

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

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                      *“How Firm a Foundation”*                      Broughton

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 68*)

Let God rise up! Sing to God; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds—the Holy One— be exultant before God.

**Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!**

Let God rise up! Ascribe power to God, full of majesty and power.

**Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy!**

Let God rise up! Awesome is God in the sanctuary, who gives power and strength to the people.

**Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy! Blessed be God!**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Holy Love, our Companion and Source, shower us with your presence, shelter us in your sanctuary, shield us with your peace. Open our receptivity to your word, wisdom, and way. May our worship honor your name and draw us nearer to you and to our neighbors. Be glorified in our midst as we exalt your Many Names. Amen.**

First Reading of Scripture

Acts 1:1-11 NRSVue

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Graduation Recognition

+ Opening Hymn No. 319                      *“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

Affirmation of Baptism

Invitation

Questions for the Candidates

Statements of Faith

Prayers of the Congregation

Let us pray,

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Thereby, strengthen them for their ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Confirmation

Let us pray,

**We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Spirit’s power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steadfast and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Address & Welcome

By your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Let us, the members of Zion United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**We promise you our continued friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Zion United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love. Please receive these gifts and remember that no matter where your journey of life and faith may take you, we pray that you will know that God loves you, and so do we.

## Bible Presentation

### Prayer

Let us pray once more.

**O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for the people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together, may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn No. 680

*“Borning Cry”*

## Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Righteous God, you offer the newness of life, and we cling to dry and desolate places. We withhold our trust and cling to the ways of the world while retreating from witnessing your goodness in the world. We allow hopelessness to reign in our lives and direct our attitudes and actions. Help us, O God, to believe that resurrection is not a one-time event but a**

**way of being we commit to living. Let the resurrection live in us, transform our being, thinking, and doing in the world. Amen.**

## Words of Grace

New Creation in Christ, the resurrected life is yours. We place our hope in the assurance that, in Christ, all things are made new. Change is possible. The world we seek is ours to build, nurture, and sustain. God has given us grace and authority as well as a Companion to make a difference in the world. Receive these gifts freely as they are given.

**Praise be to God, Alleluia, and 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, may these gifts we bring be used to bless, to build, and to beautify through generous and faithful care. Amen.**

## Second Reading of Scripture

Acts 11:1-26 NRSVue

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## Anthem

*“Holy Spirit, Come and Fill Us”*

Chancel Choir

Martin

## 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. 552

*“We All Are One in Mission”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*“Send the Light”*

Turner

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Today’s Worship Materials come from In the World: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday in Easter Year A 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/easter-7a-may-17/>

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**2026 Confirmands**

***Nora Marie Brinker***

daughter of Paul & Shanna Brinker

***Logan Paul Cooper***

son of BJ & Danielle Cooper

***Caeli Sue Manhart***

daughter of Tiffany Griffin & Chris Manhart

***Elsie Mae Saake-Gerstner***

daughter of Melinda & Steven Gerstner & Austin Saake

***Barrett Allan Short***

son of Elizabeth & Ryan Short

**We commit ourselves...**

**to worship God**

**to form faithful followers of Jesus**

**and to care for our wider community.**

*We care as Christ cares.*

*“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ...*



*and to the ends of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8, NRSV*

+ The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter +  
May 17, 2026 + 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

# MAY 17, 2026

**Confirmation Sunday**– This morning we are celebrating with 5 confirmands as they promise to be faithful servants of the Church. The following young people are being received through the Rite of Confirmation: Nora Brinker, Logan Cooper, Caeli Manhart, Elsie Saake-Gerstner & Barrett Short.

**Serving This Morning**

Liturgist: Alysha Petry  
Ushers: Sue Leicht & Karen Tucker Greeter: Daryl Hartley  
Sound Tech: Matt Herring Camera Tech: David Bean  
(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 – Bread for the World Offering of Letters** - The Outreach Team will again be sending letters to members of Congress advocating for funding for the hungry in the U.S. and nationwide. Please stop by the table in the lower commons to sign your letter.

**This Morning – Church World Service Blanket Sundays** – We are again having our annual Church World Service Blanket Sundays this morning for those who would like to donate a blanket in memory/honor of someone. Each blanket costs \$10 each.

**Graduation Congratulations** - Help us celebrate our 2026 High School graduate, Camden Dewert. Please stop by the graduation table in the upper commons and sign the card.

## On Our List For Prayers

**Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzen	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Hettie Becker
Sarah Berghorn	Gerry Hoelscher	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)	
Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzville)		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)	
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)	

**Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:**

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Susie Andell	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyliss Fink)
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)
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)

**Various Concerns:**

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.; *Faith Quest* – preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room. **Please note: This morning is the last day of Faith Quest for the program year.**

**This Morning** – This morning the Bible Buck Store will be OPEN! Children will get to spend their Bible bucks they earned throughout the Sunday School year.

### Church Calendar – May 17, 2026 to May 24, 2026

<b>Today -</b>	<b>The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship/Confirmation Sunday/Graduation Recognition</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Christian Education Hour</b>
<b>Mon., May 18 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Church Council (classroom)
<b>Wed., May 20 -</b>	10:00 a.m. June Newsletter assembled (fellowship hall) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
<b>Thurs., May 21 -</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
<b>Fri., May 22 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
<b>Next Sun., May 24 - Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship/New Members Welcomed</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b>

**Mon., May 18 – June Newsletter articles due** – Final articles for the June ‘Spirit of Zion’ newsletter are due in the church office on Monday morning, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The June newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

**Sat., May 23 – Shannondale Grand Opening** – The Green Team and Zion Fellowship are planning a field trip to Shannondale for the Grand Opening of the new Craft House on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We’ll leave from church at 9 a.m. Please sign up by May 17<sup>th</sup> if you’d like to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Lischer.

**Sat., June 6** – Sixteen church members are signed up to go to the Dinner and A Show at St. Paul’s UCC in Marthasville on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Don’t forget to pay Fern Dewert for your tickets.

**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! A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board.

**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!

**Please note! Styrofoam collection** at biospan technologies is temporarily paused. The company needs to catch up on processing its current collection before collecting more. Please note this pause will begin on April 1st and will last for several months. We will let you know when this collection resumes.

Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: [www.zionunion.org](http://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