

The Spirit of Zion

Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri



November 2026

No. 11



Totenfest (Memorial Sunday) Sunday, November 1st

Each year we pause to remember those who have died in faith the past year. During our morning worship service on November 1st we will remember those who have entered their eternal rest. We'll light a candle in their memory as a symbol of their faith in Christ, the light of the world, in whose peace they now rest. We will also toll the bell in their memory as is our custom at Zion. Please join us as we give thanks for their lives and remember them before God.

Glennon A. 'Skip' Buehrle

born: March 25, 1951
died: November 26, 2025

Kevin V. Kasmann

born: September 11, 1958
died: January 8, 2026

Betty L. Zumwalt

born: March 26, 1935
died: January 18, 2026

Anne Parker

born: February 4, 1939
died: January 27, 2026

Barbara E. Gardner

born: June 10, 1945
died: February 9, 2026

Carolyn M. Houttuin

born: March 27, 1938
died: March 7, 2026

Helen V. (nee Van Leer) Olm

born: April 6, 1941
died: March 7, 2026

Melva M. Puls

born: December 2, 1935
died: March 30, 2026

Geraldine S. Bedwell

born: January 10, 1930
died: April 12, 2026

John Bruce Crane

born: August 27, 1939
died: May 28, 2026

Judith A. Petero

born: July 5, 1945
died: August 13, 2026

Mark C. Klenke

born: September 12, 1949
died: August 14, 2026

Serving Christ In November

Ushers:

Nov. 1 & 8
Alan & Sharon TenEyck*
Nov. 15, 22 & 29
Connor Muller, Karen
Tucker*

(*designates Head Usher)

Greeter:

Nov. 1 – Jane Pinnell

Sound System Tech:

Dan Mossoney

Video Tech:

Nov. 1 & 8 – David Bean



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1st

Fall back one hour on
Saturday, October 31st.

Congregational Meeting - November 8th

The November Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 8th following the worship service in the sanctuary.** Agenda items will include election of new council members and approval of the 2027 proposed budget.

Intergenerational Sunday School – Sunday, November 8th

Everyone is invited to the Intergenerational Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall following morning worship. It is a wonderful time to interact with the youth of Faith Quest and share in the lesson for the morning! Please join us!

LOGOS Adult Education: Back Bay Mission Wednesday, November 11

Back Bay Mission was created in the 1920s to serve the people living along the Gulf Coast. The ministries have changed and adapted through the years, but their mission remains the same: strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. In October, a group of twelve people from the Eastern Association went to work at Back Bay for a week – and we took almost 600 pairs of underwear with us! Many thanks to everyone who donated.

On Wednesday, November 11, Jeanne & Sally Lischer, Rhonda Stockglausner, and others who volunteered at Back Bay Mission in October, will share their experiences at LOGOS. The program begins at 5 p.m. with dinner following at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Alysha (apetry@zionunion.org) if you plan to stay for dinner.

Guest Preacher – November 15th Rev. Phil Hodson, Transitional Conference Minister

On Sunday, November 15th, the Transitional Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, Rev. Phil Hodson, will be our guest preacher that morning. Following the worship service, all are invited to a light brunch in the fellowship hall. A sign up sheet will be posted on the lower commons bulletin board to indicate how many will be attending and what food you will be providing.

**Veteran's Day
Wednesday,
November 11th**



Greening of the Church

Sunday, November 22nd

immediately following the worship.

Lunch will be provided following the decorating.

All are invited to come decorate the church for our Advent/Christmas Season!

Advent Workshop

Everyone is invited to the Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 29th from 10-11 a.m. in the fellowship hall. For more information see page 6

Zion Fellowship – November 2026

No events were scheduled for October.

Sunday, November 15 – Everyone is invited to a Brunch after the church service. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who will be attending, and what food item you plan to bring. After the brunch, we will have a short meeting to discuss future events/ideas. Help with cleanup is appreciated.

Sunday, November 22 – After the church service, the Greening of the Church will take place, and **many hands will be needed** to help with decorating for the Advent season. We will then furnish lunch for those who helped. If you can bring a finger food dessert, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

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



Beloved Zion,

Grace and Peace be upon you. November greets us with a familiar grief. On Sunday, November 1st, we will honor those who have joined the great cloud of witnesses with our Totenfest Service. We will remember and honor their legacy as we set aside any burden we might carry and travel with perseverance on the journey before us. As we set our clocks back, we move forward.

