

The Spirit of Zion

Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri



April 2025

No. 4



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

6:30 p.m. Worship/Communion/Foot Washing

Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt for children following the worship service.

(See page 4 for more information.)

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

6:30 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

“Living Cross” Easter video presentation will be part of the morning worship service.

Serving Christ in April

Ushers:

April 6 & 13 - Sandy

Stierberger, Jim Vemmer*

April 20 & 27 - Brad Parker,

Connie Thompson*

(*designates Head Usher)

Greeters:

Apr 6 – Kevin Vorderbruegge

Apr 13 – Verlyn Yarbrough

Apr 27 – Armin & Norma

Klemme

Sound System Tech: David Bean

Camera Techs:

April 20 – Dan Mossoney

APRIL

Zion United Church of Christ

115 S. Washington Ave.

Union, MO 63084

636-583-2814

www.zionunion.org

9:00 a.m. Worship

(No Childcare)

Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor

(knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com)

Fern Dewert, Church Council

President

Connie Thompson, Adm. Assistant

(cthompson@zionunion.org)

Alysha Petry, Minister to

Youth & Families

(apetry@zionunion.org)

Mandy Frick, Coordinator of

Elementary Youth

Karen Stafford, Music Director

(kstafford1985@gmail.com)

Brenda Herring, Church Organist

Joy Bradley, Church Custodian



2025 Easter Offering

The Outreach Team has designated the 2025 Easter Offering to be divided between the **Missouri tornadoes**, the **hurricane victims** and the **wildfires on the west coast**.

Missouri residents are currently dealing with the destruction created from the recent tornadoes that swept through our area. Clean up efforts have begun and will continue for some time to come.

Likewise, relief efforts continue for those who were affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton in 2024. Wildfires ravaged the west coast earlier this year.

Our gifts will continue to make an impact in providing relief to those suffering, rebuilding homes, and helping restore communities from both the hurricanes, recent wildfires and the tornadoes.

Easter offering envelopes are available in your offering envelope boxes and extra envelopes will be next to the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need.

Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt Thursday, April 17

Bring your children/grandchildren to the Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt following the Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 17th. If you plan to attend, please contact Alysha Petry at 636-583-2814 or apetry@zionunion.org. Remember to have them bring their Easter basket.



“The Living Cross”

All are invited to bring a flower (fresh or artificial) to place on the cross as you enter the sanctuary in the upper commons before the 9 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday, April 20th. During the service the Faith Quest children’s Easter presentation video will be shared.

After the service the cross will be placed outside for the community to enjoy!

Zion Fellowship – April 2025

On Tuesday, March 4, several members attended the All-Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Some helped prepare the meal, and a few others helped clean up. Thank you to all who helped.

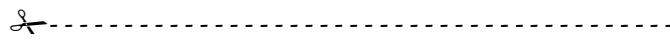
On Friday, March 7, about 32 people attended the Camp MoVal Fundraiser, Trivia Night, held at St. Peter’s UCC in Washington at 7:00pm. The cost was \$25.00 per person, which included soft drinks, beer and water. We brought our own

snacks to share with others. There was also a silent auction. Everyone enjoyed the fun evening.

Sunday, April 6 – We plan to attend the 2PM performance of the Community Passion Play held at the New Melle Sports and Recreation Center, 4700 Hwy. Z in New Melle, MO. We will meet at 1 p.m. at the back church parking lot to carpool to New Melle. Although their flyer says, “Seating is on a first come first seated basis”, we can make reservations for our group, so that we are guaranteed seats. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, so we know how many seats to reserve. We will need to know if you want to attend this event by Thursday, April 3rd. The admission is free. We will eat dinner somewhere, after the performance. More details later.

There is no activity planned for May.

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



Easter Lilies or Benevolent Gifts

For those who would like to share an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one, the cost will be \$17 per plant. You may also give a monetary donation for the Little Free Pantry/Union Food Pantry.

_____ Easter Lily or _____ Benevolent Gift

In Memory of or In Honor of: (circle one)

Given by: _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, April 13th or call the church office.



