

# The Spirit of Zion

Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri



**December 2024**

No. 12

## 2024 Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross

For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives – retired and active United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. In 2023, over 1800 UCC congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the church. The theme for this year's Christmas Fund is "*The Glory of God shone around them...*" from Luke 2:9.

The Christmas Fund offering ensures more ministers, church workers, and their families received the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. Offering envelopes are included in this edition of the newsletter and additional envelopes will be available by the offering plate on Sunday mornings during December. Thank you for your gifts!

- The Outreach Team

## Serving Christ in December

### Ushers:

Dec. 1 & 8

Dan Mossoney,  
Jane Wilson\*

Dec. 15, 22 & 29

Susan Merlino,  
Karen Tucker\*

(\*designates Head Usher)

Christmas Eve:

Skip & Pat Buehrle, Paul,  
Shanna, Nora & Luke  
Brinker, Sammi Blankenship,  
Scott & Annie Buehrle

### Greeters:

Dec. 1 – Kevin Vorderbruegge

Dec. 8 – Carl & Jane Ridder

Dec. 15 – Lee & Susan  
Newman

Sound System Tech: Jason  
Dewert

Camera Techs: Blake &  
Camden Dewert



## 2024 Christmas Offering

As the United Church of Christ continues relief efforts for Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, the Christmas Offering this year will be given to the **Hurricanes 2024 Appeal**. Our gifts will continue to make an impact in providing relief to those suffering, rebuilding homes, and helping restore communities.

A portion of the Christmas offering will also be given to **Bread for the World**. This organization works to pass laws that help feed the hungry. This is an organization that we have been helping for years.

Christmas offering envelopes are available in your offering envelope boxes and additional envelopes will be available by the offering plate during December.

Thank you for your donations!

- The Outreach Team

## Giving Tree



This year we will be helping out various organizations for the Giving Tree (Loving Hearts, The Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri, and The Franklin County Foster Closet). The Giving Tree is located in the lower commons and tags will be on the tree for gifts to purchase. For more information see page 5 of this newsletter.

Hark  
the  
Herald Angels  
sing

## Faith Quest Christmas Program

Join us for a 'Wild West Christmas!' on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> during the 9 a.m. worship service as the Faith Quest Youth share with us their Christmas Program.



Saturday & Sunday in December from 5-7 p.m. with Santa's visiting during this time! For more information and other events at St. Peter's check the flyer on the lower commons bulletin board.

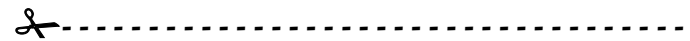
## Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

Salvation Army Bell Ringers are needed for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Schnuck's in Union. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board. Thank you!

## Little Free Pantry and Union Food Pantry

Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Free Pantry going! A list of the most needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons. Monetary donations can also be given – contact the church office.

Likewise, there is also a list of items most needed for the Union Food Pantry posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons with a barrel for your donations. Or you may also give a monetary donation to support the Union Food Pantry.



## Christmas Poinsettias/ Benevolent Gifts

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of/Honor of (circle one)  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Poinsettia (\$18 per plant)

\_\_\_ Union Food Pantry/Little Food Pantry

Please return this form to the church office no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## 2025 Offering Envelopes Available

The 2025 offering envelopes will be available in the upper commons during the month of December. Thank you.

## Advent Workshop – December 8<sup>th</sup>

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> during the *Intergenerational Sunday School Hour* from 10-11 a.m. to make Christmas ornaments and decorate cookies.

## ♪♪ *I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas* ♪♪

Did you know that **2-3 million pounds** of Christmas wrapping paper ends up in landfills every year? Some Christmas paper can be recycled – but it's not easy. It can't have any foil or glitter, and any tape, tags, and ribbons must be removed. What is the alternative?

The Green Team will be at **the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 8**, with green ideas for gift wrapping. But we need your help! We need fabric, any kind or size, as well as ribbon, yarn, raffia, and twine. Christmas patterns and colors are nice but not necessary. There is a box in the Lower Commons for your donations.

