

# SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

Published by: Zion United Church of Christ, Peru

Reverend David Kniker, Interim Minister

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## IN-BETWEEN TIMES.....

It is my pleasure to join you as a people in your “in-between” times! They are times of remembering, of reflection, of renewal and of looking forward and I am pleased to work among you in those opportunities and tasks.

As I met with the interview team and the Council, several tasks were identified such as 1) an opportunity to consider the question: What is God calling Zion U.C.C. to be and do in the coming several years?; 2) to review how the church is organized and update the constitution; 3) to strengthen stewardship; and 4) to work at whatever grief and other issues are related to the loss of your pastor. Other matters will surface, I’m sure, as we work together.

In an interim time, research has indicated that there are five tasks to be addressed: 1) put previous ministry(ies) in historical perspective; 2) discover/re-shape the church’s identity; 3) provide opportunity for changes in leadership; 4) renew denominational relationships; and 5) develop a commitment to new directions in ministry. More will be said about this later.

Meanwhile, I will work at being your pastor, seeking to respond to pastoral and leadership needs as best I can in 2/3 of full time. I want to be available, even when I’m not in the office or in Peru. I can be reached by contacting the church secretary during regular office hours; by calling my toll-free pager (1-888-865-0881 – at the command enter your area code and phone number) and I’ll call back as soon as possible; by calling my cell phone (1-309-853-7814); or by calling my home (1-309-852-4714). In each week’s worship bulletin (and on the web site) will be listed my anticipated schedule for the week – when I’ll be in Peru and when I’ll be at home or elsewhere.

Though I have some previous connections to LaSalle/Peru by way of previously serving as interim pastor at First Congregational in LaSalle (and getting to know a bit of Zion in the process), by being at a number of conference-wide meetings here at Zion (and discovering your great hospitality), and, in the community realm, by serving as a member of a screening team as the Peru Elementary School District was searching for a new Superintendent. That may give me a leg up, but please remember that I will need help in getting to know you personally – please let me know your name, again and again, so that I can learn to be able to call you by name. Thanks and may God bless our journey together!

Yours, for “in-between” times,  
David F. Kniker

## **Learning To Let Go:**

In an article by Rick Warren the author of "The Purpose Driven Life" Mr. Warren discusses forgiveness. "When someone hurts you, sometimes the most courageous thing you can do is forgive" is the opening sentence. He describes four steps needed to experience the emotional healing that comes from forgiveness.

FIRST "Remember your reasons: First resentment is self-defeating. It hurts you more than the person who caused your bitterness." Second "No one is perfect. You've needed forgiveness yourself." Third "God forgives you and He expects you to offer forgiveness to others. If you ask Him to give you the strength to forgive, He will."

SECOND "Relinquish the right to get even: Forgiveness means 'I give up my right to retaliate even though you deserve to be hurt back.' That doesn't seem fair but forgiveness is about grace and fairness. Life isn't fair. This rarely happens in one sitting. So you must repeatedly choose to let go every time you start to feel resentful. Eventually your emotions catch up with our decision."

THIRD "Respond to evil with good. Jesus taught "Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you.' This seems impossible because it runs contrary to natural feelings. But human love is limited; it wears out. That's why you need a constant connection with God's unlimited love to forgive through our life."

FOURTH "Refocus on God's purpose for your life. The quickest way to forget a hurt is to refocus on something better! God's purpose for your life is far greater than any problem or pain you face. If you give Him all the pieces He will bring good out of bad. Stop living like a victim.....As the Bible says, 'Then all your troubles will fade from your memories like floods that are past and remembered no more.'"

James Moore has similar thoughts in his book "Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses" in the chapter called the sin of half-heartedness. His sections are titled "Don't Retaliate", Don't Resent, Don't Quit, and "Love is the most powerful thing in the world!" (This book and the complete above article are available in the church office.)

