The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2026 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 *"Sing With All the Saints in Glory"* arr. Smith

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.
Divine Comfort, our hearts ache for those who have died. While we celebrate their union with you in glory, we continue to mourn their absence in our lives today. We long to hear their voice. We still call their name or ring their phone, only to awaken our grief. On this Totenfest Sunday, grant us the strength and courage to move forward. May your peace calm our weary hearts, and allow comfort to take root as we plant the memories of our beloved in our souls. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Hebrews 11: 1-3,7-8, 23-29, 32,39-12:2 NRSVue

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 give thanks for their lives, their love, their legacy.
We cherish their blessings, remember their lessons, and forgive their failures.
As we await our reunion with them beyond the grave.
Help us honor our beloved in our living.
Although the path may be filled with sorrow and burden.
May we find gratitude in our grief.
Hope in our heartache.
And joy on our journey. Amen.

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

May God bless them,
And welcome them into the saints in light.

Glennon A. 'Skip' Buehrle
born: March 25, 1951
died: November 26, 2025

Kevin V. Kasmann
born: September 11, 1958
died: January 8, 2026

Betty L. Zumwalt
born: March 26, 1935
died: January 18, 2026

Anne Parker
born: February 4, 1939
died: January 27, 2026

Barbara E. Gardner
born: June 10, 1945
died: February 9, 2026

Helen V. (nee Van Leer) Olm
born: April 6, 1941
died: March 7, 2026

Melva M. Puls
born: December 2, 1935
died: March 30, 2026

Geraldine S. Bedwell
born: January 10, 1930
died: April 12, 2026

John Bruce Crane
born: August 27, 1939
died: May 28, 2026

Judith A. Petero
born: July 5, 1945
died: August 13, 2026

Carolyn M. Houttuin
born: March 27, 1938
died: March 7, 2026

Mark C. Klenke
born: September 12, 1949
died: August 14, 2026

Ron Williams
born: January 26, 1961
died: October 21, 2026

(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 Transformation and New Life

God, we gather with heavy hearts. The burden of grief weighs us down. Despair tempts us into apathy. We give in to dread, and convince ourselves that life has lost its luster. Forgive us for believing our despair honors the dead. Remind us that our beloved's love transcends the grave. Awaken our spirits, rekindle our hope, and lead us into life anew. Help us love recklessly and hope relentlessly. Teach us how to honor our grief without sacrificing the fullness of our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Beloved, your grief is not a burden to those who love you. God witnesses your pain, honors your struggle, and believes in you. May the grace of God, greater than our failings, and the peace of Christ which surpasses understanding, and companionship of the Holy Spirit, closer than our next breath, be with you always.

Praise be to God. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Psalm 90 NRSVue

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…

Thanks 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

Loving God, may these gifts we dedicate be in service of your love, joy, and hope. Bless the giving and the giver for the benefit of your realm. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Anthem *"There Is a Season"* Kendziq

Chancel Choir + Ann Hartley & Liz Pace, flutes + Jeanne Lischer, guitar

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

Call to Communion

Remembrance

Invocation

God, we pray that this feast be one that fills our souls with comfort. Even as winter is growing close and nighttime arrives early, this meal will kindle warmth and light inside our spirits. May your Holy Spirit bless this bread and cup. May the Spirit bless us as we celebrate at the peaks of life and as we abide in the shadow-filled valleys. May the Spirit bring us the peace that will permeate our grief-coated hearts. And may the Spirit use this time and space to remind us that we are never alone in our difficult spaces. 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

We express our gratitude for this meal, Divine Host. We give thanks for the times we spent with our loved ones here at this table, and we thank you that this table is a reminder of our love for you, God. Accompany us into the world with peace in our hearts and strength in the days to come. Amen.

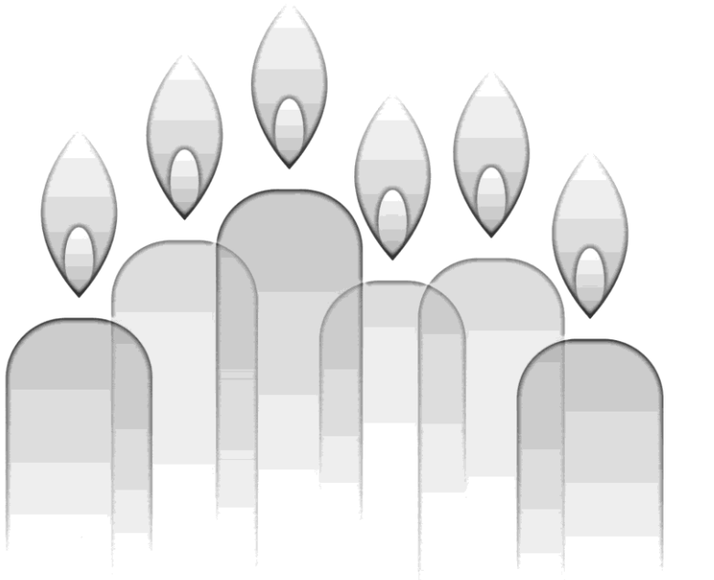
+ Closing Hymn No. 515 *"Hymn of Promise"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"Come With Rejoicing"* Morrison

Today's Call to Worship was 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. Today's Communion Liturgy was Written by Michelle Torrigan https://michelletorigian.com/2017/10/30/all-saints-sunday-communion-liturgy/

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 23rd Sunday after Pentecost +

November 1, 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 NOVEMBER 1, 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.

