

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY: ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PERU ALEX GARNCARZ, PASTOR
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Zion UCC Church Council Meeting

March 18, 2024 7:00pm

Members present: Pastor Alex, Larry Grosenbach, Arnie Watkins, Marty Johnson, Alice Tostovarsnik, Jyll Janz, Jerry Koehler, Lauren Knutson, Elecia Lindemier.

Larry Grosenbach called meeting to order. Alice T. led opening prayer.

February 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Arnie W., seconded by Jerry K. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Pastor Alex noted there is positive improvement in finances the last two months. Motion to approve by Lauren K., seconded by Arnie W. Motion carried.

Christian Education: Received VBS materials. Shelly G. is working on them. Pastor Alex mentioned he would like children at Palm Sunday service to wave palms.

History: Jerry K. posted some old photos in Facebook group.

Pastoral Care: Alice T. working on sending cards. Not all addresses available.

Missions: We are receiving enough money for PADS meals through online giving.

Building and Grounds: Alice T. going to paint new railing installed in front of church. Jerry K. said monitors were out- bought new unit from Amazon. Also noted ordering new screens for microphones. New quote for church monitors. Received two quotes for Nursery roof.

Women's Guild: Alice T. stated possible fundraiser for roof.

Renewal Team: All agreed to accepting a bid on Nursery roof. Start work after portion of cost is met. Regrouping team meetings. Anyone may join; looking into future of church. Meetings will be every 4th Monday of the month.

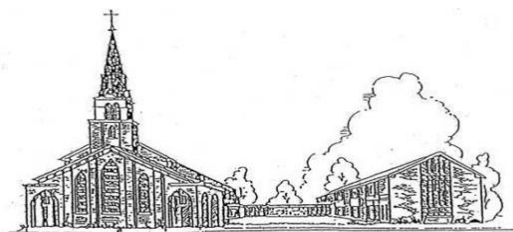
Minister's Report: Two IV Food Pantry Board of Directors meetings. Still looking for a new building. Demand for service continues to increase. Met with ministers group twice.

Recorded four radio shows that aired on WLPO. Still receiving positive feedback. Attended Committee on Ministry meeting March 7. 11 hospital visits. 4 nursing home visits. Ecumenical Lenten Services are being well attended. Our Renewal Leadership Team is back in action. We'll be meeting March 25th. Team members are Arnie Watkins, Terri Kelly, Alice Tostovarsnik, Diane Gebhardt, Jerry Koehler, and Rhonda Essl. I've taken first steps toward ordination. I will be forming a Discernment Team soon. The team will consist of three Zion members who will assist me as I prepare for ordination. Preparations are underway for VBS 2024! Looking forward to a blessed Easter and the rest of 2024. God is good! Respectfully submitted, Pastor Alex

New Business: Beginning Palm Sunday, Passing of the Peace and Tithe Plate will resume.

Jerry K. made a motion to adjourn meeting.Meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Martin Johnson



Zion United Church of Christ
"The Church with the Carillon Tower Chimes"



ZION UCC
Loving God, Loving People

In Need of Ongoing Prayer:

Karen Cericola family, Mary Fiedler Family, Marissa, Jim's friend, Deb Cooper, Victims of war, Rusty & Mary Thies, Blake Stickle, The Poor Family, Joan Hammitt, Cindy Harzheim, Bonnie, Estrella, Gary Splittstoesser family, Gretchen Kaszynski, Mary Zimmer, Dixie Tonozzi, Kevin B., family of Aubrey's great-grandfather, Linda, Doug Jakse, Turner, Jim's neighbor's daughter, Taylor, Hunter Gerard, Marcus & Cody Wymm, Laura, Jonathon Burgoni, Marilyn Haslam, Gloria, Neil Tipton family, Mary Enstrenchi, Floyd, Caroline, Joe Smith, Kathy Radtke, Sara, Leslie, Cheryl Johnston, Paul Lewis, Clinton Crouch, Carol, Evie, Mary, Quinn & family, Marsha Dodd, Jeanie, Cathy Rose, Lucille Smith family, Tim Engel family, Ron Narczewski, Jason, Debbie, Jim L., Keisha Smith, Bob & Holly Antkowiak, Darrell, Bill Vlastnik, Jean Spayer, Ron Hudkins, Mrs. Lucas.



Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Mary Fiedler. Mary passed away Tuesday, March 19th. Memorial services were held March 25th at Zion with Pastor Alex officiating.

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Karen Cericola. Karen passed away March 28, 2024.

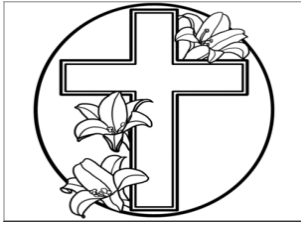
Memorials were given for Gary Splittstoesser by Georgia & Michael Splittstoesser and Dona Ostermeyer.

Flower Charts There are many open dates for Altar flowers. The dates are hung on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall. We have 4 months hanging at a time. If you would like to reserve flowers you may sign up on the chart or contact the church office to ask about availability. Altar Flowers will be seen on YouTube services, the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and on the church website in the posted bulletin. The cost for flowers is \$25.00. Please be sure to include all names, first and last, and any information you would like added to announcement.



EASTER LILIES

2024



IN MEMORY OF:

Bill & Elizabeth Kivett

Given by Ellyn & Gary Hylla

Jim Kivett

Given by Ellyn & Gary Hylla

Ronald Harris Jr.

Given by Carol Harris &
Rhonda Essl

Ronald Harris Sr.

Given by Carol Harris &
Rhonda Essl

Kylene Kaszynski

Given by Mom and Dad, Collin
and Jolene

Mark Margherio

Given by Caidin & Camri

Marjorie Ploch

Given by The Richard E. Ploch
Family

Minnie Wellner

Given by Karen Kradle

Jean

Given by Jim

My Family

Given by Jim Greening

Sue Krause

Given by Jim Greening

Francis Ford

Given by the Kradle, Zelenak,
and Grant Families

Marie Ford

Given by the Kradle, Zelenak,
and Grant Families

Don Zelenak

Given by the Kradle, Zelenak,
and Grant Families

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Jacobson

Mr. Donald Johnson

Given by The Johnson Family

Marian Benedict and Arthur Benedict

Given by
Cindy Harzheim and Family
Pat Antkowiak and Family

Clara "Busia" Wachowiak

Given by The Freschi Family

Janice Wood

Given by The Freschi Family

Sondra Henkel

Given by The Freschi Family

Nancy Herron

Given by The Freschi Family

Smith and Tonozzi Families

Given by Dixie (Smith) Tonozzi

Clyde & Doris Koehler,

Terri Short

Given by Jerry Koehler

Clyde & Doris Koehler,

Terri Short

Given by Debbie & Allison
Miller and Lindsey Gardner

Camille & Darlene Orval

Given by Anne Orval

Rhea Chasteen

Given by Anne Orval

Joe, Mona, and Amy Rogel

Given by Anne Orval

Albert Garncarz Sr. and

Albert Garncarz Jr.

Given by Anne Orval

Mona and Joe Rogel

Given by Mary Thies & Patty
Swift

Amy Rogel

Given by Mary Thies & Patty
Swift

Dad- Andrew Dergance

Mom- Edith Zokal

Given by Mary Thies & Patty
Swift

Brian Swift

Given by John & Patty Swift

Armetta Alt

Given by Dona Ostermeyer

Irma Gallagher

Given by Dona Ostermeyer

Judy Flahaut

Given by Dona Ostermeyer

George, Ruth, and Gregory

Harding

Given by Kay Harding

IN HONOR OF:

Shauna Adams

Given by Caidin & Camri

Eleanor Johnson

Given by The Johnson Family

GIVEN BY:

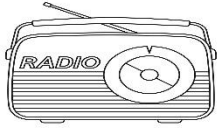
The Zion Women's Guild

AN EASTER SUNDAY

MEMORIAL

In Memory of:

My Family was given by Dona
Ostermeyer.



