

# The Spirit of Zion

Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri



February 2026

No. 2



## Congregational Meeting – Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Our congregation will gather for our Congregational Meeting and the celebration of our ministry together on **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> following the worship service in the sanctuary.**

## Souper Bowl of Caring in February

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring Collection days will be **February 1 & 8.** Youth will be collecting money and canned good items for the Little Free Food Pantry and the Union Food Pantry.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All are invited to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A freewill donation will be collected for the Camp Scholarship Fund.



## Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m.

The service will include the imposition of ashes. The Chancel Choir will provide special music.

## 2025 Lenten Offering

This year's Lenten Offering will be donated to **Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, Inc.** (EEMV). EEMV was formed in March of 1991 by Charla Shurtleff, COTA, to respond to a local need for affordable equine therapy and recreation for people of all ages.

Exceptional Equestrians has been accredited with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, Int'l (PATH Int'l) since 1994. In 2002, PATH Int'l developed a new rating, Premier Accredited Center, to recognize those programs which had received distinction in the realm of equine-assisted activities.

Exceptional Equestrians is a volunteer-based, not for profit organization, providing people with disabilities affordable, enjoyable horsemanship experiences for therapeutic effect, developing and *strengthening mind, body and spirit.*

- Brenda Viehland, on behalf of the Outreach Team

## Serving Christ In February

### Ushers:

Feb. 1 & 8 –

Daryl Hartley\*,  
Harvey Mefford

Feb. 15 & 22 –

Paul & Shanna Brinker\*  
(\*designates Head Usher)

### Greeters:

Feb. 1 – Maxine Harrison

Feb. 8 – Carl & Jane Ridder

Feb. 15 – Kevin

Vorderbruegge

Feb. 22 – Marilyn Freiermuth

Sound System Tech: Dan  
Mossoney

### Camera Techs:

Feb. 15 – David Bean

Feb. 18 (Ash Wed.) - David  
Bean

Zion United Church of Christ  
115 S. Washington Ave.  
Union, MO 63084  
636-583-2814

[www.zionunion.org](http://www.zionunion.org)

**9:00 a.m. Worship**

(No Childcare)

Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor  
([knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com))

Fern Dewert, Church Council  
President

Connie Thompson, Adm. Assistant  
([cthompson@zionunion.org](mailto:cthompson@zionunion.org))

Alysha Petry, Minister to  
Youth & Families

([apetry@zionunion.org](mailto:apetry@zionunion.org))

Mandy Frick, Coordinator of  
Elementary Youth

Karen Stafford, Music Director  
([kstafford1985@gmail.com](mailto:kstafford1985@gmail.com))

Brenda Herring, Church Organist  
Joy Bradley, Church Custodian

## Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds

Bring in canned goods and toiletries from February 22 through March 29 to help us build the 'Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds'. Items will be given to the Union Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry.

## 2026 Camp MoVal Schedule Registration is Open!

Registration is OPEN for those interested in attending Camp MoVal! See page 6 for dates and costs.



## Save the Date Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser presented by the Grape Cluster of UCC Churches:

- Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at St. Peter's UCC, 20 E 5<sup>th</sup> St., Washington, MO
- Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the first question is at 7:00 PM
- \$25 per person/table of 8

**Theme:** *Get Your Kicks on Route 66* (Centennial Celebration of Route 66 1926-2026)

Sign up to be on a Zion team at the lower commons bulletin board.

Silent Auction Items are Needed! Contact Alysha [apetry@zionunion.org](mailto:apetry@zionunion.org) to donate items.

## Legacy Fund Committee

The Church Council is looking to select five members to form the Legacy Fund Committee. They are looking for volunteers who will:

- Discern the use of the fund.
- Establish a handbook/guideline for the committee.
- Develop an investment strategy and a spending policy for the fund.
- Communicate regularly with the council and congregation.

In due course, the committee will establish term limits for the membership and determine the function of the committee going forward.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in being a part of the Legacy Fund Committee.



## Zion Fellowship – February 2026

On Sunday, February 18, the Family Game Night and Soup Supper was cancelled.

February – No activities are planned.

Friday, March 6 – We will plan to attend the Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser at St. Peter's UCC, 20 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Washington. Doors open at 6PM, and questions start at 7PM. Reservations need to be made, and the cost is \$25 per person/table of 8. Sign up to be on a Zion team on the bulletin board.

