

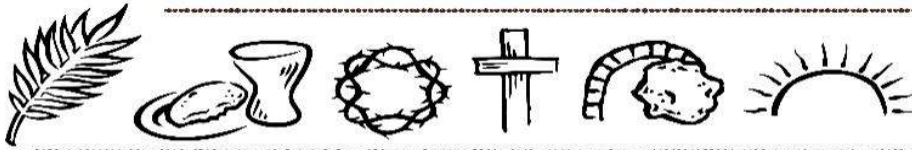
The Spirit of Zion

Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri



April 2026

No. 4



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026
9:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026
6:30 p.m. Worship/Communion/Foot Washing

Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt for children following
the worship service.

(See page 5 for more information.)

Good Friday

April 3, 2026
6:30 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026
9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
“Living Cross” Easter video presentation will be part of
the morning worship service.

A LOGOS Reminder!

There will be **NO** LOGOS
during Holy Week
(Wednesday, April 1st.) The
last day for LOGOS – until
the fall - will be on
Wednesday, April 8th.

Serving Christ In April

Ushers:

April 5 & 12

Sandy Stierberger,
Jim Vemmer*

April 19 & 26

Brad Parker,
Connie Thompson*

(*designates Head Usher)

Greeters:

April 19 – Marilyn Freiermuth

April 26 – Kevin Vorderbruegge

Sound System Tech: David
Bean

Camera Techs:

April 5 & 12 – Dan Mossoney

2026 Easter Offering Camp MoVal

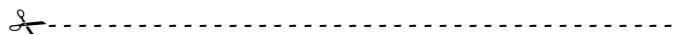
The Outreach Team has designated that donations received for the 2026 Easter Offering will be donated to Camp MoVal. On September 30, 1962, Camp MoVal was formally dedicated as a camp and conference center. Rev. Stevesand and the members of Zion played an important role in the development of this new camp site. Camp MoVal features more than 150

Christ Is Risen!
CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED
Alleluia

acres of beautiful forests, native prairie, natural streams, and a lake. Summer programs offer weekly overnight camp experiences for children, youth, and families. Some weeks offer a “classic” camp program, and others have special themes to focus the activities. Spring and fall seasons provide opportunity for church groups, ecumenical partners, and other community and corporate groups to use the facilities for self-directed retreats and gatherings, with limited program support from camp staff. Throughout the year, Camp MoVal also hosts Conference-sponsored weekend programs, including Conference Youth Events, Confirmation Retreats, and Women’s Retreats.

In 2021, Missouri Mid-South Conference engaged in a discernment process that renewed Conference-wide commitment to the ministry of Camp MoVal. The resulting five-year redevelopment plan is intended to help focus strategic efforts in the areas of site improvement, programming, and leadership.

Easter offering envelopes are available in the offering boxes and additional envelopes will be available on the table by the offering plate.



Easter Lilies or Benevolent Gifts

For those who would like to share an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one, the

cost will be \$18 per plant. You may also give a monetary donation for the Little Free Pantry/Union Food Pantry.

_____ Easter Lily or _____ Benevolent Gift

In Memory of or In Honor of: (circle one)

Given by: _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, March 29th or call the church office.

Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt Thursday, April 2nd

Bring your children/grandchildren to the Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt following the Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 2nd. If you plan to attend, please contact Alysha Petry at 636-583-2814 or apetry@zionunion.org. Remember to have them bring their Easter basket.



“The Living Cross”

All are invited to bring a flower (fresh or artificial) to place on the cross as you enter the sanctuary in the upper commons before the 9 a.m.

worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5th. During the service the Faith Quest children’s Easter presentation video will be shared.

After the service the cross will be placed outside for the community to enjoy!

Eastern Association Spring Meeting - Sunday, April 19th

Zion will be hosting the Eastern Association Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 19th, from 2-5 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the meeting in person and on Zoom.

The theme of the meeting is “*Understanding Missouri Ballot Initiatives*” which will include a panel discussion on the issues coming to your ballot. A flyer is posted on the lower commons bulletin board for more information.

Earth Day Work Day at Camp MoVal - Saturday, April 25 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Come join other volunteers from around the Missouri Mid-South Conference as we do various jobs around camp to get it ready for the summer. Equipment and lunch will be provided. If you have specific skills, please let us know!