- Jeanne Lischer, from the Green Team

## The 2024 Festival of Trees

Walk through a winter wonderland of amazing holiday trees decorated by schools, organizations, and friends at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Washington. Bring your cameras to capture that holiday photo! Free to all! Accepting canned food and monetary donations for local food pantries. Open each



## Beloved Zion,

When was the last time you visited a mall? Like a real full-service mall? I can think of only once in the past 5 years that I have gone. The last time I went was on the way to a pediatrician's appointment and we stopped by to use up some old gift cards. But I haven't gone often. And even when you do, most of the time I go, the mall is mostly empty. Shops are closed. A few scattered guests shopping. A few pairs of walkers, powering laps around the building. A sleeping security guard tucked away in the corner. Now this isn't always true. The weekends see an uptick, as well as the holiday rush. There are still a few staple stores and restaurants that bring people in. But in the days of my youth, when seas of people filled the halls. The swirling scent of books, hot pretzels, and coffee wafted through the atrium. Meeting up with friends, at a particular store. Catching a movie, or waiting for Christmas gifts to be immaculately wrapped.

The Chesterfield Mall closed this summer. With a new 2-billion-dollar investment plan to redevelop the area. Fortunately for Chesterfield, there is a plan. But that isn't the case with many malls all over the country. Malls share a similar architectural and cultural legacy with churches. How many were built or expanded in the past few decades only to have empty parking lots? With huge overheads for utilities and maintenance, the reality of the internet, and changes in the culture, malls, and churches are both trying to reinvent themselves. What do we do with our space? What kind of partners do we need? What else can we do with what we have?

In an increasingly online world, people still need places to gather. Places to browse, try things on, or be helped out by someone with a bit more experience. Yet churches should fit a different role than malls. With Advent and the Christmas season around the corner, it can become easy to think of the good old days. When the church was full, multiple choirs prepared for Cantatas, and everyone showed up for all the church's extra-curriculars. In these times, the faithful question is not how do we get back what we lost. But, do people encounter the Spirit in this place? Big buildings and budgets and bustling kids' programs are great, but not at the expense of discipleship. Does our experience here at Zion, compel us to follow Jesus? See, Jesus never told us to worship him. Only follow him. To do what he does. To be faithful to the Gospel with all our being. We are a church, not a mall. We aren't looking for more customers. We are in the pursuit of faithfulness. Are we in service of our neighbor? Do we offer sanctuary and rest for the weary? Hope in hopeless times? Can we be transformed? Can we admit wrong? Be challenged? Advent is around the corner, and I will join in plenty of festivities and celebrations with friends and family. But what I truly need this holiday season, is the reminder, that what I need in between those Christmas carols and cookies is the comfort and the challenge of a God who relentlessly seeks me out, knows me, loves me, and dares me to join in the work of the kingdom.

*Worship  
Opportunities  
In December*  
9:00 a.m. Worship

*Sunday, December 1  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
of Advent*

Sacrament of Communion

*Sunday, December 8  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
of Advent*

10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational  
Sunday School

*Sunday, December 15  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
of Advent*

9:00 a.m. Faith Quest  
Christmas Program

*Sunday, December 22  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
of Advent*



*Christmas Eve*  
**WORSHIP**  
*Tuesday, December 24*

**6:30 p.m.**  
*Family Service  
With Candlelight*

*Sunday, December 29  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
after Christmas*

May your Christmas season be filled with hope and laughter. Comfort and challenge. May the joy of the season be found in something you cannot pick up at a mall, (or online).

Blessings,  
Rev Nicholas Knoblauch

**Pastor Drop In Hours:**  
Monday & Wednesday mornings  
Email: [knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com)  
Appointments upon request:  
Church Office (636) 583-2814  
or sending an email



## **Zion Fellowship – December 2024**

On Saturday, October 26, we met at the Franklin County Historical Society Museum, at 15 N. Oak St., in Union at 2:00 p.m. We did a self-guided tour of the museum, and found a lot of information to read and things to see. Afterwards we joined a few others for dinner at Que Pasa Mexican Restaurant, which is just down the street from the museum.

Sunday, November 24 – The Greening of the Church for Advent will be held right after the church service, this is an all-church event, and MANY hands are needed. We will be providing pizzas and drinks for a lunch, and we will need a few volunteers to bring cookies/brownies for dessert (finger food). There will be a signup sheet for those who want to bring some dessert.

