

Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Ever Faithful, Ever Near”* Ritter

Call to Worship

The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

We have been called to pray and to praise.

We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

May it become a beacon of hope for others.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Exodus 34:29-35 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 91 *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts, leading to inertia and unfreedom. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful. Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God’s glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name. Beloved, may the forgiving light of God’s love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others.

We are forgiven! 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

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 9:28-36 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray”

Chancel Choir

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.

Hymn of Preparation No. 697

“Eat This Bread”

An Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation

Remembrance

Invocation

Light of the world, in Jesus, You revealed Your will and way. Through his broken body, You broke open our sense of what is possible even in death. Through his lifeblood poured out, You showed that nothing can interrupt Your life-giving pulse at work in all creation. In Christ, You joined all things seen and unseen, kissing the earth with heavenly grace and peace. By this, You revealed resurrection’s resistance to death’s claim as the final word. Instead, Your Word of Love bears an ever-new beginning. Now, pour out Your Spirit anew on these elements and on us that we all may be blessed with Your shining grace, joined with one another, and held in Your holy embrace. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

+ Sharing of the Elements

The Lord's Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of bread in your hand. Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice, and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Radiant One, we bless and praise you for this meal; this foretaste of your kin-dom. Reign in our hearts and in our lives, as we prepare for the journey that lies ahead. May this time together as a reflection of your beloved community encourage and sustain us as we press on toward your vision of the world. Let us not dwell, too long, in the holiness of this moment. May we leave this mountaintop, transfigured, to be your servant people for the world you love so much. In your glorious name we pray. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 515 “Hymn of Promise”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude “Praising the Almighty” Broughton

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

Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849
Home Page address is: www.zionunion.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)
Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch **Administrative Assistant:** Connie Thompson
Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry **Coordinator of Elementary Youth:** Mandy Frick
Organist: Brenda Herring **Council President:** Fern Dewert
Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford **Church Custodian:** Joy Bradley

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



**“This is
my Son,
my Chosen;
listen
to him!”**

Luke 9:35b NRSVUE

**+ Transfiguration Sunday +
March 2, 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

MARCH 2, 2025

Communion Sunday - We practice Open Communion here at Zion UCC. Jesus didn't turn anyone away; neither will we. Everyone is invited to come and share in the receiving of the bread and the cup.

The flowers on the chancel area stand are given in loving memory of Fletcher Simons by Colleen Simons & family.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Jeanne Lischer

Ushers: Donna Bocklage, John Crane Greeter: Sandy Bailey

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Susan Merlino, Connie Thompson

Camera Tech: Dan Mossoney Sound Tech: Jason Dewert

(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 March features Betty Zumwalt. Stop by the display to see pictures of Betty and her family.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - During March, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which helps when disasters strike globally. OGHS provides immediate relief when needed during disasters. Offering envelopes are in the March newsletter and are also available by the offering plate.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenser	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Carol Bean	Sarah Berghorn
Hettie Becker	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)		Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)		
Jake Phillips (father of John Phillips)				

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.

Tues., March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday, March 4th serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Volunteers are needed! If you are available to help please contact Alysha at apetry@zionunion.org.

Next Sun., March 9 – Intergenerational Sunday School will be held next Sunday, March 9th in the fellowship hall with a 'camp' themed lesson. Wear your favorite camp t-shirt and/or camp pajamas!

Church Calendar – March 2, 2025 to March 9, 2025

Today -	Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Green Team
Tues., March 4 -	5:00-6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (fellowship hall)
Wed., March 5 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thurs., March 6 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle 9:00 a.m. Help Thyself Committee (conference room) 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., March 7 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., March 9 -	1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting (sanctuary) 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)

Tues., March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday, March 4th serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A freewill donation will be received for the Camp Scholarship Fund.

Wed., March 5 – Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5th and will include the imposition of ashes.

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.

Next 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.

Next Sun., March 9 – Intergenerational Sunday School in the fellowship hall following worship. Join us for a 'camp' themed lesson! Wear your favorite camp t-shirt and/or camp pajamas.

Next Sun., March 9 – **Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday!** 'Spring' forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening.

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!