

The 4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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 *“The Lovely Name of Jesus”* Lewis

Call to Worship

God invites us to be a people of generosity.

That’s our love offering to the world.

God invites us to remember our blessings.

That’s our love offering to the world.

God invites us to build a legacy of love.

That’s our love offering to the world.

God invites us to give cheerfully.

That’s our love offering to the world.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

You provide for all of our needs, O God, even when we do not realize or recognize it. You are the source and we are the resource. You modeled generous giving when you freely offered us your Son, Jesus Christ. Nothing is too wonderful for you. As we begin worship on this One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, stir up in us the desire to give cheerfully from the great wellspring of gifts you have gifted to us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Matthew 25:31-40 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 24 *“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you have called us into your church to accept the joy and cost of discipleship and to be your servants in service of the whole human family. Yet, we confess, we often accept the joy and reject the cost. We trade courage for convenience. We demand justice for just us. Forgive us when we fall short of your hope for righteousness and peace and lead us into your kin-dom. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, let no perfection get in the way of the good. When we stumble, when we do not act as we should, when we sin, God will be there to help us up, correct our way, and help us begin again. By the grace of God, your sins are forgiven.

We are forgiven; thanks be to God. Amen.

Mission Moment: One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of generosity and with a heart full of gratitude for what we've been given. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. We offer these gifts with a cheerful heart as our love offering to brothers and sisters we may never meet. Bless the gifts, just as you have each of us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 26:1-16 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

"The Giving Song"
Chancel Choir

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

"Christ Is the Way, the Truth, the Life"

Kendall

Today's Liturgy was put together by our national staff for the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering 2026.

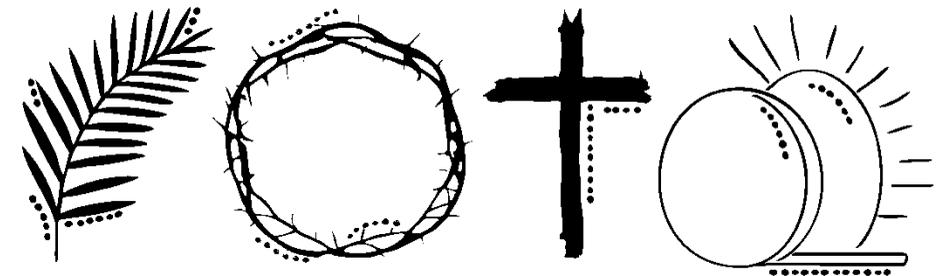
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



A lot can happen in
seven days.

+ The 4th Sunday in Lent +

March 15, 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 15, 2026

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Gil Bisjak

Ushers: Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller Greeters: Ken & Carol Rohrbach
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.

"These Days" devotionals for April-May-June are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzen	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:

Monica Klemme & family on the death of her mother Carolyn Houittin.
Ron Dunigan & family on the death of his wife, Myrt, who died on March 11th.

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 Phyliss 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)	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)

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 – March 15, 2026 to March 22, 2026

Today -	The 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Green Team (fellowship hall)
Mon., Mar. 16 -	7:00 p.m. Church Council (lower commons)
Tues., Mar. 17 -	10:00 a.m. Grape Cluster Meeting (lower commons) 1:30 p.m. Book Club (lower commons)
Wed., Mar. 18	10:00 a.m. April newsletter assembled (fellowship hall) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Mar. 19 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 12:30 p.m. Historical Team (conference room) 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (lower commons)
Fri., Mar. 20 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Mar. 22 -	The 5th Sunday in Lent 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.

April Newsletter Items – Mon., Mar. 16 – Last minute articles for the April 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, March 16th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, March 18th at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Easter Lilies/Benevolent Donations – Sun., Mar. 29 - If you would like to donate an Easter lily in memory/honor of a loved one(s) the cost will be \$18 per plant. In lieu of a lily you may give a monetary donation to the Little Free Pantry/Union Food Pantry. Deadline to place order for Easter lilies is March 29th. You may fill out the form that will be in the April newsletter or call the church office. 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!

CASA is looking for volunteers - CASA of Mideast 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.casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.