

The Feast of Creation Sunday

September 6, 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 *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”* Ritter

Call to Worship (*adapted from Psalm 146*)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

We will praise the LORD as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God our whole life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. Our God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

God keeps faith forever; executes justice for the oppressed; and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Psalm 8 NRSVue

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn

“Worker God Who Built Creation”

***New Song Commissioned & Written for Labor Sunday! Amanda Udis-Kessler, August 1, 2025; Hymn to Joy (Tune of “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”)

**Worker God who built creation, author of humanity,
Thoughtful planner, joyous potter, through your work we come to be.
May we labor in your image. May your love guide all we do.
Help us co-create your kin-dom. Help us make your dream come true.**

**Worker Jesus, teaching, healing, sharing gifts of wine and bread,
Strengthening the broken-hearted, making sure the poor are fed,
May we labor in your image. May we set the captives free.
Send us ever to the margins. Rouse our solidarity.**

**Worker Spirit, inspiration, you infuse each living soul,
Calling us to lives of justice till each heart is free and whole.
May we labor in your image. May we tend and heal and praise.
May we strive for life abundant, glad and grateful all our days.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice.

We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation’s story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God’s love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

God of Justice, Mercy, and Fairness: We commit ourselves and these offerings unto you, that your will and ways may be manifested in our lives, within your assemblies, and spread forth that the powers that be might serve your purposes until all are fed, housed, cared for, work with dignity, and all of these things done in ways that preserve the sanctity of this one precious earth. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

John 1:1-5 NRSVue

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

Anthem

“Bow Down Low”
Chancel Choir

Shaker Hymn

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.

Hymn of Preparation No. 697 (2 times) **“Eat This Bread”**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Statement of Faith

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,
Creator God; we know you can make miracles out of morsels; so, bless by your Holy Spirit these gifts of grain and grape. Transform this meal and us far beyond what we can imagine. May we remain faithful as servants of your beloved creation, now and always. 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 gluten-free wafer in your hand.
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,
Majestic Creator, we give you thanks for this meal and time shared. May it strengthen us for life's journey. Grant us the courage and resolve to be your people, to love generously, to hope relentlessly, and to do the good that is ours to do. Bless us, that we may bless the world. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 24 “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude “Chorale Postlude” Bach

The Opening Prayer, confession liturgy and the prayer of dedication are used with permission from Sundays and Seasons, © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.

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 Feast of Creation Sunday +
September 6, 2026 + 9:00 a.m.
Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri

SUNDAY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

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: Maxine Harrison
Ushers: Dennis & Karen Tucker
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Carl & Jane Ridder
Greeters: Armin & Norma Klemme
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.

Zion UCC Blood Drive – This Morning - Zion Church is hosting a Blood Drive this morning following the worship service from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you did not schedule an online appointment it is not too late to donate! Walk-ins are welcome!

"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)	
Ada Price (daughter of Mindy Gerstner's friend)		John Carter (friend of Sandy Stierberger)	

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 Phylliss 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

Bible Presentation - Next Sun., Sept. 13 – Next Sunday, September 13th is Children's Bible Presentation for 2nd & 3rd grade students during the 9 a.m. worship service. Please let Alysha know if you would like your child to receive a Bible by emailing her at apetry@zionunion.org.

RALLY DAY! - Next Sun., Sept. 13 – RALLY DAY will be next Sunday, September 13th from 10-11 a.m.

Youth Event - Next Sun., Sept. 13 – All youth are invited to the Youth Event at The Alley in Washington next Sunday September 13th from 1-3 p.m. RSVP to Alysha at apetry@zionunion.org. A waiver to play at The Alley needs to be signed before attending. Alysha will email the waiver link after she receives your RSVP.

Church Calendar – September 6, 2026 to September 13, 2026

Today -	Feast of Creation Sunday/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall
Mon., Sept. 7 -	Labor Day (Church Offices will be closed)
Wed., Sept. 9 -	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., Sept. 10 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., Sept. 11 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Sat., Sept. 12 -	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Sept. 13 -	The 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Green Team 10:00 a.m. Christian Education 1:00-3:00 p.m. Youth Event at The Alley in Washington

LOGOS Adult Education: Shannondale – Wed., Sept. 9 – Kathy & Myron Ury will join us at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th, to share the history of Shannondale and its many current ministries. Dinner follows at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Alysha (apetry@zionunion.org) or call the church office if you plan to attend.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals – Wed., Sept. 9 – Chancel Choir is open to all high school ages and up who feel a calling to sing because: you seek fellowship; you need a safe emotional place; you feel better after singing!

St. Peter's (Washington) Women's Fellowship – Thurs., Sept. 10 – Women's Fellowship of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Washington invites all women to attend their meeting on September 10, at 10 a.m. They meet the second Thursday of each month. September's meeting will be held in the atrium meeting room. Pastor Kurt will be presenting a program on "Women of the Bible-Acts." They will share their schedule of meetings for the fall. Lunch will be provided. Please join them for a time of fellowship and togetherness. Please sign up on the lower commons bulletin board by Friday, September 4th if you will be coming.

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.

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

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.