Beloved Zion,

Spring is in the air and Easter is on its way. As we press onward in our Lenten journey, following Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem, I am reminded of the Psalms of Assent. Within the Psalter (the book of Psalms) is a collection of poems known collectively as the Psalms of Assent. Tradition tells us, that Psalms 120- 134 were pilgrimage hymns. Songs travelers took as they ascended Jerusalem. For Jerusalem, Mount Zion is a plateau in the Judean mountains. Lower hills and valleys surround the city. Going to the Temple, and heading to Jerusalem, was a literal ascension. You had to go up. Legend tells us there were 15 steps between two different courtyards where priests would recite the 15 Psalms of Ascent.

On any journey, there are playlists, checklists, and guides. Wisdom from experience or tradition serves us well. I can imagine Jesus and his disciples singing songs on their walks. Maybe the psalms, maybe something they sang while fishing in the Galilee. Either way, I am certain music accompanied them as they traveled. As Jesus got closer to Golgotha, I wonder if the tone changed. If the disciple's mood had shifted. I wonder if the achiness they felt wasn't just from the climb. I wonder if Jesus and his disciples had doubts. Questioned what they were doing. If it was worth it. If things would turn out alright. I wonder how many moments their anxiety got the best of them. I wonder if a psalm did cross their mind as they traveled.

Psalm 127 begins... "Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil, for he gives sleep to his beloved."

As we finish our Lenten journey, may you take a moment to collect yourself. To gather your thoughts. To build encouragement. To stretch and breathe. To sing a song. To seek wisdom and guidance. But whatever you do, remember unless God is your guide, your labor is in vain. Unless God is your center, peace will elude you. As our Lenten season makes its way to the cross, may God be your beginning and your end. May God's guidance go before you and God's peace be within you. May the Good News that was started in Christ, be continued in you. And may you rest, dear beloved, in God's hope.

Blessings,
Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Pastor Drop In Hours:

Monday & Wednesday mornings
Email: knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com
Appointments upon request:
Church Office (636) 583-2814
or sending an email

Worship Opportunities In April

9:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday, April 6 The 5th Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Sunday
School

Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.

Worship/Communion

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

6:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, April 27 The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Earth Day Worship

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!

Zion's Book Club

Zion's Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. in the lower commons. The group will meet on Tuesday, April 15th and will be reading the book "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. All are invited to join the group.

Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds

Help continue to build our Lenten Labyrinth That Feeds by bringing items for the Little Free Pantry and the Union Food Pantry through April 13.

New Melle Community Passion Play

The New Melle Community Passion Play will be held this year at the New Melle Sports and Recreation Center, 4700 Hwy. Z in New Melle, Missouri. Admission is free. **Seating is on a first-come first seated basis.** For groups or more information call 636-384-0576 or email nmpassion@gmail.com

Dates of the play are:

- Saturdays, April 5 & 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sundays, April 6 & 13 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

A flyer is posted on the lower commons bulletin board for more information.

Zion's Fellowship is planning on attending the Sunday, April 6th performance. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board and check the Zion Fellowship News on page 2 for more information.



Earth Day Work Day
for Camp MoVal

Earth Day Work Day at Camp MoVal Saturday, April 26 - 8:30am-??

Come join other volunteers from around the Missouri Mid-South Conference as we do various jobs around camp to get it ready for the summer. Equipment and lunch will be provided. If you have specific skills, please let us know!

We need to know who's coming so we can plan for lunch. Please RSVP to Jeanne Lischer (jlischer90@gmail.com) by April 21.

Sponsored by the Grape Cluster of the Eastern Association

Help Thyself Meals

Just a short reminder of the meals and desserts in the Lower Commons freezer for the Help Thyself recipients - they are waiting for you. Our cooks do enjoy preparing these meals for you for sure. We want to give you a helping hand when we can. Please be sure to mark the "Donate and Receive" chart on the front of the freezer when preparing the meals or taking them for your use. A friend can pick them up for you as well if that will help you out. 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), Maxine Harrison (636-583-2159) and Donna Bocklage, (636-584-4888).
- Dorothy Mitana

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.

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 at the top right corner of the page a "Donate" button. Just follow the easy to navigate instructions!

Kid & Youth

April 2025

News

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our annual **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**.

We served 51 plates and collected \$308 for Camp Scholarships.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated food and their time!!!

