

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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 "Fantasia on 'Forest Green'" Smith

Call to Worship (*Micah 6:6-8 NRSVUE*)

With what shall we come before God and bow ourselves before God on high?

Shall we come before the Holy One with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will God be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rams of oil?

Shall we give our firstborn for our transgression, the fruit of our bodies for the sin of our souls?

God has told us, fellow mortals, what is good and what is required of us.

But to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy One, you aren't just good, you are The Good. We welcome Your goodness in any way that it desires to manifest throughout this time of worship. May something be preached, prayed, or sung that changes us for good, and for good. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Matthew 4:12-22 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 569

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, when we do good, challenges are ever-present. Sometimes, the challenges can be overwhelming, and so we're tempted to retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember all that you do for our good so that we can go forth and do the same. Amen.

Words of Grace

In the beginning, God looked at all that was created and called creation "good". In this moment of a new beginning, let us give thanks for the grace that enables us to be doers of good, no matter the challenges we face. By the grace of God, we are forgiven and free!

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

Good God, may these good offerings be used to get up to good trouble for the liberation of us all. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 4:23-5:12 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

SUNDAY NEWS

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Karen Stafford

Ushers: Daryl Hartley & Harvey Mefford Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder
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.

Souper Bowl of Caring - Youth will be collecting monetary donations for the Annual Souper Bowl of Caring for the Union Food Pantry and the Little Free Food Pantry this morning.

2025 Annual Reports & Bylaw Changes are available on the table in the upper commons. Please take ONE copy of each per family.

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)		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)		Sophia Muller (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Denise Muller)	

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

Next Sun., Feb. 15 - 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 8, 2026 to February 15, 2026

Today -	The 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)
Mon., Feb. 9 -	6:30 p.m. Finance Committee (classroom)
Wed., Feb. 11 -	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)
Thurs., Feb. 12 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., Feb. 13 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Feb. 15 -	Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting (sanctuary)

March 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter articles due – Thurs., Feb. 12 – Articles for the March 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Thursday, February 12th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, February 18th at 10 a.m.

Congregational Meeting – Next Sun., Feb. 15 – The February Congregational Meeting will be next Sunday, February 15th following the worship service in the sanctuary.

Zion Book Club – Tues., Feb. 17 – Zion Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday afternoon, February 17th at 1:30 p.m. The book the group will be discussing is "*A Single Thread*" by Marie Bostwick.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Tues., Feb. 17 – Everyone is invited to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17th from 5-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A freewill donation will be collected for the Camp Scholarship Fund.

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 will be a weekly book study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. beginning February 19th 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.

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.

For Sale by Quilters! – In the lower commons the Zion Quilters have a full size afghan for sale for \$75. If you are interested in purchasing this afghan please contact Gail Mefford at 636-584-5932. Thank you!

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!