

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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 *“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”* Smith

Call to Worship (*Inspired Psalm 113*)

Praise the Holy One! From the rising of the sun until its setting, the name of God deserves our praise!

Who is like our God... seated on high?

Praise the Most High, who observes all things and remembers the poor and those in need.

God our Righteousness raises the lowly and levels the exalted.

Praise the Righteous One, who is just and mighty, who repairs and redeems.

The Redeemer pours out love and justice, compassion and conviction, hope and salvation. Praise the Holy One!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Great God, who gathers us together in spirit and in truth, sanctify our time together. Grant us wisdom and discernment. Open our hearts to receive and to give. Be glorified in our worship and the transformation that moves us forward as your people. In your glorious and precious name, we pray. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Genesis 21:8-21 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 655 *“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Redeemer, forgive us for defiling your holy ground. We have not cared for your creation, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not been faithful with the gifts you have given to us. We ask you not to clean our slate but to renew our hearts. Soften the hardness this world encourages us to wrap around our hearts, and replace it with compassion, empathy, and accountability to our neighbors, siblings, and creation. Awaken a new life within us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, a new life is possible. The Holy One has planted compassion within our hearts. We need only allow ourselves to come alive to the hope and joy that transformation promises us. Receive the grace of God to release fear of failure in order to try and fail and try again to be all that God will empower us to be.

We are forgiven and free, 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

Abundant God, may the gifts we give, along with your miraculous power, be sufficient to the needs of the community and a blessing to the world that you love. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Genesis 22:1-19 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“O Who Can Know the Mind of God”

Wedgewood

Chancel Choir + Ann Hartley, flute

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. 461

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Postlude”

Mendelssohn

Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 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/after-pentecost-15c-september-21/>

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)

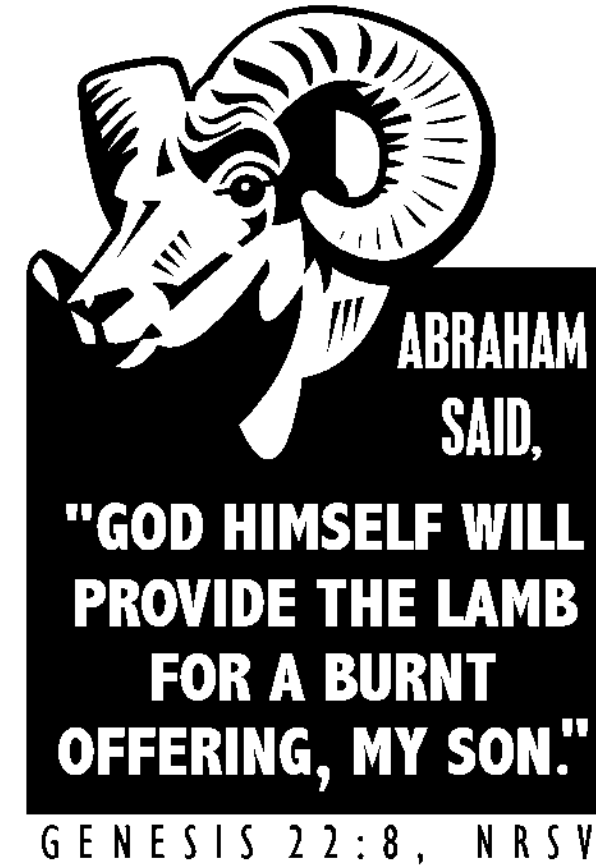
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ The 15th Sunday after Pentecost +

September 21, 2025 + 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

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Maxine Harrison
Ushers: Bill & Fern Dewert Greeter: Pam Klenke
Sound Tech: Alan TenEyck Video 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.

"Great and Wide" – Strengthen the Church Offering – The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the national ministries. Offering envelopes are available during the month of October and are next to the offering plate in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

Festival of Sharing – We will be receiving monetary donations for the Festival of Sharing during the month of September. The Festival of Sharing supports projects and programs that help our neighbors in Missouri and beyond with hunger, poverty and injustice. Please make your checks payable to Zion UCC and in the memo portion "FOS donation". If you would like more information about the Festival of Sharing please visit their website at www.festivalofsharing.org.

"These Days" Devotionals for October/November/December are now available in the literature rack located at the top of the grand staircase.

All Congregation Ice Cream Social – This Evening – The Zion Fellowship will be having an All Congregation Ice Cream Social this evening at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend!

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		
Anne Parker (at Aspen Valley Fox Crest in Washington)	Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Jim Petero (at Veteran's Home in St. James)	Kay Sterling (friend of Verlyn Yarbrough)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)	Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	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)	Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)		
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)	Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)		
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)		
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)	Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
Laurie Becker	Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth)		

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)		
Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell		
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)		
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	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)		

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.; **Preschool** – ages 3-5 will meet in the Preschool Room (the nursery); **Faith Quest** – grades kindergarten-5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Confirm** – grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar – September 21, 2025 to September 28, 2025

Today -	The 15th Sunday after Pentecost
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
	6:00 p.m. All Church Ice Cream Social (fellowship hall)
Wed., Sept. 24 -	10:00 a.m. October newsletter assembled (fellowship hall)
	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Sept. 25 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., Sept. 26 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Sept. 28 -	The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

October Newsletter Articles Due – Sept. 22 – Final newsletter articles for the October 'Spirit of Zion' are due in the church office on Monday, September 22nd. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, September 24th beginning at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

80th Birthday Celebration – Sat., Sept. 27 – Please stop by the Jaycee Pavilion at the Union Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 27th from 1-4 p.m. to celebrate the 80th birthday of Bruce Templer. Join him for cake and ice cream (soda and water provided). Bring a lawn chair and share some time with family and friends. No gifts please.

Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, October 5, 2025 - A Special Congregational Meeting is called by the Zion Church Council on October 5, 2025, to discuss and approve the recommendation of the Council to install a new network and wifi system that will be needed for the new security cameras and provide internet throughout the church. AQM (in Union) presented an estimate of \$6,976.90 for the project. The family of Rob Soetebier donated \$1,000 in his memory be used for upgrades to the internet. The Council proposes the remainder be paid from the Building & Properties Restricted Funds.

CROP Walk – Sun., Oct. 12 – Sign up for the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 12th beginning with registration at Zion at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk beginning at 1 p.m. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board.

Meditative Drum Circle – Meditative Drum Circle is back! Come join us for a time of reflection and fellowship through rhythm on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month beginning October 15 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Chapel.

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.

Hope Ranch of Missouri will be accepting several new teen girls as residents in the next few weeks. Needed supplies include: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, body wash or bar soap, feminine hygiene products, facial tissue toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes. In addition, household cleaning supplies are needed to replenish stores to save money for other uses. Supplies include: paper towels, microfiber cleaning cloths, Mr. Clean kitchen sponges, Dawn dish soap, dishwasher tables, rinse aid for dishwashers, all-purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Swiffer refills, 33-gal trash bags, windex, toilet bowl cleaner. Please consider a donation of the above items and drop them off at the church office. Thank you!

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!

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) fax (636/583-7949)

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