



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 211 S. ST. PETER STREET  
 SOUTH BEND, IN 46617

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 South Bend, IN  
 Permit No. 202

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
 Fellowship Time 10:30 am  
 Sunday School 10:45 am

Church Office Hours  
 Monday-Friday  
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Connecting People With God*

**Our Church Community:**

<b>Ministers</b>	Every Member of the Congregation
<b>Pastor</b>	Bill Wildey
<b>Music Director</b>	Gail Bannister
<b>Accompanist</b>	Kyle Walterhouse
<b>Office Manager</b>	Nancy Philabaum
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Jan Raymond
<b>Custodian</b>	Michelle Cain
<b>Board of Elders</b>	

Tom Whipkey-President	Susan Goldstein
Beth Sargent-Vice President	Rick Meece
Linda Kowatch-Secretary	Matt Reese
Beth Green-Treasurer	Nancy Philabaum
	Rich Schroeder
	Judy Taelman
	Sandy Weides
	Abbie Wozniak

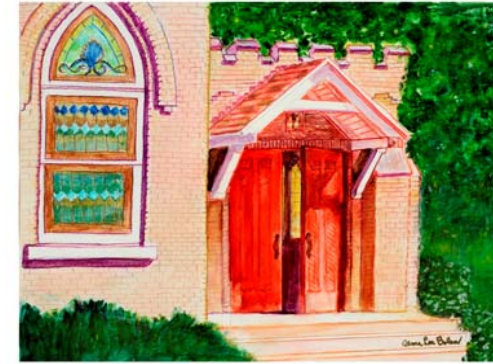
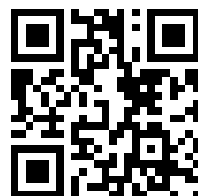
Contact information:

Office: 574-233-5446

Email: [zionsb@zionsb.org](mailto:zionsb@zionsb.org)

website: [www.zionsb.org](http://www.zionsb.org)

Like us on Facebook!



# THE VISITOR

## Zion United Church of Christ

**\*A Just Peace and Open & Affirming Church\***

Vol. XXVII Issue 5 May 2017

**PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BILL WILDEY**

"I believe in the sun  
 even when it is not shining  
 And I believe in love,  
 even when there's no one there.  
 And I believe in God,  
 even when he is silent."

This statement of faith was scrawled on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany by a Jew hiding from the Nazi Gestapo during WWII. American soldiers discovered it below a Star of David when searching the bombed house. The words are powerful by themselves, but even more so when read in the context in which they were written.

Imagine hiding in a basement, not seeing the outside world, and cowering in fear that you will be discovered. Now imagine asserting your belief in the midst of that situation.

This strong statement of faith can challenge us as we think of what we believe and how secure we are in those beliefs. In those moments when you feel you aren't hearing God, are you still feeling God's love? In times of trouble, do you still know that God is present?

Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

*Webster's New World College Dictionary* defines faith as "unquestioning belief that does not require proof or evidence; unquestioning belief in God, religious tenets."

Throughout all the circumstances of our lives, we need to know that God is there for us. When God appears to be silent, is it because we are not listening? When we can't see God at work in our lives or our world, do we have our eyes closed to the good works around us?

In a recent Adult Sunday School class, one of the participants shared this saying, "If you feel far away from God, guess who moved!" In which direction are you moving?

**MAY MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS**

- Deacons** Ed Dierlam & Rick Meece
- Liturgist** 7 Tom Whipkey  
14 Don Zutter  
21 Laura Walterhouse  
28 Judy Waldo
- Communion Hosts**  
7 Lila Kennedy & Rich Schroeder
- Audio** Rick Muhlbeier
- Visual** Julie Niedbalski
- Altar Paraments** Michelle Seals
- Coffee Hosts**  
7 Fellowship Sunday Dinner  
14 Cortney & Steve Nellis  
(Mother's Day)  
21 Millie Lind & Marianna Weaver  
28 Abbie Wozniak

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED**

If you are unable to host a coffee hour, with your donations, Fellowship Ministry will sponsor a Coffee Hour for you. Contact Cherie: 254-0316, Michelle: 329-5599, or Sandy: 220-0195

No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.

**June's Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for articles for the June issue of *The Visitor* is Monday, May 15th.