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## **Prayers/Concerns:**

In the Hospital and at Home this Month

Frank Bejster, Dorothy Pikul, Virginia Kudla, Martha Mrella, Marcella Loekle, Jim Kivett at Colonial Hall, Janis Watkins, Cornelia Scott, Harry Callahan, Bill Hainzinger, Don Seaton, Hank Fassett, Wayne Merkel

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## **Food Pantry:**

We gave 12 lbs of food and \$35.00 this month. Please remember the Pantry. If you have extra produce from the garden you may take it to the pantry every day from 8-12 noon except on Thursday when they are closed.

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## Thank You

A "Big Thank you" to Jean and Jim Greening and all the volunteers for making Bible School a super "FIESTA". It was wonderful to see everyone working together and having fun learning about Jesus.

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The Wider Church Ministry Team of the Conference Council of the IL Conference wishes to Thank us for our generous donation towards projects of One Great Hour of Sharing 2006.

We are grateful for your support and ministry to so many.

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Zion Church is proud of all our young people who played softball or baseball during the summer. Also the parents who volunteered as managers and coaches.

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Congratulations to: The Peru 10-11 year All-Stars who played in the state tournament. Austin Ploch was a member.

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The Peru Senior League All Stars who played in the local tournament. Billy Becker was a player and the team was managed by Bill Becker. We hope Billy is recovering from his injury.

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## Keep the Promise...We will not Forget, September 11, 2001

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 344 Joliet St., LaSalle on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

On the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on our country, please come to honor the civilians, police officers, firemen, military members and medical personnel that were killed.

We will have the Army color guard, bagpipes, music and speakers to honor our fallen countrymen and to show pride and faith in our military putting their lives in harms way to keep our country safe.

Please come and spend an hour of your time to pay tribute to our country, our defenders, our heritage and our God.

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## Elmhurst College:

Elmhurst College will offer full-time freshman and transfer students who are members of UCC congregations 1/3 tuition scholarships, currently valued at \$7,700. This scholarship is renewable each year, so long as a student remains in good academic standing in pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

You may find poster and attached reply cards on the literature table in the fellowship room.

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## **German Buffet and Country Store**

At Hollowayville U.C.C.

September 14<sup>th</sup>

Serving 3:00 – 7:00 pm

Donation: \$7.50, Children \$4.00

Pre-School – Free

Carryouts Available, Air Conditioned Hall

Menu: Turkey, pork and Kraut, Ham, Red Cabbage, German Potato Salad, Salad Bar, Dessert and Beverage.

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## **Elevator Replacement:**

In recent months the elevator has begun to show its many years of use. Finding replacement parts is almost impossible and meeting current safety codes has become a concern. The council has decided to purchase a new elevator. Since this is an unforeseen problem, our 2006 budget does not include money for the project. The elevator and necessary electrical and carpentry work will cost about \$20,000. and will be completed this fall. In hopes of helping to defray the costs, a special fund has been established. Please mark it "ELEVATOR FUND."

Through the years Zion membership has always been very responsive to our special projects. We all know the elevator is a necessity for our church.

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*All that is gold does not glisten, not all those that wander are lost.*

## **Board of Christian Education:**

The Board of Christian Education met on August 8. After approving the minute of the June meeting, the Board discussed upcoming events;

Saturday September 9, 11:00 to 2:00 pm pre Rally Day event at the Dickenson House in Oglesby for the Church School children will include games, lunch, bowling and fun.

Sunday, September 10, Rally. Children will go to their new classes during church at 9:00 and will receive attendance awards for last year during worship at 10:15 am.

Halloween Fest, Friday, October 27, 5:00-8:00 pm Workers will be needed. Games, Haunted House, and food. Food will be supplied by the Board with the exception of asking for desserts to be donated by members of the congregation.

Mitten Tree mission project starts October 1 to collect mittens and scarves for the children's home.

Advent workshop tentatively set for December 3, depending on the church council's Christmas decorating plans.

