

# CHIMES

**INSIDE:**

<b>Pastor's Page</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Anniversaries</b>	
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	
<b>Game Night</b>	
<b>Zion Table Potluck</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	
<b>Women's</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Fellowship News</b>	
<b>Easter Flower Order Form</b>	
<b>Council Minutes</b>	
<b>March Calendar</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FYI</b>	

Dear Zion UCC Family,

Does March count as the first month of spring, or is it the last month of winter? Does the answer depend on whether or not Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow? Well, if it is up to the groundhog, I think we are out of luck this year. March is always a difficult month for me. It seems like it gives us a sneak peek of better days to come. One day we might get a snowstorm, and another day we might get 70 degrees. Spring and summer are just around the corner, but they are still out of reach. The fickleness of March speaks to the fickleness of life. One minute we are riding low, and the next minute we are riding high. Some people like that, but I don't. I like my routines. I like consistency. I like to know what the next day is going to bring. Suffice it to say, I don't like depending on a groundhog for my forecasts.

No matter what, though, life moves on with its ups and downs. I am reading a biography about Steve McQueen. His life is the opposite of what I would describe as predictable. He was the type of guy who thrived on adrenaline and the unknown. In a way, Steve McQueen was better situated for the future than people like me who like predictability. I'm trying to hold onto time as if I can control it. Steve McQueen is riding time as if it were a wave. Like many things, the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

We learned in Genesis that God gifts us some degree of predictability - "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). Although God gives us some ability to plan for the future, He also calls us out of our normal lives into grand adventures. For the next month, we will be looking at how God calls us to trust Him as we journey into the unknown. We will see how God uses covenants to reveal Himself to us and how relationships are a key tool in His ultimate plan to bring us back to the garden. Even though March is normally a rough month for me, I am more excited than ever to see where God is taking Zion. He is making moves, and maybe we should kick that groundhog in the rear end. At least for Zion, March seems like the beginning of spring; a fresh hope and perspective of what is to come - a balance of rhythm and wave riding all at the same time.

Blessings!

Jon







**On the first Sunday of each month**, following Sunday worship, we will gather for a shared meal as a church family. Our next family table will be on March 1.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share—whether it’s a main dish, side, or dessert—along with a serving utensil for your dish. The church will provide plates, cups, utensils, punch, and a welcoming space around the table. We trust God to lead us together in what we bring and to provide exactly what is needed.

**Zion Table Potluck Sign-Up Sheet:** Please sign up if you can take the lead to set up (put out tableware, make coffee, and punch) and cleanup for March 1 potluck. See the signup sheet on the counter in the fellowship area.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family members, neighbors, and visitors to stay after worship and share a meal. Whether someone is new to Zion or just beginning to explore faith, the table is a simple and meaningful way to extend hospitality and connection.

You don’t need to be a great cook—just come willing to share, eat together, and enjoy fellowship as the Body of Christ.

All are welcome.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” — Acts 2:42



## WHO

- **Everyone**—men, women, youth, longtime believers, and those new to Scripture.
- Groups are **6–8 people**, divided by **men, women, and youth**.
- Friends and family are always welcome.

## WHAT

Bread & Butter is **our weekly gathering where we explore God’s Word in community**, rooted in **Acts 2:42**.

It is **not** a fact-collecting Bible study.

It is a place where we:

- Ask heart-searching questions
- Apply truth to real relationships
- Grow together in fellowship
- Let Scripture nourish and transform us

**Food Note:** Each week, the church will be **popping fresh popcorn**, and anyone who would like to is welcome to **bring a dessert or appetizer** to share.

**Weekly Rhythm: Handouts given on Sunday or available online**

**Kneading (Mon–Wed):** Three daily questions (about 15 minutes) that “work the dough” of the sermon and shape us

These questions guide our **Wednesday night discussions**.

**Baking (Thurs–Sat):** Three daily questions that help you “rise” into next week’s sermon passage.

## WHERE

**Zion United Church of Christ – Baroda**

Fellowship Hall and Lower Gathering Hall for weekly gatherings

Various homes once a month for shared fellowship meals

## WHEN

**Weekly Gathering:**

- **Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM**
- Fellowship 6:00–6:30 (popcorn provided)
- Feel free to bring a **dessert or appetizer** to share (not required)
- Discussion groups 6:30–8:00

**March Dates:**

- **Wednesday, March 4, 11 & 25 - Note: On March 18 the gather will be at the Oldam residence.**

**Monthly Fellowship Meal:**

- Once a month in a church member’s home
- Host provides the main dish; others bring a side or dessert
- Time varies by host

## WHY

Because **God’s Word is our daily bread**—and we grow best **in community**, not isolation.