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

## New Home for Aluminum Can House - Highway 50 Car Wash

When Habitat for Humanity dissolved in 2021, Zion Green Team asked if we could have the House, in which to collect aluminum cans to recycle and give the proceeds to local charities. The community has responded very well. Since 2021 we have given almost \$800 to local charities, from all our recycling sources. We thank Bruce Templer and Dennis Tucker for all their work to rehab the house, and to relocate it when it had to be moved. And we thank Gary Stafford who used his artistry on it several times, including now. We invite you to see it, and spread the word to family and friends to bring their cans to it. We continue to collect cans (aluminum and tin cans) at church (please place them by the garage overhead door), also batteries and plastic bottles. So please continue that. Thank you for your great efforts to recycle, and your effort to cut down the use of plastic.

- Zion Green Team



## Beloved Zion,

There is something about this time of year that makes me want to rearrange the furniture. After hosting family and friends over the holidays and cleaning up my house from all the Christmas decorations, I have an urge to rearrange things and redecorate. This isn't the same feeling as spring cleaning. I don't want to get rid of anything. (Well, maybe a few toys the kids keep leaving about) This is something different. It's the need for a change of perspective. It's about knowing what I have and enjoying it in a new way. This feeling is accompanied by the planning of the year. In my home, we are starting to compile our taxes, plan any big purchases/renovations, and set dates for trips to see family. So, when I am rearranging my furniture, what I am really doing is finding something to get excited about. Being cooped up indoors, with the limited winter sun, life can be quite dreary day to day. Getting excited about plans, projects, and trips can break the funk.

When I reflect on my year, the months are the same, and the seasons of the church are the same. But how you decorate them, what effort you put towards them, changes how you approach the year. As the year begins, we ask ourselves, what new perspective do we need? What furniture do you need to move around to give you a fresh vision of the year? What plans are you making so you have something to look forward to and get excited about? Whether for home renovations, garden planning, vacations, or maybe even a new stage of life, planning becomes essential. Planning takes time. It takes discernment. It estimates cost and potential setbacks. Dreams are great to have, but without a plan rarely do our dreams become realized. We can dream of a new project, a new idea, a trip, but if you never take the time to plan, then it won't happen. But sometimes you don't even have a dream of what could be until you start moving some furniture around. So the next time you feel like you've been cooped up inside too long, and have the urge to start rearranging a cupboard, or dreaming of warmer weather, follow that instinct and see where it will take you.

Blessings,  
Rev Nicholas Knoblauch

**Pastor Drop In Hours:**  
 Monday & Wednesday mornings  
 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
 Thursday mornings  
 From 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon  
 Email: [knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com)  
 Appointments upon request:  
 Church Office (636) 583-2814  
 or sending an email.

*Worship  
 Opportunities  
 In February*  
 9:00 a.m. Worship

**Sunday, February 1**  
***The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 after Epiphany***  
 Sacrament of Communion

**Sunday, February 8**  
***The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 after Epiphany***  
 Intergenerational Sunday  
 School (10:00 a.m.)

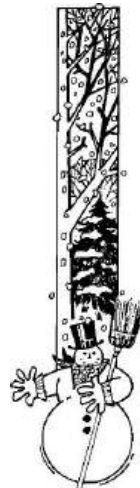
**Sunday, February 15**  
***Transfiguration  
 Sunday***  
 Zion Congregational  
 Meeting (10:00 a.m.)

**Wednesday,  
 February 18**  
***Ash Wednesday  
 Service***  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 22**  
***The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
 in Lent***

### 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](http://www.zionunion.org) at the top right corner of the page a "Donate" button. Just follow the easy to navigate instructions!



## 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!

## 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.



## A Change in 2026 Offering Designations

For those of you who use offering envelopes you will notice that for 2026 we have

eliminated the 'green' Building & Property Fund envelope.