A report on VBS was given. (See report in this issue of the newsletter.)

The nursery staffing for during church services was discussed. (See the begging plea in this issue of the newsletter)

Helpers for the church school classes were discussed. We need more.

A teacher-board meeting was discussed.

Next meeting will be September 4 at 7:00 pm.

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### **NURSERY HELP!**

We need more helpers to work in the nursery during the church services. We need more volunteers! We always bemoan the fact that not enough young people worship with us so we need to provide child care for those who need it! Please contact the church office if you are willing to help.

Also if you are scheduled and cannot do it on that Sunday, please let the office know so a replacement can be found. It is embarrassing when nobody shows up especially when we have a visitor with a child. Please do your part for this vital service of our church!

Board of Christian Education

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### **Attendance Pins:**

Our young people who will be receiving attendance pins during the 10:15 am worship service on Rally Day, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Samantha Fupler	Kelsey Grosenbach
Stephen Riordan	Austin Riordan
Anna Coutre'	Raymond Fupler
Zachary Fupler	Katie Grosenbach
Alison Coutre'	Olivia Bergagna
Abby Coutre'	

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### **Attention: Sixth Graders and up:**

What: Pumpkin Harvest

Where: Boggio's Orchard in Granville & Pilgrim Park

When: September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Cost: \$6 per person (corn maze, paddle cars, small pumpkin)

\*\* Extra money will be needed for the food booths and any souvenirs kids may want to buy.

We begin at 3:00 pm at Boggio's – We have fun at the orchard until 5:00 pm. When we depart for Pilgrim Park...At Pilgrim Park, we will roast hot dogs for supper, and then maybe hike a little, and then have S'mores before we depart for home.

Sounds interesting. Call the church office 223-2671 for further details. We can also use adult supervision on this outing.

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**Reminder:** Women's Guild will hold their opening meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Dessert luncheon, followed by meeting. Everyone is welcome

## Church Council News:

The Church Council met on August 14<sup>th</sup>

The meeting opened with prayer.

The committee brought to the council their recommendation for interim, Rev David Kniker and he has been approved to begin his duties as interim minister on September 5<sup>th</sup>. He will begin preaching on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Motions were made and approved to accept the minutes, the treasurer's report and to pay all bills.

Building and Grounds: Kitchen coffee pot working again. A/C in office not working properly. Motions were made and seconded to replace it. Motions were made and seconded to get estimates for A/C in the lower Sunday School rooms.

Christian Education: Rhonda Essl gave her report which included a get together on September 9<sup>th</sup>., Rally Day September 10<sup>th</sup>. Attendance pins given., Advent Workshop on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday School Program on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Pastoral Care reported they visited 7 shut-ins

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday, November 12. Potluck dinner

New Business: Search Committee discussed, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Reception for Rev. Kniker. Elevator Fund Driver discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm..

Respectfully submitted,  
Erica Riordan

**Reception:** A reception will be held following worship for Rev. David Kniker on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please join us to welcome him to Zion Church as our interim pastor.

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## UCC Women's Retreat

At Pilgrim Park! September 29-30, 2006

Brochures and registration on literature table in the fellowship room. Early Registration Deadline August 15<sup>th</sup>. Late Registration Deadline: September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## Sunday School Begins:

Sunday School gets started again on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Any child age 3 and up is welcome to attend. You will find a registration form included with this newsletter. If you know anyone with children that may be interested please invite them. The registration form is also available on the church website ([www.zionperu.org](http://www.zionperu.org)) on the worship page near the bottom. We welcome all children.

We will kick off with a pre rally day get together at Dickenson House in Oglesby on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 -2 :00 pm Join us for bowling, games and lunch all provided by the Board of Christian Education.

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### **Ben An Active Member Of Your Church**

There are many opportunities to help from baking goodies to volunteering time. We are always in need of people to work as nursery attendants during worship and as helpers for special Sunday School projects.