Bread & Butter helps us:

- **Sharpen one another**
- **Strengthen our faith**
- **Sanctify our lives** through the Spirit and the Word
- **Live out discipleship** in real time

This is where we gather around God’s Word...and let Him **nourish, shape, and transform** us.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Sunday School Volunteers Needed:** For the next 4 months, 1 person is needed to lead Sunday School lessons and 3 volunteers to help with keeping the kids engaged. The schedule of Sunday dates are available for Feb. - May. Please contact Matt Schlutt via email if you can help out, and he will add names and emails to Google Drive. Matt’s email is: [mschlutt79@gmail.com](mailto:mschlutt79@gmail.com)

## SOUP KITCHEN

For February Soup Kitchen we provided 120 bagged lunches. The lunch consisted of ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, banana, and homemade cookies. Soup Kitchen provides bottled water. The new location for Soup Kitchen is downtown Benton Harbor and is not yet complete. Everyone is hopeful that it will be completed soon, however, we will continue to provide a lunch again on April 15 whether it is a bagged lunch or a hot meal. Thank you to all who contribute money, their time, or food items and thank you bakers. So good?

-Elaine Jotzat, Zion Soup Kitchen Coordinator



Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is on the communication desk in the Narthex, please consider signing up: If you cannot serve but want to supply goodies one Sunday that is just fine, we can serve for you. If you would like to just make coffee/serve/cleanup after, please sign up we can get the goodies to serve. We also welcome any goodies to put in freezer to have on hand. Thank You for all of your help.

Alter Flowers sign-up sheet is on the communication desk in Narthex. Please sign up, if you need further information before signing up please see Diane Dasse.

Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm is our first Ladies Fellowship meeting in the Narthex, all ladies are welcome.

God's Blessing,  
Marcia Koehler & Diane Dasse

### Easter Flower Order 2026

Easter plant orders will be taken Sundays, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex after church. All orders must be in by March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to order a plant, complete the form below and return it to Karen Harner or the church office. Make checks payable to Zion Ladies' Fellowship. If you have any questions, call Diane at 269-605-9993.

- |                 |         |                                |                 |
|-----------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ 6" Lilies | \$10.00 | _____ 6" Tulips                | \$8.00          |
|                 |         | Assorted Colors                |                 |
|                 |         | _____ 6" Hyacinths             | \$8.00          |
|                 |         | Circle color(s) you would like | Pink Blue White |
|                 |         | _____ 6 1/2" Mums              | \$9.00          |
|                 |         | Assorted Colors                |                 |
|                 |         | _____ 10" Lilies - 3 stems     | \$27.00         |

Each plant will be in a 6 in. pot cover. Plants may be taken home after the 9:00 am Easter Service on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please indicate if the plant(s) is/are being given in honor or in memory of someone. Please also include your name.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant home.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my plant at church.



## Church Council Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2026

Absent George  
6:00pm

1. Opening Prayer Brian Dargus
2. Secretary's Report - Matt Schlutt  
December Minutes E.Koehler made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by C. Shuler Motion Approved
3. Treasurer's Report - Carolyn Shuler  
November Financials B. Dargus made a motion to accept the November financials as written. Seconded by E.Koehler. Motion Approved.  
December Financials E.Koehler made a motion to accept the December financials as written. Seconded by B. Sygielski. Motion Approved  
C.Shuler shared that she will be setting up direct deposit for payroll this week.
4. Building and Grounds Report - Ed Koehler reported that work was done on some leaks that were on the stairway of the Sanctuary door going out to the Primary Room. The new building is finished, everything has been moved into the building. There is no power to the garage door. Parsonage has a little bit of paint peeling. Winter time is a rough time to rent places. Willowock has been contracted to plow and salt. The amount of salt that is being put out is ruining parts of the building.
5. Sunday School Report - Matt Schlutt stated a list has been set up for volunteers to sign up. Curriculum will be ordered to help supplement other curriculum.
6. Pastoral Report - Rev. Jon Oldham reported nine people showed up to the Bread and Butter Bible study. Pastor Jon is trying to get a group of 20 and 30 year olds to come be a part of a bible study. We need to make sure we are inviting and encouraging people to come. The sermon series is going well. We need to promote our church and what are the things that we are doing for outreach. People need to see this as not just a social club.