However, you will notice that the designations on the offering envelopes have "Current Expense" (which is our operating/general fund), "Our Church's Wider Mission" and "Building & Property Fund" (which was previously Property Improvement Fund). If you give an amount on any of these designations, please know that they will be given **directly** to those incomes. Likewise, if you use the online VANCO platform the same will apply. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

## "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.

## Up to Date Info?

Does the church have your **updated contact and household information** (change of address, college students moving out, etc.)? If you are not sure, give the church office a call at 636-583-2814 or email [cthompson@zionunion.org](mailto:cthompson@zionunion.org). Thanks for keeping us up to date!

## Best Choice Labels

Containers are available in the lower commons kitchen as well as the fellowship hall kitchen for your Best Choice Labels. These labels go into the Missouri Hunger Fund. They are used for hunger relief, nutrition, or food insecurity situations. The Union Food Pantry has also benefitted from the donation of these labels. Thank you for your contributions and continue giving them!

## 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.**

# Kid & Youth NEWS

February 2026

Join us the **FIRST TWO WEDNESDAYS**  
of **EACH MONTH**



**February 4 & 11**  
Theme this month is on  
Psalm 23:  
God is our Shepherd

It's an evening full of Games,  
Bible Stories, Music and Dinner.  
**5 PM to 7:30 PM**

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.

*Everyone is invited!*

## SAVE *the* DATE

### The Annual Conference Youth Event

The winter Conference Youth Event (CYE) will be at

**St. John UCC in St. Charles, MO,**

**February 13-15**

**Theme: Good Vibe Check - Spread Love**

The event begins Friday evening  
and ends after Worship on  
Sunday. The youth will  
participate in a mission project,  
many fun activities, and games.



<https://tinyurl.com/mrya2upp>



### Faith Quest

Meet in Bible Max Theatre  
Ages 3 to 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Middle/High School

Meet in the Senior High/Middle School Room  
7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Youth  
(For Youth Confirmed and Not Confirmed)

### Intergenerational Sunday School

2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH  
Faith Quest, Middle School/High School, and all of our Zion  
families and friends meet in the fellowship hall for a  
Intergenerational lesson.



## **The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring Collection days will be February 1 & 8**

Youth will be collecting money and canned good  
items for the Little Free Food Pantry and the  
Union Food Pantry.

## **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  
**February 22 – March 29**



# UCC Climate Hope Contest

The 2026 Climate Hope Poster Contest theme is...

***“A Future with Hope.”***

The theme comes from Jeremiah 29:11, which says,

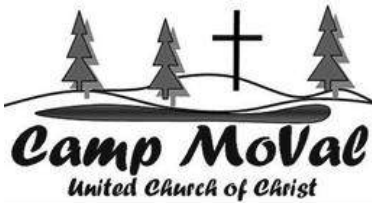
*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”*

**Kids and youth can submit their art from  
February 6 to March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Pick up the art form from the church office

There will be winners from each age category, and an overall winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC, with a parent or guardian.

The winning art will additionally serve as the logo for UCC Climate Hope advocacy work through the end of the year.



## 2026 Camp MoVal Schedule REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Register at [www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval](http://www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval) or <https://tinyurl.com/nhzv7yc9>

*The grades listed are the grades the camper completed in May 2026*

<u>Camp Description</u>	<u>Camp Date</u>	<u>Price with Camp Scholarship Discount</u>	
		<u>Full Price</u>	
High School Camp (completed 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	June 21-26	\$ 270.00	\$682.00
Family Camp (All Ages)	June 29-July 3	\$ 190.00	\$318.00 (pp)
All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9)	July 5-10	\$ 270.00	\$682.00
All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)	July 12-17	\$ 270.00	\$682.00
Adventures in Community (ages 18+)	July 19-23	\$ 270.00	\$682.00

**Contact the church office for your Zion camp scholarship discount code.**



## A Note from the Music Director

A quiet chapel, with the lights dimmed and one single candle. The sound of praying, which sounds like...

### DRUMS?

Our small group of drum circle worshippers pray through the drums. Drums are mentioned 17 times in Scripture as a “tambourine”, although the jingles were not added until the Roman period. Today, we would call this a frame drum about 12-24 inches, mostly played by women. So, we as Christians do have an ancient connection with worshipping with drums.