**March's Worship Attendance**

March 1	63	Ash Wednesday
March 5	76	
March 12	52	
March 19	63	
March 26	57	

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Sophie Grubbs  
2 Lynn DeCocker  
6 Richard DuBrava  
10 Melanie Nellis  
12 Betty Green  
16 Matthew Weides  
17 Sarah Kereszturi  
22 Ann Markley  
23 Marcile Sellers  
23 Patty Troeger  
24 Shannon Sickelka  
25 Jill Shaw  
26 Nancy Bruegel  
26 Todd Kucela  
26 James Grubbs  
29 Shelby Forsythe  
29 Michael Geglio  
30 Cathy Bair  
30 Callie Oneese



**IN NEED OF PRAYER**

Autumn Arndt,  
Hilda Bare,  
Alma Bolen,  
Mary Ann Cox,  
Fred Goldstein,  
Betty Green,  
Rene Hernandez,  
Roger Hintz,  
Paul Koepke,  
Cathy Lenoir's Mother,  
Jan Schallioli,  
Pat Sloan  
Rob, Susie & Abbie, Ron Stout,  
Geneva Sweet,  
Alice Trubey,  
and the families of  
Ervin Purucker  
and Betty Eming.

**SPECIAL OFFERING IN MAY**

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET OFFERING**

on Mother's Day: Sunday, May 14, 2017

In 2016, CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Your congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2017. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.



**Please accept my "Blankets" donation:**

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #** \_\_\_\_\_



In Memory of Ervin Purucker from:

- Bob & Frances Lang
- Louise & Stephen Auella
- Marcile Sellers
- David Canfield



**UNITY GARDENS**

Farmers Market Booth

Visit us at our South Bend Farmers Market Booth.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

We have Honey From The Hood (some of this has been from Zion's hives), fresh leafy greens, all year, seasonal produce, beeswax candles, hand balms, honey based soaps. and plants in season.



**SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN JUNE**

**Strengthen the Church**

Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017

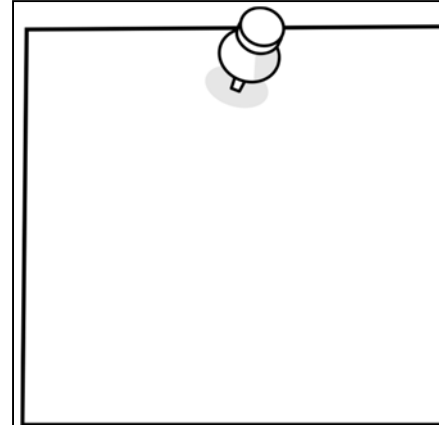
Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017

**CWS Tools on Father's Day**

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Contributions to CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families and to build viable communities.



**NOTES FROM THE ELDERS**

Recently, I've been reading two books in which images and conceptions of God and God's rules play an important role in the daily life of the characters. The first book, *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, is a graphic novel about a girl growing up during the Revolution in Iran, in which conservative religious leaders ultimately took power from the monarchy. In that book, which is autobiographical, the central character is a little girl, Marji. She has long personal conversations with God at night, and she calls God her friend and finds great comfort in God. But things become confusing for Marji when grown ups start telling her different things about what God does and doesn't want. Some grown ups around her believed that the monarchy, headed by the Shah, was divine in nature. Other grown ups believed that the Shah and society in general was corrupt and immoral, and that God wanted strict religious adherence to a large number of rules.

The other book is *Little House in the Big Woods*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. This is also autobiographical, and in it, as many will know. Laura recounts tales from the daily life of her childhood. As part of this, she describes how difficult she found Sundays, since she and her sisters were required to be very quiet all day as part of keeping the Sabbath. Her father later tells her about how much more strict Sabbath activities were for Laura's grandfather. Of course, Laura's Sundays were much more strictly kept than ours are for most of us.

I've been struck by how similar the lives of these little girls were during childhood. Both lived during times of great social and economic change in their countries, and changes in beliefs and practices around God were a part of these changes. Yet for Laura Ingalls Wilder these changes proceeded largely peacefully for her at least, although my understanding is that she was somewhat sad that the era of her childhood was passed and not experienced by many after her. For Marjane Satrapi, her childhood was interrupted by the changes around her, and she laments the violence that accompanied them. Both books put real faces on children living through changing times. They've reminded me to be hopeful and pray that these changes happen peacefully.