Volunteers: Carl and Jane Ridder (and donated the sausage), Phyliss Fink (and donated milk, juice, fruit cups, butter, and syrup), Elsie Saake, Jacob Saake, Teddy Orf, George Gerstner, McKenna Gerstner, Brad Parker, Louise Parker, Lucas Frick, Sutton Birke, Bronwen Voss



Join us for our
LAST TWO LOGOS NIGHTS
APRIL 2 & April 9
until FALL of 2025

Dive into friendship with God

5:00 – 6:00 PM

ADULTS: LENTEN BIBLE LESSONS with Pastor Nick in the lower Commons

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-12th grade youth with Mandy & Alysha.

APRIL THEME – God is a friend for everyone!

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 – 5th Grade

Meet in Bible Max Theatre

Confirm NOT Conform

6th – 12th grade

Meet in the High School Room

Intergenerational Sunday School

2nd Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall

April 6 - Lenten Lesson

April 13 - Intergenerational Lesson on Palm Sunday

April 20 – No Sunday School

Join us at the Easter Worship at 9 AM and bring flowers to place on the living cross. During service you will get to enjoy a video presentation made by the children of Zion.

April 27 - Earth Day Lesson

Save the Dates

- **VBS 2025:** June 16-19 in the evening
- **Pool Party:** Saturday, June 21st from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Camp MoVal

YOUTH AT GENERAL SYNOD

July 11-15, 2025

Kansas City

For youth entering 6th grade to graduating 12th graders

The theme for Synod is "Into the Deep," and youth will focus on leadership development, mission, and water/climate justice issues.

To register and/or get more information go to generalsynod.org.



2025 Camp MoVal Schedule

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Register at www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval or <https://tinyurl.com/nhzv7yc9>
The grades listed are the grade the camper completed in May 2025

<u>Camp Description</u>	<u>Camp Date</u>	<u>Price with</u>	
		<u>Camp Scholarship Discount</u>	<u>Full Price</u>
All Ages Camp1 # (grades 3-9)	June 22-27	\$ 250.00	\$625.00
High School Camp (grades 9-12)	June 22-27	\$ 250.00	\$625.00
Family Camp (All Ages)	June 29-July 3	\$ 83.00	\$208.00 (pp)
All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)	July 6-11	\$ 250.00	\$625.00
All Ages Camp #3 (grades 3-9)	July 13-18	\$ 250.00	\$625.00
S.T.E.A.M Camp (grades 3-9)	June 20-22	\$ 84.00	\$210.00
'And Me' Camp (Adult Guardian & Child)	July 20-July 21	\$ 38.00	\$95.00 (pp)
Adventures in Community (ages 18+)	August 3-8	\$ 240.00	\$625.00

Contact the church office for your camp scholarship certificate to receive the 60% Zion discount.

Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds



Help build our Lenten Labyrinth that feeds by bringing in Items for the Little Free Pantry and Union Food Pantry.

Bring in canned goods and toiletries from March 9 to April 13.

The Living Cross Easter Sunday



A fun tradition for all!

Bring a flower to place on the cross as you enter the sanctuary in the upper commons before the 9 AM service.

6 After the service the cross will be placed outside for the community to enjoy!

GLOW IN THE DARK

Easter egg hunt

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Following the 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service

Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing Alysha at apetry@zionunion.org

BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET





Notes from the Music Director

March is halfway through as I type this, and the weather again has been quite an ordeal, to say the least. Sending

prayers to those in our county who are struggling to get back into their routine as they rebuild from the tornado. We are all neighbors.

As we head into April, the songs that run through my mind aren't necessarily the happy rejoice songs of Easter. They are the haunting songs of Good Friday. I don't know why, except the mournful melodies touch my soul like no other. Hearing the solo singing of "Were You There" reminds us that those enslaved people who had so many burdens to bear still turned to the Lord and had a strong faith and love that materialized into some of the most beautiful songs still heard today.

My mother's favorite, though, was "The Old Rugged Cross", written by George Bennard. It is a reflective symbolism of an object that we still turn to when we need to be reminded about what Jesus Christ went through to complete His message. To me, the cross symbolizes Christ's insistence to not deny who He was or what His mission was and still is.

