

Totenfest Sunday

November 9, 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 *“Fight the Good Fight”* Barnett

Call to Worship

Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.

May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds, and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Hebrews 11:1-12 NRSV

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

Thanks be to God!

A Litany and Prayers of Remembrance

Blessed are the dead who from now on live in Christ.

They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died,

So that you may not grieve as others who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

Even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

When you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed.

But God gives a body as God has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

It is sown in death; it is raised in glory. It is sown as a physical body; it is raised as a spiritual body.

Jesus said, “In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I said to you.”

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

For God created us for incorruption and made us in the image of God’s own eternity.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Candle Lighting *(After each name is read...)*

May God bless them,

And welcome them into the saints in light.

Rev. Robert T. Cantrell

born: May 27, 1935

died: December 10, 2024

Stanley C. Heidmann

born: May 16, 1936

died: January 14, 2025

Richard L. Haverstick

born: January 19, 1947
died: January 17, 2025

Paula J. (Doehring) Forck

born: July 4, 1967
died: March 13, 2025

Kenneth J. Staten

born: August 2, 1937
died: April 4, 2025

Raymond C. McClanahan

born: December 20, 1939
died: March 21, 2025

Carol A. Bean

born: November 27, 1942
died: April 30, 2025

Dennis Harrison

born: January 25, 1949
died: August 22, 2025

Kevin M. Schowe

born: August 24, 1959
died: October 6, 2025

Keith E. Stahlman

born: June 15, 1933
died: February 13, 2025

Paula J. Sutton

born: August 1, 1949
died: April 4, 2025

Zed Harwood

born: September 7, 1933
died: April 4, 2025

Robert J. Soetebier

born: July 28, 1981
died: April 25, 2025

Frank P. Fazzari

born: January 17, 1932
died: May 9, 2025

Jim E. Petero

born: January 6, 1945
died: September 22, 2025

Laurie Becker

born: December 29, 1956
died: October 26, 2025

(Once all the names are read and candles are lit, we will finish the prayer)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and burden that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. In the company of all the saints, we pray...

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners, who has transformed those we remember today, raise and strengthen us, so that we may transform the world. Amen.

+ Opening Hymn No. 529

“For All the Saints”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the Heavenly Winds and Earthy Air, so often, we concern ourselves about the afterlife. We wonder who will be there, what we need to believe, and more. Yet, on this side of heaven, in your earthly Realm, there are many still hurting from the pains accumulated in this life. From illnesses to poverty, and from the lack of kindness to the overwhelming injustices, we overlook the needs of our siblings.

Open our hearts to the gaps happening in our world. Allow us to be more compassionate and less judgmental about our neighbors who need additional help. Help us to set aside our worries about the afterlife, as we know you will care for us there and then. Amen.

Words of Grace

Even when we are overwhelmed by our thoughts of life after death, God shares hope. We are forgiven and free.

May God’s grace transform us here in this world as we build the Realm of God here on earth. 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

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living, others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this, and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Hebrews 11:17-22, 11:29-12:2 NRSV

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *“The Journey”*
Chancel Choir

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer and 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. 515 *“Hymn of Promise”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *“Christ, the Cornerstone”* Price

Today’s Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Dedication, and A litany and prayers of remembrance were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins and used with permission by Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Michelle I. Torigian
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-22c-november-9/>

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



**Since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud
of witnesses,**

**let us also lay aside
every weight and burden
that clings so closely,**

**and let us run
with perseverance
the race
that is set before us.**

+ Totenfest Sunday +

November 9, 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

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Fern Dewert
Ushers: Connor Muller, Karen Tucker Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder
Sound 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.

This Morning - This morning we will remember those who have entered their eternal rest. We will light a candle in their memory as a symbol of their faith in Christ, the light of the world.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenser	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)		
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)		
Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)	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)		
Vivian Diener (cousin of Hettie Becker)	Marilyn Fish (aunt of Carla Kilgore)		

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 - Intergenerational Sunday School - all classes meet in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.

Next Sunday - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; *Faith Quest* - preschool through 6th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar - November 9, 2025 to November 16, 2025

Today -

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Totenfest Sunday

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)

Mon., Nov. 10 -

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee (classroom)

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Wed., Nov. 12 - 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., Nov. 13 - 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle

Fri., Nov. 14 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use

Sat., Nov. 15 - 10:00 a.m. Lower Commons classroom in use

Next Sun., Nov. 16 - The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour

December Newsletter Articles Due – Nov. 10 – Articles for the December ‘Spirit of Zion’ are due in the church office on Monday, November 10th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, November 19th at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

ECH Christmas Gifts/Donations until November 23 - Each year Zion Church collects items for Every Child’s Hope ‘Hope Chest’. Donations for the ‘Hope Chest’ store will be collected until November 23rd. A box with the list of items most needed is in the lower commons until the 23rd. This ‘Hope Chest’ provides items that the residents of ECH can access to buy items for their families. The residents of ECH enjoy being able to gift their families with presents during the holiday season. Thank you for your donations!

Greening of the Church – Nov. 23 – Everyone is invited following the worship service on Sunday, November 23rd to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Following the decorating, a pizza lunch will be provided.

Advent Workshop on Nov. 30 – All are invited to the Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 30th following the worship service in the fellowship hall where the group will make ornaments and decorate Christmas cookies. **ALSO:** The Green Team will be at the Advent Workshop. Come explore the many ways you can use fabric to wrap gifts instead of paper (most of which cannot be recycled). Your donations of fabric, ribbon, and raffia would be appreciated - Christmas colors and designs are optional. There is a box in the Lower Commons for your donations. Thank you!

Winter Care Packages Collection During November – Donations are needed to help fill the Winter Care Packages for the Little Free Pantry. Items needed include: gloves, hand warmers, hand lotion, ChapStick, toothpaste, toothbrushes, 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 cups, mac & cheese cups. Please place your donations in the Little Free Pantry basket in the lower commons by the bulletin board. Thank you!

Meditative Drum Circle – The next Meditative Drum Circle “Inner Prayers” will be on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:15 p.m.

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!

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 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!

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

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