### **Old Business**

7. Installation of Pastor Jon: Matt will reach out to the association about details for what needs to be done.
8. Review Old Business Topics - Set date for Spring Congregational Meeting: March 22

### **New Business**

9. Communication from Members
  - Parking: Members would like the spots on the north side to be open for those who are struggling to walk from far from the parking lot. We will make an announcement about leaving those spots open during inclement weather. B.Dargus will make the announcement.
  - Electronic Sign: The office manager will begin working on this.
10. Open Discussion
11. Adjournment/Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council Meeting proposed February 10, 2026

Time 8:17

B.Dargus made a motion to adjourn seconded E.Koehler Motion approved.

# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>01</b> Communion 9 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School Zion Table Potluck	<b>02</b> 1 pm-Ladies Fellowship		<b>03</b> 6-8 pm Bread & Butter Gathering	<b>04</b> 6 pm—Handbell Rehearsal 7:15-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		<b>06</b> 2-5 Game Night (refreshments)  Spring Forward 1 hour before Daylight Savings Time March 18
<b>08</b> 9 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School		<b>09</b> 6 pm-Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6-8 pm Bread & Butter Gathering	<b>11</b> 6 pm-Handbell Rehearsal 7:15-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am-Worship Totenfest Worship Serv. 10:30 am- Sunday School	<b>16</b>		<b>17</b> 6-8 pm Bread & Butter Gathering @ Oldham residence	<b>18</b> 6 pm-Handbell Rehearsal 7:15-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am-Worship 10:30 am-Sunday School	<b>23</b>		<b>24</b> 6-8 pm Bread & Butter Gathering	<b>25</b> 6 pm-Handbell Rehearsal 7:15-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b> 9 an-Worship Palm Sunday 10:30 am-Sunday School	<b>30</b>		<b>31</b>			

## THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ...

**Electronic Funds Transfer:** If you would like to have your offering to Zion UCC automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account (weekly or monthly), you can set this up with your bank or on our website at [zionuccbaroda.org](http://zionuccbaroda.org)! If you need any information from us, contact the church office.

**Zion's Web site:** For the latest news at Zion, go to our web site at [www.zionuccbaroda.org](http://www.zionuccbaroda.org). If you have submissions for inclusion on the web, questions, or suggestions, please feel free to contact the office.

**Privacy Laws Related to Hospitalizations:** If you are hospitalized and would like the church and pastor to know, please be proactive with the admissions officer, and 1) tell them that you are a member of Zion, 2) you would like Zion to know that you are hospitalized, and 3) call the church office.

## COFFEE HOUR

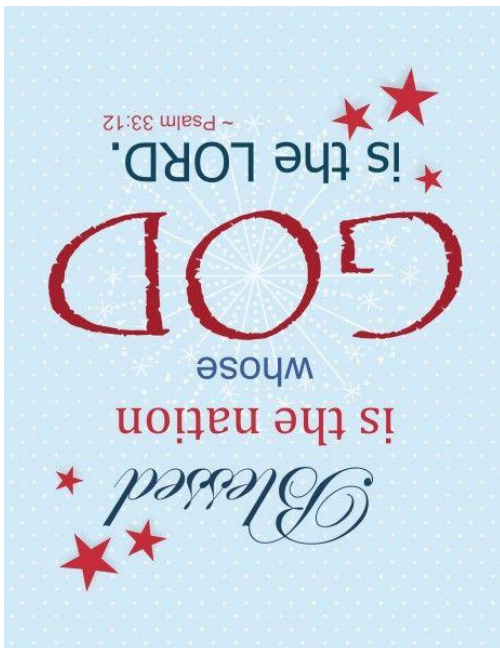
### Coffee Hour hosts are needed!

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex by the mailboxes. Spread the joy of your favorite nosh while enjoying fellowship with other members!

You can also just bring in your favorite baked goods and not actually host.

Just let Diane Dasse or Marcia Koehler know and someone else will do the serving!

If you would like to be reimbursed let Ladies' Fellowship know.



Address Service Requested

Baroda, MI 49101

P.O. Box 10

Zion United Church of Christ

[zionuccbaroda@gmail.com](mailto:zionuccbaroda@gmail.com)

The Chimes Newsletter is published monthly at Zion UCC in Baroda, MI. Submissions are subject to editing. The office phone is 269-326-7008. E-Mail -