But, of course, then comes the dawn of Easter. I will have to say that nothing beats the "Hallelujah Chorus" written by Georg Frederick Handel. This work is part of **The Messiah**, an oratorio (or major work where the text is taken from the Bible). It sends goosebumps all over me as the powerful voices and orchestra proclaim the everlasting Glory of Jesus.

Once Easter is over, we will be wrapping up our church activity season. There are 5 Wednesdays in April, so on April 30 at 6:00, Zion will once again be offering a meditative drum circle. I hope you will be able to take part in this great time of fellowship and community as we learn to listen to each other and find out how to pray and communicate to God through one of our basic instincts: the feel of the beat.

I will also be thinking about summer performing arts offerings. If you or someone you

know of would be willing to provide a musical anthem, interpretive dance, or short drama, please let the church office or me know.

Blessings,
Karen

Green Team Events In April

April 22 is Earth Day. First held in 1970, Earth Day is an opportunity for all of us to learn, reflect and act on behalf of this planet, our home. As Christians, we also remember our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.

The Green Team is planning or participating in several Earth Day events this month. Come join us!

- **Earth Day at East Central College – Saturday, April 12, 10am-1pm Shook Student Center**
Lots of hands-on exhibits by college and community groups – animals, photography, bone identification, crafts, and much more
- **Earth Day Work Day at MoVal – Saturday, April 26, 8:30am-??**
This event is sponsored by the Grape Cluster of the Eastern Association. More information is on page 4.
- **Earth Day Worship – Sunday, April 27**
The Green Team will be leading a special Earth Day service
- **En-ROADS Climate Solutions Workshop – Tuesday, April 29, 6pm**
A majority of Americans agree that climate change is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. East Central College and the Zion UCC Green Team are sponsoring the En-ROADS Climate Interactive workshop on Tuesday, April 29, at East Central College. The workshop will take place in HS100 (Health Sciences Building) at 6pm.
The En-ROADS Climate Interactive workshop uses software developed by MIT Sloan. It offers participants an opportunity to suggest solutions to

reduce the production of greenhouse gases and then test those solutions while considering other factors (cost, economic impact, affected populations, etc.). En-ROADS allows the scenarios to be compared and contrasted in a fast and easy-to-understand way.

Additional details can be found at www.climateinteractive.org

The workshop will be led by Roger Bergman, an educator with over 40 years of experience in the areas of physics, chemistry, biology, and principles of technology. Most of his classroom work was at Jefferson City High School; he has also worked as an adjunct professor for the University of Central Missouri and Lincoln University. Four years ago, he completed the training to become a Climate Ambassador for Climate Interactive.

Reports of committees, ministry teams and organizational reports were approved as printed in the 2024 Annual Report.

The 2024 Financial Reports were approved as printed in the 2024 Annual Report.

Old Business:

Sight & Sound Update: Rev. Knoblauch gave an update on the new Sight and Sound equipment. The equipment - including 2-8' speakers, wireless mics, new sound board and portable TV have come in and are being kept at ModCom until the new sound booth in the balcony is complete. March is the projected completion date for installation.

Fellowship Hall Repairs Update: A proposed bid has been received and will be reviewed by the properties committee and the church council before presenting to the congregation.

New Business:

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee has been diligently working on the audit of the 2024 financial books. The audit is almost complete and will be presented to the council and then the congregation.

Announcements:

The street light that we agreed to pay half of the cost with the city of Union has been installed. We may need to still install an additional light for that portion of the building between the church and Union City hall.

Fern announced that Susan Merlino has resigned from the church council. On behalf of the council and congregation we wish to thank Susan for her year of serving on the council. Norma Kern will finish the 2 years of Susan's term.

Norma Klemme thanked the congregation for their support in 2024 of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries (CUE).

There was no further business. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Connie Thompson, Church Council
Recording Secretary

(approved by the Church Council on March 24 2025.)



Celebrating 100 Years! Happy Birthday Armin Klemme

The family of Armin Klemme is inviting everyone to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Armin Klemme on Sunday, May 25, 2025, with an Open House from 1-3 p.m. in the Zion Fellowship Hall. The family asks for no gifts but a note or card are most welcome. Anyone wishing to express thanks to God can contribute to the growing Armin & Norma Klemme Scholarship Fund at Eden Seminary. For more information please check the bulletin board in the lower commons.