At this time we are planning our Halloween festival which requires help in many forms. Are you creative? We need help with construction our haunted house and/or working in it during the festival. Help with decorating, games, and clean up is also needed. This event is open to our whole community so this is a great opportunity to reach out and grow our church family.

### **Movie Nights**

We have had a great response to our summer movies with requests that they continue and they will for another two months. On September 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a special movie about Martin Luther. See the special page in this newsletter. Join us for fellowship and free popcorn. Then in October we have a special treat watch for details!!!

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### **CROP WALK**

Crop Walk '06 sponsored by Zion and Trinity UCC will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will walk along the tow path to Split Rock and back. Last year we were unable to secure a bus for free so we will continue to walk to Split Rock and back. Registration will begin at 12 noon. You will find registration and forms and sponsor records on the literature table in the narthex.

We would like to have a good turn out. Last year Zion was not well represented. If you are unable to walk you can sponsor someone who is going to walk. We will have list of people who are walking.

Millions of people around the world walk long distances every day.

- To get water for daily need
- To bring home food for their families
- To find safe shelter in times of war or disaster
- To find wood for fuel and fodder for livestock
- To go to school
- To farm distant fields
- To take goods and produce to market
- To find medical care when illness strikes.

Up to 25% of what our CROP WALK raises can assist food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other hunger-fighting programs in our own cities and towns

You can now register and solicit sponsors online. [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)

Please be generous and help Zion make a difference

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## Illinois Conference Youth Initiative says Goodbye to Summer

Katie Grosenbach joined 4 youth from Granville UCC and traveled to Westchester UCC for a "say goodbye to Summer" picnic, on Saturday, August 12, 2006. We left Granville at noon, stopped for a stretch break at the Morris rest area on Interstate 80, and arrived at Westchester just a few minutes before 2 pm. We were given a tour of the Illinois Conference Office, and the Westchester UCC, by Rev. Paula Comper, and Kyle Tade... who is a member at Westchester. We talked and got to know one another and then we headed over to the pool for swimming! The pool had a GREAT water slide, and we all enjoyed listening to Pastor Karen screaming as she came around the final curve and flew out into the pool!

After swimming, we took a short break, and shared a 'pizza picnic'. Katie volunteered to lead the group in our meal prayer—which made Pastor Karen VERY proud! Go, Katie! We visited with Rev. Joe Mills, Pastor at Westchester UCC. And Rev. Jorge Morales, Associate Conference Minister, for a few minutes, and then we dove back into the pool. At about 6:30 pm, we climbed out dried off, took a few pictures with our new ICYI friends, and headed for home.

It was a great day of fun in the sun, and joy shared among Christian youth. All UCC youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to attend ICYI...look in the newsletter for details about the Fall Harvest event at Boggio's Orchard in Granville...September 30,2006

Karen Karczewski

**September Birthday's**

- 2. Brad Bingheim
- 4. Nickolas Miller
- 5. Otto Fiedler
- 6. Beth Coutre'  
Mae Fouth
- 7. Barry Breuning
- 8. Jodee Ploch
- 10. Ella Karl  
Cheryl Grosenbach
- 11. Phyllis Hageman  
David Mellen
- 12. Irma Meisenbach
- 13. Barbara Ryba  
Molly Ryan
- 14. Dan Johnson
- 15. Erwin Hageman
- 17. Cindy Harzheim  
Turner Pruitt
- 19. Pat Butkus  
Mabel Wobrock  
Bob Uzumecki
- 20. Merle Fetzer
- 21. Ron Harris  
Debbie Miller
- 23. Walter Lamps  
Bernice Hoberg  
Kaylee Ploch
- 26. Gerald Koehler
- 27. Shug Grosenbach  
Katelyn Bejster  
Grant Grosenbach
- 29. Debra Baltikauski
- 30. Joyce Donahue

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**Welcomers for September**

Ruth Mellen, Mary Grosenbach

Welcomers please come early to greet newcomers and have them sign the attendance pad and receive information about the church.

