

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 “The Healing Hand of God” Ritter

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 124*)

Blessed be the Holy One. If it had not been God on our side—the people proclaim!

With God on our side, we find our help in the name of the Holy One!

Blessed be the Holy One, who draws us from aimlessness, despair, and bitterness.

With God on our side, we find purpose, hope, and peace.

Blessed be the Holy One, who calls us to love one another—neighbors, enemies, family and friends.

With God on our side, we find compassion, grace, and mercy for one another. Blessed be the Holy One!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Living God, you draw us from the waters that offer both life and death, nourishment and destruction, peace and power. We gather as your people to remember your timely and tangible works. We call upon your many names as we have known you to be Redeemer, Counselor, Shepherd, and Friend. We worship you for who you are, and we draw near to become who you have crafted us to be. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 126 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

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

The Baptism of Steve and Tracey

Welcome

Questions of the Candidate(s)

Congregational Assent

Prayer of Baptism

Please join me in prayer. We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by the water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit, save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in those baptized this day that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Prayer of the Baptized

Let us pray for Steve and Tracey, baptized today.

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father, heavenly parent of us all, for your blessing and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. As Tracey and Steve have been baptized by our ministry into the Christian church, so may they, by your guidance, become one with Christ. Breathe upon them now and always your Holy Spirit. Grant that their love may be a blessing to their home and the world. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend these new members of the body of Christ. Grant the newly baptized: strength for life’s journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn No. 680

“Borning Cry”

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sovereign God, we often forget important truths and lessons the past offers us, devalue the relationships brought to us, and misuse the power given to us. Help us to live in truth, with integrity, and for peace. May love and compassion guide us in all our actions and interactions. Amen.

Words of Grace

Body of Christ, in the words of Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Receive the grace of God and the power of being in community to proceed in the newness of life as the One who loves us draws us from the threat of the depths into the hope of a blessed future.

We are forgiven and free, praise be to God!

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

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts for your glory, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kin-dom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Romans 12:1-8 NRSVue

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...
Thanks be to God!**

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. 716

“God Be with You”

The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Judith A. Petero** and **Mark Klenke**.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“To the Glory of God”

Peterson

Today's worship materials, *Out of the Water: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A*, were 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-13a-august-23/>

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

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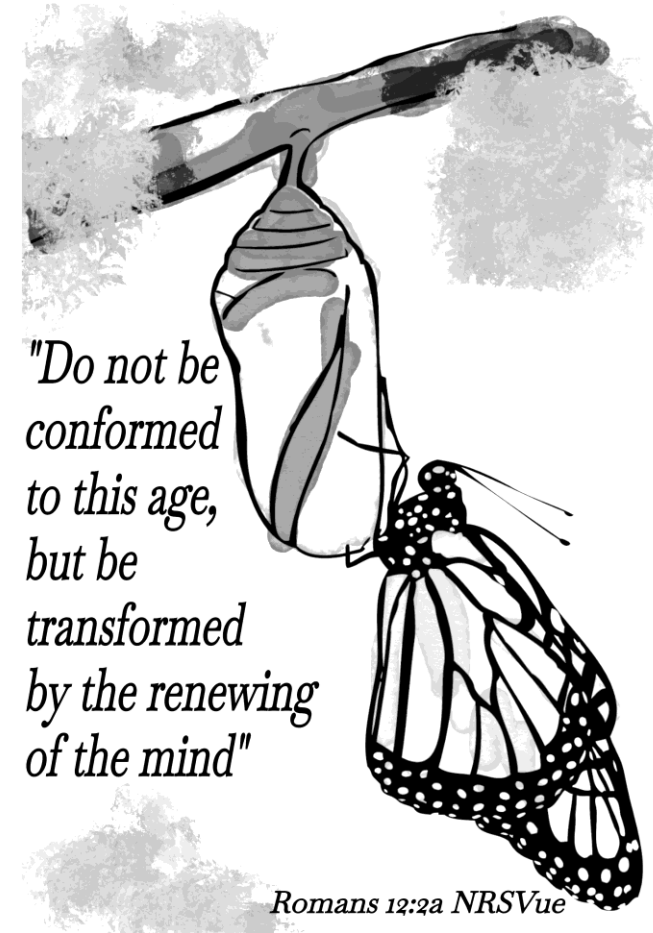
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