Congregational Meeting Notes – February 2025

Zion United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday February 16 2025. Council President Fern Dewert called the meeting to order and Rev. Knoblauch offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the November 2024 Congregational Meeting were approved as printed in the 2024 Annual Report.

Prayers Requested

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson
Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari
Myrt Dunigan	Charlotte Ellison
Kim Yenzler	Kevin Vorderbruegge
Sarah Berghorn	
Carol Bean (at Life Care Center in Sullivan)	
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)	
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)	
Bob Peters (friend of Bill & Fern Dewert)	

Sympathy Is Extended to:

John Phillips & family on the death of his father, Jake Phillips, who died on February 23.

Jim Doehring, Krista Lause & families on the death of their daughter & sister Paula Forck.

Georgianne McClanahan & family on the death of her husband Ray.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Skip Buerhle	Susie Andell
Jake McNeil (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)		



Memorial Gifts Given

In loving memory of **Keith**

Stahlman for Zion Good

Samaritan Fund by:

Richard & Kathy Young,
Tom & Gayle Williams,
Skip & Pat Buehrle, Joyce
Mantels

Notes to Zion

Dear Zion Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$491.50*.

Your continued support means so much to the Pantry.

- Union Food Pantry
(*portion of Souper Bowl of Caring)

Thank You to March Volunteers

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

Liturgists: Jeanne Lischer, Alysha Petry, Gil Bisjak, Fern Dewert, Shanna Brinker

Special Music for Worship: Chancel Choir, Kirk Hancox

Ushers: Donna Bocklage, John Crane, Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller

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

Greeters: Sandy Bailey, Bill & Fern Dewert, Linda Kinworthy, Carl & Jane

Sound System Tech: Jason Dewert

Worship Service Recorders: David Bean, Dan Mossoney

Newsletter Helpers: Carol Rohrbach, Ken Rohrbach, Donna Bocklage

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)
 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)



The 2025 MMS-UCC Women's Retreat

May 2nd-4th at Camp MoVal. The theme is Women's Health and Personal Safety. Check-in begins

at 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the camp welcome center. Friday evening program begins at 6:45 p.m. in the fireside room. If you sign up for the day-only option, you are invited to all activities, including the Friday evening program.

Day Only Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yddnypbc>

Full Weekend Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4fadvv6e>

Special Congregational Meeting – March 2025

President Fern Dewert called the special March 9th meeting to order. Rev. Knoblauch opened with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the bid from Longsdon Plastering in Marthasville to do the repair work in the walls in the fellowship hall. This is the same company that did the work on the new back entrance. Their bid included taking off what is currently on the walls and getting down to bare block walls; putting up ¾” Styrofoam; skim the walls with smooth plaster; painting the walls; windowsills will also be done. The company will also look at the water damage issues in the quilting room and other areas in the church. The project will take approximately 2 weeks.

Motion was made and approved to spend up to \$20,000 to make the repairs/improvements to the fellowship hall and other areas of the church.

Meeting adjourned.

- Connie Thompson, Church Council Recording Secretary
 (approved by the Church Council on March 24 2025.)



**New Address/
 Phone Numbers**

Ken Staten, 1481 Marbach Dr., Apt. 217, Washington, MO 63090

**Fresh Flowers
 from March**

March 2 – Fresh flowers for the chancel area were given in memory of Fletcher Simons by Colleen Simons & family.

March 23 – Fresh flowers on the altar were given in memory of Virginia Henderson & Elizabeth Hancox by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

March 30 – Fresh flowers on the altar were given in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bill & Fern Dewert by their children & grandchildren – Jason, Amy, Nathan, Kristi, Abigail, Blake, Camden, Hannah & Natalie.

**Church Attendance
 from March**

(4 out of 5 Sundays)
 March 2 – 110
 March 9 – 99
 March 16 – 84
 March 23 – 87

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

(4 out of 5 Sundays)
 March 2 – 5 (youth)
 March 9 – 23 (Intergenerational Sunday School)
 March 16 – 8 (youth); 7 (adults)
 March 23 – 3 (youth); 9 (adults)



Church Council Notes February 2025

Zion United Church of Christ
Church Council met on Monday,
February 17 2025. Those present

were Kathy Reed, BJ Cooper, Barb Cox, Paul Brinker, Fern Dewert, Donna Bocklage, Brad Parker, Bruce Templer, Rev. Knoblauch and Connie Thompson. Norma Kern was unable to attend due to the death of her mother. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her and her family.