FYI – The Combined Christian Choir is scheduled the same day, so we have NOT made that an official event as we had planned.

Sunday, December 8 – Meet at the back parking lot of church at 2:00 p.m. to carpool to the Washington City Auditorium at 211 High St., Washington. We will attend the Washington Brass Band Concert from 3 to 5 p.m. (this is a free event, but you can make a goodwill offering), then we will go to dinner at Guffeys at 111 High Street, Washington. Guffeys is on the 1st floor of the 2 story brick building across from the Iron Spike Train Museum on High Street. It also faces the Dunkin Donuts across from Hwy 100. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board. *FYI - The Washington Brass Band will also perform at*

*the Farmer's Market on December 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. NOT an official event.*

Sunday, January 19 – We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the church service for a Brunch. Please bring a dish to share for the meal. Also, bring ideas for future events that we can consider doing. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board.

Check the monthly Newsletters, also the weekly Bulletins, for any change of event dates/times that might occur. **Anyone** is welcome to join us for these events. If you have any questions, please contact Fern Dewert (President), Carl or Jane Ridder (Vice Presidents), Ruth Parker or Bruce Templer (Treasurers), or myself. - Sharon TenEyck, secretary

## **Best Choice Labels**

Containers are available in the lower commons kitchen as well as the fellowship hall kitchen for your Best Choice Labels. These labels go into the Missouri Hunger Fund. They are used for hunger relief, nutrition, or food insecurity situations. The Union Food Pantry has also benefitted from the donation of these labels. Thank you for your contributions and continue giving them!



# Kid & Youth

December 2024

News

## SAVE the DATE

### Youth at General Synod

For youth entering 6th grade in Fall 2025 through youth graduating high school in May of 2025.

July 11-15 in Kansas City, MO

### The Annual Conference Youth Event

For 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth will be Presidents Day Weekend. More details will be shared soon.

## Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

During the Intergenerational Sunday School Hour in Fellowship Hall.

We will make Christmas Ornaments and decorate cookies.



Join us the **FIRST TWO WEDNESDAYS** of EACH MONTH

*Dive into friendship with God*

5:00 – 6:00 PM

**ADULTS:** (Re) Membership with Pastor Nick: Join the conversation on what it means to be a member of Zion and a member of the UCC, and discuss the historical legacy of the denomination and our church.

**PRESCHOOL:** Hallelujah Kids music exploration, movement, and games for kids aged 2-kindergarten with Karen

5 PM to 7:30 PM

**YOUTH:** LOGOS programming for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth with Mandy & Alysha.

December 4 - Advent

December 11 – Polar Express Night

It's an evening full of GAMES, BIBLE STORY & DINNER

Everyone is invited to join us for a **FAMILY STYLE DINNER** at 6 PM

A minimum of \$5 donation suggested to help support Zion's LOGOS dinners.



## Sunday School

10 AM – 11 AM



### Pre-School

Ages 3 to 5 Meet in the Pre-School Room

### Faith Quest

Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet in Bible Max Theatre

### Confirm NOT Conform

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Meet in the High School Room

December 1 – Christmas Program Practice/Advent lesson

December 8 – Intergenerational S.S./Advent Workshop

December 15 – Christmas Program at 9, Movie at 10

December 22 – Advent lesson

December 29 – No Sunday School – Merry Christmas



## GIVING TREE



This year's recipients for the giving tree come from

**Loving Hearts** (individual children's needs)

**The Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri** (stocking stuffers for children & gift cards for food/gas for families)

**The Franklin County Foster Closet**

(specific needs the organization is currently short of)

The giving tree tags will be displayed on the lower commons bulletin board by November 24. Pick up a tag, buy the gift, & return it unwrapped to the church by December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## Throw on your pajamas and join us at our annual **POLAR EXPRESS** dinner train

Wednesday, December 11

Dinner at 6 PM

Dinner, Hot Chocolate & a reading of the Polar Express Story Book

**Kids bring your parents & grandparents for this fun evening!**

Please RSVP to the church office.



