

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 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 *Surely the Presence*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: **We will praise you with joyful lips.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: **Our souls thirst for you.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: **We behold your power and majesty.**

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: **We will bless you all of the days of our lives.**

*HYMN *I Sing the Praise of Love Unbounded*

*PRAYER **Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Here I Am to Worship*

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 13:1-9

MESSAGE *Starting Over*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Christine Butler family, Jimmy Springer family, Rusty & Mary Thies, Dixie, Jacob Bremann, Lexanne Jarosz & family, George, Jyll, Phyllis, Elizabeth, Larry, Disaster victims, Rich Rynke family, Hugh Williams, Jack Hauser, Karen Kradle, Charlene Theisinger family, Ray Kollar Family, Carol Sell family, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Medical Funding, Dick & Alice Tostovarsnik, Jody & Family, Theresa, Steve Theisinger, Eddie, Ed, Unspoken, Zion Youth events, Anthony, Hopkins family, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Evie Coulter, Jim Brown, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, Jackie, Brianna, Jim Greening, Audrey Clements family, Zimmer family, Tim P., Eric & Tina, Dale Jacobson, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski, Jean Spayer, Renewal Team, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Make Me a Servant*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *All Things Are Yours*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Holy one, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our trust in you and our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, kind to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

- Christine Butler family
- Mary Thies, for health
- Jimmy Springer family
- George Garncarz, for health
- Jarosz family
- Dixie Tonozzi, for health
- Jyll Janz, for health
- Phyllis Bender, for health
- Disaster victims
- Jacob Bremann, for health
- Elizabeth, for health
- Larry Grosenbach, for health

Our deepest condolences go out to Stephanie Heilstedt and the family of Christine Butler. Christine was Stephanie's daughter. She passed away March 2, 2025.

A Memorial for Christine Butler was given by Lois Wilmot.

*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.

CREW is in Full Swing—Come Join the Fun!

Hey families! Our CREW Sunday School program is off to an amazing start, and it's in full swing! Every Sunday at 9:00 AM, kids in kindergarten through 6th grade are having a blast with exciting stories, awesome crafts, and fun games that keep everyone engaged and smiling.

It's a great opportunity for your kids to make new friends, grow in faith, and have a ton of fun each week. If you haven't joined us yet, it's not too late—bring your kids this Sunday and let them be part of all the excitement!

We can't wait to see you there!

Join Us for Bible Study!

Bible Study meets Tuesdays 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 **Season 2 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!**

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

Ecumenical Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 7:00pm during Lent.

March 26: Zion UCC

April 2: Spring Valley UCC, Pastor Alex preaching

April 9: Waltham Presbyterian

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday...7:00pm... Zion UCC

Good Friday.....Noon.....DePue UCC

Easter Sunday.....10:15am.. Zion UCC

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, April 3rd at 1:00pm in fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome to attend.

APRIL 6TH WORSHIP AND LUNCH AT PILGRIM PARK

Anyone who wishes to carpool will meet at the church at 10:00am. Worship will be at 11:15am in the beautiful Pilgrim Park Chapel. Afterwards, we'll have lunch together in the dining area and more great fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.

Save the Date! Coming Saturday May 3

Ladies of Zion Tea Society

Annual Celebration of Friends, Fellowship and Fun

This year's theme: I'll Be There

Because it's all about being there, in good times and bad, for each other and our world. Details to come!

Music Sunday, when Zion celebrates God's gift of music to us, will be May 4th. This is the worship service that praises God through all types of music and all levels of ability. In addition to the choir, we celebrate the gifts of music given to all who perform music at any level. Anyone who wants to participate should contact Jim Greening. Let's celebrate God's gift of music and share it with others!

FEED THE HUNGRY – JOIN OUR MISSION!

Every month, Zion UCC partners with the Peru PADS homeless shelter to serve a hot, nutritious meal to our neighbors in need. Due to increased demand, the shelter reopened earlier this year, and now more than ever, your support is essential.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate:** Every gift—big or small—ensures that we continue providing hearty, healthy meals.
- **Ways to Give:**
 - Write a check to the church with "PADS Meals" in the memo
 - Donate online through the Giving page on our website

Thank you for opening your heart to this mission of compassion and care. Together, we can make a difference in our community!

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!

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).

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

New! Copies of "These Days" available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ
6th & 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	Larry Grosenbach
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Phyllis & Bill Bender and Mary Thies

Attendance: March 16: In Person: 35 + 6 children
On YouTube: 11

This week:

Tuesday, March 25th

6:30pm Bible Study
PADS Meal

Wednesday, March 26th

7:00pm Ecumenical Service *Here at Zion*

Thursday, March 27th

6:30pm Choir Practice
6:30pm Compassionate Friends Group meeting

Saturday, March 29th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, March 30th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

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

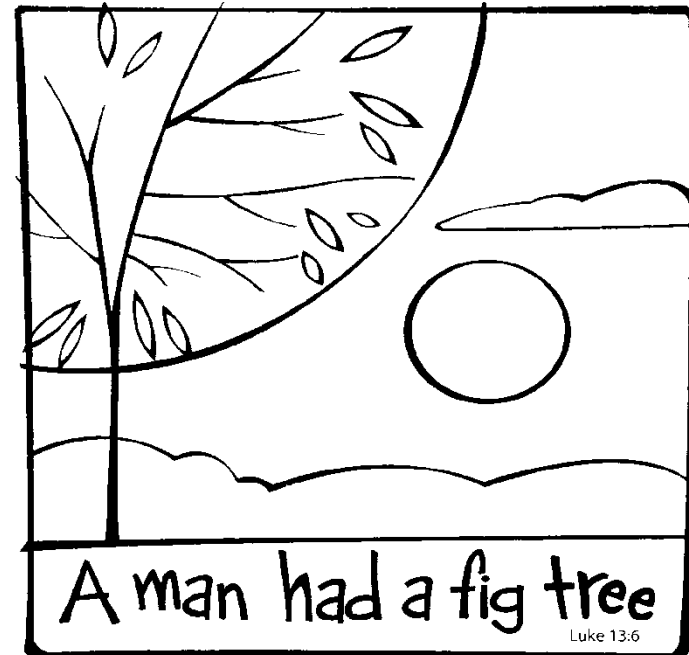
Followed by fellowship refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -5:00pm *Please note: The April Newsletter will be sent out on Friday, April 4th.

Zion United Church of Christ



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6th Street, Peru, IL 61354