Grief, however long it is with us, is a gift. For you do not grieve what you do not love. We remember to re-member. That is, we recall that which we love about those who have died, and find ways to embody their love in our lives. By re-mem-bering, taking on tasks, sharing meals, telling stories, we incorporate their legacy of love in our lives. Grief is never a one-time thing. Each new day, holiday, major milestone, and lazy Sunday afternoon, grief can find its way home. When we run from it, trying to hide or minimize its presence, it mutates. Grief becomes misery. It becomes a wild and agonizing terror in our lives. But when we are kind and gracious with it, we learn to cherish the love we still carry with us.

Author and poet Hanif Abdurraqib lost his mother when he was a young child and, now in his 40s, has discovered the gift of grief. In an interview, he spoke on it, saying... “The thing about loss is you don’t lose someone once. You lose someone a first initial time; that is the inciting event. And then, if you live long enough without them, you lose them *repeatedly*, for as long as you’re alive and they’re not. And that means you have to get accustomed to burying someone repeatedly, which, if not thought of in a way that is generous, can be too daunting to live with. But on the other hand, if you believe, as I do, that grief is kind of just an emotion that’s knocking on the door of memory and asking you to recall something, then there’s a real gratitude in that. There’s real gratitude in recollection. There’s real gratitude in me reaching for my mother’s voice even when I don’t retrieve it, because I’m reaching for my mother nonetheless. It reminds me that I am losing a person over and over and over, but by losing them, I get to return to the site of their living that I can recall, and that is celebratory.”

So whether this is your first year without your loved one or your 40th, may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, wrap you in love during this season of grief.

Blessings,
Rev Nicholas Knoblauch

Pastor Drop In Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
mornings

from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Email: knoblauchnicholas@gmail.com

Appointments upon request:

Church Office (636) 583-2814

or sending an email.

Worship Opportunities In November

9:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday, November 1 The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion
Totenfest/Memorial Sunday

Sunday, November 8 The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

10 am Congregational
Meeting

10 am Intergenerational
Sunday School

Sunday, November 15 The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 22 Reign of Christ Sunday

10 am Greening of the
Church

Sunday, November 29 The 1st Sunday of Advent

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!



Ordination of Rev. Alysha Petry Sunday, December 6th

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating the ordination of Rev.

Alysha Petry on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ. More details will be shared later.



35th CROP Walk – 2026

Hello Zion Friends and all other supporters of the CROP Walk.

This is a report on our 35th and maybe last CROP Walk in Franklin County. It was a beautiful, but hot day for you in the Walk to uplift the pain of hungry people. Pastor Nick led the pre-Walk happenings. Fifty-one of us participated that day, and includes the day of the Rock-a-Thon.

Ken Rohrbach of the Union Food Pantry and Chris Brinkman from the Second Blessings Food Pantry told us what is happening with those two Pantries that are supported by this Walk. All 35 years Union Food Pantry has received support from the Walk. Five other pantries received help several times during those years. Armin Klemme (first president of the Union Food Pantry) share some thoughts of the beginning. The Pantry and the CROP Walks started the same year.

We want to thank all of you at Zion, and far beyond, who have supported Church World Service through CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) all these years. We are deeply grateful to all of you for your support to help the hungry here and wherever there is need.

This year's Walk/Rock-a-Thon received \$5,833. We have some totals for you to see what we have done over the past 35 years from the Walks and the Rock-a-Thons. Every bit helps!

\$175,106.64 from 35 years of Walks and Rock-a-Thons

1,891 participants from 35 years of Walks and Rock-a-Thons

It is our prayer that we will keep up our help to the destitute here at home and in the world, especially in our support to CWS and CROP Walks in Owensville, Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis (Eden Seminary).

God bless you for helping and for listening to Jesus. YOU give them something to eat!

- Norma Klemme, on behalf of Church Women United who led the CROP Walks:
Carol Gruber, Dorothy Clarkson, Georgia Miller, Eva Adams, Barbara Horter

Thank You to October Volunteers

Zion Church acknowledges and appreciates the work done by the following volunteers for the month of October:

Liturgists: Phyliss Fink, Jeanne Lischer, Sue Leicht

Special Music for Worship: Chancel Choir with Barrett Short (cello), Kirk Hancox

Ushers: Matthew Herring, Ken & Carol Rohrbach, Connie Thompson

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Ron & Pam Griffin

Greeters: Sandy Stierberger, Carl & Jane Ridder, Linda Kinworthy

Sound System Tech: David Bean

Camera Techs: Dan Mossoney, David Bean

Newsletter Helpers: Candy Ronsick, Maxine Harrison, Donna Bocklage, Glenda Wagner

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

(kstafford@zionunion.org)

Brenda Herring, Church Organist

Joy Bradley, Church Custodian



to all of our Volunteers!

Sunday School:

Bronwen Voss, Phyliss Fink, Connie Thompson

LOGOS:

Jean Stevens, Laurel Camden, Connie Thompson, Maxine Harrison, Amy Dewert, Abbie Dewert, Fern Dewert, Blake Dewert, Jason Dewert, Caeligh Knoblauch, Rudy Ahmann, Darlene Ahmann, Richard Young, Kathy Young, and Wayne Bean

SAVE the DATES

ADVENT WORKSHOP

November 29th

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 13th

Join us the **FIRST TWO WEDNESDAYS**
of **EACH MONTH**



November 4 & 11

God's Blue Earth

It's an evening full of Games,
Bible Stories, Music and Dinner.

5 PM to 7:30 PM

ADULT EDUCATION will have guest speakers
on Back Bay Mission at 5 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.

Everyone is invited!

New Sunday Schedule

***Sunday* SCHOOL**

10 AM to 11 AM

Faith Quest

God's Blue Earth

MOSES

Meet in Bible Max Theatre

Ages 3 to 1st Grade, 2nd grade – 5th Grade

Middle/High School

Youth in 6th-12 grade

November 1: Meet in the youth room

November 8: Intergenerational in the Fellowship Hall

November 15: Meet in the youth room

November 22: Meet in the adult education room

November 29: Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

Intergenerational Sunday School

2nd Sunday of each month – November 8



Winter

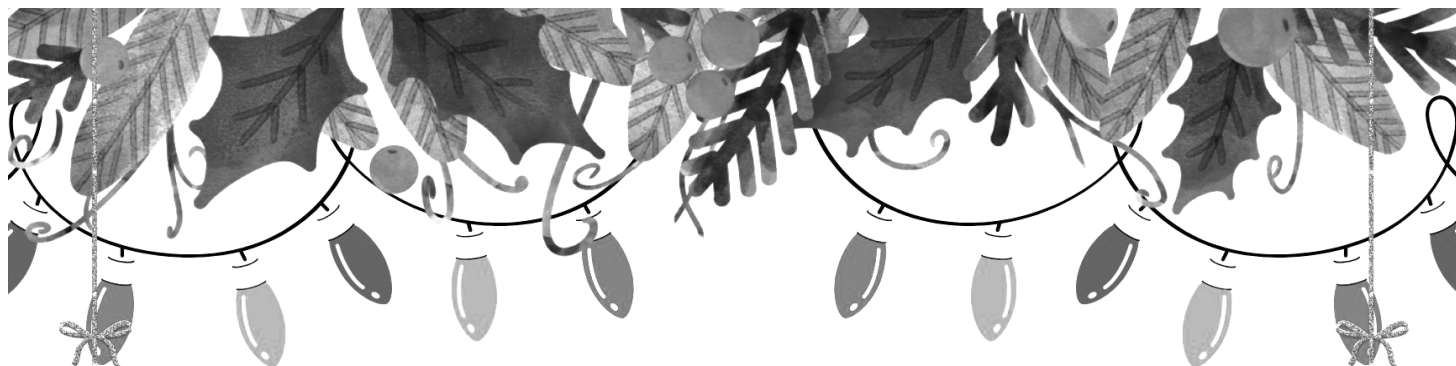
CARE PACKAGES

We are assembling winter care packages for the
LITTLE FREE PANTRY on

Sunday, November 29

During the Intergenerational Sunday School Hour
Please help us fill the packages by bringing in items
November 1 – November 29. Drop them off in the
lower commons Little Free Pantry Donation Basket.

Items Needed: gloves, hand warmers, hand lotion,
ChapStick, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant,
Kleenex, chocolate candy, hot chocolate packets,
oatmeal packets, breakfast bars, granola bars, beef
jerky, dried fruit, applesauce cups, nuts, trail mix,
soup, chef Boyardee, mac & cheese cups



ADVENT *Workshop*



**NOVEMBER 29
10 AM – 11 AM**

in the Fellowship Hall

Join us in a fun filled morning decorating cookies, making ornaments, and packing winter care kits and meal kits for the Little Food Pantry.

