

Easter Sunday

April 5, 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 "Resurrection Song" Glyncannon

Call to Worship *(Adapted from Christ the Lord is Risen Today)*

Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

All creation joins to say: raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, O heavens and earth's reply

Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won;

Death in vain forbids him to rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Christ the Lord is risen today!

Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy One, just as they came to the tomb to honor you on that early Easter morning, we gather to praise you this day. May our alleluias resound in adoration and shared joy that you are risen and we share in the promise of new life. May we encounter your glory in this assembled community as we follow you from the empty tomb into the possibilities that await. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

1

Faith Quest Presentation

+ Opening Hymn No. 288 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Let us pray... Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. **Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Jesus, you have demonstrated the path of your kin-dom, keep us on the road of abundant and transformed life as revived and encouraged participants in your resurrected and glorified body. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Beloved, Jesus is risen. The Holy One is yet alive, and therefore, doing a new thing. Receive the grace of God that requires no resurrection to rise to meet us in our weakness. Embrace the grace of God to move forward boldly in new life. Hold fast to the grace of God to guide you in living the resurrected life.

Praise be to God, Alleluia, and 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.**

2

+ Prayer of Dedication

Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for your generosity. Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community and to witness to your goodness. We dedicate them to the flourishing of your kin-dom. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 28:11-20 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Jesus Is Risen”

Martin

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.

Hymn of Preparation No. 697 (2 times)

“Eat This Bread”

Holy Communion

Invitation

An Affirmation of Faith: United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

3

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Remembrance

Invocation

Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape, that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be reflections of your likeness in a hurting world, so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

+ Sharing of the Elements

The Lord’s Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of bread in your hand. (All Bread is Gluten-Free) Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.

4

Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion

Let us pray,

O Loving God, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table. We praise you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow in us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 310

“Thine is the Glory”

The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Melva M. Puls**.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Christ is Alive!”

Ritter

Today’s Opening Prayer, Prayer of Transformation, and Prayer of Dedication came from **They Left The Tomb: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday 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/resurrection-sunday-a-april-5/>

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)

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Organist: Brenda Herring

Council President: Fern Dewert

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Church Custodian: Joy Bradley

2026 Easter Contributions

The following have contributed gifts for an Easter lily or as a benevolent donation to the Little Free Pantry and the Union Food Pantry.

Easter Lilies given:

In memory of John Leicht by Sue Leicht.

In memory of James Ronsick by Candy Ronsick.

In memory of our parents by Gary & Karen Stafford.

In memory of loved ones by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In memory of Skip Buehrle, Norman & Henrietta Schuenemeyer by Pat Buehrle & family.

In memory of Aunt Patty by Susan Merlino.

In honor of our grandchildren – Abigail, Blake, Camden, Hannah & Natalie by Grandpa Bill & Grandma Fern.

In memory of Adolf & Lillian Mantels by Lewis Mantels.

In honor of our children & grandchildren by Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann.

In honor of our mother, Pat Buehrle by Scott, Annie, Paul, Shanna, Jerod & Sammi.

In memory of our father, Skip Buehrle by Scott, Annie, Paul, Shanna, Jerod & Sammi.

Little Free Pantry and Union Food Pantry donations:

In memory & honor of our family past & present by Armin & Norma Klemme.

In memory of Dennis Harrison by Maxine, Matthew & Erin Harrison.

In memory of our parents and in honor of our children & grandchildren by Dave & Linda Hall.

In honor of our children by Gary & Karen Stafford.

In honor of friends by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In honor of my children & grandchildren by Pat Buehrle.

In memory of Aunt Patty by Susan Merlino.

In memory and honor of our families by Brad & Louise Parker.

In memory of our parents & sister by William & Fern Dewert.

In memory of loved ones by Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann.

In memory of Donald & Evelyn Baker and Burnace & Amanda Hagedorn by Norm & Cheryl Hagedorn.

In memory of E.A. Stierberger by Sandy Stierberger.

In honor of all of God’s blessings by Ronnie & Pam Griffin.

In honor of our family by Alan & Sharon TenEyck.

In memory of Keith & Arline Stahlman & Alan Freiermuth by Marilyn Freiermuth.

In memory of Steve Hooper and Clifton & Jo Schuenemeyer by Vicki Hooper.

In memory of loved ones by Dan & Lanora Mossoney.

In memory of David & Michael Kinworthy by Linda Kinworthy.

In honor of Pastor Nick, Caeligh & family by Carl & Jane Ridder.

In memory of Keith & Arline Stahlman by Tim, Annette, Travis & Nick Stahlman.

In memory of loved ones by Linda Kroeter & family.

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ Easter Sunday +

April 5, 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 5, 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: Alysha Petry
Brass Trio: Caeligh Knoblauch, Gail Mefford, Dean Sommerville
Communion Stewards: Nora Brinker, Logan Cooper, Bill & Fern Dewert, Caeli Manhart
Ushers: Sandy Stierberger & Jim Vemmer Greeter: Sallie Hancox
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.

2026 Easter Offering - The 2026 Easter Offering will be donated to Camp MoVal. In 1962 Camp MoVal was formally dedicated as a camp and conference center. Camp MoVal features more than 150 acres of beautiful forests, native prairie, natural streams and a lake. Summer camps and retreats are held at Camp MoVal. Easter offering envelopes are available on the table next to the offering plate. Thank you for your donations.

PLEASE NOTE - There is NO Fellowship Hour this morning following the service. Please join us next Sunday, April 12th!

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer	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)	

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Connie Thompson, Kevin & Ken Puls, Rudy Ahmann & Karen Strode on the death of their mother and sister, Melva, who died on March 30th. Visitation for Melva will be on Monday, April 6th from 4-8 p.m. at Oltmann Funeral Home. Funeral will be on Tuesday, April 7th at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Church with burial in Zion Cemetery.

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)
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 – There will be NO Faith Quest this morning.

Next Sun., April 12 – Intergenerational Sunday School - all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

Church Calendar – April 5, 2026 to April 12, 2026

Today -	Easter Sunday/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship
Mon., April 6 -	Church Offices will be CLOSED
Wed., Apr. 8 -	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., Apr. 9 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., Apr. 10 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Apr. 12 -	The 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)

Wed., Apr. 8 - LOGOS Reminder –The last day for LOGOS until the fall will be this Wednesday, April 8th.

Suns., Apr. 19 & 26 – 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.

Mon., Apr. 6 – Church Offices will be closed on Monday, April 6th and reopen on Wednesday, April 8th.

Sun., Apr. 19 – Zion will be hosting the Eastern Association Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 19 from 2-5 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the meeting in person or on Zoom. The theme of the meeting is "*Understanding Missouri Ballot Initiatives*" which include a panel discussion on the issues coming to your ballot. A flyer is posted on the lower commons bulletin board for more information.

Sun., Apr. 19-27 – Silent Auction of Church Inventory – Zion will be having a Silent Auction in April to reduce excess inventory of church items. Items will be displayed in the fellowship hall from April 19-27 until 4:30 p.m. (Bidding on Sunday mornings or during regular office hours.) If you have any questions please contact Darlene Ahmann.

Sat., Apr. 25 – Earth Day Work Day at Camp MoVal – Volunteers are needed at Camp MoVal on Saturday, April 25th for an Earth Day Work Day from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Equipment and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Alysha (apetry@zionunion.org) by April 20th.

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!

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.