Mt. Zion Christian Church

The Transformer

Our Mission is…*"To transform lives through the power of Christ"*

Volume XXVI, Issue 6 June 2026

Blessings That Count!

Date	Worship	SS
05/03	26	16
05/10	30	15
05/17	30	19
05/24	33	11

Offerings

05/03

General Fund	$1,655
Benevolence	$5

05/10

General Fund	$1,490
Benevolence	$40
Missions	$12,000

05/17

General Fund	$2,235
Missions	$50

05/24

General Fund	$1,086

A Note from our first full time minister - Ron Lake 1975-78

Friends and Members of Mt. Zion Christian Church,

Donna and I would like to wish you the very best in the future. We are honored to have been part of your beginning, as I had the privilege of serving as your first minister for three and a half years.

I have so many wonderful memories. One that especially stands out is when our son, Paul, was born on a Sunday when we had guests from Lincoln Christian College with us, along with a guest speaker. Needless to say, I was a "no-show" that morning!

When our children—Suzanne, Paul, and Sarah—played "church," it often consisted of setting up chairs for church just as we did when we were meeting in the school.

As I reflect on both the past and the future, I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6: *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

I am honored to have been part of your beginning and look forward to the bright future that lies ahead for Mt. Zion Christian Church.

Ron & Donna Lake

Ministers that have Served at Mt. Zion Christian Church April 2026

Mt. Zion Christian Church was founded June 9, 1974 with the filing of its Affidavit of Organization with the State of Illinois. Three Officers and Trustees were elected: Raymond D. Hill - Chairman, Arlen E. Isaacs - Treasurer and Rodney W. Compton - Secretary. They met in homes until the first Worship Service was held Sunday September 8, 1974 at McGaughey Elementary School in Mt. Zion where 32 transferred their membership.

Senior Ministers:

Richard Jorgenson, a professor at Lincoln Christian College, served as minister from September 1974 until January of 1975.

Ron Lake was called as the first full time minister beginning January 1975 and served until July 1978.

Fred J. Keim served from July 1978 until July 1982.

Al Morehead served from September 1982 until his death in October 1991.

Glenn Anderson served from July 1992 until June 1997.

Dean Cripe served from March 1998 until January 2009.

Edward Bacon served from August 2009 until October 2014.

Rocky Woolery served from April 2015 until April 2026.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

1 - Steve Simmons
3 - *Duffy & Teresa Sadorus*
11 - *Steve & Judy Miller*
26 - Michelle Dillow

February

6 - Joy Lourash
9 - Pauline Brown

March

2 - Tim Wiggins
12 - John Stewart
20 - Barb Banfield
23 - Judy Miller
27 - *Roger & Pat Beals*
28 - Pat Espy
30 - *Dave & Sandy Cooper*

April

6 - Steve Miller
9 - Donna Jones
21 - Dave Cooper

May

2 - *Joy & Kerry Lourash*
17 - *Tim & Eileen Wiggins*
21 - Peggy Brown
21 - *Kevin & Sue McKee*
29 - Roger Beals

June

5 - Sandy Carberry
25 Shaynna Stewart

July

3 - *Steve & Marianne Simmons*
9 - Jerry Brown
14 - Duffy Sadorus
27 - Shannon Stewart
30 - Dean Babcock

August

1 - Teresa Sadorus
1 - Eileen Wiggins
2 - Mary Morgan
2 - Marianne Simmons
14 - *Jerry & Peggy Brown*
15 - Sue McKee

September

1 - Ed Miller
3 - Trenton Stewart
9 - Mike Buckley
19 - Karen Buckley
19 - Pat Beals
23 - *Dean & Tracey Babcock*
25 - Bert Davis
25 - *Mike & Karen Buckley*

October

13 - Phyllis Litz
24 - Sharlotta Roberts

November

10 - Tracey Babcock
12 - Layne Woolery

December

1 - Howard Miller
1 - Jennie Thompson
19 - Kevin McKee
28 - Sandy Cooper
30 - Kerry Lourash

Dear MZCC family,

I would like to express my deep appreciation to you, most of whom I have never met. The last 16½ years gave me the opportunity to serve the Lord as your church secretary, using the gifts He has given me in many ways.

I am very excited for the opportunity the merger will bring for this church. Children's laughter in the hallways, VBS programs, camps, youth group, mission trips, young adults that will be getting married, having babies and expanding the church even further.

This is also an opportunity for me to serve the Lord in another capacity. My parents and other family members are needing more help as we all get older, so I will be shifting my focus, caring for them where I can.

Lastly, thank you to the elders and deacons past and present for all of your help in making my job much easier.

May you be blessed and be a blessing to others in the months and years to come,

~Ronni Bayes

MT. ZION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 258
1125 Florian Avenue
Mt. Zion, IL 62549
(217) 864-4315

www.mtzcc.com

Church Staff

Ronni Bayes, Secretary
RonniB.mzcc@gmail.com

Praise Team

Layne Woolery Marianne Simmons

Elders

Duffy Sadorus Tim Wiggins

Deacon

Mike Buckley

Key Volunteers

Roger Beals Donna Jones
Eileen Wiggins Sandy Carberry

Shalom

Shalom (שָׁלוֹם) a Hebrew word primarily meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, and completeness. Beyond merely the absence of conflict, it implies a state of total well-being, safety, and soundness. It is commonly used as both a hello and a goodbye, and is derived from the root *shalem*, which signifies being complete or whole.

Today I use this word to bid you a goodbye from Mt. Zion Christian Church. As of the end of May we will be merging with First Christian Church of Decatur. We do this in the hope of continuing the work of the Lord from this building here in Mt. Zion. MZCC was formed in 1974 by a group of 32 people wishing to establish an independent Christian Church in Mt. Zion Illinois. Over the years this church has ministered to many people and brought many to the kingdom. However, we have grown small in number and as stated in Ecclesiastes 3 everything has a season. *There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven: a time to plant and a time to uproot a time to tear down and a time to build* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 CSB). And so it is with MZCC, a time to plant a living and active body of Christ into this building once again.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26 NIV

With my warmest wish for your peace, wholeness, total well-being and safety I say to you …..Shalom! Tim Wiggins