

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

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 *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* Hughes

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Jeremiah 18 and Psalm 139*)

We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are your clay.

We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Mold us again!

We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and dreams, our doubts and our delights.

We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!

We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our path.

We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Rebuild and replant us!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you are the Potter who has fashioned us into being as a community. Dwell in our midst. Share your wisdom and open every point of receptivity within us. You are holy, gracious, and kind. As we gather, we recommit to accept the joys and the costs of discipleship. May you be glorified in our worship, and may we be transformed as we encounter you and your way anew this day. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Jeremiah 18:1-11 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 424

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us. And, we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction, apathy, and overwhelm so that we may be your instruments of redemption, reparation, and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, God’s mercy is available and so is God’s power at work in us. We do receive the grace of the Potter to be used to break down what needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed and to support what needs repair and restoration. A new world that reflects the realm of God is possible through us.

We 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, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of this church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our contributions. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Genesis 20:1-21:7 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Amazing Grace”
Chancel Choir

arr. Althouse

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

“Eat this Bread”

Holy Communion

Invitation

Statement of Faith (*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*)

Let us pray:

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.

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

And so, we pray together,

Come Holy Spirit, come, move across this table, across this grain and grape, across our very lives, renewing and refreshing us for the journey to come. We have gathered at your table ready for a foretaste of your reign of justice, love, and peace. Bless these elements and each of us in service of your realm, 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion

Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for inviting us to this meal. May we always remember your love for us has no bounds. May we always embody the love you have given us. And may we go from this table ready to join you in your reign of reconciling love and renewing peace through all the world. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 723 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

Service Prayers for the Thirteenth 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-13c-september-7/>

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)

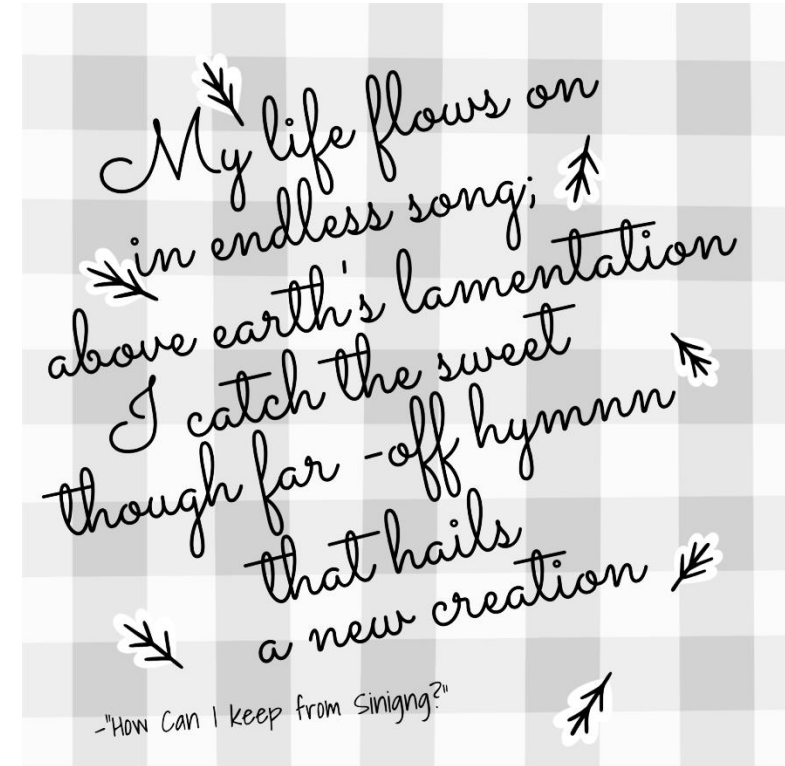
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ The 13th Sunday after Pentecost +
September 7, 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 7, 2025

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
Ushers: Dennis & Karen Tucker Greeter: Ruth Parker
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Kirk & Sallie Hancox
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.

Special Congregational Meeting - This Morning - The purpose of the Special Congregational Meeting called by the Zion Church Council this morning will be to approve the recommendation of the Properties Committee to install one continuous railing and clear tempered glass to the balcony for safety. The quote is \$13,190.69. The council proposed the funds to pay for the project be taken from the Building & Property Restricted Funds. The meeting will follow the morning worship service in the sanctuary.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzen	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		Jim Petero (at Veteran's Home in St. James)	
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)	
Kay Sterling (friend of Verlyn Yarbrough)			

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)	

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 – This morning is RALLY DAY from 10-11 a.m.

This Afternoon – All youth are invited to an afternoon at Piccadilly Palace in Union from 12-2:30 p.m. for pizza, drinks, games & skating.

Church Calendar – September 7, 2025 to September 14, 2025

Today -	The 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. RALLY DAY! (Faith Quest Classes begin!) 10:00 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting (sanctuary) 12:00-2:30 p.m. Youth Event at Piccadilly Palace
Mon., Sept. 8 -	6:30 p.m. Finance (classroom)
Tues., Sept. 9 -	8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Lower Commons in use
Wed., Sept. 10 -	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS Begins! 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Sept. 11 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 7:00 p.m. Lower Commons in use
Fri., Sept. 12 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Sat., Sept. 13 -	10:00 a.m. Lower Commons in Use
Next Sun., Sept. 14 -	The 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall) 10:00 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting (sanctuary)

Special Congregational Meeting – Next Sun., Sept. 14 – The purpose of the Special Congregational Meeting called by the Zion Church Council next Sunday, September 14th will be to approve the recommendation of the Safety Committee to install security cameras and equipment at a cost of \$9,177.68. The council proposed the funds to pay for the project be taken from the Building & Property Restricted Funds. The meeting will follow the morning worship service in the sanctuary.

Tues., Sept. 16 – Zion Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, September 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the lower commons. The book the group is reading this month is "*The Book of Two Ways*" by Jodi Picoult. Anyone is invited to join them!

All Congregation Ice Cream Social – Sun., Sept. 21 – The Zion Fellowship is planning on an All Congregation Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 21st at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend!

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.

CASA Seeking Volunteers – CASA of Mideast Missouri advocates for children in foster care in Franklin, Gasconade, and Osage Counties who have experienced abuse or neglect. Trained Volunteer Advocates spend one-on-one time with these children, understanding their needs and concerns to advocate for them in court, ensuring their journey in foster care is safe and supported. The next CASA volunteer training session will begin in October with an application deadline of September 19th. To apply, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit www.casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.

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!