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**Ushers for September**

Larry Grosenbach, Joanne Bejster, Mark Bejster, Gary Grosenbach, Cheryl Grosenbach, Andy Watkins

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**Communion Committee for September**

Dona Ostermeyer, Armetta Alt, Shirley Hamilton

**September Anniversaries**

- 1. Otto and Mary Fiedler
- 2. Bill and Billie Ann Vlastnik

Bob and Cheryl Klein  
25. Steve and Terri Bergagna

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### **Greeters for September**

3. Connie Lorden, Erica Riordan  
10. Ken and Cindy McKinney  
17. Jack and Shirley Hamilton  
24. Nancy Vlastnik, Gretchen Schlosser

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### **Lay Readers for September**

3. Dona Ostermeyer  
10. Lori Rynke  
17. Barbara Ryba  
24. Rhonda Essl

### **Hostesses for September**

3. Marian Benedict, Stephanie Heilstedt  
10. Church Council – Reception for Rev. Kniker  
17. Sue Ryan, Phyllis Hageman  
24. Pam Beck, Cheryl Grosenbach

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### **Child Care for September**

3. Kaylee Ploch, Molly Ryan  
10. Judy flahaut, Joanne Bejster  
17. Cheryl Grosenbach, Pam Beck  
24. Lindsey Miller, Alison Miller

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### **Drivers for September**

3. Dona Ostermeyer – 223-1446  
10. Carol Peters – 223-0690  
17. Don Redeen – 224-2435  
24. Barry Breuning – 224-1333

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### **Acolytes for September**

3. Katie Wilmot, Leah Wilmot  
10. Aaron Wood, Nathan Morrell  
17. Olivia Bergagna, Brittany Bejster  
24. Alison Coutre, Abby Coutre'

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### **Epistle Readers for September**

3. Dona Ostermeyer – Jas 1:17-27  
10. Bill Vlastnik – Jas 2:1-10,(11-13), 14-17  
17. Cornelia Scott – Jas3:1-12  
24. Erica Riordan – Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

## SEPTEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY 1.	SATURDAY 2
3. 10:15 Worship- Communion- Karen Karczewski, Preaching Fellowship Hr.	4. <b>Labor Day</b>	5. Rev. David Kniker begins as Interim Minister .7:00 pm Board of Christian Ed Mtg.	6..  9-11 Easter Seal 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Bell Choir	7. 1:00 pm Women's Guild Luncheon and Opening Mtg.	8.	9. 8-United Way Labor of Love 9-Conference Personnel Mtg. 11-2 pm Pre- Sunday School Get Together Dickenson House Oglesby
10. <b>Rally Day</b> 9:00 Sunday School begins 10:15 am Worship- Rev. David Kniker, Interim Minister, Preaching Reception following	11. 9-11 Easter Seal  7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7- Sept 11, 2001 Memorial Service at St. Paul's Episcopal	12.	13. 9-11 Easter Seal 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Bell Choir	14. 9:00 am Sewing Group 3-7 pm German Buffet- Hollowayville (See Details in Newsletter)	15.	16.
17. <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 9-Sunday School 10:15 Worship Fellowship Hr.	18..  9-11 Easter Seal	19.	20. 9-11 Easter Seal 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Bell Choir	21. 9:00 am Sewing Group  3:30-5:30 pm Home Instead Health Care Mtg.	22.. 4:30 pm Share Distribution 6:30 -11 pm Scrapbooking Mtg.	23.
24. 9-Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Fellowship Hr. Women Guild 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 6:30 Movie Night – "Luther"	25  9-11 Easter Seal	26. 6:00 pm Wedding Band	27. 9-11 Easter Seal 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Bell Choir	28. 9:00 am Sewing Group	29 UCC Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	30. 3:00 pm Boggio's Orchard Pumpkin Patch Outing