

Harvest Home Celebration

November 23, 2025

10:15 a.m.

(* Indicates: stand if you are able.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *This Is the Day*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

P: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

L: In a world filled with worry and want,

P: **We come to remember God's abundant blessings.**

L: In seasons of darkness or uncertainty,

P: **We come to remember God's faithfulness.**

L: Let us lift our hearts in gratitude.

All: **We give thanks to the Lord, from whom all blessings flow!**

*HYMN *Come Ye Thankful People Come*

*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and generous God, on this day we pause to remember Your goodness. You are the Giver of every blessing. As we gather for worship, open our eyes to the gifts that surround us—the beauty of creation, the love of friends and family, the grace that holds us, and the hope we have in Christ. Stir in us a spirit of true thanksgiving. And as we are filled with gratitude, send us out to share Your love with others, that our thanks might become a blessing in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, our greatest gift. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Thank You, Lord*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

Prayer of Dedication of Food Pantry Donations

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:25-34

MESSAGE *Why We Need Thanksgiving*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Holly and family of Bob Antkowiak, Lois Wilmot, Tina Garncarz, Dave Wagner Family, Steve Theisinger, Shelly, Mary Thies, Kittilson Family, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Kevin Kramer, Dixie, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Make Me a Servant*

OFFERING

*RESPONSE *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **God of generosity, receive our gifts as signs of our gratitude and our desire to share Your blessings with others. Use them to build Your kingdom of love and compassion. Amen.**

*HYMN *Let All Things Now Living*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Please join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. *If you would like to provide refreshments there is a sign-up sheet for December in fellowship hall!

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

Join the CREW! Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting again every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for stories, games, crafts, and activities that help build faith and friendships. We're excited to see you this Sunday!

The Renewal Leadership Team will meet tomorrow at 6:00pm.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service-Join us for a community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Cherry United Church of Christ. This special service is an opportunity to gather with friends and neighbors from several area churches to give thanks together for God's blessings. Pastor Alex will bring the evening message. All are welcome—come with a grateful heart and join us in worship and fellowship!

Join us for our community-wide Free Thanksgiving Dinner

Doors open at 11:30am Thursday. Fellowship, games, TV, and relaxation to follow a wonderful meal. It's not too late to help out!

Ways to help (pick one or more):

- Food prep & cooking (Thanksgiving week and Day)
- Baking pies/desserts (at home or in the church kitchen)
- Set-up & decorating (fellowship hall/table settings)
- Serving & hospitality (greeting, hosting, refills)
- Dishwashing & clean-up

A sign-up sheet is still available. Questions? See Pastor Alex. Let's bless our neighbors together—thank you for serving!

This Christmas, Zion UCC is collecting and providing gifts for a local family in need. There are four children, a girl age 6, a boy age 5, a boy age 3 and a girl who is a toddler. We invite you to help make their holiday bright! Several people have already purchased some of the items requested. To avoid duplicate purchases we have put the remaining items on post-it notes on a board. You can take the post-it for one or more items, purchase them and bring the items, unwrapped, to church. We will see that they get delivered. Let's share God's love through generosity and kindness this Christmas season! For questions or more details, see Pastor Alex.

COOKIE SALE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with the Cookie Sale so far. We still need a few more helpers to help price and arrange cookies on Thursday morning and to help with the sale on Friday afternoon. If you can help it really be appreciated. And we can always use more cookies and baked goods. **Also, if you are planning to bake pies, coffee cakes or rolls we have plastic clam shells available that will hold 9 inch pies.** These have lids that snap shut making transporting your baked goods much easier. Please feel free to take as many as you need. You can find them on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Even if you are not able to bake or work at the sale, you can help by praying for its success. Thank you in advance for your help. Here's a summary of what to sign up for:

- Baking: Cookies of all kinds, Holiday Breads, Coffee Cakes, Pies, and Candies
- Arranging tables and chairs in fellowship hall after worship **Sunday, Dec. 7th**
- Sorting, packaging & pricing items starting at 9 a.m. on **Thursday, Dec. 11th**
- Helping with the sale starting at 2:30 till about 6 on **Friday, Dec. 12th**. If you can't come at 2:30, come at about 5:30 to help rearrange the fellowship hall. Thanks in advance for all your help!

The Women's Guild will meet at 1:00pm Thursday, December 4th in Fellowship Hall. There are still some of the old Christmas

wreaths available for anyone who would like them. They are in fellowship hall. Any left will be donated to Lily Pads.

Tuesday Night Bible Study will take a break through the holidays. We'll resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Enjoy Advent and Christmas, and we'll see you in the new year!

Zion Diners met Thursday, November 20th at The Right Spice. Alice and Dick Tostovarsnik hosted. Mark your calendars for the **Zion Diners Christmas Party!** The event will take place on Thursday, December 18th at 6:00pm at Liberty Restaurant and will feature the **famous White Elephant gift exchange.** Dixie Tonozzi will be hosting. Please let her know if you are planning to attend. All are welcome!

Feeding the Future – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry launched a major fundraiser to fund their new building purchase, necessary renovations, and expanded food programs —so that we can continue to serve the growing number of individuals and families in need across our region. Local individuals, churches and businesses are joining together to make this vision a reality. Learn more or donate at www.ivfoodpantry.com or by contacting the Pantry directly.

Did you know? Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

Prayer Requests In the Bulletin We are grateful for the privilege of praying for one another. To help us keep our prayer list current, each new request will be included in the bulletin for four weeks. After that time, we will remove it unless we are asked to continue sharing it longer. If you would like a request to remain, please let us know—we want to walk alongside you in prayer for as long as you need.

Zion Spaghetti Express-Save the Date! On Wednesday, February 19, 2026 we'll be hosting a Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our church community. We'll need plenty of hands to make this event a success—help will be needed to

prepare the food, serve meals, and clean up afterward. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note **"PADS Meals."** Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

HELP WANTED! Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email ushers@zionperu.org to be added to the ushers list. Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email evangelism@zionperu.org.

Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

The Compassionate Friends Group meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

Weight Watchers is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: *Bar soap *Shower gel *Shampoo Razors *Deodorant *Toothbrushes *Toothpaste *Combs or Brushes *Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

Zion United Church of Christ 6 th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org	
Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Marcia Brown
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Phyllis Bender

Attendance: November 16: In Person: 45 + 8 children
On YouTube: 7

This week:

Monday, November 24th

6:00pm Renewal Leadership Team meeting

Tuesday, November 25th

PADS Meal

Wednesday, November 26th

6:30pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Cherry UCC

Thursday, November 27th

Happy Thanksgiving!

11:30am Doors open at Zion for Community Dinner

Saturday, November 29th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, November 30th

Advent 1

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on You Tube

Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -5:00pm *

Zion United Church of Christ



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

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