




# Zion Reformed United Church of Christ in Historic Chambersburg, PA

On the National Register of Historic Places  
*An Original 'Rose Rent Church'*

Formed in 1778 soon after the Revolutionary War, Zion Reformed Church in Chambersburg was the recipient in 1780 of a land grant from town founder Col. Benjamin Chambers for a church and graveyard. The graveyard still exists. Our current building dates to 1811 and most of its original features still remain.

Today, Zion UCC serves as a family-focused community church which welcomes its neighbors, area residents and visitors to enjoy worship to God as well as activities such as its congregation picnic, family night dinners, youth group outings and other social and recreational events for young and old alike.

 Each June, the congregation pays its annual rent (*in perpetuity*): one single rose from the church grounds, presented to a Chambers descendant.

We invite you, your family and friends to come join us! For more information on our history and heritage, visit us online at [www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org](http://www.zionucc-chambersburgpa.org).

Church School: 9:45 AM  
Regular Worship: 10:45 AM (Summer at 9:00 AM)



In photo at right, a young member of Zion helps select a rose to pay our annual rent for the building and grounds deeded to Zion in 1778 by town founder Col. Benjamin Chambers. We are unique in that we are just one of three churches in the U.S. that pays its rent in this manner.



The windows in Zion's sanctuary were dedicated in a special ceremony on August 23, 1883. They have been described by some historians as among the finest examples of combination glass, gold-leaf and painted church windows, dating from the 1800s period.



We give praise to God together, we laugh and play together, and we break bread together within our closely knit church. We always have our welcome mat out for others to join us, and often have some delicious Pennsylvania Dutch fastnachts or a warm bowl of chicken corn soup to share with you. We're 250 years-strong of a tightly-knit congregation and we're hoping you will join us for the next 250 years at Zion Reformed Church!

**Zion Reformed Church**  
259 S. Main Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Phone: (717) 264-2854  
Email: [Zion1778@comcast.net](mailto:Zion1778@comcast.net)



## Zion Reformed Church Preserves its Early 19th Century History



One feature that highlights the American Colonial period of architecture are the double circular stairways in Zion that lead to the second and third floors. These early 1800s hand-formed banisters and balusters showcase what appear to be a “never-ending spiral” from the ground floor to the building’s balcony.



Suspended from the center medallion in the ceiling is the Church’s crystal chandelier, bought by the women of the Church in 1811 and hung when construction of the building was completed in 1813. Taken down and disassembled in 1835 during a renovation, it was forgotten.

It was fully restored and rehung in 1977 in its original position of prominence and its candles are lit only for Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve services.

## The Zion Church Family: Activities and Fun for Children and Adults!



From face-painting for the kids, to bowling nights and group caroling at the Holidays and more, you’ll discover a true sense of your Christian values here in our greater church family’s faith. Our fellowship events are open to members and guests alike.



## Offering Spiritual Guidance and Comfort Throughout Life

Zion Reformed Church is there for its members and its community, from its start nearly 250 years ago, up to today’s fast-paced world. We worship together and welcome everyone – from baptizing young ones into Christianity – to being there for assurance and comfort in times of loss or grief.

Whether gathering in our classic Early 19th Century sanctuary (below), or meeting for small group discussions in our homes, you and your loved ones will always feel accepted as part of our greater Church family.

