

MENDOTA ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COME, SHARE, GROW

NEWS FROM ZION

October 2025

Volume 5 Issue 2



Harvest is in full swing and as a reminder, be cautious on the roads with various farm implements heading from the fields to take the grain to market and then returning. Many farm accidents occur during this time so let's all do our part and pray for them.

A few weeks ago, Karen and I were in the Target down in Peru and all of the school supplies were out. Wow, I wish we had all this cool stuff when I was in school. It used to be the best time of year to buy office supplies as well as I got older. How everything has changed since the reem of lined paper, rulers, 2 pencils and an eraser.

Crayola crayons had big display, and I remember that from the list my mom would religiously buy from, the box of 8 jumbo crayons. I think it was until sometime in high school that she allowed me to expand my pallet of color, the box of 16.

We would shop at a store called Union Hall and we



were always so excited to get our paper, pens and pencils and of course the crayons. We would take them all to school on the first day in large grocery bag. Backpacks weren't a thing back then. I would organize

them all in our desk that the top flipped up revealing where I would organize, re-organize... and maybe organize again.

(Continued on next page)

CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE...

I felt OK that everyone in class was organizing school supplies from the same list. But each year, there was always that kid... You the one that I'm talking about.... Whose parents allowed them to deviate from the list and splurge and get the big box of 64 crayons. The box even came with a sharpener when the crayons got dull. I still remember how the other kids would huddle around the kid with the big box of crayons... with the built in sharpener.

I just knew that there would be no way that our big jumbo crayons would fit in that tiny hole to sharpen. Once ours were dull... well we still used them the best we could.

God does that with us. We all come in different shapes and sizes and somehow God knits us all together, The Apostle Paul talks about the quite a bit. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 it says, "Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many".

God uses each one of us, our gifts, our talents, all shapes, sizes, colors to paint a tapestry called the church. It's a beautiful thing if you think of it. We all come from different places, grew up with many different traditions and customs. Some of us grew up well off while others did not come from a lot of means. Rich, poor, old, young, Cubs fans... well they are in the playoffs. Even differing opinions and politics. Still God brings us all together by the power of the Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ.

A couple of months ago I saw someone wearing a t-shirt and it had a picture of the big box of jumbo crayons on it. Underneath was this... "Even a broken crayon still colors".

I have thought about that shirt ever since as to us being disciples are to be there for the broken of our society. Those broken within our midst and those that are broken that we tend to easily forget. The forgotten and even the forsaken of our community.

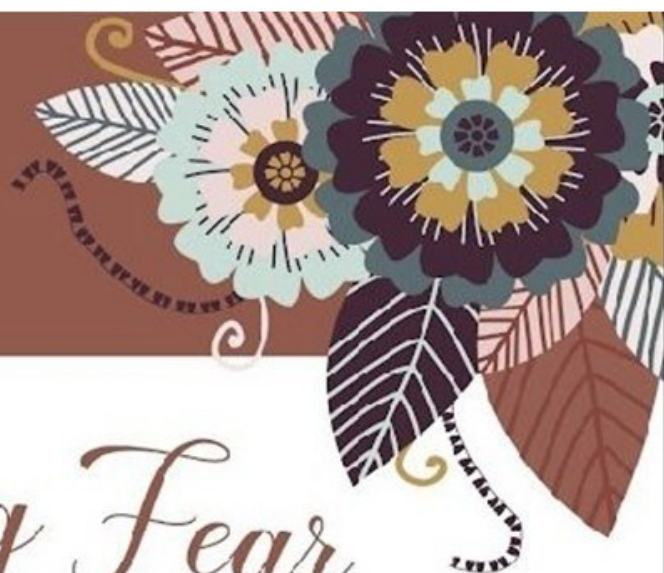
Our church along with Dementia Friendly Mendota have written a grant for seed money to begin offering a caregiver support group hosted by our church. Many times, caregivers are also family members, spouses, children, and even grandchildren provide care for a loved one with dementia or one of its many forms. Currently Mendota has no adult daycare services with the closest being in Sandwich, IL. Adult daycare that offers services for loved ones with dementia could offer respite care for a spouse or other family member.

A few months ago, in one of my sermons I asked the question, "What would it look like if our church and its services could be more dementia friendly?" "What could that look like?"

Pray for the grants approval sometime in December. Then planning will begin to implement promotion and logistics of these caregiver support groups. They will also offer various activities with trained providers for their loved ones. Be Praying!
Pastor Jeff

October

Scripture Writing Plan



Overcoming Fear

- Day 1: Isaiah 43:1-2
- Day 2: Isaiah 35:4
- Day 3: Joshua 1:9
- Day 4: Zephaniah 3:16-17
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 3:22
- Day 6: Isaiah 41:13
- Day 7: Psalm 23:4
- Day 8: Psalm 34:4
- Day 9: Psalm 27:14
- Day 10: Psalm 56:3-4
- Day 11: Mark 4:39-40
- Day 12: Mark 5:35-36
- Day 13: John 14:27
- Day 14: Romans 8:31
- Day 15: Romans 8:38-39
- Day 16: 1 Peter 3:13-14
- Day 17: 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 18: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 19: Philippians 4:13
- Day 20: 2 Timothy 1:7
- Day 21: 1 John 4:17-18
- Day 22: Psalm 19:14
- Day 23: Psalm 91:1-2
- Day 24: Psalm 55:22
- Day 25: Psalm 118:6-7
- Day 26: Proverbs 14:26-27
- Day 27: Proverbs 1:7
- Day 28: Proverbs 15:33
- Day 29: Proverbs 19:23
- Day 30: Psalm 128:1-2
- Day 31: Psalm 128:3-4

Commit 10 minutes each day to read each verse,
write it out in your journal, meditate on it, and
reflect on what it means to you.



