

Congratulations to Zion U.C.C.

Watching your Sunday worship last Sunday, I learned about your celebration on October 9 for 170 years as a congregation. I am proud to be a part of Zion's history.

I first stepped through the doors of Zion on November 2, 1952. The following week in Sunday School my teacher Mrs. Wolf gave me my first Bible which I still proudly have today. Several years later my brother, mother Naomi and grandmother Margaret were all baptized in Zion's parsonage on March 3, 1955 by Rev. Wierth.

In those years Zion was called the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The membership was around 500 and every Sunday morning the sanctuary and balcony were packed. We were also packed as tight as sardines in Sunday School. I even had one class in the furnace room.

I was blessed to be present at the dedication of the new educational extension, changing our name to Zion United Church of Christ in 1957, participation in a very active youth fellowship and ordained as a minister at Zion on June 9, 1968.

From my ordination I still cherish the gifts of two robes, a set of stoles, The Hymnal, a beautiful painting of Jesus, a wooden holder for my Bible and a generous gift of money. But more importantly I received from Zion years of religious education and support.

May the words, "that they may all be one" continue to be a legacy for Zion. Congratulations on 170 years of ministry and service to the community and beyond.

The Rev. Dennis L. Siebert