: 36 "Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?"

37 Jesus answered:

" 'You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.'

38 "That is the greatest and first commandment. 39 The second is like it: 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well."

41 While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?" They said, "David's."

43 Then Jesus asked, "Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah 'Sovereign'? For he says,

44 'The Most High said to my Sovereign, "Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your foot."'

45 "If David calls the Messiah 'Sovereign,' how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?"

46 No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection --- "Love God and Love Your Neighbor" - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

*Litany for Unity and Reconciliation

As we celebrate the Reformation, let us also pray for reconciliation within the body of Christ.

For the church that in every age has taught the faith to children, shared the sacraments, and fed those who are poor,

O God, we give you thanks.

For the times when the church has let the human urge for power and self-preservation prevail over the will of God,

O God, we ask forgiveness.

For those who work to create unity among all the churches and seek to find ways to walk together,

O God, we give you thanks.

For us, when we promote sectarianism above our Oneness as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ,

O God, we ask forgiveness.

For those in every age who bring reformation and renewal to the church when it has become complacent,

O God, we give you thanks.

For those instances when we have driven out sisters and brothers who had a different vision of God's will for us,

O God, we ask forgiveness.

For the diversity of expression in our many churches and denominations and for the spirit of liberation that allows the church to continually renew itself,

O God, we give you thanks.

For the church, that we may be worthy and willing to work at healing divisions among all worshiping communities throughout the whole world, we pray in the name of the God who is Creator of all.

Amen.

*Hymn – NCH 439 – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

NOTE: The Choir will sing the first two verses of the hymn, and the Congregation will join them in singing verses 3 and 4.

*Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

As God calls us to cultivate the Church, God asks us to share our time, talent, and treasures. As we give present our treasures, let us spend moments reflecting upon where God may be calling us to share our time and talents.

The Offertory – Adam Petrosino

*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

Through the gifts that we have placed in this plate and the offerings that we give of our time and talents, we seek to grow the Church, God. Let us continue to find creative ways to contribute. And may our Still Speaking God's call entice us to not only build but reform Christ's church. Amen.

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 419 – Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)

*Commissioning and Benediction

One: May we leave this place understanding that this is the beginning. Many: May we depart today knowing that the best of our faith is yet to come.

Many: And may the exhilarating mystery of God, the courage of the Great Reformer Jesus, and the dynamic nudging of the Spirit excite us as we become reformers for the Divine. Amen!

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

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Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, the Blessing of the Gifts, and Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Reformation Day/Reformation Sunday Liturgy*, written by Michelle L. Torigian, and posted October 26, 2017, to her blog, *God Goes Pop Culture*. https://michelletorigian.com/2017/10/26/reformation-dayreformation-sunday-liturgy/
- (2) The Litany for Unity and Reconciliation is adapted from A Church Not Divided by Walls: a Litany for Unity and Reconciliation. Copyright 2003. Covenantal Relations Ministry, Office of General Ministries, 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.

Ministers, All of Us Scott Rosenstein, Pastor Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist 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 San Sofia Apartments 2700 W. 14th Street, Suite 14-S Cleveland, OH 44113 Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Welcome to Adam D. Petrosino, Our New Music Director/Pianist

Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234.205.9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Fall Schedule :

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

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



506th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

On October 31, 2023, we celebrate the 506th anniversary of the Reformation. The date comes from Martin Luther's act of offering for public discussion a document containing 95 theological propositions and criticisms of the church of his day.

While Luther's act was unquestionably important, and his critique led to the formation of what we now know as the Lutheran Church, he was not the only church reformer of the 1500s. Some of those reformers

remained within what would subsequently become known as the Roman Catholic Church. Others found their initiatives led to a split from the established church and the formation of a new denomination.

Ulrich Zwingli, a contemporary of Martin Luther, was one such reformer. Zwingli's reforms in the city of Zurich, where he was a parish priest, led to what is called the Reformed tradition.

The Reformed tradition includes various Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Christian Reformed denominations, as well as uniting denominations such as The United Church of Christ whose roots include the Congregational and Evangelical & Reformed denominations.

A generation later John Calvin, based in Geneva, would become a key figure in shaping the Reformed tradition further. Both Zwingli and Calvin were more radical in their reforms than Luther had been.

Some of Zwingli's emphases continue to have influence in the United Church. Zwingli stressed the importance of scripture as a primary authority for theology, and of preaching as an interpretation of scripture in the current context. He also emphasized the role of lay people in the life of the church. For example, he began the practice of having members sit around a table in the middle of the sanctuary and receive the communion elements of bread and wine from their neighbors at the table as these elements were passed around, rather than each person going to the front of the church to receive communion from the priest. The custom in many Reformed churches of receiving communion while seated in the pews has its roots in Zwingli's practice.