We need to know who’s coming so we can plan for lunch. Please RSVP to Alysha Petry (apetry@zionunion.org) by April 20.

Sponsored by the Grape Cluster of the Eastern Association



Beloved Zion,

Holy Week always surprises me. Despite the familiarity with the readings and rituals, year after year something always surprises me. Some part of the story sticks out. Some newness in the services catches me off guard. Something in the office goes haywire. Maybe it's a song, or a prayer, or someone pulling me aside and telling me something deeply personal and moving. Sometimes it's the way the light shines in through the stain glass windows in the late afternoon, as I prepare for service long before anyone arrives. Dust suspended in the air. The low rumble of vehicles driving by. The occasional shout of joy from the elementary playground. From the shouts of hosanna, to the silence of candlelight something always surprises me.

The beauty of Holy Week, is how much of life it covers. Celebration and grief, triumph and tragedy, friendship, betrayal, meals with loved ones, stories that last a life time. It's about life, and death, the way things are, and dreaming about what could be. During Holy Week, Jesus' passion is on full display. The way he lives, the way he loves, the way he remains committed to the way the entire time. As we have been slowly trudging through holy week, day by day throughout Lent, as we turn our calendars this year to April, and enter the heart of holy week, I hope that it surprises you. I hope it catches you off guard. I hope it awakens a deep sense of awe and wonder. Or uncovers a deep well of hope you forgot about after all these years. I hope the Spirit catches you in such a way that you will never be the same again. But if it doesn't. If you aren't surprised. If the week comes and goes and not much has changed, I hope that it confirms for you that you are on the right path. That all the decisions that you have made throughout your life, that have led you from where you were to where you are now, confirm to you, that you are exactly where you need to be.

So, as we order lilies, make plans for Easter dinner, or decide to keep things quiet and simple this year, may the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you now more than ever.

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

Appointments upon request:

Church Office (636) 583-2814
or sending an email.

Worship Opportunities In April

9:00 a.m. Worship

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Service

6:30 p.m.

Worship/Communion

Friday, April 3 Good Friday Service

6:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, April 12 The 2nd Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational
Sunday School

Sunday, April 19 The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 26 The 4th Sunday of Easter

**HOPE
LIVES
BECAUSE
JESUS
LIVES.**



Silent Auction of Church Inventory

Zion will be having a Silent Auction in April. Details are listed below:

Why: Reduce excess inventory of church items

When: April 19 through April 27 until 4:30 p.m. (Bidding on Sunday mornings or during regular office hours.)

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: No longer needed kitchen items, paint, Arlo security cameras, miscellaneous items from the attic.

Highest bidders will be notified on April 21st.

Cash or check only

Pick Up Times: Wednesday, April 29th from 1:30-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 30th from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Questions? Contact Darlene Ahmann at 636-667-3745.

Zion Fellowship – April 2026

On Friday, March 6, several people attended the Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser at St. Peter's UCC, in Washington. We had almost 4 full tables of people from Zion. Questions started at 7 p.m. The cost was \$25 per person/table of 8. It was a fun evening, with the main topic being "Route 66". There also were several silent auction items.

No event has been planned for April. Watch the weekly bulletins and the bulletin board in the lower commons for activity announcements. Contact Fern D. or Jane R. if you have any suggestions.

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

Missouri Mid-South Conference Women's Retreat at Camp MoVal

Register for the 2026 Conference Women's Retreat at Camp MoVal. The theme this year is "Be Still and Know".

The event is May 1-3. Check in begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the camp welcome center. Friday evening program begins at 7:00 p.m. in the fireside room.

Registration is available for the full weekend (\$170) or day-only (\$80). If you sign up for the day only option you are invited to all activities including the Friday evening program.

Contact Alysha with any questions.

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.

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 at the top right corner of the page a "Donate" button. Just follow the easy to navigate instructions!

Kid & Youth

APRIL 2026

NEWS

Join us for the
LAST LOGOS NIGHT
of the program year on **APRIL 8.**

*There will be **NO LOGOS** on **APRIL 1,**
this is not a joke.*

Join us for an evening of **FUN GAMES!**
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.



NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter, **APRIL 5**

Faith Quest

Meet in Bible Max Theatre

Ages 3 to 1st grade

2nd grade – 6th Grade

Middle/High School

Meet in the Senior High/Middle School Room

7th – 12th grade Youth

(For Youth Confirmed and Not Confirmed)

Intergenerational Sunday School

2nd 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.*



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Shrove
Tuesday Pancake Supper. We served 53 plates and collected
\$404.00 for Camp Scholarships. A big thank you to all who
donated food and their time!!!

Volunteers: Amy, Abbie, and Jason Dewert, Sutton Birke,
Phyliss Fink, Elsie & Jacob Saake, Teddy Orf, and
George & McKenna Gerstner

Donations: Carl & Jane Ridder for their sausage donation, and
Phyliss Fink for donating juice, milk, fruit cups, and syrup.



The Living Cross **Easter Sunday** **April 5**

A fun tradition for all!

Bring a flower to place on the cross as
you enter the sanctuary in the upper
commons before the 9 AM service.

During the service we will get to enjoy a
photo video presentation of the Easter
Story by the Faith Quest children.

After the service the cross will be placed
outside for the community to enjoy!

JESUS is the LIGHT

GLOW in the DARK

EASTER EGG HUNT

Following the 6:30 PM **Maundy Thursday Service** **APRIL 2**

Please let us know if you plan to attend by
emailing Alysha at apetry@zionunion.org
BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET



2026 Camp MoVal Schedule

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Register at 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</u>	
		<u>Camp</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
		<u>Discount</u>	<u>Full Price</u>
High School Camp (completed 8 th -12 th grade)	June 21-26	\$ 270.00	\$682.00
Family Camp (All Ages)	June 28-July 2	\$ 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.

Thank You to March Volunteers

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

Liturgists: Matthew Herring, Phyliss Fink, Alysha Petry, Gil Bisjak

Special Music for Worship: Chancel Choir, Kirk Hancox

Ushers: Donna Bocklage, John Crane, Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller

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

Greeters: Jeff & Denise Muller, Carl & Jane Ridder, Ken & Carol Rohrbach, Linda Kinworthy, Bill & Fern Dewert

Sound System Tech: Jason Dewert

Camera Techs: Blake & Camden Dewert

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

“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. Enjoy!

APRIL

Zion United Church of Christ
 115 S. Washington Ave.
 Union, MO 63084
 636-583-2814
www.zionunion.org
9:00 a.m. Worship
 (No Childcare)
 Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor
 (knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com)
 Fern Dewert, Church Council President
 Connie Thompson, Adm. Assistant
 (cthompson@zionunion.org)
 Alysha Petry, Minister to
 Youth & Families
 (apetry@zionunion.org)
 Mandy Frick, Coordinator of
 Elementary Youth
 Karen Stafford, Music Director
 (kstafford1985@gmail.com)
 Brenda Herring, Church Organist
 Joy Bradley, Church Custodian



Notes from the Music Director

So many different calendar years! Some of us live in the January-January year. Others live on a school calendar that

fully starts in September. We live on a church calendar year that begins at Advent, but we also have a church activity calendar year that parallels the school year.

Easter was a day of rebirth, so that, too, is a kind of New Year. It's also a sign of an ending: nearing the end of our church activity year, preparing for the casual comfort of summer.

Our choir activity year will end in May, but that means plenty of opportunities for special moments. I'm not going to call it special music anymore. At a recent Worship Arts meeting, we discussed how "Arts" has, for the past few years, encompassed only music. Like everything else, COVID and the passing of time have whittled away some presentations Zion used to have: art in the narthex, liturgical dancing, Reader's Theater, or short skits.

As I begin to consider our summer offerings, as always, I welcome the congregation's input. Do you know a small group of people who might want to put on a skit? Do a liturgical dance? Offer something special musically? We know they would be welcomed and appreciated. Our congregation is so loving in that way.

I hope your Easter will be (or was if you get this after Easter!) blessed and joyous.

Karen



Green Team Events in April

April 22 is Earth Day. First held in 1970, Earth Day is an opportunity for all of us to learn, reflect, and act on behalf of this

planet, our home. As Christians, we also remember our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.

