

The 1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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 *“The Lord’s My Shepherd”* Shackleton

Call to Worship

Open the gates, for on one side of Jerusalem, a grand parade of Rome brings the pomp and circumstance of power and prestige to the streets for the Passover Feast.

Open the gates, for on the other side of Jerusalem, a humble procession enters the city among the lives of the Jewish poor and marginalized.

Entering through the gates, we ride in on horses with the powerful armor of Rome, bind the festal procession with power. Let the feast begin!

Entering through the gates, Jesus comes riding on a donkey and the crowd binds the festal procession by laying down palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna!”

Open to us the gates of God and together we will proclaim, “Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Matthew 21:1–11 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 265 *“All Glory, Laud and Honor”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times, we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsession with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

The good news of God this day is this: This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. For on this day, God has entered into our lives with love and compassion for all who surrender and lay down their lives in Christ. Friends, you are loved. You are embraced. You are forgiven.
Praise 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

O God of Welcome and Waving Palms, as the crowd offered to you their praise and the palms on the road, so we share these gifts out of the abundance you have provided. May they be for the healing salvation and work of justice you are bringing about in the world through your unending love. Amen and Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 21:12–17 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Still, Still With Thee”

Beck

Kirk Hancox, soloist

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. 257

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Postlude in D”

Couperin

Today’s liturgy was written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott who serves as the Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/palm-passion-a-april-2/>

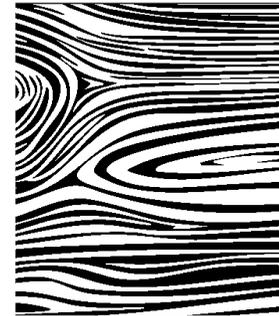
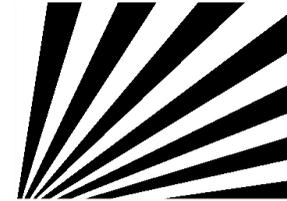
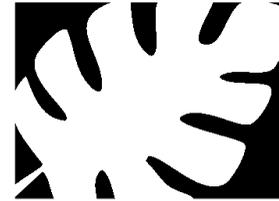
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



**“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

Matthew 21:9b NRSVue

**+ The 1st Sunday in Lent +
February 22, 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

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Matt Herring
Ushers: Paul & Shanna Brinker Greeter: Marilyn Freiermuth
Sound Tech: Dan Mossoney 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.

Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds - Bring in canned goods and toiletries now through March 29th to help us build the 'Lenten Labyrinth that Feeds'. Items will be donated to the Union Food Pantry and the Little Free Pantry.

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	Melva Puls	
Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzville)	
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)		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)	
Sophia Muller (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Denise Muller)			

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Dan Mossoney & family on the death of his mother, Carol Mossoney, who died on February 7.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Susie Andell	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyllis Fink)
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)	

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)

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; **Faith Quest** - preschool through 6th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

UCC Climate Hope Contest - The 2026 UCC Climate Hope Poster Contest theme is "A Future with Hope". The theme comes from Jeremiah 29:11. Kids and youth can submit their art from February 6 through March 20. Pick up the art form from the church office. There will be winners from each age category and the final winning art will serve as the logo for UCC Climate Hope advocacy work through 2026.

Adult Education

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

Church Calendar – February 22, 2026 to March 1, 2026

Today -	The 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Green Team
Mon., Feb. 23 -	6:00-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Wed., Feb. 25 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Feb. 26 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons)
Fri., Feb. 27 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Mar. 1 -	The 2nd Sunday in Lent/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Lenten Book Study - During Lent, Rev Nick will be focusing on the days of Holy Week. Each week, we will explore a different day of the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. For those who wish to go deeper, there is a weekly book study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Lower Commons. It will be a book study on *"The Last Week: A Day by day account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem"* by John D. Corssan and Marcus Borg. If you are interested but the time doesn't work, please email Rev Nick, and we can set up a Zoom meeting in the evenings. The book study will continue through April 2nd.

Zion Cemetery Clean Up – Mar. 1-10 – Spring clean-up at the Zion Cemetery will be from March 1st to March 10th. Please remove any items you may want to keep before these dates and they may be placed back after March 10th.

Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser – Fri., Mar. 6 – Mark your calendars for the Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser presented by the Grape Cluster of UCC Churches. The event will be on Friday, March 6th at St. Peter's UCC in Washington. Doors open at 6 p.m. and first question is at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Sign up to be on a Zion team at the lower commons bulletin board. Silent Auction items are needed! Contact Alysha apetry@zionunion.org to donate items or if you have any questions.

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814)

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