Abbie Wozniak



**UCC OFFERING ~ WITH GRATITUDE**  
Our **One Great Hour** of Sharing offering totaled **\$1162.00!**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN:**  
*Sundays during worship*

DEEP BLUE is our curriculum. "Peter Rocks!" is May's theme.  
Children 3-12 will be discovering the Bible stories:  
May 7 - Peter & John  
May 14 - Peter & Tabitha  
May 21 - Peter & Cornelius  
May 28 - Peter in Prison



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Come and discover more around the morning's scriptures and sermon.

**WORSHIP MINISTRY MEETING**

Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

One of the responsibilities of the Worship Ministry is to assist the Pastor and music staff in planning and executing worship services.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.



**FAITH AND JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Zion is joining with several other churches in discussing the formation of a Faith and Justice Collaboration. The first meeting will be held at Zion at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 3rd. This is an excellent opportunity to join forces in addressing social justice issues in South Bend. We are hoping that our church will have several representatives who attend the meeting. Please let Pastor Bill know if you plan to attend.

**THE WHITLOCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

The Mission of The Whitlock is to offer persons 55 and older the opportunity for independent living in a faith-affirming community.

[www.thewhitlock.org](http://www.thewhitlock.org)

**EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS**

**Name**

Abbie Wozniak  
Husband, Don Zutter  
Children - Bruce, Beth, Andy

**In Memory of**

Tim Fuerst  
Caryol Zutter

**Name**

Betty Green  
Susan Kaufman Miller & family  
Nancy Philabaum  
Michelle Seals  
Matt Reese  
Mark & Kitty Suhovecky  
Sue Taylor  
Donna & Bill Wagoner  
Bill & Maureen Wildey

**In Honor of**

Workers of Zion  
Donald Kaufman & Zion Friends  
Helen Bentzen  
Max Jena, Meghan & Iaian Seals  
Steve Reese  
Joe Suhovecky  
Zack Taylor & Cassie Taylor  
Scott Wagoner  
Joan Wildey



**SPRING SALAD BAR LUNCHEON**

Thank you to one and all who took part in the Salad Bar Luncheon.

Because of your generous giving through preparation, work, salads, enjoying the luncheon, and clean up \$618.00 was raised for the Sisters of Faith.



**AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)**

We would like to purchase an AED to improve our safety in and around our buildings.

Sharon Kereszturi has contacted a specialist to price this item. It's important for us to have one.

## EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



### Name

### In Memory of

Cathy & John Bair

Cleo & Oscar Eisbrenner

Nellie & John Bair

Corrie Bair

Betty Green

Loved Ones

Carol & Brian Hedman

Parents:

Elmer & Mary Hertel

Roland & Isabelle Hedman

Brother: Robert Hertel

Karen & Roger Hintz

Our Parents

Max Jena

Sue Jena, Theo & Clara Jena, Debbie Leopold

Robert & Frances Lang

Albert & Mildred Lang & Jim Lang

Susan Kaufman Miller & family

Martha Kaufman & Zion Friends

Bob & Frances Lang

Al & Mildred Lang

Bob & Phyllis Nielsen

Edward & Mable & Shirley & Val Nielsen

Elmer & Mary Hertel

Irwin Bentzen

Nancy Philabaum

Pam Wrye

Sue Popovich

Dorothy & George Erhardt

Beverly & Don Quimby

Joan Wagner, Parents, Brother

Jan Raymond

Our Parents

Beth & Jack Sargent

Dr. F. M. Sellers & James Hurst

Marcile Sellers

Parents: Roger & Ruby Cree

Jan & Tami Stayton

Dave Stayton, Sr.

Mark & Kitty Suhovecky

Molvina Greytak, Joseph DelGiudice

Sue Taylor

James A. Taylor, Jim & Nancy Hutchison

Patty Troeger & Family

Thomas Troeger

Esther & Earl Troeger

Louis & Marjorie Bourdon

Marianna Weaver

Roger Weaver

William & Maureen Wildey

Herb Wildey

John & Dorothy Quirk

## **SUNDAY DINNER**

Sunday, May 7, 2017

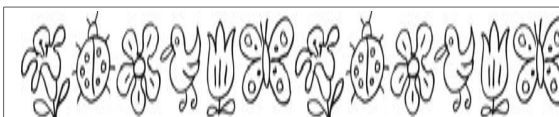
Price ~ \$8.00

Reservations Requested.

