



Welcome to Zion UCC
“Take Heart”

Zion United Church of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 2024

*Stand in body or spirit.

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

Prelude

Coming Together to Share the Light

Greeting & Proclamation

"Integrity means; every part of your brokenness will play a part in your wholeness."

~ Andrena Sawyer, 21st Century

Welcome and Announcements

Litany of Sunday Celebration

We are called to be the people of God's kingdom.

In God's realm we will find healing and hope.

We are called to be people who love as God has loved us.

We will reach out with God's love to all God's people.

We are called to be those who would serve.

May God be with us as we serve by helping those in need. AMEN.

Prayer of Invocation

The Prayer of Jesus

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins/debts/trespasses, as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

A Lesson for All Ages

*** Hymn of Celebration # 233**

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Prayer for Our Humanity

...but also the transformation opportunities for others.

Forgive our stubborn insistence on living in darkness. Take our hands and lead us to the light. This we pray in the name of the Master Servant, Jesus Christ, our Savior. AMEN.

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

...Be at peace and rejoice!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! AMEN.

Message in Music

"I Will Greatly Rejoice"

First Scripture Lesson

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Acclamation # 702 w/R

"All Things New"

***Gospel Lesson**

Mark 10:46-52

This is the Gospel of Christ
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Pastor Craig

An Act of Reformation # 360

"The United Church of Canada Statement of Faith"

***Hymn of Reflection # 65**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Invitation to Joyful Giving

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.

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

Spirit of Truth, of Love, of Pow'r,
We bring ourselves as gifts to Thee.
Oh bind our hearts this sacred hour,
In faith and hope and charity. AMEN.

Sharing Celebrations of Life and Our Joys and Concerns

A Prayer for Sunday

***Closing Hymn # 453**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Benediction

Bring Light out into the World

Postlude

We Focus on Our Life Together...

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

Leader: Pastor Craig Sparks

Music Director: Thad Paulhamus

Musician: Clinton Adams

Message in Music: Zion UCC Choir

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Bryan Barbalace, Kevin Barbalace, Charlene Berk, Cheryl Blackburn, June Bocek*, Les & Vivian Bowser*, Les Bowser Jr, Casey Brewer, Anna Denoe*, Anna Golden, Tom Hayman, Marie Kachinski, June Kinnear*, Henry & Gerri Krotee, Barbara Langenfelder*, John Langenfelder, Barbara Makin, Pete Mitchell, Joyce Murphy, Betty Nolte*, Amanda O'Neil, Judith Panian*, John Pflugrad, John Reali, Shirley Ritter*, Elaine Roberts, Carol Shrader, Mary Sturm, Barbara Thompson, service men & women, the people of Appalachia, Florida, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine. Also, all those affected by Hurricanes Helene & Milton, Peace on Earth.

This week at Zion...

28: Busy Hands (10 am) Upper Hall

Turner Seniors (11 am) Lower Hall

29: Bible Study (6 pm) Gathering Place

Choir Rehearsal (7 pm) Sanctuary

N.A. "Stronger Ties" (7 pm) Lower Hall

Sunday School News...

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

Mission Committee News...

The Mission Committee is currently collecting new coats, gloves and hats for several schools in our area. We need boys' and girls' coats in sizes from 5-18. If you wish to make a monetary donation, special envelopes are available. We will continue this project through January 5, 2025. See the October Messenger for more information. If you have any questions, please see Jo-Ann Taylor, Cissy Sparks or Lois Randall. Thanks for your support!

Bible Study News...

Please join us for Bible Study on Tuesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in "The Gathering Place". Each week focuses on a different scripture, come when you are able. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Craig. All are welcome, come whenever you can!

Flag Retirement Ceremony...

On Sunday, November 10th, at 11:30 a.m., a flag retirement ceremony will be held at the Cabin fire ring in honor of Veterans Day. All are welcome to attend and anyone who wishes to retire a flag will have an opportunity to do so.

