

The 4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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 *“Melodie Gracieuse”* Neely

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 23*)

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. Let us dwell in God’s presence forever!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

God, who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kin-dom come. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

John 10:1-10 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 655

“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”

Mission Moment : CASA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance, yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our territory and place of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit.

Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever-full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God’s holy way. Live in the promise of glorious, flourishing life and the kin-dom of God manifested on earth. There is no detour you may take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into their loving embrace. You are redeemed and restored in Christ. Receive the goodness of God, whose grace is sufficient and available for you to begin anew. By the grace of God, your sins 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

Generous God, may these gifts bless our life together, fortify our ministry, and transform our community. Receive them as we give them—with gladness and thanksgiving. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Acts 2:42-47 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

Hymn No. 492

“Spirit of the Living God”

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

“Be Thou Exalted”

Nordman

By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Easter Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-4a-april-26/>

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)

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



**"I came that they may have life
and have it
abundantly."**

John 10:10b

+ The 4th Sunday of Easter +

April 26, 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

APRIL 26, 2026

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Karen Stafford

Ushers: Alan TenEyck & Connie Thompson Greeter: Kevin Vorderbruegge

Sound Tech: David Bean Camera Tech: Dan Mossoney

(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.

This Morning - Eco-Resources Display - Green Team members will be in the lower commons before and after worship with 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.

This Morning-Mon., Apr. 27 - Silent Auction of Church Inventory - Silent Auction ends on Monday, April 27th at 4:30 p.m. Notification day will be Tuesday, April 28th; If you have any questions please contact Darlene Ahmann.

Today - CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) would like to remind Zion members that today is National Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for abused children. People are encouraged to join together in a day of prayer to demonstrate their support for children & families who've been affected by abuse, and for those who help protect abused & neglected children. There are many ways to help abused & neglected children: consider becoming a Child Advocate with CASA to support local kids in foster care - visit casamideastmo.org; connect with a Franklin County Agency serving children of abuse and/or neglect; start a Grandparent Support Group for those raising/fostering their grandchildren; volunteer at the Franklin Co. Foster Closet - visit franklincountyfostercloset.org; donate gift cards for foster teens - teens often get overlooked at Christmas Toy Drives; learn the signs of child abuse & if you suspect it occurring call the Hotline# 1-800-392-3738.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenser	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Hettie Becker
Sarah Berghorn	Gerry Hoelscher	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)	

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)
Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)	Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Monty McGavock (brother of Kathy Young)	Julie Borgmann (niece of Fern Dewert)

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.

Church Calendar – April 26, 2026 to May 3, 2026

Today -	The 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour
Mon., April 27 -	6:00 p.m. Safety Team (classroom)
Wed., Apr. 29 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Apr. 30 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., May 1 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., May 3 -	The 5th Sunday of Easter/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour

May 1-3 – Women’s Retreat at Camp MoVal – Registration is now open for the 2026 Conference Retreat at Camp MoVal from May 1-3. Registration is available for the full weekend (\$170) or day only (\$80). The theme is *“Be Still and Know”*. Contact Alysha with any questions.

Sat., June 6 – All who are interested are invited to a dinner and show *“Murder by Magic”* at St. Paul’s UCC, Marthasville, Missouri, on Saturday, June 6th. Cost of the steak dinner is \$50 per person; chicken dinner is \$45 per person. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board. Please note: There are only 8 seats left. ***Deadline to sign up is May 9th.***

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! A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board.

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!

Please note! Styrofoam collection at biospan technologies is temporarily paused. The company needs to catch up on processing its current collection before collecting more. Please note this pause will begin on April 1st and will last for several months. We will let you know when this collection resumes.

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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