

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:15 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

P: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

L: God's love is for us and for all people everywhere.

P: That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

L: The living Christ is with us.

P: Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

OPENING PRAYER **God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We gather before you, this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. Receive our praise and thanksgiving as expressions of faith and love. We come to you, Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready to receive your blessing and direction today. Amen.**

ANTHEM *One Song In Praise*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING John 14:1-4

MESSAGE *When Your Heart Won't Settle Down*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN *As the Deer*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Jon Marcacci, Mark Harkins family, Donna, Joyce Patton family, Alan Fupler, Joe Bohler, Lyle Morrow family, Ron Narczewski Family, Lauren, Shelly, Kevin Kramer Family, John Dergance, George Siebert, Hubert Keutzer Family, Ed Lopeman, Stephanie Heilstedt, Larry Grosenbach, Karin, Chelsea, George, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Maxine, Karen Hauser, Steve Theisinger, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Dixie, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *Give Thanks*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **Receive these gifts this morning, O God, author of every good gift. Out of the bounty of our hearts, we respond with faithful generosity and love. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessings for us. 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.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

Nicole Griffith, health

Renee, health

Linda, hospice

Mary Jean, health

We are grateful to share that we have reached our fundraising goal for the roof repair! Thank you to everyone who gave, shared, prayed, and supported this important project. Your generosity made this possible, and we are deeply appreciative of the way our church family came together to care for our building and ministry. Roof repairs will be scheduled and completed as soon as possible. Thank you again for helping make this happen!

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.

*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!

Join the CREW! Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting 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!

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!

Join us for **worship at Pilgrim Park** on May 17 at 11:15 a.m. After worship, we'll enjoy lunch together and share a fun time of fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be available next week. We hope you'll plan to come out to our beautiful camp for worship, good food, and fellowship!

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!

Women's Guild will meet every first Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be this Thursday May 7th at 1:00pm

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 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 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.

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*

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| 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 | Brianna Kupperschmid |
| Liturgist | Arnie Watkins |
| Audio Technician | Jerry Koehler |
| Video Technician | Rhonda Essl |
| Song Leader | Dave Jacobson |
| Fellowship | |

Attendance April 26th _In Person _children

On YouTube: ___

This week:

Tuesday, May 5th

6:30pm Bible Study

PADS Meal

Saturday, May 9th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

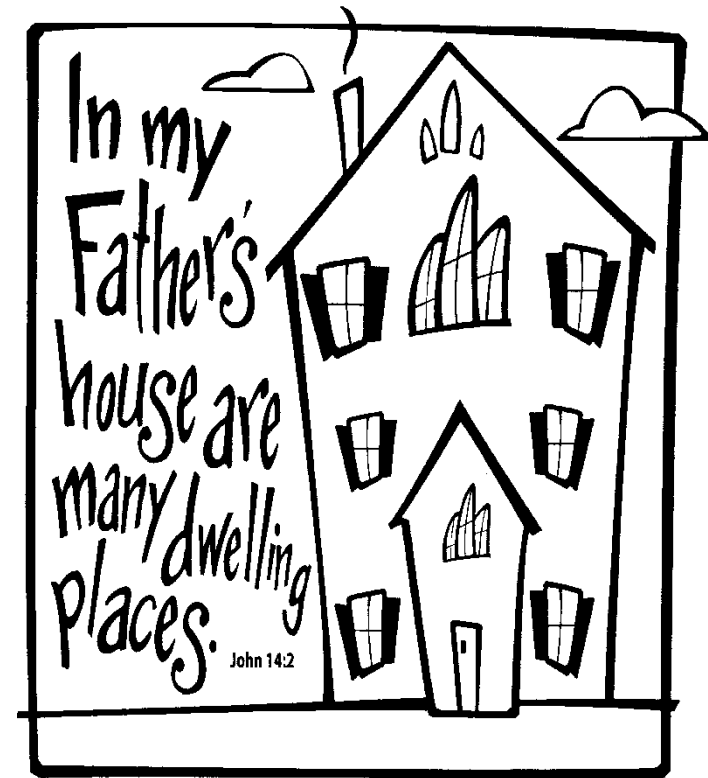
Sunday, May 10th

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



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6th St. Peru, IL 61354