

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Looking Toward the Cross" Smith

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17*)

The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

God has been with us from generation to generation.

We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Matthew 21:18-27 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 84 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, forgive us for the paths we seek that steer us away from you. We confess that we have embraced animosity over understanding, self-righteousness over grace, hopelessness over empowered action. Demonstrate the power of love to us anew. Help us to be loving agents of your kin-dom for your glory and the restoration of the world. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, know that your path evolves and the Creator cuts through the wilderness to make the rough ways smooth. The Holy One is Companion and Guide gently and firmly encouraging us to the path of righteous love, justice, and peace.

We are forgiven. 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.

+ 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

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kin-dom through generosity. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Matthew 22:15-46 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.**

MATTHEW 22:39

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March 1, 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

MARCH 1, 2026

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: Phyliss Fink

Ushers: Donna Bocklage & John Crane Greeters: Jeff & Denise Muller

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Alan & Sharon TenEyck

Sound Tech: Jason Dewert Camera Tech: Blake & Camden Dewert

(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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - During March, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which helps when disasters strike globally. OGHS provides immediate relief when needed during disasters. Offering envelopes are in the March newsletter and are also available by the offering plate.

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.

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
Brenda Viehland
Hettie Becker
Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)
S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)
Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth)
Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)
Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)
Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)
Sophia Muller (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Denise Muller)

Phyllis Olson
Kim Yenzen
Sarah Berghorn

Carolyn Donoho
Kevin Vorderbruegge
Melva Puls (at Americare Union Pointe in Union)
Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzville)
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)
Hallie Sammett (friend of Brenda Viehland)

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Virginia Maune & family on the death of her sister Frieda Conway who died on February 18th.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter
Susie Andell
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)
Allen Coffman (friend of Shawn Pehle)
Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)
Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)

Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyliss Fink)
Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)
Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)
Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Monty McGavock (brother of Kathy Young)

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.

Next Sun., Mar. 8 – Intergenerational Sunday School - all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. It is also 'Camp Sunday' so dress in your favorite pajamas or camp t-shirt!

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 – March 1, 2026 to March 8, 2026

Today -	The 2nd Sunday in Lent/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
Wed., Mar. 4 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Mar. 5 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons) 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Mar. 6 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Sat., Mar. 7 -	3:00-9:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Mar. 8 -	The 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)

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.

Daylight Savings Time – Next Sun., Mar. 8 – Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 8th. Spring forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Camp Sunday – Next Sun., Mar. 8 – Next Sunday is Camp Sunday. Dress down in your pajamas or favorite camp t-shirt.

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!

CASA is looking for volunteers - CASA of Midwest 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 will begin mid April with an *application deadline of April 1st*. To APPLY, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit www.casamidwestmo.org or call 636-583-4422.