

Words of Grace

Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! 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

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God, who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 24:13-34 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Shout for Joy, He Is Risen”

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. 695

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Holy Communion

Invitation

An Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn, we believe that God is alive. In the midst of our grief, we believe the Spirit is at work. In the chaos of our broken world, we believe that love is on the loose. For no stone could keep God at bay, and no violence could keep God's love from us. So today we sing, *Alleluia!* For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, hope lives. Christ has died, and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Remembrance

Invocation

Breaking of the Bread and the 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 gluten free 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 following Communion

God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between, may this meal be a fresh start. May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed, be the start of something new. Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days ahead. Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path and everywhere in between. With deep hope we pray, Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 310 “Thine is the Glory”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (Reprise)” arr. Thomas

Today’s Liturgy for Easter Sunday was Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC| sanctifiedart.org.” From the Lenten Series “Everything [In] Between”.

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

2025 Easter Contributions

The following have contributed gifts for an Easter lily or as a benevolent donation to the Little Free Pantry and the Union Food Pantry.

Easter Lilies given:

In memory of loved ones by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In memory of Elmer Holtgreve and in honor of Brandon, Lindsey & Katelyn by Bernice Holtgreve.

In memory of Greg Stevens & Josh Camden our husbands, daddy’s & friend by Jean & Adam Stevens, Laurel, Amelia & Archer Camden.

In memory of loved ones by Linda Kroeter & family.

In memory of James Ronsick by Candy Ronsick.

In memory of our parents by Gary & Karen Stafford.

In honor of our amazing grandchildren – Abigail, Blake, Camden, Hannah & Natalie by William & Fern Dewert.

In memory of Ed Stierberger by Sandy Stierberger.

In honor of our parents Skip & Pat Buehrle by Scott Buehrle, Shanna Brinker & Sammi Blankenship.

In honor of our children & grandchildren by Skip & Pat Buehrle.

In memory of Hugo & Lucille Viehland by Brenda Viehland.

Little Free Pantry and Union Food Pantry donations:

In memory of loved ones by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In honor of our children & grandchildren by Skip & Pat Buehrle.

In memory of Greg Stevens & Josh Camden our husbands, daddy’s & friend by Jean & Adam Stevens, Laurel, Amelia & Archer Camden.

In memory of Elmer Holtgreve and in honor of Brandon, Lindsey & Katelyn by Bernice Holtgreve.

In honor of family past & present by Armin & Norma Klemme.

In memory of Alan Freiermuth and Keith & Arline Stahlman by Marilyn Freiermuth.

In honor of Stacy, Scott, Molly & Owen Mertz and Ryan, Kara & Jackson Hall by Dave & Linda Hall.

In honor of our family by Carl & Jane Ridder.

In memory of Keith & Arline Stahlman by Tim, Annette, Travis & Nick Stahlman.

In memory of loved ones by Alan & Sharon TenEyck.

In memory of Marland Parker & Al Marquart by Brad & Louise Parker.

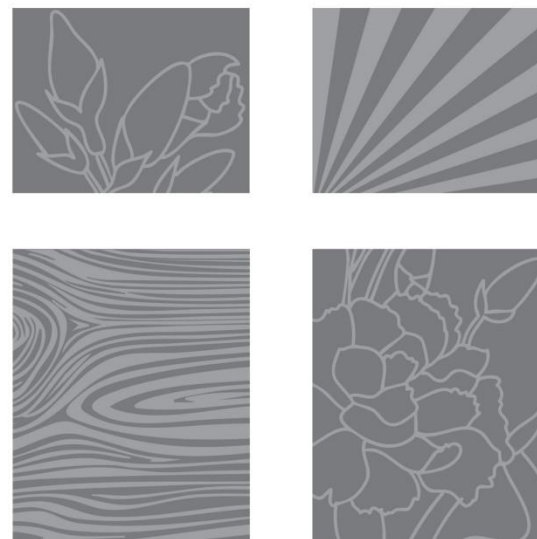
In honor of loved ones by Ken & Carol Rohrbach.

In memory of David & Michael Kinworthy by Linda Kinworthy.

In memory of Judy Doehring & Paula Forck by Jim Doehring & the Forck & Lause families.