Listen to Pastor Alex at 8:25 every Sunday morning on 103.9 **WLPO**. Tell your; friends!

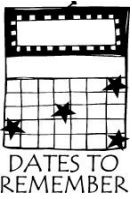


CREW (Creative Rejoicing in Early Worship)

Calling All CREW Members! Get ready for adventure, fun, and faith! Join us every Sunday at 9:00AM if you're in kindergarten through 6th grade. We'll have games, stories, crafts, and more that will help you grow in your faith and friendships! Mark your calendars and don't miss the boat. Bring your energy and excitement as we learn how God is at work in our lives and world. Parents and grandparents - bring your kids and grandkids to CREW this Sunday!

**Watch for exciting news about VBS!*

Please note: Pastor Alex will return from vacation Monday, April 8th. Rev. Kay Harding will preach on April 7th and will be available for emergencies. Her phone number is : (815)993-9220



The next Zion Women's Guild meeting will be Thursday, April 11th at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

All Ladies are welcome to attend. *The Guild will also meet in May on Thursday, May 2nd at 1:00pm.*



Join us for coffee fellowship after worship! If you would like to sign up to provide coffee fellowship (most Sundays) after worship there is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall, or contact the church office.

Flute Concert Sunday April 14th at 3:00pm



The Illinois Valley Flute Ensemble and the Bloomington-Normal Flute Club are joining forces and performing with music Inspired by Starved Rock and nature. The concert will be held at Zion UCC. Free will offerings are accepted with gratitude.



Zion Diners met Thursday March 21st at Four Star Restaurant in Peru with a great group of our Zion family. Mary Thies was in charge. The next Diners outing will be 6:00pm Thursday, April 18th at Angelo's in Spring Valley. Jim Greening will be your host. Let Jim know if you are attending by Sunday, April 14th. Come join the fun!

Mark your calendars! Rev. Kathy Lawes, our UCC Prairie Association Conference Minister, will be visiting us on April 21. Kathy will be bringing the morning message.

We will be publishing a new Church Directory later this spring.

Please check your current entry in the Directory provided in Fellowship Hall. Contact the church office with any changes, or write your changes in the provided Directory. **Directories cannot be posted online or sent in email due to privacy laws. If you would like a copy mailed to you or a relative, please contact the church office. Publication date TBA.*



Looking Ahead...We will have worship and lunch at Pilgrim Park on Sunday, May 26th.

***Worship will begin at 11:15am. There will be a sign up sheet for lunch closer to the date.**

All are welcome!

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Please follow all safety guidelines when in attendance. We understand if you are not comfortable coming in person and invite you to watch services on YouTube.

JOIN US LIVE ON YOUTUBE SUNDAYS AT 10:15

HOW DO YOU GET THERE? EASY.....

- 1) Go to Youtube.com
- 2) Click on "Search" box at top of the page.
- 3) Type in "Zion UCC Peru Illinois"
- 4) Click on the big purple circle with a "Z" in it.
- 5) Click on the video that says "LIVE"



THAT'S IT! SEE YOU SUNDAY!

**Bulletins available to view on our website!*

You can donate to Zion Church with a credit card or by bank transfer from your bank account. All you need to do is go to our web page and click "Donate" located on the right-hand side. Also, here's the link to give to our church: <https://zionuccperu.breezechms.com/>

You can also donate to Zion Church 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. *Thank you for giving during these difficult times*

The I.V. Food Pantry needs monetary donations

The Pantry is looking for a larger space to store more perishable and non-perishable foods to help the community.

To mail contributions: Illinois Valley Food Pantry- 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301



****HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!**** Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the Peru PADS homeless shelter each month. Please open your hearts and wallets to support this important cause. 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. Together we can make a difference for the less fortunate in our community! 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!



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.

COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS

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



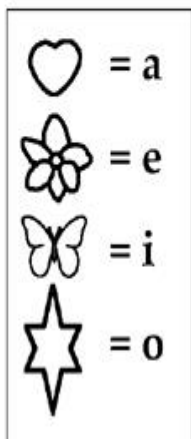
The Outdoor Ministries Fundraiser: Your gift is not "just" a donation, it is a prayerful statement to help change someone's life. You can donate directly

: <https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com>

2024 Registration is open online: <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>

Jesus' Prayer

While he was hanging on the cross, Jesus prayed to God. Use this symbol key to fill in the missing letters in the message.



F_ th_ r f_ rg_ v_ th_ m; f_ r th_ y d_
n_ t kn_ w wh_ t th_ y _r_ d_ _ ng.
Luke 23:34

Answer: father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.



April Birthdays

- 3. Tyler Martinez
- 4. Nate Trumpinski
- 6. Joel Bejster
- Shirley Lopeman
- Kenny Lindenmier
- 8. Gary Grosenbach
- 9. Rhonda Essl
- 11. Rich Ploch
- 13. Rev. Kay Harding
- 15. Heather Becker
David Wilmot
- 16. Michael Breuning
- 18. Dean Wilmot
- 20. Kim Grant
- 21. Larry Butkus
Doug Jakse
Jessica Rogel
- 22. Claire Baltikauski
- 23. Hunter Thurman
- 24. Tony Coutre'
Leesa Tipton
- 25. Lori Rynke
George Garncarz
- 26. Shelly Garncarz
- 27. Bill Vlastnik
- 27. Andrew Watkins
Cody Essl
- 28. Brant Baltikauski
- 29. Pam Beck
Nora Trumpinski



April Anniversaries

- 6. Rich & Jodee Ploch
- 14. Mark & Julie Zimmer
- 19. Doug & Cyndi Thurman
- 19. Russ & Maureen Lemmer
- 20. Gary & Ellyn Hylla
- 23. Gary Fouth & Kimberly Tracy
- 30. Charles & Elinor Lindenmeyer



May Birthdays

- 1. Kaitlyn Ogden
- 4. Laurie Johnson
Russ Lemmer
- 5. Connor Mickelson
- 6. Alison Coutre'
- 7. Nathan Morrell
Megan Baltikauski
- 8. Matt Sprong
Grace Knutson
- 13. Allison Miller
- 15. Tim Harzheim
- 19. Richard Vlastnik
John Vlastnik
- 21. David Bejster
- 22. Edna Daugherty
Lennix Freschi
Jaxen Freschi
- 24. Noah Rietgraf
- Tyler Marie Grosenbach
- 25. Dane Wicinski
- 26. Ellie Breuning
Kora Kupperschmid
- 27. Larry Grosenbach
- 30. Frank Vlastnik
- 31. Rose Mary Redeen
Reid Rynke

May Anniversaries

- 4. Martin & Laurie Johnson
- 19. Justin and Elyse Boroski
- 19. Tom & Lois Edgcomb
- 22. Ryan and Elecia Lindenmier
- 27. Gary & Shug
Grosenbach

Book of Timothy



APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Pastor Alex on vacation</i>	2	3	4	5	6 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
7. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 9:00 CREW 9:30 Choir practice 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	8 <i>Pastor Alex back</i> 6:30pm Live Life Group meeting	9	10 6:30 Choir Practice	11 1:00pm Zion Women's Guild meeting	12	13 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
14. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 9:00 CREW 9:30 Choir practice 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship 3:00pm Flute Concert	15 7:00 Church Council Meeting	16	17 6:30 Choir Practice	18 6:00 Zion Diners	19 Newsletter info Due	20 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
21. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 9:00 CREW 9:30 Choir practice Guest speaker Rev. Kathy Lawes 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	22 6:00pm Renewal Leadership Team meeting Earth Day	23 5:15 PADS Meal	24 6:30 Choir Practice	25 6:30pm Compassionate Friends Group meeting	26	27 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
28 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 9:00 CREW 9:30 Choir practice 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	29	30	May 1 6:30 Choir Practice	May 2 1:00pm Zion Women's Guild meeting	May 3	May 4 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting