The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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 *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"* Goss

Call to Worship *(Inspired by Psalms 123 and 90)*
Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Praise God!

Gathering Prayer
Let us pray:
Present God, we worship you and honor your name. Open our hearts with thanksgiving, awe, and possibility. Make your word be written on our hearts and your purpose ignite a fire within our souls. As we gather as a community, may our faith be renewed, our trust strengthened, and our courage increased. Be glorified in our midst, O God. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Psalm 46 NRSVue
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church…
Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 477 *"Come and Find the Quiet Center"*

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession
Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kin-dom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor. Amen.

Assurance of Grace
Christ-follower, God is with you. Receive wisdom and power to continue in the way of Jesus through trials and struggle. Find your validation and affirmation in the unconditional and boundless love of God. Embrace the guidance of the Spirit and the companionship of Jesus as you choose justice and righteousness as your position and purpose.
We are forgiven and free; praise be to God. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture Matthew 25:14-30 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
Generous God, please receive these gifts from the position of love to elevate the position of our neighbor, our witness, and our faith community. Magnify them and bless us as we give. Amen.

Special Music *"Canticle of Thanksgiving"*
Chancel Choir

Sermon "What We Put in the Ground" Rev. Phil Hodson

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. 24 *"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"Go Forth in Faith"* Ritter

Today's Liturgy comes from Position Yourself: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Year A, 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-25a-november-15/

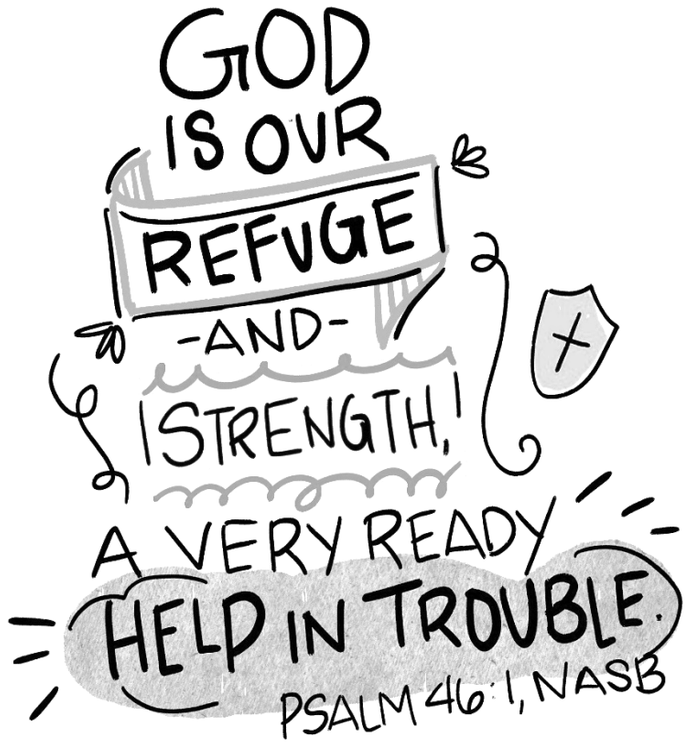
Rev. Phil Hodson - INTENTIONAL INTERIM CONFERENCE MINISTER

Rev. Phil Hodson comes to the Missouri Mid-South Conference from the Pacific Northwest Conference, where he served as Designated Conference Minister. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Sales Management and from Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology with a Master of Divinity.

Phil has worked in both church planting and revitalization throughout his ministry, partnering with congregations in financial oversight, administrative reorganization, building campaigns, and community engagement.

Phil is the husband of Joelle and the father of four energetic boys.

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 25th Sunday after Pentecost +
November 15, 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 15, 2026

Serving This Morning

Ushers: Connor Muller & Carol Rohrbach
Greeters: Maxine Harrison & Susan Merlino
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
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)
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)
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 5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 6-12 will meet in the Youth Room.

Christmas Program Rehearsal Dates – The Faith Quest Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 13th during worship. All youth are invited to participate. Speaking & non-speaking parts are available. Rehearsal dates are: Sunday, November 29 during the Advent Workshop; Wednesday, December 2 & 9 during LOGOS; and Sunday, December 6 during Faith Quest. Youth do not have to make every rehearsal to be in the program.

Church Calendar – November 15, 2026 to November 22, 2026

Today - The 25th 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. Brunch (fellowship hall)

Mon., Nov. 16 -	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (classroom)
Wed., Nov. 18 -	12:00 noon	Loops of Love (lower commons)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Nov. 19 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Quilting Circle
Fri., Nov. 20 -	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in Use
Sat., Nov. 21 -	1:00-3:00 p.m.	90th Birthday Celebration for Ruth Parker (fellowship hall)

Next Sun., Nov. 22 - Reign of Christ Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Greening of the Church

December Newsletter Articles Due – Wed., Nov. 18 – Newsletter articles for the December 'Spirit of Zion' are due in the church office on Wednesday, November 18th. The newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, November 25th at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Open House for Ruth Parker – Sat., Nov. 21 – The family of Ruth Parker is inviting the congregation to an Open House in honor of her 90th Birthday on Saturday, November 21st from 1-3 p.m. at Zion Church. (No gifts, please)

Combined Christian Choir Thanksgiving Concert - Sun., Nov. 22 - The 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving concert will be presented on Sunday, November 22, at 3 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington. This event is fully accessible and interpreted for the deaf. A freewill offering will be collected to be given to local charities.

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.

ECC Christmas Choir Concert – Fri., Dec. 4 – East Central College will have their Christmas Choir Concert at Zion on Friday, December 4th at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

Ordination of Alysha Petry – Sun., Dec. 6 - Everyone is invited to join in celebrating the ordination of Alysha Petry on Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ. The service will also be live-streamed that afternoon at www.youtube.com@zionucc6275. A dinner reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to the church office or cthompson@zionunion.org

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – Sat., Dec. 12 – Salvation Army Bell Ringers are needed for Saturday, December 12th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Schnuck's in Union. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board. 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.

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