The Green Team will participating in several Earth Day events this month. Come join us!

- **Earth Day at East Central College – Saturday, April 11, 11 am-1 pm Shook Student Center**
Come explore interactive exhibits by college and community groups – animals, photography, bone identification, crafts, and much more.
- **Eco-Resources Display – Sundays, April 19 and 26, before and after worship**
Green Team members will be displaying some of the many sustainable and/or recycled products that can help you in your journey to be a mindful consumer and faithful steward of Earth's resources.
- **Earth Day Work Day at MoVal – Saturday, April 25, 8:30 am-4:30 pm**
This event is sponsored by the Grape Cluster of the Eastern Association. More information is on page 2 of the newsletter.

We also encourage you to take advantage of upcoming environmental and recycling events in the area:

- Register March 16-April 16 for the **2026 Callery Pear Tree Buyback Program** with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Participants are invited to cut down one or more Callery pear trees (also known as Bradford pear) on their properties and receive a free native tree. Trees can be picked up on April 21 at more than 20 locations around Missouri. Register and find more information at www.moinvasives.org/pear-buyback
- Union's **Electronic Recycling Event** will be held on Friday, April 3, from 8am-noon at the city of Union Maintenance Shed (202 W. Brown Street). Acceptable items: basically anything that has a cord or battery (working or not). There are fees for some items. For more information, go to www.unionmissouri.gov and go to the "Latest News" page (or check their page on Facebook).

As always, get in the habit of recycling everything you can! We collect steel and aluminum cans at church and at the Can House (now at the car wash across from Sonic). We also collect batteries and Styrofoam.

Besides recycling, consider how you can use less of the earth's resources, especially single-use plastic. Say no to straws. Tell the restaurant that you don't need plastic utensils with your meal or leftovers. Carry your own containers for leftovers. Get in the habit of taking bags with you when you're shopping and reduce the number of plastic bags you use. Use a refillable water bottle instead of buying bottles of water. These may seem like little things, but they do make a difference!

SAVE THE DATE!

Shannondale Open House - Saturday, May 23 - Zion's Green Team is planning a Field Trip to Shannondale on Saturday, May 23, for the Grand Opening of the new Craft House. Tours of Shannondale will be offered, and lunch will be available. Watch for more information in the May newsletter!

- Jeanne Lischer, on behalf of
Zion's Green Team

Zion UCC Congregational Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2026

Zion UCC Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Church Council President Fern Dewert called the meeting to order and Rev. Knoblauch gave the opening prayer.

Minutes of the November 2025 Congregational Meeting were mistakenly not included in the 2025 Annual Report. They were approved by the church council in December 2025, published in the monthly newsletter and posted on the church council bulletin board. Motion was made and approved by those present at the meeting to approve and accept the minutes of the November 2025 Congregational Meeting that were previously published.

Reports of the committees, ministry teams and organizations were approved as printed in the 2025 annual report.

A correction was made to the beginning balance of the Building & Property Designated Fund. The balance on 1/1/2025 should be \$48,539.71. A correction was made to the General (Operating) Fund. A transfer of \$14,000 for the Clergy-Congregational Renewal was made from the General (Operating) Fund to the Clergy-Congregational Renewal Designated Fund. This amount was not reflected in the expenses. Total expenses for 2025 should be \$375,542.03; however, the \$16,366.94 excess income/expenses is correct. Motion was made and approved to accept the financial reports as corrected.

Old Business:

Fellowship Hall Update - Dennis Tucker reported that the fellowship hall has been completed by the contractor. Trim will be put above the registers and the registers will be repainted. This will be done by volunteers. The Quilting Room will be complete soon.

New Business:

Bylaws Update – The process to update the current bylaws began in 2024. Committees and teams reviewed the changes as suggested by the bylaw review committee. The January 2026 draft copy was made available to the congregation prior to the February meeting. There being no questions with the changes proposed, motion was made and approved to accept the bylaw changes.

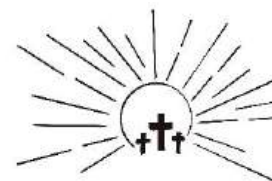
Announcements:

Norma Klemme thanked the congregation for their donations to OCWM and CUE. She expressed how important these are to the United Church of Christ as a denomination.