Our annual

## Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

During the 9 AM Worship Service



Join us for a *Wild West Christmas!*

Rehearsals will take place December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM and December 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

# Zion UCC Church Council Minutes – October 2024

Zion UCC Church Council met on Monday, October 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm with the following in attendance - Fern Dewert, Kathy Reed, Paul Brinker, Bruce Templer, Brad Parker, Susan Merlino, Donna Bocklage, Barb Cox, Maxine Harrison, Rev. Nick Knoblauch, and Connie Thompson. Maxine Harrison opened with prayer. Fern Dewert called the meeting to order.

Consensus items were approved as presented.

- Minutes of September Council Meeting
- Pastor's report-Motion and second to approve use of continuing education money toward the purchase of a robe. Motion passed.
- Minister to Youth and Families report
- September Financial report
- Time and date for next council meeting-November 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm

## Discussion Agenda:

Membership Review Committee-Questionnaires are still coming in.

By-Laws Review Committee-Brad shared a draft of re-worded by-laws and thanked the committee.

Audit Committee-Fern reported the committee will meet in November. The audit for this year should be ready by the February Congregational Meeting.

Personnel Review committee-Still in the process of evaluating

Leadership Development committee-No report

Building and Property committee-Streetlight is in process per city council and Ameren. Tree removal has been completed and the Hands Statue is more visible. Looking at any possible lawn repair (overseeding) needed after completion of tuckpointing. A bid for resealing, crack fill and striping of both parking lots will be ready to present on November 3rd for approval by congregation, not to exceed \$10,000.

Safety committee-Tabled until January 2025 meeting.

Hansen committee-Bid for AV system redesign and installation by Modern Communications is \$50,423. Motion and 2nd to accept this bid. Motion passed. Motion and 2nd for a bid of additional work by Building and Property to prepare for this installation: reconstruction in the balcony and bringing the balcony railing up to code. This work will be funded through the Kroeter account. Motion passed.

Building and Property Fund vs Property Improvement Fund and need to change VANCO and envelopes- This is just clerical, after 2025 envelopes will note **Current expenses, Our Church's Wider Mission, Building and Property Fund**. The green envelopes will be eliminated and VANCO will be changed to reflect this also.

November 3, 2024 Congregational meeting agenda draft-Motion and 2nd to approve revised draft. Vote passed.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

- Maxine Harrison, Church Council Secretary

(approved by the Church Council on November 18 2024.)

## Financial Report for October 2024

	October 2024	Year to Date (YTD)
Income	\$26,700.00	\$311,397.00
Expenses	\$22,259.00	\$287,211.00
Our Church's Wider Mission (given YTD) -	\$7,857.00	
Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries (given YTD) -	\$1,955.00	

Detailed financial reports are available by contacting the church office. Thank you.





## Notes from the Music Director

What a blessing our November music offerings were! Chancel Choir provided anthems based on well-known

melodies, with the additional beauty of the instrumental talents of Ann Hartley on flute and John Phillips on soprano saxophone. To have two dedicated instrumentalists offer their abilities to enhance our music is a gift we cannot take for granted.

By the time you read this, I hope you will have had an opportunity to hear our Joyful Noise group, featuring the small but mighty “Cooper Trio”. Logan, Drew, and Oliver are another gift to our church family. They love to play bells and explore various ways to provide music. The gifts children bring cannot be underestimated. I love working with these brothers. They have enthusiasm, spunk, and love in their hearts.

December is a musical month, indeed. Our congregation will be blessed with the Chancel Choir singing on the first Sunday, as part of the Sunday School program, and on Christmas Eve. The Cooper Trio will be participating with handbells on two choir pieces and singing a song for the Sunday School program. In addition, we hope to include musical gifts from Jeanne Lischer, Ann Hartley, Danny and Liz Pace, and a brass ensemble (still in development!) on Christmas Eve.

May the peace of the Advent season bring us rest and calm.-  
Karen

## From the Historical Team... History of the New Back Entrance

The Hansen Committee: Skip Buehrle, Liz Short, Sandy Stierberger, Alan TenEyck, and Bruce Templer.

We started the project with a meeting with Jill, a designer, who called in Ken Scheer, an architect with Horn Architects in Jun 2023. After much discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas we asked Dennis Tucker to join the process because of his building expertise (wonderful decision!)