Drumming connects us with others throughout the world. In the drum circle, we often use drums and other percussion based on percussion from other cultures: djembes, buffalo drum, tongue drums, African talking drum, and several others. Drums from other cultures are not just instruments; they are works of art. With these we can remember the talents of our siblings around the world and their contributions to much of the music we now enjoy. These cultures don't worry about notation. They don't worry about their talents. They just drum for joy, drum to pray, drum to communicate. It is the heart of their cultures.

Drumming also references to what Eric Nykamp refers to as “bodyliness”. In his opinion, we as Christians need to reform our worship to include bodies in action. Drumming is also reconciliatory. Sometimes in our drum circle, we drum out our anger and frustration without words. We begin to notice a calming and a joining of the beat with our various rhythms, united together for a common cause. God calls us to come as children. In drumming, we are able to release that spontaneity that children exhibit, with no judgement. It's OK to be spontaneous. It's OK to pray without words. It's OK to feel a prayer deep into your inner core through beat and rhythm.

I invite you to come join us on January 21 at 6:30 in the chapel for our next drum circle experience. It's great fellowship, a nice way to

get away from the stress of the world, and to express yourself in a way that is healing to your soul and, actually, your blood pressure.

For more information on drum circles and what they involve, you can feel free to send me an email at [kstafford@zionunion.org](mailto:kstafford@zionunion.org) or call me.

Karen



## Zion Church Council Meeting Minutes – December 2025

Zion United Church of Christ Church Council met on Monday, December 15, 2025. Those present were Bruce Templer, Kathy Reed, Connie Thompson, Brad Parker, Paul Brinker, BJ Cooper, Donna Bocklage, Colleen Simons, Barb Cox, Fern Dewert, Rev. Knoblauch and the upcoming council members: Jim Vemmer, Alvera Heeger, and Susan Newman.

President Fern Dewert called the meeting to order and Rev. Knoblauch opened with prayer. Fern thanked Brad, Kathy and Donna for their dedication and service to the council. She welcomed Alvera, Jim and Susan to the council. The new council members will be installed on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

### Consensus Agenda:

- Minutes of the November Church Council Meeting – approved as presented.
- Pastor's Report – approved as presented.
- Minister to Youth & Families – approved as presented.
- Final November Financial Reports were passed out and approved as printed.
- Time/Date for next Council meeting will be on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

### Discussion Agenda:

Membership Review Committee – no report  
By-Laws Review Committee – Fern & Connie made the changes to the 'draft' of the current by-laws. The committee will be meeting in January 2026.

Audit Committee – Barb reported that the audit committee is continuing to meet to audit the financial records for 2025.

Personnel Review Committee – They will meet with the staff for evaluations before the February 2026 council meeting.

Leadership Development Committee – no report

Properties Committee – Research will be done to possibly install a digital sign somewhere in front of the church. Properties will discuss this further and get more information. Bruce has the 'can' house that was by CVS Pharmacy (now Tilted Skillet). He will repair it and place it by the shed for the aluminum cans we collect.

Safety Committee – New cameras are all installed and working properly.

Finance Committee – Verbage for the Legacy Fund Committee was presented and approved by the church council to place in the newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Election of council officers: President – Fern Dewert; Vice President – BJ Cooper; Recording Secretary – Connie Thompson. Motion was made and approved for these new officers for 2026.

Committee Choices for 2026 – Fern asked each council member to mark a 1, 2 & 3 next to a standing committee for possibly being a liaison to the group for 2026. Committee assignments will be made at the next council meeting.

Open Discussion/Announcements – Fern would like a 'core' group of people to help with setting up and taking down the Christmas decorations in each area of the church (sanctuary tree, sanctuary garland hanging, nativity sets in upper commons, etc.)

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

- Connie Thompson, Recording Secretary (approved by the Church Council on January 19, 2026.)



*Thank you!*

## Thank You to January Volunteers

Zion Church acknowledges and appreciates the work done by the following volunteers for the month of January.