As we commemorate efforts at reforming the Church 506 years ago, let us remember that we are part of a tradition that has understood itself to always be in need of reform, always needing to avoid the twin perils of continuing past practices merely because they are traditions and of being captivated by the new simply because it is new.

Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

> Donate online with the link below: https://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.



Gifts made to Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A) provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

Donate online with the link: https://shorturl.at/efijp

Or designate a check for S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC P.O. Box 1230 Worthington, OH 43085. Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.

Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/

We are grateful for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC

churches and related channels. The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E.by going to: https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires.

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 The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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. 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 people have died in Syria.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York and New York City (including the borough of Brooklyn), and Atlantic Canada (including the province of Nova Scotia) affected by catastrophic flooding.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 96 people in the town of Lahaina. The proliferation of the wildfires was attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.
- On September 8, 2023 an earthquake with a moment magnitude of 6.8–6.9 struck Morocco's Marrakesh–Safi region. The earthquake's epicenter was located 45.6 miles southwest of Marrakesh, in the Atlas Mountains. At least 2,946 deaths were reported, with most occurring

outside Marrakesh. Damage was widespread, and historic landmarks in Marrakesh were destroyed. The earthquake was also felt in Spain, Portugal, and Algeria. It is the strongest instrumentally recorded earthquake in Morocco, the deadliest in the country since the 1960 Agadir earthquake, and the second-deadliest earthquake of 2023 after the Turkey–Syria earthquake. A total of over 2.7 million people from Marrakesh and areas surrounding the Atlas Mountains were affected, including 100,000 children.

- On Monday, September 11, 2023 heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst in the city of Derna, Libya destroying entire neighborhoods as well as major roads and bridges. Officials estimate that over 6,000 people have died while thousands more are missing. Tens of thousands of people have also been displaced and the damage is so severe that there is no prospect of going back home. Years of civil war, corruption and institutional neglect left residents of the North African state at the mercy of Mediterranean storm Daniel's extreme weather.
- Gaza is ruled by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that is committed to the destruction of Israel and is designated as a terrorist group by the US and many other powers. Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 with hundreds of gunmen infiltrating communities near the Gaza Strip. At least 1,400 Israelis have been killed, while around 200 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, are being held in Gaza as hostages. More than 4,200 Palestinians have also been killed in numerous air strikes on Gaza that Israel's military is carrying out in response, and Israel has imposed a total blockade on the territory, denying it food, fuel, water, and other essentials. Israel is also massing its forces along the Gaza border and Palestinians are bracing themselves for a ground operation which could cost many more deaths.
- The people of Lewiston, Maine and surrounding communities following a mass shooting at two locations on October 25th.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 563 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of October 25th, 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 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. Patti's brother Dave is recovering

from recent open-heart surgery.

- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (neighbor to Scott and Bob health concerns)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister, has passed away.
- o Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- Marcia Leslie (friend health concerns)
- The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray).
- Our new Music Director, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Barbara Rossington (Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures).
- Debbie Webb (continued prayers)
- Beverly Wurm (prayers for family)

An urgent appeal: Help UCC give humanitarian aid to people amid war in Gaza, Palestine and Israel

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal Oct. 20 for humanitarian aid to people affected by the war in Israel and Palestine.

Frequent updates are posted here (https://www.globalministries.org/the-crisis-in-israel-palestine-2023/) on the Global Ministries website.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

- 1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
- 2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law

3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region.

At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make an impact and a difference on those who are suffering so greatly during these days of lamentation and suffering.

The two actions go hand-in-hand. Thank you for your generosity.

To donate to this cause, visit the appeal page: <u>https://support.ucc.org/middleeast</u>



Tremont History Project presents: Historic Tremont Church Tour Series, Fall 2023

Join us this fall as we visit a selection of Tremont's historic churches.

Admission is free, registration is recommended.

Sat. 10/14 @ 3pm: St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral 733 Starkweather Ave. Parking on site/on street

> Sat. 10/21 @ 12pm: Zion Church 2716 W.14th Street Parking on street

Sat. 10/28 @ 12pm: Pilgrim Church 2592 W.14th Street Parking on street

Sat. 11/4 @ 2pm: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 2187 W.14th Street Parking on site

REGISTER online by scanning the QR code below, or visit: www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2023fall



For more information: tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com, - (216) 272-5046 - www.tremonthistory.org

Admission to each church on the Tour is free, registration is recommended.