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

- Connie Thompson, Church Council
Recording Secretary

(approved by the Church Council on March 16, 2026.)



Prayers Requested

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson
Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer
Kevin Vorderbruegge	Hettie Becker
Sarah Berghorn	
Melva Puls (at Americare Union Pointe in Union)	
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 7th.

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

Monica Klemme & family on the death of her mother Carolyn Houttuin.

Ron Dunigan & family on the death of his wife, Myrt, who died on March 11th.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Susie Andell
Jake McNiel (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)	
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)	
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	
Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyliss Fink)	
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)	



With Sympathy

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

Barbara E. Gardner, 80, died on February 9th. Funeral service for Barb was on February 21st with burial in Zion Cemetery.

Carolyn M. Houttuin, 87, died on March 7th. A celebration of life service was held at Zion Church on March 22nd by Rev. Knoblauch. Carolyn was the mother of Monica Klemme.

Helen V. Olm, 84, died on March 7th in Wichita, Kansas. A committal service was held at Zion Cemetery on March 21st by Rev. Knoblauch. Helen was the aunt of Pam (Van Leer) Klenke & Cindy (Van Leer) Groenke.

Memorial Gifts Given

In memory of **Anne Parker** by:
Ken & Carol Rohrbach

In memory of **Barbara Gardner** for Zion Cemetery Fund by:
Jim Doehring & family

Honorary Gifts Given

In honor of the 80th Birthday of **Suzanne Barreth** for Zion Good Samaritan Fund by:
Carl & Jane Ridder



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 Freiermuth-Stahlman)
 Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
 Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)
 Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)
 Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
 Matthew (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)



**Zion UCC Church
 Council Minutes:
 February 16, 2026**

Zion UCC Council met on Monday, February 16th, 2026, with the following in attendance: Barb Cox, Alvera Heeger, Jim Vemmer, Colleen Simons, BJ Cooper, Bruce Templer, Pastor Nick, Fern Dewert and Susan Newman.

Pastor Nick opened the meeting with prayer, and President Fern Dewert called the meeting to order.

Consensus Agenda:

- Minutes of January 2026 Council Meeting – approved as presented.
- Pastor’s Report- Approved as presented.
- Minister to Youth and Families – approved as presented - Suggestion to Alysha to rent a bus for VBS at Camp MoVal.
- Financial Reports for January- Approved as presented.

Discussion Agenda:

Term Limits Presented: 3 People will need to be replaced or re-upped on the council in 2027.

The Security Team needs to meet. Pastor Nick will reach out to Dan Mossoney about setting a time.

Properties: Update given on Fellowship Hall and Quilt Room repairs. (Things are coming along nicely; the team will add finishing touches as the contractors finish the walls.) Properties will present options on a new church sign, requested by the Skip Buehrle Family. Finally, Properties is considering replacing the sidewalk on the north side of the building connecting the parking lots near the flag poles.

New Office Chairs: Office staff will set a time/date with Fern to head to Union Furniture to purchase new office chairs and conference room chairs.

Legacy Fund: Six people have submitted their names to be suggested for the committee. Council approved all 6 people, and Pastor Nick and Fern Dewert will write and email to let the people know they have been selected and can start meeting.

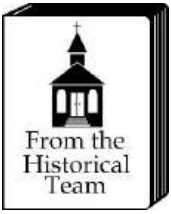
New Tables: Rudy and Darlene Ahmann have presented the council with a proposal to replace the round tables in the Fellowship Hall. The Council approved the tables, graciously accepts the donation of 15 new tables by the Ahmann’s, and will donate the old tables to the Missouri Extension office here in Union, Missouri.

Silent Auction: There will be a silent auction from April 12-22, with Pick-Up dates on the 23-24. There are a variety of items from the kitchen, the old security cameras, and other miscellaneous items like framed pictures and filing cabinets that will be put up for silent auction here at the church. Any money received will be placed back into the building and property fund.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

- Nick Knoblauch, Senior Pastor
 (approved by the Church Council on March 16, 2026.)





From the Historical Team... Fern Dewert, Church Council President

During the month of April, the Historical Team is highlighting our Church Council President, Fern Dewert.