The flowers next to the pulpit are in memory of Edward Stierberger by Sandy Stierberger.

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.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Maxine Harrison
Ushers: Alan & Sharon TenEyck
Greeter: Jane Pinnell
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Ken & Carol Rohrbach
Candle Lighters: Nora & Luke Brinker
Sound Tech: Dan Mossoney Video Tech: David Bean

On Our List for Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring
Brenda Viehland
Sarah Berghorn
Barb Harvey (at home)
Phyllis Olson
Kim Yenzer
Gerry Hoelscher
Susie Andell
Carolyn Donoho
Kevin Vorderbruegge
Wayne & Ellen Brinkmann
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)
Charlotte Ellison
Hettie Becker
Carla Kilgore
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)
Shelly Ware (friend of Hettie Becker)
JoAnna Adams (friend of Connie Thompson)
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)
Keith (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)
Cynthia B (Good Samaritan Fund client)
Jane Van Leer (friend of Connie Thompson)
Karen Copeland (mother & grandmother of Matthew, Lukas & Jackten Copeland)

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Don Frankenberg (uncle of Phyliss 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)
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)
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)
Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)
Matthew (friend of Richard & Kathy Young)
Julie Borgmann (niece of Fern Dewert)
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 7th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the adult Sunday school room in the lower commons.

Intergenerational Sunday School – Next Sun., Nov. 8 - All classes will be in the fellowship hall for our Intergenerational Sunday School from 10-11 a.m

Church Calendar – November 1, 2026 to November 8, 2026

Today -	**The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost/Communion**	
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship/Totenfest**
	10:00 a.m.	**Fellowship Hour**
	10:00 a.m.	**Christian Education/Adult Education**
	10:00 a.m.	**Green Team**
Wed., Nov. 4 -	12:00 noon	Loops of Love (lower commons)
	5:00 p.m.	LOGOS
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Nov. 5 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Quilting Circle
	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in Use
Fri., Nov. 6 -	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Nov. 8 -	**The 24th Sunday after Pentecost/Communion**	
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
	10:00 a.m.	**Fellowship Hour**
	10:00 a.m.	**Christian Education/Adult Education**
	10:00 a.m.	**Congregational Meeting (sanctuary)**
	10:00 a.m.	**Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)**

Volunteer Training for Winter Weather Shelter – Tues., Nov. 3 – The Franklin County Homelessness Task Force will be hosting a Volunteer Training at the Franklin County Resource Board, 500 Clark Avenue in Union on Tuesday, November 3rd at 2 p.m. Volunteer opportunities include: welcome and check in guests; provide meals and answer questions; assist with set up and cleanup; provide a warm, respectful, and supportive presence. The training will take approximately 2 hours.

Congregational Meeting – Next Sun., Nov. 8 – The November Congregational Meeting of Zion Church will be next Sunday, November 8th following the morning worship service in the sanctuary. The Agenda packet is now available on the table in the upper commons. Please take one per family and bring it to the meeting with you on November 8th.

Hand Chimes 'Petting Zoo' – Next Sun, Nov. 8 – You will be hearing hand chimes at the service next Sunday, November 8th. What are they like? Come to the hand chime 'petting zoo' after the congregational meeting and spend a few minutes to try them out. Karen Stafford will be available to answer any questions.

Back Bay Mission at LOGOS – Wed., Nov. 11 – Jeanne & Sally Lischer, Rhonda Stockglausner and others who volunteered at Back Bay Mission in October will share their experiences on Wednesday, November 11th. The program begins at 5 p.m. with dinner following at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Alysha (apetry@zionunion.org) or call the church office (636-583-2814) if you plan to stay for dinner. Come learn about this important UCC ministry on the Gulf Coast!

Transitional Conference Minister – Sun., Nov. 15 – On Sunday, November 15th the Transitional Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, Rev. Phil Hodson, will be our guest preacher that morning. Following the worship service, all are invited to a light brunch in the fellowship hall. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board to indicate how many will be attending and what food you will be providing.

Winter Care Packages Collections – Nov. 1 – 29 – Winter Care Packages for the Little Free Pantry will be assembled during the Advent Event on November 29th. 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, mac & cheese cups. Please drop off items in the lower commons Little Free Pantry donation basket.

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
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