

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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 “O Zion, Haste” Smith

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 26)

Sing to the Holy One, all the earth. Declare God’s Glory!
Great is the Holy One, who made the heavens and the earth.
Sing a new song unto the Holy One. Join with all creation in praise and reverence!
We witness God’s marvelous works among the peoples.
Worship the Holy One, all the earth! Declare God’s sovereignty!
Rejoice and be glad! God is great!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray,
Sovereign and Radiant God, you go before us and invite us to meet you. Today, we gather in your presence as a community. You gift us “the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places.” We respond as you call us by name. We come to know you as you invite us to be known by you. Receive our worship and form us as your people in justice, truth, righteousness, compassion, and love. Be glorified among us and through us, we pray. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Genesis 1:26-30 (The Message)
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...
Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 40 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, you have revealed yourself in scripture, prophets, and the Christ. Yet, we have reduced your gospel of liberation for all people, restoration of all creation, and redemption for the world into personal piety and devotion. We make idols of the trappings of empire, trusting in our own plots and plans while failing to believe and trust you with bold, transformative prayers. Help us, O God, live in faith and access your power. Remind us that you equip and endow us to be your body in the world so that all may flourish and experience abundance. Amen.

Assurance of Grace
Beloved, Creator continues to do a new thing in you and will strengthen and encourage you to be bold and faithful in the journey. Receive the invitation to new and full life in Christ. Reject hopelessness, fatalism, and despair. That is not your portion. God has given you a spirit to live in the kin-dom and be ambassadors and agents of the good news for the glory of God and the good of the world.
We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Matthew 22:15-22 (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

God of good and perfect gifts, receive our humble gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May they contribute to a world of abundance and your kingdom come. May we experience the joy and privilege of giving as a gift in and of itself. Amen.

Special Music

“I Will Arise”

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Rev Julie Wadley

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. 91

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“With Sounding Timbrel”

Nordman

Today's Liturgy was written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, and is part of our United Church of Christ Worship Ways <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-21a-october-18/>

Welcome and thank you! A special thank you and welcome to Rev. Julie Wadley for supplying our pulpit this morning! Rev. Wadley is a Hospice Chaplain for Three Oaks Hospice.

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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October 18, 2026 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri

SUNDAY NEWS

OCTOBER 18, 2026

The flowers next to the pulpit are in honor of the 90th Birthday of Hettie Becker given by friends.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Sue Leicht

Ushers: Ken & Carol Rohrbach

Greeters: Carol & Jane Ridder

Sound/Video Tech: David Bean

(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

"These Days" Devotionals for October-November-December are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

90th Birthday Open House for Hettie Becker – This Afternoon – The family of Hettie Becker invite all to help her celebrate her 90th Birthday at an Open House in the Zion Fellowship Hall this afternoon from 1-4 p.m. (No gifts please).

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)	
Shelly Ware (friend of Hettie Becker)		Cynthia B (Good Samaritan Fund client)	
Karen Copeland (mother & grandmother of Matthew, Lukas & Jackten Copeland)			

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)	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)	Ronnie Williams (brother of Gail Mefford & Tom Williams)

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.

Church Calendar – October 18, 2026 to October 25, 2026

Today -	The 21st 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. 2027 Proposed Budget Presentation (fellowship hall) 1:00-4:00 p.m. 90th Birthday Open House for Hettie Becker
Mon., Oct. 19 -	7:00 p.m. Church Council (classroom)
Tues., Oct. 20 -	1:30 p.m. Book Club (lower commons)
Wed., Oct. 21 -	10:00 a.m. November newsletter assembled (fellowship hall) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Oct. 22 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
Fri., Oct. 23 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Next Sun., Oct. 25 -	The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Adult Education

November Newsletter Articles Due – Mon., Oct. 19 – Final articles for the November 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Monday morning, October 19th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, October 21st at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Zion Book Club – Tues., Oct. 20 – Zion Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, October 20th in the lower commons at 1:30 p.m. The book they are reading and will be discussing is "*The Things We Cannot Say*" by Kelly Rimmer. All are invited to join the Book Club!

Warner's Winter Warm Up (Coat Drive) – Oct. 19-Nov. 1 – Zion is again participating in the Warner's Winter Warm Up Coat Drive. Please bring gently used jackets and coats to church and place them in the box in the lower commons which will be given to local food pantries and other local organizations. Donations will be accepted from October 19 – November 1.

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