Fern has been a Franklin County resident her entire life. Her parents were Louis Jr and Elaine Borgmann (Stolte). It was a busy household with six children. Fern's siblings are Dale, Kenneth, Linda, Sandra (deceased) and David. Fern became a part of this family, August 8, 1954, and was baptized at the Bethel Methodist Church in Union, September 12, 1954. According to Fern's mother, this was the last regular service held at Bethel Methodist. Fern's confirmation was at the First Methodist Church in Union on Palm Sunday 1965.

While in high school, Fern worked at Karraker Drug. She graduated from UHS in 1972. Fern and Bill were married at Zion March 29, 1975 by Rev. John Stevesand. She joined Zion October 17, 1976 and has been a very active member since that time.

Family is a very important part of Fern's life. Her sons, Jason and wife Amy, and Nathan and wife Kristi, both live near Clearview Elementary on land that belonged to Bill's grandparents. Grandchildren, Abigail, Blake, Camden, Hannah and Natalie bring her great joy!

Fern's entire professional career has centered around nursing. Following high school, she entered St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, becoming an RN in 1975. She continued her education at Cardinal Glennon/St. Louis University, and became a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in 1980. Following nursing school, Fern worked on a post-surgical floor. From 1976-1980, Fern worked as a RN for Franklin County Special Education Cooperative. Later she was a PNP for St. Louis Co. Special School District, and also worked as a pediatric allergist. Fern changed the direction of her career and was a home health nurse for six years. The final 30 years of Fern's nursing career were with the State

of Missouri, Department of Health & Senior Services. During those 30 years she worked for the Bureau of Home Care & Rehabilitation Standard performing inspections and investigating complaints of home health agencies and hospices. Fern retired December 31, 2020, and has not missed work for even one second! She does however, miss the wonderful nurses and support staff she worked with over those 30 years.

Fern's hobbies include reading in her recliner with a good cup of coffee in the morning, a Diet Coke in the afternoon, decorating my home for every holiday, traveling with friends, family trips, road trips, sitting on the back deck reading and enjoying flowers, birds and wildlife.

MEMORIES OF ZION (In Fern's own words)

While dating Bill, we started alternating Sundays between Zion and the Methodist Church. We also began many of our Saturday night dates at Zion filling communion cups! We decided to get married at Zion and make it our permanent church to raise our family. Our wedding day was gloomy and rainy, but while standing at the altar with Rev. Stevesand during our 6:00 PM service, the clouds parted and the sun shone through the stained glass windows. I considered that a wonderful sign for our marriage. We also had communion served during our wedding ceremony since we had done that on so many Saturday evenings.

I have been a member of the choir for many years and especially loved performing the Easter and Christmas cantatas. I served as a kindergarten co-teacher with Donna Bocklage for approximately 20 years. Donna and I became close during those years, and we chose her and Jim as the godparents of our youngest son, Nathan. I have a vivid memory of falling down the steps from the upper commons to the outside door and being on crutches while participating in the groundbreaking for the new addition. I still hate that set of steps! Bill and I have many wonderful memories of the Young Adult Fellowship, serving at the George Washington Birthday dinners, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity East St. Louis rehabs,

participating in Christmas decorating, helping with VBS, and now participating in Zion Fellowship. Traveling with the Zion Travelers group has been friendship building and a lot of fun.

Our boys and all five grandchildren were baptized at Zion, and Jason and Amy were married at Zion. Since my retirement, I have taken over the flower arranging for the sanctuary and other areas of the church including the sculpture urns with the invaluable assistance of Darlene Ahmann. I didn't even know I could arrange flowers! I chaired the committee for the Christmas decoration redo two years ago and had a lot of fun with my co-conspirators. Assisting with LOGOS meals and clean-up have made Wednesday evenings very special.

This is my second term on the church council and I am beginning my third year as the council president. It has been an adventure and I am sure there is more to come! I could not do it successfully without the support of Connie, Pastor Nick or the council members or our wonderful committees and ministry teams. The people truly make our church!

- Linda Hall, on behalf of
the Historical Team

Notes to Zion

Dear Zion Friends,

Thank you so much for your latest donation in the amount of \$540. Your faithfulness in donating helps us to feed so many needy families. You are indeed a blessing.