This is a fun morning
for all ages!



Notes from the Music Director

I'm what you call a fretter. I would worry about numbers. I would worry about reception. I would worry about how my rehearsals would go. I even dream that no one shows up, or that I'm late and someone else has to fill in. If someone has to drop out or doesn't show up, I worry that I did something wrong. I'd worry the piano would go out of tune, I'd have my music upside down, or the choir would end up sounding like Peter Brady during his voice change (I'm dating myself, aren't I?).

I guess it's the teacher/performer/musician in me; those concerns were drilled into me in college back in the day: that competitive/who's getting first chair type of pressure. It also reflects some personal conflicts I had with others that come back to haunt me.

As I thought about this month's topic, I realized it's almost November. It's a month to remember the strong people who came before us and to recognize how much we have to be thankful for. And when I look back at the times when I thought I'd failed, I realize how much I have to be thankful for and how little those minor worries mean:

1. The choir members who are so supportive and ready for anything, even if they worry THEY can't do it. We support each other not only musically, but in prayer after rehearsal and in our life chats afterward. Music ensembles are a special bond and family that just can't be replaced.
2. The LOGOS kids who get enthusiastic about discoveries like hand chimes! Sometimes they are a little TOO enthusiastic, but when they discover what they can do, the light in their eyes is beautiful.
3. Speaking of hand chimes, the little miracles that come from meeting the right person at the right time, like the gentleman who donated an extra set of chimes his church didn't need and the

wonderful Jeanne Lischer for going on a side trip during a vacation to pick them up.

4. Our wonderful instrumentalists and guest soloists who are there to fill in when the choir isn't there or accompany our choral works.
5. The support our music ministry gets from Pastor Nick and soon-to-be-pastor Alysha.
6. And finally, the wonderful support and words of encouragement from congregational members. You don't know how much your compliments and kudos mean to our choir members.

So, maybe my music falls on the floor, or my flute keys get stuck. When you have church family, there's forgiveness. There's grace.

Blessings,
Karen

From the Historical Team... Ruth Parker

As we move toward the end of 2026, we celebrate the final 90th birthday of our congregation's membership. Ruth was born at home on the family farm in Beaufort, November 25, 1936 to Herbert and Olinda (Soetebier) Young. She was the fourth of six children. Growing up on the farm, Ruth milked cows in the morning, then walked several miles to attend school in a one-room schoolhouse that didn't have electricity or indoor plumbing. She attended Jeffriesburg School for grades 1-8. Ruth graduated from Union High School in 1954. She was the first woman to take a shop class at UHS. The fact that she received the best grade didn't sit well with the boys! Ruth was the first member of her family to attend college, graduating with a BS in Ed from Southeast Missouri State University in 1959.

Ruth grew up with five siblings, Audrey Schutz (deceased), Lois Case (deceased) Herbert Young Jr., Richard Young (also a member of Zion), and Elizabeth "Betty" McLard. Their home never had a telephone or television, and indoor plumbing was installed when Ruth was a teenager. Her mother cooked on a wood stove.

Zion UCC has been a part of Ruth's life beginning as an infant when she was baptized March 7, 1937. She was confirmed April 10, 1949, her memory verse was Palms 16, verse 11. Zion is where Ruth and Marland Parker were married on August 30, 1958. Their wedding was the last one performed in Zion's old church, and the first marriage to be performed by Rev. John Stevesand. Ruth and Marland were classmates at UHS. Marland passed away suddenly in 2003 at the age of 67.

Ruth and Marland were blessed with two sons, Bradley (also a member of Zion) and Ward, Omaha, NE. Ruth has three grandchildren and two great granddaughters and a great grandson.

Ruth knew at an early age that she wanted to be a teacher. She taught at Arnold's Fox School, Riverview Gardens in St. Louis, Kansas City and Des Moines. She returned to the Union R-XI School district where she taught for 26 years, most of those in the fourth grade. Being an avid reader her whole life, Ruth's love of books not only brought her joy, but she inspired many of her students to read also.

Ruth has never been one to sit and let the world pass her by..... She has spent her life teaching and learning. She taught herself to sew, (even making her wedding gown), crochet, tole paint, quilling, quilting, calligraphy, and scherenschnitte. One of her most creative and challenging projects was painting a seven-foot tall, concrete giraffe!