Rev. Knoblauch opened the meeting with prayer. Fern Dewert called the meeting to order.

Consensus Agenda

- Minutes of January 2025 Church Council Meeting
 - Standing Committee Assignments should be for 2025 not 2024
- Pastor's Report
 - Pastor Nick would like council approval to switch internet/phone providers from AT&T to Gateway Fiber. This switch will enhance the speed of our internet for uploading the morning worship services as well as faster internet for the security cameras and office computers. Motion was made and approved to switch internet/phone providers to Gateway Fiber.
 - Pastor Nick will also be working on a 5 week Lenten series.
- Minister to Youth and Families Report – approved.
- Financial Reports for January 2025 – approved.
- Time/Date for next Council Meeting will be March 24th at 7 p.m.

Discussion Agenda

Membership Review Committee – no report

By Laws Review Committee – no report

Audit Committee – The audit of the books for 2024 have been completed and a report will be presented to the council in March.

Personnel Review Committee – Staff evaluations are complete and there are some

changes to a few of the job descriptions. Rev. Knoblauch's evaluation will be completed soon.

Leadership Development Committee – no report

Building & Property Committee – The committee met with a company to work on the walls in the fellowship hall. A contract to do the work was submitted to the committee and they are reviewing the contract which will include stripping the two walls down to the blocks, put moisture barrier board on the walls in a neutral color. Other areas of the church with water damage will be looked at as well. The company would like to get started on this project soon. Motion was made and approved to spend up to \$20,000 for this project. A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday March 9th following the morning worship service to approve this expense.

Hansen Committee – The sound booth upstairs in the balcony is under construction. Discussion was held to bring back pews from the cemetery chapel to put up in the balcony rather than the chairs that are there now.

Finance Committee – The committee met on February 10th. A bookkeeping error was discovered that the budgeted amount for the Clergy-Congregational Renewal was not created as a Restricted Fund since 2021. Motion was made and approved to make a Clergy-Congregational Renewal Temporary Restricted Fund. Motion was made and approved to put \$14,000 into this temporary restricted fund (for amounts from 2021-2025).

Building/Contents Inventory – The last inventory was done in 2014. Barb Cox, Donna Bocklage, Fern Dewert and Pastor Nick will help with the contents of the building. The church's insurance policy needs to be reviewed as well.

Upstairs Chapel – A nice table needs to be purchased for the chapel. Motion was made and approved to spent up to \$1,000 from the undesignated Memorial Fund for this expense.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Connie Thompson, Church Council
Recording Secretary
(approved by the Church Council on March 24 2025.)

History of Eden Theological Seminary – Part 2

(Part 1 of the history of Eden Theological Seminary appeared in the January issue of *Spirit of Zion* Newsletter.)

Eden is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year.

After World War I, many students came from Elmhurst College, and only spoke English. Churches in the St. Louis area began to increase the use of English for worship, however some clung to German. Expensive repairs were needed on the 40 year old three story Wellston (now Normandy) building. The area became industrialized. Smoke and noise were a hazard to students as well as to area residents. In 1922, the board of Normandy High School offered \$200,000 to purchase the Wellston Seminar property. A beautiful location with 20 acres was purchased in Webster Groves. Construction of New Eden began in the fall of 1924. Six buildings were erected; the education center, president's residence, dining hall, two dormitories, and a maintenance building. By 1934, the Evangelical Church of North America and the Reformed Church of the United States merged to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church. That same year, Central Reformed Seminary (Dayton, Ohio) and Oakwood Institute for Women, (Cincinnati, OH) merged with Eden. Field Education was added to the curriculum in 1928. In 1964, the Master of Sacred Theology Program began, and Eden Laboratory School was founded. In 1967, Bachelor of Divinity program B.D. became the Master of Divinity (M.D.). The STM program became the Doctor of Divinity in 1970.