Ken called our job a little big job and asked if we had any contractors in our congregation since our job was small enough to not generate much interest from outside contractors. The more we talked the more apparent it became that we did have the expertise in-house to build this complicated project. Ken and Jill presented us with several ideas, then some preliminary ideas on paper. They came up with two drawings that we shared with the members of the church and got a very favorable response. We then asked Ken to give us an estimated price for both designs. We were disappointed with the high cost, especially the one with the cupola, each being over \$100,000. When the church council was presented with the two drawings (with no prices mentioned) they chose the simpler of the two, the one without the cupola. We proceeded with council’s recommendation, and asked the architect to make further cuts in the price of the project, which he did without compromising the quality. Ken was able to make cuts that we had asked him to make and we were satisfied with the final product. The plans were accepted by the committee and presented to the church council. We asked Dennis Tucker if he would lead a team of Alan TenEyck and Skip Buehrle, each bringing their own expertise to the project. Dennis went to work compiling a materials list so we could go to the congregation with a fairly accurate price estimated and the congregation approved up to \$75,000 for the project. Dennis thought with in-house labor we could build it for \$50,000. The project commenced and was completed for a total cost of \$48,311.51.

Not enough can be said to thank Dennis, Alan, and Skip for their tireless months of work. The team worked extremely well together sharing ideas and expertise. It was a pleasure to watch them work together! Their time and efforts easily save the congregation over half the original estimated price of the project. The Build Team: Dennis Tucker (master builder), Skip Buehrle & Alan TenEyck (skilled labor); David Sutton (stained glass master); Jill Geoppo (J S B Design); and Ken Scheer (Horn Architects). The project was enabled by the Hansen Estate.

(the article was written by Bruce Templer)



## Hope for God's World

A great BIG Thank You to all of you who have concern for how God's World is/will be doing. This is to encourage you to keep up with your Recycling, for one thing. Please keep bringing in your ALUMINUM cans. The big barrel in the hallway was full, but now it is empty (recycled). We just turned in \$25.00 to The Little Food Pantry from the recycling proceeds. Thank you! You can leave the cans outside of the shed in back of the church also. We have given a total of \$175.00 this year of 2024 to people in need - from JUNK!

**BATTERIES** - Please bring them to the battery box located in the hallway also. Please keep them out of the landfill!

**BEST CHOICE LABELS** - We gave 2500 labels = \$75.00 to Festival of Sharing for people in need in 2024 Again, from JUNK! Look at what you did with JUNK!

**STYROFOAM** - Please stop using it if possible, but if not, please bring it to church and put it in the recycling containers in hallway off of the big kitchen, OR, take it to Lab Tech off Hwy A, by Shaw's Cabinets. Bins are on the outside, ready for you to dump it in.

**PAPER, MAGAZINES, JUNK MAIL** - can be recycled at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Springfield in Union. Hopefully, you have a city container at your home to use. BUT please do NOT put plastic bags in the city recycling containers, take them to the stores who do recycle bags. (Walmart, Lowes, Schnucks etc.)

If you have questions, please ask me. I stand ready to try to help you!! Or you can ask anyone on the Green Team.

Please remember: This is God's World - we are caretakers!

- Norma Klemme, Green Team member

## Electronic Giving

Would you like to be able to give electronically to Zion Church and know that your donation is secure? Besides online banking the other option is on Zion's website - [www.zionunion.org](http://www.zionunion.org) at the top right corner of the page a "Donate" button. Just follow the easy to navigate instructions!

## Up to Date Info?

Does the church have your **updated contact and household information** (change of address, college students moving out, etc.)? If you are not sure, give the church office a call at 636-583-2814 or email [cthompson@zionunion.org](mailto:cthompson@zionunion.org). Thanks for keeping us up to date!



## Help Thyself Meals

This is a gentle reminder to make use of the Help Thyself meals for you. That is what they are for.....YOU. In the Lower Commons kitchen there are in the freezer, meals, soups and simple desserts. If you are able to pick up a couple of meals for your week ahead, please do so. If unable to pick them up a church friend can do it for you or a Call to Care member would be happy to bring them to you when they come to visit. Please take advantage of this opportunity available to you. Let any of the following people know if you know of someone that needs assistance. Kathy Young, (314-580-3105), Carol Rohrbach (636-583-3659), Ann Hartley (636-346-5921), Dorothy Mitana (636-239-1296), Jane Ridder (314-520-7090) and Maxine Harrison (636-583-2159).

## Called to Care Team Request

The Called to Care Team is asking that if you or someone you know would like a visit from the team or our pastor, please contact the church office. If you or members you know are in nursing homes, homebound, or staying close to home please contact the church office. Our mission is to minister to and care for the entire community of Zion Church, whether able to be present in worship or not. Thank you!





## Prayers Requested

### Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	
Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	
Myrt Dunigan	Charlotte Ellison	
Kevin Vorderbruegge	Carol Bean	Keith Stahlman
Felicia Scott	Sarah Berghorn	Kim Yenzer

Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)  
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)  
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)  
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)  
Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)  
S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)  
Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)  
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)  
Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)  
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)  
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Liz Klemme (daughter/sister of Armin, Norma & Phil Klemme)  
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)  
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)  
Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)  
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)  
Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)  
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)  
Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)  
Whitney Henle (eye surgery, granddaughter of Susan Merlino)  
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)  
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)  
Marvin Huggins (brother-in-law of Barb Harvey)



### Prayer Requests

## Memorial Gifts Given

In loving memory of **Roger Eime**  
for Zion Building & Property Fund  
by:

Jim Doehring & family

## New Address/ Phone Numbers

**Matthew & Krista Copeland**, 7705  
Antioch Rd., Gerald, MO 63037

**Katrina Moore**, 413 Prairie Hill Ct.,  
Union, MO 63084

**Rudy Ahmann** phone number  
636-667-1150; **Darlene Ahmann**  
phone number 636-667-3745

## Notes to Zion

Dear Zion Friends,

Thank you so much for another  
generous donation. Your help  
and support means so very much  
to the Pantry. - Union  
Food Pantry

## Thank You to November Volunteers

Zion Church acknowledges  
and appreciates the work done  
by the following volunteers for  
the month of November:

Liturgists: Matthew Herring, Sue  
Leicht

Special Music for Worship:

Chancel Choir, Kirk Hancox

Ushers: Mark Klenke, Karen

Tucker, Connor Muller, Alan &  
Sharon TenEyck

Greeters: Verlyn Yarbrough, Gale  
Claggett, Ken & Carol Rohrbach,  
Carl & Jane Ridder

Sound System Tech: Dan  
Mossoney

Worship Service Recorder: David  
Bean

Candle Lighter: Nora Brinker

Newsletter Helpers: Karen  
Tucker, Ken Rohrbach, Carol  
Rohrbach, Donna Bocklage

Lawn Maintenance: Alan  
TenEyck, Carl Ridder, Brad Parker,  
Jim Vemmer, Paul Brinker, Ron &  
Pam Griffin

## Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell
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Jake McNiel (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)  
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)  
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)  
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)  
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)  
Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Allen Coffman (friend of Shawn Pehle)  
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)  
Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)  
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)  
Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)  
Leland Stahlman (brother of Keith Stahlman)

Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)

**Various Concerns:**

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

- Aviation Structural Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)
- Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

**2024 November Congregational Meeting Notes**

The meeting was called to order by Fern Dewert. Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch gave the Opening prayer.

Old Business:

Approved as presented--

- February 2024 Congregational meeting minutes
- Special Congregational meeting minutes--June 2024
- 2024 Year to date Financial Report

Dennis Tucker reported on present status of the tuckpointing project. Waiting on a walk around before final payment is made, to insure all work is completed to our satisfaction. Happy to report we did not go over budget on this project.

New Business:

2025 Proposed Expense Plan (Budget)--Motion and second to approve. (Motion and second to vote by voice-favorable vote} Vote passed to approve the Proposed Expense Plan. Thank you to all involved in the process.

Approval to seal, stripe, and caulk parking lots (front and back) Bid from Hot Shots totaled \$6,825.00. Due to weather will be postponed to the Spring and bid could increase. Motion and second to allow with the cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. Vote passed.