Liturgists: Sallie Hancox, Alan Klobasa, Jane Ridder

Special Music for Worship: Kirk Hancox, Chancel Choir

Ushers: Maxine Harrison, Connie Thompson, Wayne Bean, Bruce Templar

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Dan Mossoney, Carol Rohrbach

Greeters: Bill & Fern Dewert, Alan & Sharon TenEyck, Sue Straatmann, Gail Mefford

Sound System Tech: Ken Rohrbach

Camera Techs: David Bean, Dan Mossoney

Newsletter Helpers: Ken Rohrbach, Candy Ronsick, Kirk Hancox, Karen Tucker, Maxine Harrison, Donna Bocklage

## Church Attendance from December

Dec. 7 – 106

Dec. 14 – 109

Dec. 21 – 140

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – 188

Dec. 28 – 87

## Faith Quest/Adult Education Attendance from December

Dec. 7 – 13 (youth)

Dec. 14 – 19 (youth)

Dec. 21 – 5 (youth)

Dec. 28 – N/A

## 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.

## Prayers Requested

### Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring  
Carolyn Donoho  
Brenda Viehland  
Kevin Vorderbruegge  
Hettie Becker  
Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)  
Anne Parker (at Aspen Valley Fox Crest in Washington)  
Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzsville)  
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)  
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)  
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)  
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)  
Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)  
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)  
Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth)  
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)  
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)  
Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)  
Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)  
Hallie Sammett (friend of Brenda Viehland)

### Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter  
Susie Andell  
Jake McNiel (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)  
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)



## Memorial Gifts Given

In loving memory of **Devin Lause** (husband of Krista [Doehring] Lause) for Zion Good Samaritan Fund by:

Colleen Simons

In loving memory of **Skip Buehrle** by:

For Zion Building & Property Fund: Vicki Hooper, Dan Mossoney, Sandy Stierberger, Linda Kroeter, Ruth Parker, Gale Claggett, Ken & Carol Rohrbach, Bill & Fern Dewert, Kevin & Lori Koelling, Harvey & Gail Mefford, Jim & Bonnie Vemmer, Ron & Pam Griffin, Kirk & Sallie Hancox, Daryl & Ann Hartley, Maxine Harrison, Barbara Cox, Debby & Eddie Koelling, Matt & Brenda Herring, Armin & Norma Klemme, Bruce Templar, Gary & Kathy Reed, Donna Bocklage, Sue Leicht, Alan & Sharon TenEyck, Gerard & Susan Straatmann, Bill Walker, Tom & Gayle Williams, Brenda Viehland, Bernice Holtgreve, Gary & Karen Stafford, Dorothy Mitana, Rudy & Darlene Ahmann, Arlene Hogan, Jim Doehring & Krista Lause & families, William & Susan Hercules, Boyle & Teresa Rodes, Nancy & Dennis Kossmann, Marsha & Dale Scharfenberg, Joan Buehrle, Charlie & Donna Augustine, Gerald & Mary Kneemiller, Marvin & Diana Bolzenius, Herbert & Tina Brueggemann, David & Ruth Klenke, J.D. & Susan Schuenemeyer, Matthew & Jennifer Kroeter, Dale & Connie Schmuke, Gary & Michelle Kohler, Dennis & Gina Peters, Tyler & Kimberly Blankenship, Randy & Debbie Klenke, Kenneth Rinne, Jimmy & Connie Rinne, Scott & Sarah Sullentrup, Allen & Patsy Klenke, (cont. on pg. 10)

Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)  
 Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)  
 Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)  
 Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)  
 Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)  
 Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyliss Fink)

**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)

*With Sympathy*

We join in the sorrow of the family and friends of our fellowship who are experiencing the grief that death brings.

**Kevin V. Kasmann**, 67, died on January 8, 2026. Funeral service for Kevin was held on January 10, 2026, by Rev. Knoblauch. Burial was in Zion Cemetery.

**Betty L. Zumwalt**, 90, died on January 18, 2026.. Funeral service for Betty was held at Zion Church on January 22, 2026 by Rev. Knoblauch with burial in Midlawn Cemetery.

**Notes to Zion**

Zion Church Family,

Thank you to Pastor Nick for his visits and beautiful service. Thanks also to the ladies that helped in the kitchen for the luncheon, those that brought food, sent cards and the phone calls in memory of our loved one Skip.

Your thoughtfulness has reminded us of the love that surrounds us.

-The Skip Buehrle family

+ + + +

Dear Zion Friends,

Thank you for all the ways you make this world a brighter one, and for your latest donation. Thank you for another donation of \$401. Your support means so much to our pantry.

