

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

10:15 a.m.

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

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Sweet Sweet Spirit*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel;

P: For God alone does wondrous things.

L: Blessed be God's glorious name forever!

P: May God's glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

*HYMN *Hymn of Promise*

*PRAYER **O Lord of all things bright and beautiful, may we begin this day in your name. Light of all light, our dayspring of hope, may we find warm reflections of your countenance in the face of each brother, sister, stranger and friend. As we work for your world this day, may our hunger be for justice and our thirst for peace. Feed us with your presence. Strengthen our hearts and steady our hands for the business of loving your creation. As children of the light, may we walk in your radiance this day. Amen.**

ANTHEM

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:4-7

MESSAGE *God's New Year Plan*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Anthony, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Family of Larry Aldman, Shut-ins, Orval family, Hopkins family, Shawna & Family, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Evie Coulter, Jim Brown, Karen Kradle, Dixie Tonozzi, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, and Jackie, Katie Narduli, Brianna, Jim Greening, Shelly, Pam, Audrey Clements family, Zimmer Family, Tim P., Michelle, Eric & Tina, Jackson, Bill Vlastnik Family, Rusty & Mary Thies, Dale Jacobson, Jeff, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Kathy Radke Family, Ryan, Jyll Janz, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Carol Harris Family, Ben Vowels, Sr. Family, Dick & Alice Tostovarsnik, Priscilla Dean, Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski, Lindenmier family, The Smith Family, Art Ramey Family, Jean Spayer, Emily, Renewal Team, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer O Lord*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *Give Thanks*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. 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 **Spirit of the living Christ, you have fed us with the bread and the cup. You have comforted our hearts and nourished our souls. We praise you because you always meet us in our weeping, rejoicing, grief, and celebration. We go now with confidence that you remain with us in all things. Amen.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN *O God Our Help In Ages Past*
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Announcements

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

Join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. There is also a new sign-up sheet downstairs if you would like to provide treats in the next two months.

Exciting Announcement: Join the CREW!

Hey Families! Get ready for an adventure because our Sunday School program, CREW, is back and better than ever! Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00AM for a fun-filled hour designed for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. At CREW, we dive into amazing stories, unleash our creativity with awesome crafts, and play exciting games that will keep everyone engaged and smiling! It's a great opportunity to make new friends, learn about faith, and have fun! Don't miss out on the fun—come join the CREW this Sunday! We can't wait to see your smiling faces! See you there!

Join Us for Bible Study!

We're excited to announce that **Bible Study resumes this Tuesday, January 7th, at 6:30 PM!** Our study is based on the inspiring series *The Chosen* and is open to all adults.

This is a **hybrid event**, so you can join us **in person at the church** or **via Zoom**—whichever works best for you. This week, we'll dive into **Episode 5**, so be sure to watch it beforehand and come ready to share your questions and insights.

Let's grow in faith and community together. **See you Tuesday!**

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

*Choir practice will resume Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30pm. The Choir will sing during worship on Feb. 2.

The next **Zion Diners** will be hosted by Bill and Phyllis Bender at Angelo's in Spring Valley Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:00. Please notify Phyllis if you plan to attend.

2025 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. If you have not been able to pick up your 2025 envelopes, use any envelope and put your name and date on it when you donate your contribution. Your envelope number will be the same as you have this year. If you have leftover 2024 envelopes, you can use one of those and write the 2025 date on it. If you are giving for more than one week, you do not have to use a separate envelope (or a separate check) for each week. You can mark the envelope for the weeks that are covered in it. Zion Church again thanks you for your continued support! Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion.

Souper Bowl Sunday will run Jan. 26th – Feb. 9th. Everyone is asked to bring cans of soup to worship and use them to vote for the team they think will win the Super Bowl, or the team they hope will win. The Sunday after the game, those who voted for the losing team are asked to bring one can of soup for every losing vote they cast. Jim Greening also says those who voted for the winning team should bring more soup to celebrate their team's victory. All the soup will be given to the Food Pantry. So who are you going to vote for?

Each month, Zion UCC delivers a hot, nutritious meal to the **Peru PADS** homeless shelter, supporting those in need in our community. With the increased demand, the shelter reopened earlier this year, and your help is essential to continue this ministry through May. We invite you to make a difference by donating. Every contribution, big or small, helps us provide a hearty, healthy meal to those who need it most. To give, please write a check to the church with "PADS Meals" in the memo or donate online through the Giving page on our website. Thank you for opening your hearts to this mission of compassion!

Support Needed for Food Pantry Expansion!

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is seeking donations as it searches for a new, larger facility to better serve those in need. A larger space will allow for the storage of additional perishable and non-perishable food items, ensuring that we can meet the increasing demand in our community.

Your financial support can make a real difference! Contributions can be sent to:

Illinois Valley Food Pantry 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301

Together, we can work to end hunger in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

A new publication of "These Days" is now available in fellowship hall!

Hope House Donations-Savanna Rietgraf is interning at a halfway house called Hope House that supports men transitioning from jail and prison. Many arrive with few belongings and need clothing as they work to rejoin the community. Savanna is asking for donations of gently used men's clothing - any sizes and styles, from casual to professional. Bring items to the church office or contact Jim Greening. Your support can make a big difference.

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.

A retirement banquet for Pastor Dr. Ron McNeill will be held 1/12/2025 at noon in Bonucchi Hall at Granville UCC. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling (815) 878- 2652 or (815) 252-0741.

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).

Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

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	Lauren Knutson
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Erin Lewis

Attendance: December 29: In Person: 19 + 3 children
On YouTube: 14

This week:

Monday, January 6th

Epiphany

Tuesday, January 7th

6:30 Bible Study

Saturday, January 11th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, January 12th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on YouTube

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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