In memory of Herbert & Margy Schowe by Kevin & Donna Schowe & family and Jane Gullledge & David Meyer & family.
In honor of our children by Gary & Karen Stafford.
In honor of loved ones by Vicki Hooper.
In memory of my parents by Barb Cox.
In memory of Fletcher Simons by Colleen Simons & family.
In memory of Louise & Elaine Borgmann and Clifford & Erna Dewert by William & Fern Dewert.
In memory of my grandparents by Brenda Viehland.

We commit ourselves...
to worship God
to form faithful followers of Jesus
and to care for our wider community.
We care as Christ cares.



EASTER
SUNDAY

+ Easter Sunday +
April 20, 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

APRIL 20, 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.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry

Ushers: Brad Parker & Connie Thompson Greeter: Sallie Hancox

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Ken & Carol Rohrbach

Camera Tech: Dan Mossoney Sound Tech: David Bean

(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.

Historical Display - The Historical Display Case during the month of April features pictures and history of Eden Theological Seminary. Stop by the display to see pictures of Eden Theological Seminary.

Easter Offering - The Easter Offering will be divided between the Missouri tornadoes, the hurricane victims, and the wildfires on the west coast. Our gifts will continue to make an impact in providing relief to those suffering, rebuilding homes, and helping restore communities from the hurricanes, recent wildfires, and the tornadoes. Easter offering envelopes are available next to the offering plate.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzen	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)		Denise Robinson (friend of Gary & Karen Stafford)		
Kevin Niebruegge (cousin of Karen Stafford)				

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNeil (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)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)	Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)

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

Next Sun., April 27 - The JOY Adult Class meets in the lower commons classroom. They are discussing the book 'If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk' by John Pavlovitz.

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning - There is NO Faith Quest this morning.

Next Sun., April 27 – 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 – April 20, 2025 to April 27, 2025

Today -	Easter Sunday
	9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
Mon., April 21 -	Church Offices will be CLOSED
Wed., April 23 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., April 24 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., April 25 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Sat., April 26 -	3:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Ray McClanahan (chapel)
Next Sun., April 27 -	The 2nd Sunday of Easter/Earth Day Worship
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education

PLEASE NOTE - There is NO Fellowship Hour this morning following the service. Please join us next Sunday, April 27th!

Mon., April 21 – Church Offices will be closed on Monday, April 21st and reopen on Wednesday, April 23rd.

Thurs., April 24 – News for the May 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Thursday, April 24th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, April 30th beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sat., April 26 – On Saturday, April 26th there will be an Earth Day Work day at Camp MoVal beginning at 8:30 a.m. to ?? Please let Jeanne Lischer know if you plan to attend (so we have a count for lunch). For more information check the bulletin board in the lower commons.

Sun., April 27 - The Green Team will be leading a special Earth Day worship service on Sunday, April 27. Join us for scripture, hymns, and meditations from various writers about caring for the earth.

Tues., April 29 - Are you concerned about climate change? A majority of Americans are, and yet it's hard to discern what the best solutions are. The Green Team and ECC's Green Committee is sponsoring an En-ROADS Climate Solutions Workshop on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at East Central College. This interactive workshop uses software developed by MIT Sloan; it offers participants the opportunity to suggest solutions and then test those solutions and consider other factors (cost, economic impact, etc.) The workshop will be held in HS100 (Health Sciences Building).

Wed., April 30 – Meditative Drum Circle is back. Come join in community with others. Music experience not needed at all; only an open heart and open ears. Join us on Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. in the chapel.

MMS-UCC Women's Retreat – The MMS-UCC Women's Retreat at Camp MoVal will be on May 2-4, 2025. The theme of the weekend is 'Women's Health Matters'. If you sign up for the day-only option, you are invited to all activities, including the Friday evening program. For more information check the bulletin board in the lower commons. ***Deadline to register is April 27th.***

Zion Fellowship Activity – Zion Fellowship is planning to attend the Dinner & Comedy Show at St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville on Saturday, June 7th at 5:30 p.m. ***Deadline to sign up is May 11th.*** A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board with costs, etc.. Everyone is invited!

Joyful Noise and Alleluia Kids will resume in the fall.

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!

CASA Is Looking For Volunteers - CASA of Mideast Missouri advocates for children in foster care in Franklin, Gasconade, and Osage Counties who have experienced abuse or neglect. Our trained Volunteer Advocates spend one-on-one time with these children, understanding their needs and concerns to advocate for them in court, ensuring their journey in foster care is safe and supported. There are children in our area who need a CASA! The next CASA volunteer training session starts at the beginning of June with an **application deadline of May 16th**. To apply, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit www.casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.