The denomination supported the salary of staff from 1950 to 1974, when UCC stopped supporting the seminaries. Eden became financially independent. Local churches were encouraged to support the UCC seminaries in the Midwest. Morning chapel was held daily at 10:00 a.m. This was later changed to three mornings per week, with communion once a week. In the 1940's women were admitted for a two year Christian Education program. Men attended college and then attended seminary for three years. In 1943,

Irene Congehlin was the first woman to receive a B-Div degree. Two additional dorms were erected in 1950, and Luhr Library was built in 1968. Webster University jointly operated the library until 2010 when they built their own. Eden students were permitted to use Webster's new library. Eden received a gift of \$19,000 from the Deaconess Foundation, and Webster University has purchased three buildings and the land where they are situated. In 1965, Archbishop Cardinal Ritter spoke to Eden's graduating class and was awarded a Dr. of Divinity Degree. African American studies began in 1987. Since 1924, there have been eight presidents. Now, there are several professors who are not UCC. Each year, more denominations are represented in the student body. We can be proud of what Eden Seminary has been to the churches in this area. Most Zion pastors have been graduates of Eden.

Two memorial scholarships to Eden have been established. One in memory of John Stevesand following his death in 1989. Another scholarship was established in 2023 in honor of Rev. Armin and Norma Klemme. Interest from these scholarships help students with a grant each year.

Be sure to see the display of Eden at the Webster Groves location in the Historical Display case, April 2025.

- Armin F. Klemme, on behalf of Zion's Historical Team



Dandelion Days

Well, it seems spring is upon us once again. With the anticipated arrival of spring comes the duties associated with it; the first yard mowing of the season, planting our cold weather pansies, mulching our beloved flowerbeds and dealing with those pesky weeds. BUT maybe think twice when we classify our weeds especially those yellow dandelions, they play a very important part in the intricate ecosystem that our God created to work just right when treated with love and respect.

So please refrain from grabbing the roundup and going to herbicide town on those yellow little beauties, you may not know who you are

harming. The first thought usually goes to bees, and you would be correct. Dandelions are an important source for our warm weather days when nothing else is blooming for our little pollinators. But they are even more than that; they are the main spring staple to the goldfinch (hence where their golden color sparks from) along with other songbirds including sparrows and siskins. Not to be forgotten are the rabbits, squirrels, mice and deer that will munch on the entire plant. So, spraying the dandelion you could be inadvertently harming God's creatures with those sprays. If you feel you must rid your yard of them, please dig them up or pull them from the root (if you have a pet rabbit or goat they love them) or make your own vinegar/salt mixture to spray.

If you decide to embrace the dandelion, humans can enjoy them also. Obviously, if you spray your lawn with anything that is harmful to animals or humans don't ingest them. Spring leaves of dandelions go great in a spring mix salad, if you have a young child making a dandelion crown with them can become a lasting memory, as well as mixing dandelion blossoms into homemade playdough for yellow tint that smells delightful or using them as a creative paintbrush with your young ones.

Other ways to use them include; Dandelion Cookies with a recipe from Confessions of an Overworked Mom's website, on pasta or pizza with the recipe for Dandelion Greens Pesto from Adamant Kitchen, with your morning coffee as Dandelion Bread recipe from Beyond Cereal, or if you have a sweet tooth also from Adamant Kitchen is a Dandelion Cream Pie Recipe. Besides foods, dandelions can be used in teas, lotions and salves.

Other useful plants that are important to our ecosystem to be mindful of include violets, chamomile, and purslane. If you want a natural way to choke out weeds consider planting yarrow.

- Bronwen Voss, on behalf of
the Green Team

“These Days” Devotional Books

Did you know that Zion every quarter receives “These Days” devotional booklets? The devotionals offer each day a spiritual reading along with a short scripture and prayer. These are free and can be found in the literature rack in the upper commons or if you would like one mailed to you please contact the church office. The booklet is a wonderful resource to use in your daily Christian life. Enjoy!



Our Church's Wider Mission

Sharing is an essential part of what God calls us to do as the people of God's Church. We are called to share our joys

and concerns. We are called to share our time and talents. The church was founded with sharing at its core.

In the United Church of Christ, one of the ways we are invited to share is through our offerings to **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**. OCWM is the way that the United Church of Christ helps distribute services, resources, and expertise to all within our faith community who have need.

The Financial support our church shares, through OCWM, gives us the opportunity to have a common funding source that helps us all to do those things that we could not do as effectively by ourselves. OCWM helps OUR church BE the Church.