*"Do not be
conformed
to this age,
but be
transformed
by the renewing
of the mind"*

Romans 12:2a NRSVue

+ The 13th Sunday after Pentecost +

August 23, 2026 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri

SUNDAY NEWS

AUGUST 23, 2026

The Sacrament of Baptisms - We are happy to receive Tracey Jean Toland and her father Steven Andrew Toland in Christian baptism this morning. It is our responsibility as a congregation to support the baptismal candidates as they grow in the nurture and admonition of our Lord.

Tracey Jean Toland

born: January 18, 2026

daughter of Steven Toland & Laurel Camden

Grandparents: Jeannine Stevens, Mark & Karin Nuernberger, Tracey & Rickey Hill, Shirley Messex

Sponsors: Matt & Ivy Nuernberger

Steven Andrew Toland

born January 4, 1984

son of Rickey Hill & Tracey Hill

Sponsor: Tracey Hill

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry

Ushers: Rudy & Darlene Ahmann

Greeter: Jane Pinnell

Sound Tech: Harvey Mefford 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.

Zion Fellowship Event – This Afternoon – Zion Fellowship and all who are interested will be going to a Piano Recital by Dr. Shelly Moorman Stahlman at St. Clair United Methodist Church this afternoon at 3 p.m. Dinner will follow at Gibby's Restaurant in St. Clair.

On Our List for Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring
Brenda Viehland
Sarah Berghorn
Barb Harvey (at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Wentzville)
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)
Hallie Sammett (friend of Brenda Viehland)
Ada Price (daughter of Mindy Gerstner's friend)

Phyllis Olson
Kim Yenzler
Gerry Hoelscher

Carolyn Donoho
Kevin Vorderbruegge
Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)
S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)
Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth)
Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)
Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)
Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker)
Sophia Muller (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Denise Muller)
John Carter (friend of Sandy Stierberger)

Sympathy Is Extended to:

The family of Judy Petero who died on August 13th. Pastor Nick conducted the service for Judy on August 19th with burial in Jefferson Barracks Cemetery.

Evelyn Klenke & family on the death of her husband Mark who died on August 14th. Funeral services are pending.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter
Susie Andell
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)
Allen Coffman (friend of Shawn Pehle)
Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
Jenny Brittingham (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Monty McGavock (brother of Kathy Young)
Ken Laboube (friend of Hettie Becker)

Jake McNiel (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyllis Fink)
Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)
Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)
Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Julie Borgmann (niece of Fern Dewert)

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

2nd Class Petty Officer Aviation Structural Mechanic E-5 Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)

Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

Church Calendar – August 23, 2026 to August 30, 2026

Today -	The 13th Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship/Sacrament of Baptisms
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
Wed., Aug. 26 -	12:00 noon	Loops of Love (lower commons)
	6:30 p.m.	Low Voice Choir Rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Aug. 27 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle	
Fri., Aug. 28 -	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Aug. 30 -	The 14th Sunday after Pentecost	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Hall in Use

Zion UCC Blood Drive – Sun., Sept. 6 - Zion Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, September 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Click here** to schedule your appointment today or scan the QR code. If you have trouble accessing the sign up please contact the church office and we will be able to sign up for you! Invite your friends and neighbors who may be interested in donating. There are 24 slots available for sign up. Thank you!



St. Peter's (Washington) Women's Fellowship – Thurs., Sept. 10 – The women of St. Peter's UCC in Washington have invited all women of Zion to attend their Women's Fellowship meetings on the 2nd Thursdays of each month. They meet at 10 a.m. with discussion and a lunch follows. For their September 10th meeting the discussion will be 'Women of the Bible'. Since there is a lunch following and they would like to know how many will be attending, a sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board.

Zion Book Club – Tues., Sept. 15 – The next gathering of Zion's Book Club will be on Tuesday, September 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the lower commons. They will be reading the book "My Friends" by Fredrick Backman.

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!

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.

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