Dinner is served!

Gather around the table with family and friends for a dinner party.

Our menu: beef tips in gravy, potatoes, vegetable casseroles, rolls  
and, of course, desserts



### **Spring Meeting Northwest Association of the Indiana Kentucky Conference, UCC**

**Sunday, May 7, 3:30 PM EST**

**Our New Designated Term Conference Minister, Rev. Chad Abbott, will meet with us for open discussion.**

Chad currently serves St. Paul's UCC in Alexandria, KY, near Cincinnati, where he lives with his wife, Shannon, daughter Isabel, son Solomon, and dog Zoe. They will move to Indianapolis this summer.

Chad received a BA in Religion and Philosophy in 2000 from Greenville College in Illinois and a Master's of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2003. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2011 in the IKC. Chad has Committee on Ministry experience in the Ohio Conference and passion for Just Peace Leadership, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Public Speaking and Spiritual Direction. He is trained in labyrinth walk facilitation and presentation. Chad is also a published author with his most recent book being *Sacred Habits: The Rise of the Creative Clergy*.

Agenda includes election of new officers. Your involvement is vital to the Association. Opportunities for service exist on the Board, the Committee On Ministry, and other areas.

St. Peter's UCC, South Bend IN  
915 N Ironwood Dr, South Bend, IN 46615

**EVANGELISM MINISTRY MEETING**

Monday, May 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

One of the responsibilities of the Evangelism Ministry is to develop ways to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Congregation and within the community, nation, and world.

**THE ELDERS MEETING**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Elders has the power and responsibility to monitor the activities and actions of all Ministry Areas and Committees and serve as the forum for study and conversation with regard to policy decisions.

**CAMP FIRE**

&

**COMMON GROUND COFFEEHOUSE**

Saturday, May 13, 2017

beginning at 7:00 p.m.



Hot dogs, chips, s'mores and more.

MUSIC, POETRY, COMEDY & DANCE

ALL ARE INVITED & ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE !

Free admission, Fair Trade coffee & snacks

The UCC purpose statement comes from the Gospel of Matthew: *To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*

Mission statement: *United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.*

And the vision: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*



**2017 CROP WALK PLANNING MEETING**

Monday, May 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

We're meeting at Zion to plan for this year's walk!



**SISTERS OF FAITH IN 2017**

Please save these dates for meetings and/or programs:



*Sisters of Faith*

**Third Sunday at 12:30 p.m.**

**May 21**, August 20,  
November 12 (Second Sunday)

**Third Thursday at 6:00 p.m.**

June 15, July 20, September 21, October 19,  
December 21

**THE VISITOR MAILING TEAM**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.  
The team readies "The Visitor" for mailing.

**DISMAS HOUSE DINNER**

Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
Join others from Zion at Dismas for dinner.

**ALL CHURCH WORK DAY**

Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Come out & help make our buildings and grounds sparkle!



**PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETING**

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

One of the responsibilities of the Property Ministry is maintaining, repairing, and improving all church properties.

## 1. What is *Strengthen the Church*?

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." *Strengthen the Church* is directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and The Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes. *Invest in the Vision: Strengthen the Church!*

## 2. How many dollars are given to *Strengthen the Church*?

In 2012, contributions topped \$558,900, an increase of over 7%. Net of promotion costs, about \$246,000 remained with Conferences and \$249,000 was forwarded to be shared by Local Church Ministries and The Stillspeaking Ministry. We are on our way to raising \$1 million with your help!

## 3. How are *Strengthen the Church* funds shared?

Conferences may use up to 50% of the offering for local and regional *Strengthen the Church* efforts. Conferences may provide information about their specific uses in mailings, newsletters, emails, or on their web sites. Contact your Conference office for information. The Stillspeaking Ministry and Local Church Ministries use the other 50%.

