

*Zion Evangelical United Church
1886 ~ 2026
Empowered by God's Love
for 140 Years!*

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."*

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Rev. Sheldon Alley

Prelude

Shelley Jodoin

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Rev. Alley

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin People who have cared for this land for generations. We honour their enduring connection to this land and commit to working towards reconciliation. We express our gratitude and respect to them and the land for all that it has provided.

Announcements

Eunice Getz

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Alley

Hymn

Fairest Lord Jesus

#87

Call to Worship

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

God's greatness is unsearchable.

From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession

God loves us and calls us by name. Too frequently, we stake our claim on that tenderness and use it as a weapon against others, forgetting that God's love does not build walls but knocks them down. Let us set down our burdens and our defences as we confess our sins in front of God and one another.

Almighty God, when we follow the path of anger and frustration it cuts us off from others. Yet you call us back to your way of mercy, love and redemption. It is one thing to accept these gifts for ourselves; it is another to extend them to those who frustrate us. Forgive us for our anger, resentment, and desire to hoard. We lay these impulses at your feet and ask that you create a new heart within us, one modelled after your steadfast love and generosity. Help us to see the world in new ways. Amen.

Prayer of Assurance

As inspired from 2 Corinthians 5: 17—Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Youth Time

Prayer for Understanding

Eternal God, you know our hearts and minds. Bless this time together that in reading, hearing, and reflecting on your Word together, we may be changed. We surrender this time to you and ask for your blessing upon it. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Susan Hanniman

Philippians 1: 21-30 (pg 1138)

Responsive Reading

Psalms 105: 1-6, 37-45

(Please see back of bulletin)

Scripture

Matthew 20: 1-16 (pg 954)

“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**”

Message

Rev. Alley

Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

#591

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

Almighty God, we offer you these gifts and our hearts alongside them. May they be blessed to do your bidding. May our expectations of what is right and what is wise always be governed by your love. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Creator, your love is beyond our knowledge and understanding. We are full of wonder at your boundless mercy. We put our faith in this love as we come to you today to express our communal prayers for the world, knowing that you hear us. God of all peoples, we pray for the world. Please be at work in places that are full of violence and suffering. We pray, in particular, for the people of Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Iran. Please show us a pathway to peace. Put the right people in the right places to make decisions not just for themselves but also for others.

We pray for those affected by natural disasters throughout the world. In rooms full of raw anger and grief, we ask that those who are hurting might feel your presence. Bless those who are working to rebuild. Help us as a human race to make the appropriate changes to stop climate-based disasters from happening in the future. Forgive us for the destruction we have caused.

We pray for our own country, God. Help us to balance your desire for justice and equality with your call to love our neighbour. May our churches be spaces of welcome where we can have faithful conversations that push all of our understanding. Almighty, you tell us time and again in your Word that you care for the poor, for the abused, for the cast out.

We pray for those people now. We pray for those who are homeless. We pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet. We pray for new immigrants to this country seeking asylum.

We pray for the lonely. We pray for the sick. We pray for the grieving. If we are to play a role in providing these needs, spark our hearts toward action.

Gracious God, we lift up these prayers to you today., both spoken and unspoken. We know that you see us and hear us, and so it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we pray together, **“Our Father...”**

Hymn	<i>Trust and Obey</i>	#571
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Benediction

My prayer for us today, Beloved of God, is that our eyes are open to the people we discount. May we humbly accept that God's love does not follow our logic. May we be freed from the burden of our resentments. May the Holy Spirit create a new work within us so that we can bring about the kingdom of God, here on earth. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, I bless you. Go and be at peace. **Amen.**

Postlude **Shelley Jodoin**

ZION'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family & Friends of Zion,

Welcome to our morning worship. May you be filled with God's strength and wisdom to carry you through the week ahead.

Our Sunday School Program is open for any children who would like to join. The program activities consist of lessons, music, crafts and games. If you are interested in helping with the children in Sunday School, no experience is needed, however, a Vulnerable Sector Check is required. Please contact Kathy at 613-732-4443 or email Tara at tftennant@gmail.com.

Coffee Time

We invite everyone to this time of fellowship following our service today.

