

# Epiphany

January 11, 2026

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Brightest and Best”* Rasley

Call to Worship

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...

**God is here.**

Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...

**God is here.**

Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...

**God is here.**

Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.

**God is here.**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of starlight, every part of us is trying to seek you: our bodies that carried us into this space, our heads bowed in prayer, our hearts that keep whispering, “There is more than just this.” We are seeking you. Like a dog looking for its owner, who will search the whole house—under beds, behind doors, in every corner of every room until their person is found—we are turning over every rock and leaf looking for fingerprints that belong to you. Meet us halfway. Find us in the maze. Quiet the rest of the world. Open the door to us with rich laughter and say, “Come on in!” We know you’re near, so know that it’s you we seek. Find us in these words. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

Ephesians 3:1-12 NRSVUE

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

**Thanks be to God!**

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

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of starlight, we know that faith isn’t a vending machine. Good news can’t be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Friends, I have nothing but good news. Since the very first day, God has taken the pieces of our hearts that we have offered up and has said, “I can work with that.” Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love. No matter what star you’ve followed, no matter how far you’ve walked, no matter how lost you got— you belong to God. God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you. End of story.  
**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](http://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

**Gracious God, from whom all good gifts flow, we offer you our thanks and praise. Bless our ministry and the gifts we dedicate to you in the building of your Kingdom, which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto You. Amen.**

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

*“If We Will Seek the Lord”*  
Chancel Choir

Besig

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.**

+ Closing Hymn No. 502

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*“What Star Is This?”*

Ritter

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Today's Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession Liturgy and Pastoral Prayer come from the Generation to Generation Words for Worship Advent through Epiphany. The Liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. sanctifiedart.org

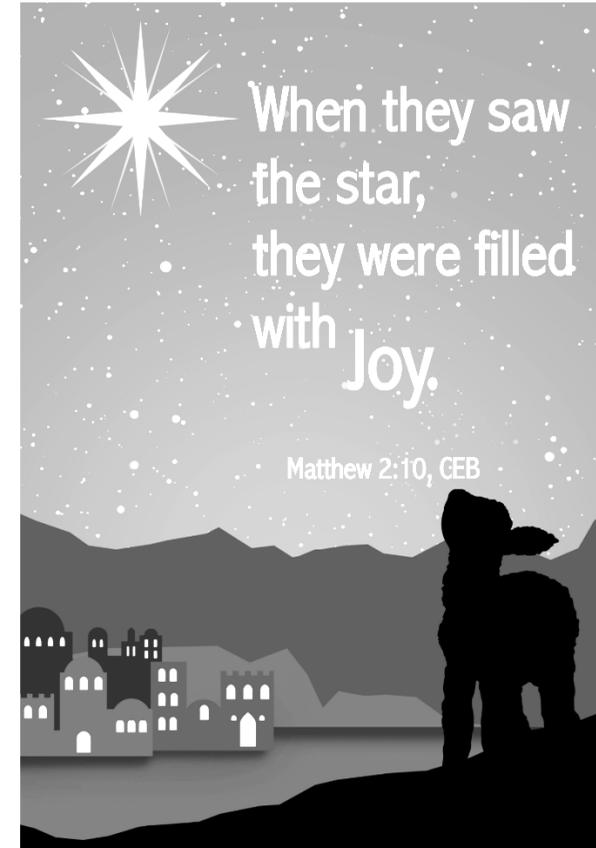
**We commit ourselves...**

**to worship God**

**to form faithful followers of Jesus**

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

*We care as Christ cares.*



+ Epiphany +

January 11, 2026 + 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

# JANUARY 11, 2026

## Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alan Klobasa

Ushers: Maxine Harrison & Connie Thompson     Greeters: Alan & Sharon TenEyck

Sound Tech: Ken Rohrbach     Camera 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.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** are now available in the upper commons. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like either weekly or monthly, please contact the church office.

**"These Days" devotionals for January-February-March** are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

**Volunteers Needed to Take Down Christmas Decorations – This Morning** – Volunteers are needed to help take down Christmas decorations following the morning worship service this morning. It typically takes about an hour to decorate the church. Thank you!

## On Our List For Prayers

### **Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzen	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker	Sarah Berghorn	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)	
Anne Parker (at Aspen Valley Fox Crest in Washington)		Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living, Wentsville)	
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 Hooper)		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	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
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)
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)

## Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

**This Morning** - Intergenerational Sunday School - all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

**Next Sun., Jan. 18** – All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; *Faith Quest* – preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

## Adult Education

**This Morning** – JOY Adult Class meets from 10-11 a.m. in the lower level classroom.

### Church Calendar – January 11, 2026 to January 18, 2026

<b>Today -</b>	<b>Baptism of Christ</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Christmas decorations will be taken down</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Green Team (chapel)</b>
<b>Wed., Jan. 14 -</b>	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
<b>Thurs., Jan. 15 -</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
<b>Fri., Jan. 16 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Sat., Jan. 17 -</b>	10:00 a.m. Lower Commons Classroom in use
<b>Next Sun., Jan. 18 -</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Zion Cemetery Association Congregational Meeting</b> <b>4:00 p.m. Zion Fellowship Family Game Night (fellowship hall)</b>

**Newsletter Articles Due – Mon., Jan. 12** – Articles for the February 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

**Zion Cemetery Association Congregational Meeting – Next Sun., Jan. 18** – The Zion Cemetery Association Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 18, 2026, in the sanctuary following the morning worship service. The agenda will include election of new Zion Cemetery Board members and a review of the financial statement of the Zion Cemetery from 2025.

**Zion Fellowship Family Game Night – Next Sun., Jan. 18** – Zion Fellowship will be hosting a 'Family Game Night' and Soup Supper on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4 p.m. (supper at 5:30 p.m.) Everyone is invited to come and to bring your favorite game to play.

**Zion Book Club – Tues., Jan. 20** – Zion Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday afternoon, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. The book the group will be discussing is "*The Measure*" by Nikki Erlick.

**2025 Annual Reports Due - Wed., Jan. 21** – 2025 Annual Report articles are due in the church office by Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Meditative Drum Circle – Wed., Jan. 21** – All are invited to join in a Meditative Drum Circle on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration – Sun., Jan. 25** – East Central College & Neighbors United Undoing Racism will present "*A Long Talk*" with guest speaker Kyle R. Williams on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. in the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center at ECC. All are invited.

**A Request from the Quilters** – Zion Quilters are asking if you or anyone you know has quilts that need to be quilted to please contact the church office or one of the quilters. 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!

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)