The Scribe's Portion
PRESERVING THE WORD OF GOD





Zion United Methodist Church Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9am	6	7 Prayer Group 6:30pm	8 Stonecroft Worship 10am	9 COA Mtg 6:30pm	10	11 Amigo Fest Downtown 4pm-10pm
12 Worship 9am	13	14 Prayer Group 6:30pm	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 9am	20	21 Prayer Group 6:30 pm	22	23 10am Allure Worship Service 2pm Hymn Sing at Stone Croft	24 Articles for the November Newsletter Due	25
26 Worship 9am	27	28 Prayer Group 6:30 pm	29 Stonecroft Worship 10am	30 Church Conference 7pm	31	

October Birthday's

10/2 Ruth Otterbach

10/10 Allyssah Arteaga

10/12 Natalie LaRocque

10/20 Shirlene Lowe

10/22 Allison Booth

10/27 Dave Henry

10/27 Gary Browder

10/28 Serafina Hernandez

10/29 Lyncoln Daley



October Anniversary's

10/17 Jon & Michelle Armstrong

10/18 Michael & Jovana Eames

10/22 Ben & Sharlene Bentley

ZION'S OCTOBER MISSION...

Reverend Nkemba and Mbwiza Ndjungu serving in Belize and Honduras

Zion will support the Reverend Nkemba and Mbwiza Ndjungu. They currently serve in Belize and Honduras.

Rev. Nkemba Ndjungu and his wife, Mbwizu Ndjungu, are missionaries with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. As of late 2024/early 2025, they were serving with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, ministering in the Belize-Honduras District.

Details about their background and service:

Origin: The Ndjungus were both born in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Missionary Service: Nkemba and Mbwizu are examples of the Global Ministries motto, "From Everywhere, To Everywhere," having moved from the DR Congo to serve internationally.

Current Role: Rev. Nkemba serves as a pastor, trainer, and mentor. The couple's service has been highlighted in articles and fundraising campaigns for the United Methodist Church.



Previous Ministry: Rev. Nkemba has a long history of service, which has included pastoring churches and acting as a District Superintendent in the DR Congo. He also served in Dakar, Senegal, from 1998 to 2007, engaging in evangelism, church-planting, and theological education.

Education: He earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1994 from the Faculty of Theology in Mulungwishi, DR Congo.

"He heard a call to become a missionary during a prayer session in seminary. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu have since served the Lord in Africa and Central America."

ZION'S 2026 MISSIONS ...

Monthly missions for 2026:

January – Missionary Helen – Roberts Evans, Liberia (3021129)

February – Justice for Our Neighbors, Northern IL (50000140)

March – Heifer Project – Lent Loot

April – Mujila Falls Agricultural Center (15016A)

May - Bishop's Appeal 2025

June - Peace with Justice Sunday (773)

July - IVPADS homeless shelter

August – Amboy Youth Center and after school program

September – UMCOR Global Refugee (30221440)

October - UM Volunteers in Mission (901375)

November – Rockford Urban Ministries (60000151)

December – Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry

- Materials / loose change collections will include 1) A collection of food items for the Mendota food pantry during Advent 2) Lent Loot collection jars during Lent 3) participation in annual conference collection as requested 4) other collections as need arises.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025, 4:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 3:00



First United Methodist Church
100 E 6th Street, Mendota, IL

Team (up to 8 players) \$80
Individuals \$10 each

Individuals may be paired with other players

More information and ways to register available at
facebook.com/mendotafirstumc/events



808 Jefferson Street
Mendota, Illinois 61342

Phone: 815-538-2186
Email: zionumcmendota@gmail.com

October 2025



Thursday, October 30, 2025

7 pm



Join us along with Paw Paw United Methodist Church for a Hymn Sing at Stonecroft Village Thursday, October 23rd at 2 pm. This will be ongoing through out the year on the last Thursday of the month. Pastor Dave and Pastor Jeff bring along their guitars and the pianist from Paw Paw play the residents favorite hymns. It is such a joy for all the residence there. Join in!

Miss one of Zion UMC Sunday Messages
Or Newsletters?
Check out our Website....

<https://zionchurchumc.com>



Like Us On Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/zionchurchumc>



Zion Wants to Pray for You!

Zion family and anyone else with a prayer need are encouraged to request prayer from the newly activated prayer chain ministry. All that you have to do is reach out to those contacts listed below and share your concern. A private email will then be sent to the members of the prayer chain so that they can start to cover your concern with prayer as soon and as often as they are able. Prayer requests will be kept confidential within the prayer chain circle, but we ask that the people for whom you request prayer be ok with your sharing. If you are interested in being a prayer partner or to activate the team in prayer, please let us know:

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com or 815-985-3626

Beverly Richardson

bricha75@gmail.com or 815-830-7567

Shirlene Lowe

lowe301@comcast.net or 815-440-4982

Contact info:

Pastor Jeff Brace

Email : jbrace8459@gmail.com

Office Phone: 815-538-2186

Cell Phone:: 815-985-3626

Office Hours—Tuesday & Thursday 10a-4p

Other times by appointment