- Union Food Pantry

+ + + +

Dear Zion Friends,

You may have noticed that Carla’s aunt, Marilyn Fish, has been on Zion’s prayer list for several months. Over this period of time Marilyn’s health has improved so dramatically that we recently asked Connie to remove her name from the list. We are very grateful for Marilyn’s healing and we want to thank you for your prayers on her behalf.

- Carla Kilgore & Alan Klobasa

<b>Financial Report for December 2025</b>		
	Dec. 2025	Year to Date (YTD)
Income	\$60,996.00	\$391,908.00
Expenses	\$22,723.00	\$375,542.00
Our Church’s Wider Mission (given YTD) - \$10,518.00		
Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries (given YTD) – \$2,106.00		
Detailed financial reports are available by contacting the church office. Thank you.		

Buehrle Memorials (cont.)

Carrie Maune, Michael & Gloria Brinker, Michelle Fink, Michael & Jennifer Klenke, Lori Clark, Ramona Schuenemeyer, Brenda & Garry Kruse, Beverly Duer, Mark & Mary Schroepfer, Ann & Douglas Straatmann, Sharon Ingram, The Iron Horse Roadhouse, Ted & Chris Ingram, Ellen & Tim Ascheman, Rudy & Darlene Ahmann, Arlene Hogan, Jim Doehring & Krista Lause & families, Colleen Simons, Denise Franke & family, Charles & Beth Brandhorst; Good Samaritan Fund: Gerry Hoelscher, Marilyn Freiermuth, Debbie Sieve

**Honorary Gifts Given**

An anonymous gift was given to honor the staff of Zion United Church of Christ. The donation was given to the General (Operating) Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission & Chicago-United-Eden Seminaries.

*Christmas Gifts Given*

Poinsettia donation:

In memory of Albert & Erna Berger by Paul Berger & Sherry Myers.

Benevolent donation:

In memory of Albert & Erna Berger by Paul Berger & Sherry Myers.

In honor of our family by Carl & Jane Ridder.

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/ Communion</b>  Souper Bowl of Caring	<b>2</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12 Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 9 am Help Thyself Meal Comm. 6 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>6</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Souper Bowl of Caring 10 am Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Finance	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Called to Care 12 Loops of Love 5:00 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	<b>13</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> 10 am Zion Congregational Mtg.	<b>16</b> 7 pm Church Council	<b>17</b> 1:30 pm Book Club 5-6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	<b>18</b> 12 Loops of Love <b>6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	<b>20</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>21</b> 11 am-2 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
<b>22</b> <b>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 10 am Green Team	<b>23</b> 6-8 pm Fellowship Hall in use	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> 12 Loops of Love 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	<b>27</b> 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	<b>28</b>



- 20 - Pat Buehrle  
Les Snodgrass  
Tessa Oltmann
- 21 - Hadley Heaton  
Susan Merlino
- 22 - Suzanne Barreth  
Sarah Vondracek
- 23 - Cheryl Baker
- 24 - Bryan Williams  
Gale Claggett
- 25 - Tim Kolb
- 26 - Austin Toelke  
Alec Sullentrup
- 28 - Dustin Overschmidt

## February Birthdays

- 1 - Rod Starling  
Kim Lutz
- 3 - Andrea Ingle  
Jackten Copeland
- 4 - Anne Parker  
Richard Young
- 5 - Shawn Robinson
- 6 - Adelaide Narup
- 9 - Megan Soetebier
- 11 - David Sutton  
Melinda Gerstner
- 12 - Carol Pope  
Vickie Johanpeter
- 13 - Mike Elliott  
Kara Hall
- 14 - Billy Beckmann  
Faith Groenke
- 15 - Kristi Hargrove
- 16 - Gary Schulte
- 17 - Samantha Blankenship  
Ruth Cantrell
- 19 - Jenny Whisenand

## March Birthdays

- 2 - Carol Whisenand
- 3 - Paul Berger  
Sandy Breitenbach
- 4 - Jim Doehring  
Eddy Koelling  
Shirley Truel  
Abigail Wilson  
Abigail Dewert
- 5 - Susan Newman
- 6 - Jennifer Hawkins
- 7 - Mandy Frick  
Ramah Fitzgerald
- 8 - Jenna Klenke Galbreath  
Samantha Williams  
Owen Mertz
- 10 - Gary Toelke