

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 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 "Morning Prelude" Loucks

Call to Worship

Worship is a place to rest.

**We breathe deeply here.**

We still our aching bones.

**We sit in the quiet.**

We surround ourselves with music.

**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.

**We listen for God's word.**

We invite it to challenge us.

**We lean in with curiosity.**

We ask questions.

**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

**For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.**

Let us worship our gracious God.

Gathering Prayer

**Creator God, Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in.**

**Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.**

**And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages,**

**waters and delights, seeds and tends. So as we turn to your text today,**

**warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow.**

**With hope we pray, Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 63:1-8 NRSVUE

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

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 471

"As the Deer"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

**We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**

There are also days when we fail to act.

**We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction.**

God, forgive our imbalance.

**Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

**God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. 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

**Holy God, as we gather in rest this sacred day, we offer these gifts to you freely. Bless them and us so that we all may grow. In your name, we pray, Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 13:6-9 NRSVUE

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

*“Poor Wayfaring Stranger”*

Althouse

Kirk Hancox, soloist

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer and 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. 581 *“Called as Partner’s In Christ’s Service”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*“Chorus of Praise”*

Peery

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**Service Prayers for the First Sunday in Lent were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”** From the Lenten Series “Everything [In] Between”.

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Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: [www.zionunion.org](http://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)

**We commit ourselves...**

**to worship God**

**to form faithful followers of Jesus**

**and to care for our wider community.**

*We care as Christ cares.*



everything  
[in] between  
rest & growth

+ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent +  
March 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

# MARCH 23, 2025

**The flowers on the altar** are given in loving memory of Virginia Henderson & Elizabeth Hancox by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

## **Serving This Morning**

Liturgist: Fern Dewert

Ushers: Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder

Camera Tech: David Bean 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.

**Lenten Offering** - This year's Lenten Offering will be divided between Grace's Place and Loving Hearts Outreach. Lenten envelopes are available by the offering plate for your gifts.

**"These Days" devotionals** for April-May-June are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

## **On Our List For Prayers**

### **Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Sarah Berghorn	Hettie Becker
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)		

### **Sympathy Is Extended to:**

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

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Conform** – grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

### Church Calendar – March 23, 2025 to March 30, 2025

<b>Today -</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>Mon., March 24 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Church Council (classroom)
<b>Wed., March 26 -</b>	11:00 a.m. Lenten Reflection (chapel) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise (chapel) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection (lower commons) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
<b>Thurs., March 27 -</b>	Church Office will be CLOSED 8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle 1:00 p.m. Historical Team workday (classroom) 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
<b>Fri., March 28 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Next Sun., March 30 -</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b>

**Lenten Bible Studies** – Lenten Bible Studies will be held on the following dates/times/areas:

Wed., March 26 – 11:00 a.m. (chapel); 6:00 p.m. (lower commons)  
Wed., April 2 – 11:00 a.m. (chapel); 5:00 p.m. (lower commons)  
Wed., April 9 – 11:00 a.m. (chapel); 5:00 p.m. (lower commons)

**Mon., March 24** – Final articles for the April 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

**Sun., April 6** – Zion Fellowship will attend the New Melle Passion Play on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. with a dinner to follow at a 'to be determined Washington, MO restaurant'. Please check the bulletin board in the lower commons for more details and to sign up.

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

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**Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch  
**Minister to Youth & Families:** Alysha Petry  
**Organist:** Brenda Herring  
**Music Director:** Dr. Karen Stafford

**Administrative Assistant:** Connie Thompson  
**Coordinator of Elementary Youth:** Mandy Frick  
**Council President:** Fern Dewert  
**Church Custodian:** Joy Bradley