

*Zion*  
*United Church of Christ*



Handicapped Accessible

[www.zionperu.org](http://www.zionperu.org)

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6<sup>th</sup> St. Peru, IL 61354

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026

10:15 a.m.

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(\* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

### WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP *He Has Made Me Glad*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Jesus came to call sinners, seekers, and all who need grace.

P: **When others see labels, Jesus sees people.**

L: When others see failure, Jesus sees beloved children of God.

P: **God says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."**

L: Teach us, O God, to live with mercy.

P: **And may we become people of grace for others.**

L: Come, let us follow Jesus.

All: **We will follow the One who calls us by name. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

OPENING PRAYER **Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see people the way Jesus sees them. We are quick to judge. Sometimes we look at others and see only their mistakes. Sometimes we look at ourselves and see only our failures. We forget that your mercy is wider than our judgment, and your grace is greater than our sin. Forgive us for the times we have spoken carelessly, withheld mercy, or walked away from people who needed love. Make us people who notice, who welcome, who make room at the table. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

**GOD'S WORD FOR US**

SCRIPTURE READING     Matthew 9:9-13

MESSAGE     *Mercy, Not Sacrifice*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

HYMN     *God of Grace & God of Glory*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Austin, Arnie, Barb, Debbie, Gene and Family, Stacy's Family, Randy, Stacy Demerest, Nicole Griffith, Renee, Linda, Mary Jean, Jon Marcacci, Donna, Joyce Patton family, Alan Fupler, Lauren, Stephanie Heilstedt, Larry Grosenbach, Karin, Chelsea, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Debbie, Dixie, Deb Cooper, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE     *Spirit of the Living God*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

\*RESPONSE     *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **Generous God, all that we have comes from You. Receive these gifts as a sign of our gratitude. Bless not only what we give, but also who we are.**

**Make our lives an offering of kindness. Make our church a table of grace. Make us people who follow Jesus with open hands and open hearts. In His holy name we pray. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

...With faithful people in every time and place we say,

**“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed**

**is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. In this bread and cup, you have reminded us that your mercy is wider than our failures, your grace is stronger than our sin, and your love welcomes us home. Send us now to live as people who have been fed by Christ. Help us show mercy, offer kindness, and make room for others, just as you have made room for us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME**

\*HYMN *Blest be the Tie that Binds*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Announcement**  
**New Prayer Requests**

Austin health  
Arnie, health  
Barb, health  
Debbie, health

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after worship this morning. There is a new sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide treats after worship.

**Mark your calendars** The Annual Ice Cream Social will be Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm. The Peru Municipal Band will play 5-6pm weather permitting. A sign-up sheet is available in fellowship hall for helpers (we need strong folks to help set up and take down tables), cake bakers (please have uncut cakes at the church by June 18<sup>th</sup>), and BBQ chefs (remember to thaw your BBQ!).

**Zion Diners** met on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Liberty and was hosted by Pastor Kay. We will meet again June 25<sup>th</sup> at Jacks, hosted by Shelly Garncarz. All are welcome!

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

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

We are looking for volunteers to help with Communion set up on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to sign up please see Phyllis Bender!

Thank you to all our CREW students, teachers, and families for a wonderful season of faith and fellowship. Enjoy your summer break — we can't wait to welcome our CREW back in the fall.

**Bible Study** is on Tuesdays! We start at 6:30pm and you can participate in person at the church or Zoom on-line. The Zoom link can be found on our WEB page, zionperu.org. We will be discussing season 5 of The Chosen. Let's continue to grow in faith and community together. See you Tuesday! All are welcome!

2026 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support. Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion. God loves a cheerful giver!

**Feeding the Future** – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is in the midst of 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](http://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 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 Needed**

We are creating a new ushers list. If you have served as an usher in the past and would be willing to serve again, we would love to add you to the list. In the past, ushers served for an entire month. Going forward, ushers may serve whenever they are available—even for just one Sunday. If you are willing to help, please let Larry Grosenbach know or email [ushers@zionperu.org](mailto: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 contact Pastor Alex or Jerry Koehler or email [evangelism@zionperu.org](mailto: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's the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

New copies of "These Days" are available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ

6<sup>th</sup> & 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	Brianna Kupperschmid
Liturgist	Shelly Garncarz
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	

**Attendance May 31<sup>st</sup>** 35 In Person 10 children

On YouTube: \_10\_

**This week:**

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Live Life Group 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Bible Study

PADS Meal

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:00 Choir Practice

10:15am Worship in person or on You Tube Followed by

Fellowship Refreshments