

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Christ for the World We Sing”* Taylor

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 37)*

Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire. In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 37 NRSVUE

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 48 *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. Amen.

Words of Grace

I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially, there is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

+ Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 6:27-38 NRSVUE

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Holy Ground”

Karen Stafford, recorder

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 502

“Be Thou My Vision”

The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Keith E. Stahlman**.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Recessional”

Nordman

Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Year C was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



*Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide forever.*

For the Lord loves justice;

God will not forsake their faithful ones.

Psalm 37:27 & 28 NRSVUE

+ The 7th Sunday after Epiphany +

February 23, 2025 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

SUNDAY NEWS

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry
Ushers: Paul & Shanna Brinker Greeters: Gary & Kathy Reed
Camera Tech: David Bean Sound Tech: Dan Mossoney
(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

Usher Dismissal - An usher will dismiss you by row at the conclusion of the service. They will begin at the front.

Coffee/Fellowship Hour will be in the lower commons each Sunday following the worship service.

Historical Display - The Historical Display Case during the month of February features Ruth Cantrell. Stop by the display to see pictures of Ruth and her family.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbrugge	Carol Bean	Sarah Berghorn
Hettie Becker (at Union Care Center)		Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		
Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)		Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
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)		
Eileen Lischer (mother of Jeanne Lischer)		Whitney Henle (granddaughter of Susan Merlino)		
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)		Jake Phillips (father of John Phillips)		

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Norma Kern & family on the death of her mother, Madelaine Krupp, who died on February 16th.
Hettie Becker & family on the death of her sister, Norma Laubinger, who died on February 16th.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell
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)
Bob Peters (friend of Bill & Fern Dewert)	Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)
Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)	

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:
Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)
Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

Adult Education Opportunities

This Morning - The JOY Adult Class meets this morning in the lower commons classroom. They will be discussing the book *'If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk'* by John Pavlovitz.

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; **Preschool** - ages 3-5 will meet in the Preschool Room (the nursery); **Faith Quest** - grades kindergarten-5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Conform** - grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar – February 23, 2025 to March 2, 2025

Today -	The 7th Sunday after Epiphany
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Wed., Feb. 26	10:00 a.m. March newsletter assembled (fellowship hall)
	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thurs., Feb. 27 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle
	1:00 p.m. Historical Team workday (classroom)
Fri., Feb. 28 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., March 2 -	Transfiguration Sunday
	9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m. Green Team

Mon., Feb. 24 – Final articles for the March 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, February 24th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, February 26th beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday Night Activities - Schedule for the first TWO Wednesdays of every month (through April)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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.

Youth: LOGOS programming for K-12th grade youth with Mandy & Alysha.

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

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:45 -7:30 p.m.

LOGOS Games continue for Youth

7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fri., March 7 - The Grape Country Cluster of Churches is hosting a Trivia Night to benefit Camp MoVal on Friday, March 7, 2025, at St. Peter's UCC in Washington, Missouri. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and trivia will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and include soft drinks, beer, and water. No outside beverages are allowed, but you can bring your own snacks. Tables hold eight people, but smaller groups can be paired up. Zion is sponsoring two tables of eight. Sign up at the lower commons bulletin board to be on a team. There are three ways to support the event: purchase tickets to attend, donate silent auction items, or sponsor a round (an opportunity to advertise your business/activity/event.) Pick up a silent auction form at the office or email Alysha apetry@zionunion.org to receive a digital form. To sponsor a round, e-mail Jeff Remelius at bemchurchpastor@gmail.com. Help us support the camp by supporting this fun event.

Sun., March 9 – **A Special Congregational Meeting** has been called by the Church Council for Sunday, March 9, 2025, immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to get congregational approval for repairs to the fellowship hall not to exceed \$20,000.

Wed., March 12 - **Green Team/LOGOS Adult Education Forum** – Do you wish you understood what and how to recycle the waste from your household or business? Do you wonder why recycling is important or if it is even helpful at all? The Zion UCC Green Team and LOGOS invites you to join us on March 12th from 5-6 pm for a special adult educational forum. Vickie Moore from EarthBound Recycling will be presenting to us the "Why, What, and How of Recycling" and will answer your questions. Founded by her husband, Bob Moore, EarthBound Recycling is located in Eureka, MO and states their mission is "to minimize waste, find homes for unwanted items, and recycle as much as we possibly can." A Family Style Dinner and fellowship will follow the presentation. A minimum of \$5 donation is suggested to help support Zion's LOGOS dinners.

During the month of March – Spring clean up at the Zion Cemetery will be from March 1st to March 31st. Please remove any items you may want to keep before these dates and they may be placed back after March 31st. Thank you!

Little Food Pantry – Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Food 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.

Little Free Library – Just a reminder that Zion has a Little Free Library located close to the corner of Washington and Springfield Avenue. If you have any gently used adult/children's books please feel free to drop them in the free library or drop them off in the church office. Thank you!