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Back Bay Mission Project...

Once again, Joan Jordan will be teaming up with Sara Miller Kaufman's Evansville, Indiana UCC Association to volunteer at the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Their team will be onsite from November 2nd to the 9th, repairing and building homes, working in the food pantry, serving meals to the disadvantaged, working with homeless citizens, etc. Joan and the Zion Mission Committee would like to present Back Bay Mission with a gift of \$500.00 during their time there. We are asking the congregation to help us meet this goal... can you help? Special Envelopes marked "Back Bay Mission" can be found in the Narthex through October. Checks may also be mailed to the church office. Please put "Back Bay" on your check's memo line. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this special project.

Zion Women's Guild Fundraiser!



Keep these custom reusable totes on hand for those last-minute shopping trips! This tote folds into its own 4-1/2" x 5-1/2" interior hanging pocket for easy storage. T-shirt style bags fit over supermarket checkout frames, making it easier for loading with your groceries. They also make great gifts. Bags are available for \$5.00 each in the Narthex and Gathering Place. See Terry Reed or any member of the Guild!

UCC MISSION MOMENT
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
Mark 10:46-52 Take Heart

Poor Bartimaeus. Blind and begging on the side of road just waiting for a kind soul to drop a coin or piece of bread into his wanting hands — perhaps even acknowledge his plight with an empathetic, “Take heart.” But no one does.

Bartimaeus sits on what is most likely the infamous Jericho Road, as Mark shares that Jesus was on the road leaving Jericho when he encounters the blind beggar.

It’s not a safe place to be. It is an 18-mile stretch of dirt, stone and danger. It was this thoroughway connecting Jerusalem and Jericho where a Good Samaritan tended to a traveler beaten and left for dead. Perhaps it is fitting for Bartimaeus to be there, as he himself has been left for dead as one of society’s forgotten ones. Today, though, the Divine “take heart” speaks to Bartimaeus in the way of a growing commotion on the road. The shouts of the name “Jesus” reaches his ears. He knows the story of this man Jesus. He is the who makes the deaf hear and the crippled walk.

Could today be Bartimaeus’ turn to be made whole? Jostled about, Bartimaeus adds to the ruckus, waving his arms and shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Others sneer at the beggar, commanding him to

be quiet. Their seeing eyes are blind to the fact that even Bartimaeus is worthy of Jesus' healing mercies.

Bartimaeus shouts more loudly. Amid the many voices, Jesus hears that of the blind beggar, as his words are laced with faith. Bartimaeus is called out of the crowd and healed by Jesus.

The day will come, if it hasn't already, when we will find ourselves like Bartimaeus, sitting alone on a road no one wants to be on. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of despair over some crisis or challenge that we just can't see a way out of. But Bartimaeus whispers to us, "Take heart!" Never lose courage — even in the darkest night of the soul. Reach for Jesus. Cry out his holy name.

Don't let a cynical world silence your cries. Don't let your own doubts in the Faithful One mock that tiny mustard seed of faith you are desperately holding onto.

Be persistent. Be loud. Be like Bartimaeus. Shout with all your might, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And wait for your miracle to begin.

Gracious and Loving God, thank you for always being by our sides in our times of need.

Continue to strengthen our voices so that our cries of help are loud and filled with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercies and remember that You are always making a way forward for us.

Amen.

Zion UCC Church Staff

Ministers	All members of Zion UCC	
Craig S. Sparks	Pastor	443-896-6815 Email: <i>craigssparks@gmail.com</i>
Tim Dalgo, Sr.	Administrator	410-608-1670 Email: <i>info@zionuccmd.com</i>
Joan Jordan	President	443-791-7344 Email: <i>doosmom2@gmail.com</i>
Thad Paulhamus	Music Director	443-610-7844
Clinton Adams	Musician	
The Rev. Hugh Nash	Pastor Emeritus	

Administrative Office: 410-687-0980

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

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

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

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