

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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 105)*

O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God’s wonderful works.

Declare God’s marvelous deeds among the peoples.

O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Sovereign and Awesome God, we come to worship you, to know you and to be known by you. Expand our hearts to love fully. Build our courage to receive the truth. Nurture our spirits to be gracious, merciful, and kind. Transform us in your image and for your glory as we dwell in your presence. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 145:1-13 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 35 “Morning Has Broken”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(Inspired by Romans 14)*

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone. Forgive us for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole. The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair.

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

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...
Thanks be to God!

Genesis 2:4b-25 NRSVue

Anthem
“Give Us a Vision”
Chancel Choir
Choplin

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. 577
“Sing a New Church”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude
“Break Forth, Ye Heavens!”
Broughton

Today’s Worship Materials come from **Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 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/after-pentecost-17a-september-20/>

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

We commit ourselves...
to worship God
to form faithful followers of Jesus
and to care for our wider community.
We care as Christ cares.



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September 20, 2026 + 9:00 a.m.
Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri

SUNDAY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Sallie Hancox
Ushers: Bill & Fern Dewert
Greeters: Lee & Susan Newman
Sound Tech: Alan TenEyck Video 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.

"Strengthen the Church" Offering - We will collect the special 'Strengthen the Church' offering through the month of September. The special mission offering supports the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church. Offering envelopes were included in the September newsletter and additional offering envelopes are available by the offering plate. Thank you for your gifts!

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" - envelopes are next the offering plate for your gifts. If you would like more information about the Festival of Sharing please visit their website at www.festivalofsharing.org.

On Our List for Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Hettie Becker
Sarah Berghorn	Gerry Hoelscher	Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann	Carla Kilgore
Barb Harvey (at home)	Susie Andell	Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)	
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)	
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Keith (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)	
John Carter (friend of Sandy Stierberger)		Shelly Ware (friend of Hettie Becker)	

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Keith Wadley	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyllis 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)
Ken Laboube (friend of Hettie Becker)	Rich (friend of Jim Doehring)

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)

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning - 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 – September 20, 2026 to September 27, 2026

Today -	The 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Adult Education
Mon., Sept. 21 -	7:00 p.m. Church Council (classroom)
Wed., Sept. 23 -	10:00 a.m. October newsletter assembled (fellowship hall) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Sept. 24 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
Fri., Sept. 25 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Sat., Sep. 26 -	3:00 p.m. Wedding
Next Sun., Sept. 27 -	The 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Adult Education 10:00 a.m. CPR/AED Training (fellowship hall)

October 'Spirit of Zion' Newsletter Articles Due – Mon., Sept. 21 – Final articles for the October 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday, September 21st. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, September 23rd at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

CPR/AED Training – Next Sun., Sept. 27 – For those interested, there will be a CPR/AED Training following the worship service next Sunday, September 27th in the Fellowship Hall. This is open to everyone interested. More details to follow.

'Undie Sunday' – Sun., Oct. 4 – Jeanne & Sally Lischer will be volunteering at Back Bay Mission with a group from St. Peter's UCC in Washington in October. Back Bay Mission serves those living in poverty in Biloxi, Mississippi. One of Back Bay's ministries is the Micah Day Center for homeless residents. A big need is underwear, so we'll be collecting underwear on 'Undie Sunday', October 4th. We need new underwear for both men and women – adult M, L, & XL. Please no white underwear. There is a box in the lower commons for your donations. Thank you!

CROP Rock-A-Thon & CROP Walk – Sign up sheets are posted on the lower commons bulletin board for the upcoming CROP Rock-A-Thon & CROP Walk. This is the 35th year for the CROP Walk in the Union Community. There will be two opportunities to help those dealing with hunger. Unless someone steps up to chair the Walk, this will be the 35th and last CROP Walk in the Union Community. We want to make this a BIG WALK to celebrate our 35 years of caring about hungry people, supporting the Union Food Pantry and Second Blessings as well as Church World Service (CROP). We only walk one mile in spirit with those who have to sometimes walk miles to get a jar of water and food. For those participating in the Walk we would like to request that each walker please bring a few food items to be divided between the Union Food Pantry and Second Blessings Pantry. Last year we divided 100 items with the same pantries.

CASA is looking for Volunteers! – CASA of Mideast Missouri advocates for children in the foster care program in Franklin, Gasconade & Osage counties. They are seeking to train volunteers. The next CASA volunteer training session begins in mid-October with an application deadline for October 1st. To apply, donate or learn more about CASA please call 636-583-4422.

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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