Ruth's love of meeting new people and seeing new things took her on 23 trips with her sisters, she visited all 50 states except Utah and New Jersey, traveled through the Panama Canal, and visited many European countries. Ireland holds a very special place in her heart, not only for its beauty, but the warmth of its people. Ruth sailed across the Atlantic, a voyage that took five days, and continued to the Mediterranean.

Never one to sit idle, Ruth has been involved in church and community organizations for many years.

Special memories of early years at Zion: Hosting the Evangelical Children's Home at Barlage Springs, Strawberry Ice Cream Social,

Junior League, Sunday School teachers, Alberta Vemmer and Elda Barlage singing and story telling with a flannel board.

At Zion, Ruth has served as a greeter, liturgist, and usher. She has been a steadfast rummage sale worker, worked at the Food Pantry since 1991, and for over 50 years assisted in making hundreds of quilts. Ruth has served as an officer for Women's Fellowship and Zion's Adult Fellowship. She serves on the Kitchen Committee and participated in Vacation Bible School. She is a member of Zion's Book Club. Ruth has been a member of American Legion Auxiliary for 40 years, and is an active member of the Retired Teachers Association.

The following are some words of wisdom and advice Ruth gave her sons:

To love and be loved is the greatest gift of all.

Think before you act.

Consider the feelings of others.

Never intentionally hurt others.

If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

Forgiveness is essential for a happy life.

Enjoy life.

I'm convinced that to have a keen mind at age ninety, one must keep physically active, stay involved with activities, challenge the mind, laugh, and stay connected with family and friends. Ruth's family is the most important thing in her life! Congratulations on reaching this wonderful milestone!

- Linda Hall on behalf of the Historical Team

Open House for Ruth Parker

The family of Ruth Parker is inviting the congregation to an Open House in honor of her 90th Birthday on Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. at Zion Church (no gifts, please.)

GIVE
thanks
TO THE
Lord;
FOR HE IS GOOD.
PSALM 107:1, NIV

Prayers Requested

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	
Phyllis Olson	
Carolyn Donoho	
Charlotte Ellison	Brenda Viehland
Kim Yenser	Kevin Vorderbruegge
Hettie Becker	Sarah Berghorn
Gerry Hoelscher	Susie Andell
Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann	Carla Kilgore
Barb Harvey (at home)	
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)	
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)	
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)	
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	
Keith (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)	
Shelly Ware (friend of Hettie Becker)	
Cynthia B (Good Samaritan Fund client)	
Karen Copeland (mother & grandmother of Matthew, Lukas & Jackten Copeland)	

Beginning Their Life Together:

Abby Wilson & Kyle Luecke were married on September 26th at Zion Church by Rev. Knoblauch.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Keith Wadley
Jake McNiell (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 Phyllis Fink)	



Memorial Gifts Given

In memory of **Lenda**

Buddemeyer by:

Jim Doehring & Ken Ackmann

In memory of **Mark Klenke** for Zion Good Samaritan Fund by:

Jim Doehring & family

In memory of **Susan**

Wiesendanger Ganong for Zion Good Samaritan Fund by:

Sandy Stierberger

Honorary Gifts Given

In honor of the 90th Birthday of **Hettie Becker** by:

Carl & Jane Ridder (Zion Good Samaritan Fund),
Kirk & Sallie Hancox (Zion Good Samaritan Fund),
Sandy Stierberger (Zion Historical Team)

Notes to Zion

If we could have bottled all the love at my birthday celebration and sold it, we would have matched the generous gift Bob Hansen left us. Thank you everyone!

- Hettie Becker

Fresh Flowers From October

October 18 – Flowers in honor of the 90th Birthday of Hettie Becker were given by friends.

Celebrations in the Church Family

Marriage

Abigail Nicole Wilson

&

Kyle Joseph Luecke

September 26, 2026

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)
 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)
 Ken Laboube (friend of Hettie Becker)
 Rich (friend of Jim Doehring)
 Ronnie Williams (brother of Gail Mefford & Tom Williams)

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:
 2nd Class Petty Officer Aviation Structural
 Mechanic E-5 Hunter Grafrath (son of
 Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of
 Mike & Lynne Elliott)
 Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)



Council Notes

Zion UCC Church Council Minutes – September 2026

Zion UCC Church Council met on Monday, September 21, 2026 with the following in attendance: Fern Dewert, Jim Vemmer, BJ Cooper, Colleen Simons, Bruce Templer, Susan Newman, Alvera Heeger, Paul Brinker, Pastor Nick and Connie Thompson. Barb Cox was absent from the meeting.