## 4. How are *Strengthen the Church* funds used by The Stillspeaking Ministry and Local Church Ministries?

- *Strengthen the Church* is helping to fund the *God is Stillspeaking Ministry*. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all—here in the United Church of Christ. In 2013 about \$25,000 of the 2012 offering will be used for this ministry.
- About \$134,400 will be given in grants to provide pastoral leadership for *new church starts* and *revitalizing congregations*. Grants are awarded each spring and fall. These grants help fulfill one of the UCC's "Big Inspirational Goals": There is a welcoming UCC community of faith that is accessible to all – no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.
- God is calling new generations to ministry in our increasingly diverse church. Will they be well prepared? Will they have a heart for the UCC? The \$67,200 used to implement the General Synod Pronouncement, "*Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church*," is helping us meet future leadership needs for all our congregations.
- About \$22,400 will support *Youth at General Synod* and *Women's Ministries*. In non-Synod years, these contributions support regional and national youth events. Over 3,000 youth and their sponsors participated in NYE 2012. An exciting new format for the Women's magazine, *Common Lot*, is reaching more UCC women than ever... and it's available by subscription or free online.

*These are the amounts available after covering promotion costs of about \$32,000.*

## 5. How is *Strengthen the Church* different from the *New Church Challenge Fund*?

The need for funds to help pay salary and benefits for new church start pastors far exceeds gifts to the *Strengthen the Church* offering. Because starting new churches is a priority, Local Church Ministries allocates \$500,000 from its budget each year. Even so, that meets less than 20% of the need, leaving some requests deferred or denied. *The New Church Challenge Fund* and *New Church Challenge Endowment Fund* were established to receive special gifts, major gifts, or bequests from individuals and congregations with a strong desire to plant more new churches. *Strengthen the Church* provides an annual opportunity for all members to help plant churches, renew existing churches, foster new leaders and grow the UCC as a community of extravagant welcome.

## 6. How and when can people contribute to *Strengthen the Church*?

The *Strengthen the Church* offering is received through local UCC congregations and sent through their Conference office. The suggested date is Pentecost Sunday, May 19th – alternatively, it may be received on the Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day (May 12th), Thanksgiving (Nov. 17th), the Sunday (June 23rd) before the UCC's anniversary (June 25th) or the congregation's anniversary. Promotional materials arrive in churches at least six weeks prior to Pentecost Sunday.

**To order additional materials call toll-free 1-800-537-3394.** For more information visit [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc) or contact the Rev. Doris Powell, Local Church Ministries: [powelld@ucc.org](mailto:powelld@ucc.org) or (toll free) 1-866-822-8224 ext 3853.

### Request for Transpo Day Passes

Broadway Christian Parish has a need for Transpo Day Passes for their guests.

The passes are \$3.00 for a day's pass.



The money will be collected in two ways:

- a collection box in "The Connection"
- or
- in the offering.

The Missions Ministry thanks you for your support of this important work.

### Request for Martin's Gift Cards

We help people from time to time by giving out Martin's Gift Cards for food.

If you would like to buy a card or donate money to help with this mission it would be greatly appreciated.

The cards we give out are \$25.00 and if you ask for the card at the Martin's office "with restrictions" no alcohol or tobacco products can be purchased with it.

Thank you so much.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Indiana/Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering

Service Project 2017 Goal:

1,000 Hygiene Kits



We know that we are stronger when we work together.

Will you help us reach our goal by telling our stories through our work and commitment?

Therefore, we are asking each association to collect one specific item for this project.

We'll assemble these kits at Annual Gathering. We have found that often the best prices for items can be found online, but however you want to collect your items, we approve!

Northwest Association: 1,000 Washcloths

### DISMAS HOUSE DINNER

Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
Join others from Zion at Dismas for dinner.

As we support the work at Dismas House, here are the Pillars of Programming at Dismas House:

#### Housing & Other Basic Needs

By providing shelter, food, and clothing within the first 72 hours following release, Dismas is able to greatly increase the likelihood our residents remain free forever.

#### A Family Atmosphere

Introducing residents into our caring community of volunteers, program partners, other residents, and staff offers a positive support and accountability.

#### Clinical Support

Through relationships with local partners, Dismas provides comprehensive support for mental health, substance use disorder, and physical well-being.

#### Case Management

Weekly one-on-one sessions are time set aside to work on attaining tangible goals such as identification needed for employment, driver's license, government services, employment, and permanent housing.

#### Life Skills Development

Residents develop healthy social interaction through "Life Skills in Action" activities.

#### Financial Management

Residents learn to establish solid financial habits and build wealth thru sessions that focus on budgeting & savings, credit repair, taxes, home ownership, and making investments.

Please join the folks of Zion and Dismas House in sharing a good meal and great conversation around the table on Thursday, May 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.