Board Meeting

Board members are asked to attend an information meeting following today's service.

Choir Practice

Our choir members from Wesley and Zion are asked to come together at 10:15 on Sunday, September 27th for a practice before our shared service at 11:00.

Our Daily Bread Devotional Booklets

New books are available for the months of October, November, and December. Feel free to pick up a booklet. How each of us fits into the family of God is reflected in the readings each day.

If you have prayer requests for yourself, family or friends please call Heather Lariviere, our Prayer Chain Leader at 613-735-2825. Let Heather know if you would like your name removed from or printed in bulletin for prayer, and she will pass it along to Sherry.

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 and Maureen, The Getz Family, Myrtle Gutz, Rodney & Margaret Krieger, Erna Maves, Evelyn Maves, Burton Maves, Sandra Maves, Les and Janice Reavie, Doreen Schroeder and Martin Verkrusen.

Pastoral Care for Zion and Wesley

Pastor Dave Henderson will visit those in hospital or Palliative Care when requested and serve Communion. Arla Bailey from Wesley and Eunice Getz from Zion will be our contact people to reach out to Pastor Dave. Call Eunice at 613-732-8004 and Arla at 613-732-9438.

Zion Fall Tea Party

Thank you to all the ladies who came together and worked hard throughout the week to prepare for this event. We are so very grateful for all the donations we received. We look forward to telling you know about our special day.

Zion's 140th Anniversary Service

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how Zion can celebrate this event, please let Susan Hanniman or Eunice Getz know this week.

Supply Organist / Pianist

Zion church is searching for a supply organist/pianist to fill in one Sunday per month for our 11:00 Worship Services. If you would like more information, please contact our Church Office at 613-732-9493. Leave your name and contact number and a brief message and we will get in touch with you.

New Sign Funds Raised To Date—\$5553.95

More finishing work was completed on our sign this past week. We are really are hoping to have our sign ready for dedication on our Anniversary Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26—Chair Yoga at Zion at 10:00

September 27—Shared Service with Wesley at Zion at 11:00

October 11—Thanksgiving Sunday at Zion at 11:00

October 18—Anniversary Service at Zion at 11:00

October 25—All United Churches at Calvin at 10:00

COMMUNITY EVENTS ***(Please see our bulletin board)***

Upper Valley UCW West 2026 Annual Rally

-September 21st from 9:30 to 1:30 at St. Andrew's United Church in Chalk River

First Step Options—"Baby Bump Party"

-A list of needed items is posted.

-Items you may wish to contribute to this cause can be placed in the purple box at our church parking lot door entrance.

First Step Options—The "Connected" Program

-Starting Monday, September 28th to November 16th from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

First Step Options—"Rhythms of Hope"

-Fundraising Concert on October 3rd from 2:00 to 3:30 at the Pembroke Pentecostal Tabernacle

Pembroke Community Choir—Registration

-Begins August 15th to September 11th

-Rehearsals on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 starting September 14th at Wesley Community Church

First Chair Yoga Session at Zion
Saturday, September 26th at 10:00
Yoga Instructor—Mike Young

Cost

\$50 per session to be divided equally among number who are in attendance

Equipment to Bring

Mike has a few items that he can bring from home, but if you can, please bring the following items to the class.

Yoga Mat—most important item to prevent chairs from sliding

Yoga Ball—can be substituted with a tennis ball, or other sponge ball of that size that you can roll under your feet without flattening.

Yoga Strap—can be substituted with a long necktie or long belt

Yoga Blocks—These are a rectangular foam block. Mike said for now we could substitute with books from the church. Mike also said yoga equipment can be purchased at Canadian Tire.

This is a trial session to see how many people come out, and if the day and time works for future sessions.



Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45
Responsive Reading

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

**Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

**Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles,
and the judgments he pronounced,**

O descendants of Abraham his servant,

O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,
and from among their tribes no one faltered.

Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel
had fallen on them.

He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to light at night.

**They asked, and he brought them quail
and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.**

**He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
like a river it flowed in the desert.**

For he remembered his holy promise given to
his servant Abraham.

**He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;**

he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—
that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws.

Praise the LORD.

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FACEBOOK

Zion Evangelical United Church Pembroke