Jim Vemmer opened the meeting with prayer. Fern Dewert called the meeting to order.

Consensus Agenda:

- Minutes of August 2026 Church Council meeting – approved as printed.

- Minutes of the August Special Church Council meeting – approved as printed.
- Pastor's Report – approved as printed
- Minister to Youth & Families – approved as printed.
- August Financial Reports – Connie handed out the final 2026 August financials. They were approved as printed.
- Time/Date for next Council meeting – October 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Discussion Agenda:

Membership Review Committee – The committee met and will get a report of the current membership number.

By-Laws Review Committee – No report.

Audit Committee – No report.

Personnel Committee

- The committee met and recommended a 3.4% increase for all staff excluding Alysha Petry.
- Call Agreement for Alysha Petry was reviewed. She will lead the morning worship service on October 11th followed by a special congregational meeting to call her as the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation. Motion was made and approved to accept the Call Agreement for Alysha Petry.

Leadership Development – No report.

Properties Committee

- Paul reported that Brad Parker will contact the company that installed the digital sign at the American Legion to see if that company would be interested in installing a sign at the church.
- A 5' chain link fence will be installed around the air conditioning units in the back of the church.
- The carpet in the elevator needs to be pulled up and replaced.
- Sidewalk on the side of the church will be put down soon.
- The renters of the house asked if the flooring in the bathroom could be replaced.

Safety Committee

- Insurance company was contacted and there is no discount to the church even if we are using security cameras.
- AED/CPR training will be done on Sunday, September 27th.
- First aid kits need to be checked for expired products.

Legacy Fund Committee – The guidelines from the Legacy Fund Committee were reviewed by the council at the special meeting in August and the changes were submitted to the committee. It was suggested to have a Moment of Concern in October from someone on the Legacy Fund Committee to give the congregation an update on the activity of the committee.

Finance Committee –

- The Finance Committee submitted the 2027 Proposed Budget for the church council to review. Estimated income was not changed due to the current state of the economy and current level of giving to the General Fund. Reserves that the church has available may need to be used if income does not meet expenses. All staff (excluding the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation) will receive a 3.4% increase.
- There will be two informational meetings on October 4 & October 18 following the morning worship service for the congregation to review the proposed budget and ask questions.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

- Connie Thompson, Recording Secretary

(approved by the Church Council on October 19, 2026.)

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes – October 2026

The Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2026, was for the purpose of extending a call to Alysha Petry to serve as our Associate Pastor of Faith Formation beginning on January 1, 2027.

Alysha has been approved by the Eastern Association Committee on Ministry for Ordination. The Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Church Council met and developed a Call Agreement. Details of the Call Agreement were explained to the congregation.

Church Council President Fern Dewert called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Jim Vemmer as follows: ‘As a member of the Church Council, I move to call Alysha Petry to serve this church in a new role as Associate Minister of Faith Formation pursuant to the Call Agreement reached in coordination with the Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Church Council, to become effective January 1, 2027.’ Motion was seconded. A ballot vote was taken with 72 Yes votes, 1 No vote, and 1 not countable.

Meeting adjourned.

- Connie Thompson, Church Council Recording Secretary

(approved by the Church Council on October 19, 2026.)

“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!



Financial Report for September 2026

	September 2026	Year to Date (YTD)
Income	\$18,518.00	\$227,083.00
Expenses	\$35,500.00	\$289,075.00

Our Church’s Wider Mission (YTD 2026) - \$8,183.00
Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries (YTD 2026) – \$1,662.00
Detailed financial reports are available by contacting the church office. Thank you.

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Dates

Zion's Children's Christmas Program will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, December 13th, during worship. All children and youth are invited to participate. Speaking and non-speaking parts are available. Please let Alysha or Mandy know which type of part to save for your children/youth. Parts will be announced during the first rehearsal (you do not have to make every rehearsal to be in the program).

Rehearsal Dates:

- Sunday, November 29, during the Advent Workshop
- Wednesday, December 2, during LOGOS
- Sunday, December 6, during Sunday School
- Wednesday, December 9, during LOGOS

DATE CHANGE

Conference Youth Event

Lean On Me

for 6th-12th grade youth at Camp MoVal

November 20-22, 2026

Check in on Friday at 6 PM. Event begins at 7:00 PM
The event ends after worship on Sunday morning.