Financial Report for February 2025

	February 2025	Year to Date (YTD)
Income	\$52,069.00	\$71,048.00
Expenses	\$26,232.00	\$67,341.00

Our Church's Wider Mission (given YTD) - \$1,187.00

Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries (given YTD) – \$240.00

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

Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries Support (CUE)

The Mission of Chicago, United & Eden Seminaries is to:

- strengthen the relationship between our churches and our seminaries
- further the mission and work of these seminaries
- provide financial support for our seminaries.

We live in challenging times and we recognize the vital impact of our seminaries as they:

- prepare leaders for church and society
- increase theological thought and scholarship
- provide multiple resources to the local churches.

The CUE Regional Seminary Support Program brings together over 2,000 United Church of Christ churches in mid-America, local church ministries and the seminaries of Chicago, United, and Eden.

If you would like to give a monetary donation to CUE, please make your checks payable to Zion UCC and in the memo portion indicate "CUE". Thank you!



Did You Know?

Did you know that Zion is a '5 for 5' church? The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries relies on our church's contribution along with many other UCC churches nationwide to basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means that we are leaders in providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ ___
2. H → ↑ → ___
3. V → ↑ ↓ ___
4. I ← ← ↑ ___
5. T ↑ ← ↑ ___
6. P ↑ → → ↓ ___
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ ___
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← ___



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11 am Lenten Reflections 12 pm Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	3 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 6 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	4 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	5
6 The 5th Sunday In Lent/ Communion 	7	8	9 9:30 am Called to Care 11 am Lenten Reflections 12 pm Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	10 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 7 pm Lower Commons in Use	11 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	12
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 10 am Intergenerational Sunday School	14 6:30 pm Finance May newsletter articles due	15 1:30 pm Book Club	16 12 Loops of Love 6 pm Joyful Noise 7:30 Chancel Choir	17 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle Maunder Thursday Service 6:30 pm 7:30 pm Glow In the Dark Egg Hunt	18 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm	19
20  Easter Sunday /Communion	21 Church Offices Closed 7 pm Church Council	22	23 10 am April news. assembled 12 Loops of Love 6 pm Joyful Noise 7:30 Chancel Choir	24 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 7 pm Lower Commons in Use	25 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	26
27 The 2nd Sunday of Easter/Earth Day Service	28	29	30 12 Loops of Love 6 pm Drumming Circle 7:30 Chancel Choir			

Happy
Birthday!

April Birthdays

- 1 - Greg Toelke
Caeli Manhart
- 2 - David Bean
- 3 - Abby Templer-Rodrigues
Wayne Bean
Matthew Seely
- 4 - Pam Griffin
- 5 - David Osterwald
- 6 - Linda Kroeter
Bob Overschmidt
Reed Petry
- 7 - Gracie Helms
- 8 - Sharon Rosenkoetter
- 9 - Bill Koch
- 10 - Harvey Mefford
Andrew Koelling
- 11 - Charles Schuenemeyer
- 14 - Jean Stevens
BJ Cooper
- 15 - Rob McDonald
- 16 - Sallie Hancox
Brandon Harwood
Joshua Birke
- 17 - Amy Altholz
Christina Altholz
- 18 - Debbie Puls

- 19 - Claude Schuenemeyer
- 20 - Bob Soetebier
- 21 - Tiffany Manhart
- 23 - Hunter Grafrath
- 24 - Linda Hall
Terri Becker
- 27 - Jon Bocklage
- 28 - Tim Stahlman
Camden Dewert
Danyell Mossoney
- 29 - Tom Beckmann
Wayne Sherfield
- 30 - Lukas Copeland

May Birthdays

- 1 - Ann Hartley
Jane Ridder
- 2 - Maxine Fink
- 3 - Gary Reed
Marie Kuenzel
- 4 - John Metcalf
Jaydalyn Holman
- 6 - Macey Hargrove
Baylor Adams
- 7 - Jon Ridder
Tyson Jones
Alysha Petry
Elsie Saake
Oliver Cooper
Nora Knoblauch
- 8 - Heather Koch
- 9 - Logan Cooper
- 10 - George Gerstner
Tracy Ingle
Dawn Toelke