

Anyone can count
the *seeds* in an apple,
but only God can count the
number of *apples* in a seed.

Robert H. Schuller

Zion Evangelical United Church

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara

Our Mission Statement

“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, empowered to share God's love and to make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and acts of caring.”

Prelude

Shelley Jodoin

Welcome / Announcements

Eunice Getz

Hymns

Come, Christians, Join To Sing

#225

Call to Worship

Joy comes to those who follow God's ways.

We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!

Those who follow the Lord are like trees planted by the river,
bearing fruit each season.

May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!

Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

Let us worship God now and throughout all our days.

Prayers of Confession

God of all creation, you have formed the world in beauty and filled it with creatures of your love and purpose. Each one declares your praise, the mountain states your majesty, the ripened field, your generosity. Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom. The tiny ant works with your persistence. And what do we declare about you in our lives? We pray that our work our work will honour your love and mercy. May our relationships speak of your love and compassion. Challenge us today to live out the praise we offer you through the grace of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

God of justice and mercy, we offer you our love and loyalty in worship, yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty. We don't always act on our good intentions, we fail to keep our promises, we hurt each other and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness. People must look at us and wonder if this is what it means to follow Jesus. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to do better, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance

From now on, as the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new! **Thanks be to God that we can make a new start this very day.**

Prayer for Understanding

God of truth and wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit as we listen to your Word. Refresh our understanding and equip us to respond to you in love, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Sherry Blaedow

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 (pg 201)

Responsive Reading *Psalms 1*

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,
or linger in the way of sinners,
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,
**but they are like the chaff,
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand
when judgement comes,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Scripture *Luke 14: 25-33 (pg 1012)*

Hymn *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* **#602**

Prayer of Dedication

**O God, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them to
heal and reshape the world you love with the Good News we
celebrate in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Good and generous God, in Jesus Christ you came to us,
promising us life in abundance. We give you thanks today for the
abundant gifts we receive in Him: assurance of your
love day by day; relief of mercy when we recognize our own
failings; hope when things seem bleak; energy to make a
difference through our work and our witness and peace that
comes when we trust ourselves in you. These are the gifts that
matter, O God, especially when the future seems uncertain.
**And so, we pray, fill our lives with what matters, O God. Fill our
lives with you.**

Generous God, today we pray for all whose lives seem empty: for
those whose lives are empty of joy because the going is tough
and friends seem far away; because sorrow surrounds them or
because hearts are filled with anger or disappointment.
Fill our lives with what matters, O God. Fill our lives with you.

Generous God, we remember before you those whose lives are
empty of purpose and those who do not know the respect of
their neighbours: because they are without work;

because they face discrimination in their communities or because they have made poor choices and cannot find a way forward.

Fill our lives with what matters, O God. Fill our lives with you.

Generous God, we remember before you those whose lives are empty of peace and hope: because they struggle with illness or disability; because they are powerless in the face of violence or because old animosities rankle and opportunity for reconciliation is elusive.

Fill our lives with what matters, O God. Fill our lives with you.

Good and generous God, fill us with the energy and compassion of your Spirit to reach out to those whose lives seem empty. May we become the gift which we have received in Jesus, for it is in his name that we pray, saying, **Our Father...**

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make God's face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift God's countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn

Close To Thee

#607

Postlude

Shelley Jodoin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion,

Happy Grandparent's Day and welcome to our church family. As we worship together today, may you feel the love and peace of Christ.

Coffee Time and Apple Fest will follow our Service today. Today we give thanks and celebrate the season of apples. An invitation goes out to each and everyone to come taste our variety of delicious apple dishes and enjoy some fellowship. Thank you so much to all our volunteers who prepared food and decorated our hall for Apple Fest.

Birthday Cake Sunday will be celebrated next week, September 14th. If you would like to host the celebration of our September birthdays, a sign up poster can be found on the office bulletin board.

Zion's Next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 14th following the Worship Service. Please submit all Committee Reports to Eunice by the end of today for the Agenda.

In Honour of Grandparent's Day, cards are laid out on the back table of the sanctuary, if you would like to share a fond memory or event from the past at Zion. Our memory cards will go up on our bulletin board for passersby to read at their leisure.

Zion's Fall Fair will be held on October 4th. The proceeds of the fair will be used toward creating a new sign for Zion. If you have a few extra preserves such as jams, pickles, beets, relishes, salsa, etc to share or are able to make some "Thanksgiving" baked goods that would be greatly appreciated. Any extra garden produce could also be brought to our fair such as pumpkins, squash, zucchinis, potatoes, carrots, turnips, etc. We will also be accepting other miscellaneous items for the fair, including fall and winter apparel and decor.

Choir Practice will take place once again on Wednesday, the 10th at 2:30 for Zion & Wesley members. We are preparing for a joint service on the 28th at Wesley to celebrate their 190th Anniversary.

Our Community Events Bulletin Board has some posts that may be of interest to you. Please find details about the following:

First Step Options

*Pizza With A Purpose Day

*Rhythms Of Hope Fundraising Concert

Wesley

*Harvest Dance & Dessert” featuring DJ Abbey Lane

Pembroke Community Choir

*Looking for Singers for Upcoming Presentations

Please keep in your prayers those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, those experiencing or recovering from illness and surgeries and those going through challenging and difficult times. We especially ask that you remember in prayer, Rev. Dave Bauman & Maureen, Myrtle Gutz, Erna Maves, Evelyn Maves, Sandra Maves, Rev. Mandara, Doreen Schroeder and Martin Verkruisen.

Food For Thought

Wear your years with pride, like a badge of honour, for you have conquered. You have thrived. You have survived!

Rev. Zacharia Mandara

Email: zadama@msn.com

1-613-293-1723

Office Hours: Wednesdays—9:30 to 4:30

Zion Evangelical United Church—613-732-9493

Email: zionunitedpembroke@gmail.com

Website Address:

www.zionevangelicalunited.ca

Facebook:

Zion Evangelical United Church Pembroke