Chaperones are needed!

Please contact Alysha for a discount code to register participants and chaperones.

The registration deadline is November 13.

Youth Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ph8dssey>

Chaperone Registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/ype6svc5>



Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed –

Saturday, December 12th

Salvation Army Bell Ringers are needed for Saturday, December 12th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Schnuck's in Union. A sign up sheet will be posted on the lower commons bulletin board. Thank you!

-Brenda Viehland, on behalf of Outreach Team



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ____ Father | 10 + 15 = ____ in |
| 10 + 9 = ____ heavenly | 6 - 3 = ____ to |
| 10 + 5 = ____ blessed | 12 - 6 = ____ and |
| 2 - 1 = ____ Praise | 6 + 6 = ____ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ____ has | 18 - 9 = ____ our |
| 11 + 11 = ____ every | 22 - 11 = ____ Jesus |
| 12 + 12 = ____ blessing | 1 + 1 = ____ be |
| 10 + 10 = ____ realms | 7 + 6 = ____ who |
| 13 + 13 = ____ Christ | 2 + 2 = ____ the |
| 8 + 8 = ____ us | 10 - 5 = ____ God |
| 8 + 9 = ____ in | 4 + 4 = ____ of |
| 5 + 5 = ____ Lord | 9 + 9 = ____ the |
| 10 + 11 = ____ with | 10 + 13 = ____ spiritual |

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost/ Communion/ Totenfest  10 am Green Team	2	3	4 12 Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7 pm Chancel Choir	5 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 6 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	6 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	7
8 The 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Congregational Mtg. 10 am Intergenerational Sunday School	9 6:30 pm Finance Committee	10	11 9:30 am Called to Care 12 Loops of Love 5 pm LOGOS 7 pm Chancel Choir	12 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle 	13 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	14 10 am Fellowship Hall in Use
15 The 25th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Brunch following Worship	16 7 pm Church Council	17 1:30 pm Book Club	18 Dec. newsletter articles due 12 Loops of Love 7 pm Chancel Choir	19 8 am-12 noon Quilting Circle	20 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	21 1-3 pm Lower Commons in use
22 Reign of Christ Sunday 10 am Greening of the Church	23	24	25 10 am Dec.. newsletter assembled 12 Loops of Love 7 pm Chancel Choir	26  <i>Thanksgiving</i> (Church Offices will be closed)	27 (Church Offices Closed) 7 pm Fellowship Hall in Use	28
29 The 1st Sunday of Advent 10 am Advent Workshop	30 GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED					



November Birthdays

- 2 - Karen Stafford
Alan TenEyck
Amy Dewert
- 3 - Patrick Branscum
Brenda Bishop
Matthew Wilson
- 4 - Claude Perriguet
Jeremy Rosenkoetter
- 5 - Skyler Grimm Hardin
- 6 - Trinity Penton
- 8 - Steve Helms
Taylor Lutz
- 9 - David Hall
Prudence Johnson
- 10 - Renee Gerding
Chris Robinson
Tylor Mueller
- 11 - Dan Mossoney
Joan Bauer
Oliver Eads
- 14 - Kathy Reed
- 15 - Jane Pinnell
Sandy Stierberger
Jeremy Bright
- 17 - Henry Orf
- 18 - Jenny Berghorn
Sarah Berghorn
Leesa Nolkemper
Ellen Herring
Tracy Wilson
Katrina Moore

- 19 - Stephanie Roach
Carla Kilgore
- 20 - Judy Highfill
- 23 - Dillon Bauer
- 24 - Maxine Harrison
Phyllis Berkel
- 25 - Ruth Parker
Daniel Mossoney, Jr.
- 26 - Jasen Thompson
- 27 - Barbara Harvey
- 28 - Jaylyn Evrard

December Birthdays

- 1 - Sandy Bailey
- 2 - Collin Muller
- 3 - Monica Klemme
Laurel Camden
Sarah Davenport
Ana Oltmann
- 4 - Georgianne McClanahan
- 5 - Carol Rohrbach
Kayla Quertermous
Lee Parks
- 6 - Leslie Bailey
Nate Birke
- 9 - Natalie Avalos
- 10 - Gail Mefford