- Union Food Pantry

+ + + +

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to Bread for the World. It means so much to us to have you standing alongside us as we work to end hunger. For 50 years Bread for the World has helped millions of families around the world with members of Congress. But our success is only possible due to the kindness of people like you. Thank you once again for your generosity.

- Rev. Eugene Cho, President & CEO, Bread
for the World

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Dear Zion UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, Inc. from your Lenten offerings. The funds you donated will be used to help us support our clients in 2026. We have several significant needs this year such as purchasing several horses, increasing our licensed occupational therapy program and adding more services that take us into the community to serve those who need us. These needs are crucial to the success of our program. Again, thank you!

- Lindsay Mohr, Exceptional Equestrians
Executive Director

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Dear Zion,

On behalf of our Conference, we offer our sincere and heartfelt thank you for your faithful support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) in 2025. Your congregation's total OCWM giving of \$10,285.52 represents more than a financial contribution. It reflects your commitment to our shared covenant and our collective ministry beyond the walls of your local church.

Your 2025 contributions are already making a difference. Thank you again for your generosity, your trust, and your steadfast commitment to the wider church. We are grateful for your partnership and honored to serve alongside you in Christ's ministry.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Rev. Dane Sommer, Conference Board Chair

- Lorin Cope, OCWM Committee Chair

(See the complete letter on the Church Council bulletin board in the lower commons.

*If you have ever laughed,
if you have ever cried,
if you have ever doubted,
if you have ever been loved,
of you have ever been lonely,
if you have ever felt burdened by trouble,
if you have ever felt blessed by joy,
if you have ever drawn one breath on this earth –
then Jesus was born for you.*

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12 Loops of Love 7:30 Chancel Choir	2 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 1 Lenten Book Study 6:30 Maunder Thursday Service/Egg Hunt	3 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	4
5 Easter Sunday/ Communion  HE IS RISEN!	6 Offices Closed	7	8 9:30 am Called to Care 12 Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7:30 Chancel Choir	9 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	10 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	11
12 The 2nd Sunday of Easter 10 am Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)	13 6:30 pm Finance	14	15 12 Loops of Love 7:30 Chancel Choir May newsletter articles due	16 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	17 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	18
19 The 3rd Sunday of Easter 2-5 pm Eastern Association Spring Meeting	20 7 pm Church Council	21	22 10 am May newsletter assembled 12 Loops of Love 7:30 Chancel Choir	23 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 	24 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	25
26 The 4th Sunday of Easter	27 	28	29	30 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle		

Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

- 1 - Greg Toelke
Caeli Manhart
- 2 - David Bean
- 3 - Abby Templer-Rodrigues
Wayne Bean
Matthew Seely
- 4 - Pam Griffin
Kyle Wilson
- 6 - Linda Kroeter
Bob Overschmidt
Reed Petry
- 7 - Gracie Helms
- 8 - Sharon Rosenkoetter
- 9 - Bill Koch
- 10 - Harvey Mefford
Andrew Koelling
- 11 - Charles Schuenemeyer
- 14 - Jean Stevens
BJ Cooper
- 15 - Rob McDonald
- 16 - Sallie Hancox
Brandon Harwood
Joshua Birke
- 17 - Amy Altholz
Christina Altholz
- 18 - Debbie Puls
- 19 - Claude Schuenemeyer
- 20 - Bob Soetebier

- 21 - Tiffany Manhart
- 23 - Hunter Grafrath
- 24 - Linda Hall
Terri Becker
- 27 - Jon Bocklage
- 28 - Tim Stahlman
Camden Dewert
Danyell Mossoney
- 29 - Tom Beckmann
Wayne Sherfield
- 30 - Lukas Copeland

May Birthdays

- 1 - Ann Hartley
Jane Ridder
- 2 - Maxine Fink
- 3 - Gary Reed
Marie Kuenzel
- 4 - John Metcalf
Jaydelyn Holman
- 6 - Macey Hargrove
Baylor Adams
- 7 - Jon Ridder
Tyson Jones
Alysha Petry
Elsie Saake
Oliver Cooper
Nora Knoblauch
- 8 - Heather Koch
- 9 - Logan Cooper
- 10 - George Gerstner
Tracy Ingle
Dawn Toelke