Bid for Audio Visual upgrade. This will be paid out of the Hansen estate. The bid will include 75" interactive display (LiteTouch) on mobile cart with conference camera, speakers and microphone system, 2 speakers to be mounted on sanctuary walls, digital sound mixer board installed in the balcony, 4 new listening devices using Wi-Fi signal with an app that can be loaded onto smartphones and is adaptable to hearing aids which will expand usage, wireless microphones and installation. The bid is \$50,425.00 from Modern Communications Fenton, MO. Motion and second to accept this bid. Vote passed.

Bid for balcony reconstruction for AV system. The bid is to provide an appropriate space for the sound board and camera. This work will be in-house and funded by remaining Hansen Estate monies and Kroeter Estate. This bid not to exceed \$1,000.00. Motion and second. Vote passed.

Election of Church Council Members--Nominations-B J Cooper (1st term); Fern Dewert (2nd term); Bruce Templer (2nd term). Motion--Nominations cease and the slate accepted by acclamation. Second and vote passed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Maxine Harrison, Church Council Secretary  
(approved by the Church Council on November 18 2024.)

**Celebrations in the Church Family**

Baptism

**Louis Marvin Meyer**

son of Derrick & Hannah Meyer

October 27 2024

**Church Attendance from November**

(3 out of 4 Sundays)

Nov. 3 – 101

Nov. 10 – 122

Nov. 17 – 87

**Faith Quest/Adult Education Attendance from November**

(3 out of 4 Sundays)

Nov. 3 – 11 (youth)

Nov. 10 – 26

(Intergenerational Sunday School)






Nov. 17 – 8 (youth); 8 (adults)



Zion United Church of Christ  
115 S. Washington Ave.  
Union, MO 63084  
636-583-2814  
[www.zionunion.org](http://www.zionunion.org)  
**9:00 a.m. Worship**  
(No Childcare)

Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor  
([knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com))  
Fern Dewert, Church Council President  
Connie Thompson, Adm. Assistant  
([cthompson@zionunion.org](mailto:cthompson@zionunion.org))  
Alysha Petry, Minister to Youth & Families  
([apetry@zionunion.org](mailto:apetry@zionunion.org))  
Mandy Frick, Coordinator of Elementary Youth  
Karen Stafford, Music Director  
([kstafford1985@gmail.com](mailto:kstafford1985@gmail.com))  
Brenda Herring, Church Organist  
Joy Bradley, Church Custodian

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent/ Communion</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12 pm Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>6</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 10 am Intergenerational Sunday School	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Called to Care 12 pm Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 5 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>13</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Faith Quest Christmas Program</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Church Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12 Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	<b>20</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b> <b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b> Church Offices Closed	<b>26</b> Church Offices Closed	<b>27</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



## December Birthdays

- 1 - Sandy Bailey
- 2 - Melva Puls  
Collin Muller
- 3 - Monica Klemme  
Laurel Camden  
Sarah Davenport  
Ana Oltmann
- 4 - Georgianne McClanahan
- 5 - Carol Rohrbach  
Lee Parks  
Kayla Quertermous
- 6 - Leslie Bailey  
Nate Birke
- 9 - Natalie Avalos
- 10 - Gail Mefford
- 14 - Karen Strode  
Haley Soetebier
- 15 - Tom Williams
- 17 - Bradley Vemmer  
Brandon Yenzer
- 18 - Phyliss Fink  
Lindsey Titter  
Lacey Elliott
- 19 - Shanna Brinker  
Matthew Copeland

- 20 - Jon Pinnell  
Ray McClanahan  
Henry Puls
- 21 - Carolyn Donoho  
Brenda Viehland  
Nathan Dewert
- 22 - Pat Hohl
- 26 - Diane Thompson  
Curtis Broeker
- 27 - Shannon Holt
- 28 - David Brune  
Annie Buehrle
- 29 - Laurie Becker
- 30 - Connor Muller  
Beth Prince
- 31 - Carl Rosenkoetter

## January Birthdays

- 1 - Tammy Broeker
- 2 - Charlee Robinson
- 3 - Lanora Mossoney  
Sue Straatmann
- 6 - Jim Petero  
Alexis Musket
- 7 - Joyce Altholz
- 8 - Danielle Cooper  
Dana Post
- 9 - Jeff Petry