

WORSHIP AT PILGRIM PARK

November 2, 2025

11:15 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OPENING SENTENCES

L: The heavens are telling the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

P: **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

L: Come, let us join the chorus of creation—

P: **Let every tree, mountain, bird, and stream praise the name of the Lord!**

L: Together, we lift our hearts in wonder and gratitude.

All: **Let all creation sing!**

*SONG *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Forgive us, Lord, if we have relied only on ourselves: neglecting your promises and provisions, believing that it is all up to us, vulnerable to both conceit and despair. Forgive us if, on the other hand, we have relied only on you: neglecting the gifts you have given us, waiting passively for good things to come our way, failing to assume our roles as disciples. Make our lives your instruments. May Christ inspire us, and the Spirit empower us, to lives of love and service. Amen.**

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM *Jesus , Messiah!*

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 8

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

MESSAGE

*SONG *This Is My Father's World*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Steve Theisinger, Dave Wagner Family, Shelly, Mary Thies, Kittilson Family, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Joshua Ellis Family, Mary Jean, Dina, Mack McQueen Family, Gina, Sam & Kathy Cull, Kevin Kramer, The Country, George, Bonnie, Lenkaitis Family, Theresa Grove, Dixie, Lauren, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **Most gracious God, as we prepare to come to Christ's table, we call to mind once again all of the blessings you have bestowed on us. For all those things which nurture and sustain us, in body and in spirit, we give you thanks. Help us always to give as generously as we have received, so that you might be glorified and others might come to know you as the source of all life and love. 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 BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Thank you God for inviting us to this table where we know Christ and receive all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and your work. We pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**SONG He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

***BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

- Steve Theisinger, for health
- Dave Wagner Family
- Shelly, for health
- Mary Thies, for health
- Lauren's sister for a happy marriage

Pastor Alex will be on vacation beginning November 3 (tomorrow) and will be back in the office November 9. Rev. Kay Harding will preach on Nov. 10 and will be available for emergencies. Her phone number is: (815)993-9220

The Women's Guild will meet this Thursday, November 6th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. Our wreaths and Garland have seen better days. The Women's Guild would like to replace them. If you would like to help beautify our church you may donate for it. You can give money to Phyllis or just put it in offering marked for decorations. Thank you.

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.

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

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

Join Us for Bible Study! Bible Study is underway Tuesdays at 6:30PM! 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. We are currently discussing Season 3, so come ready to share your thoughts, questions, and insights. Let's continue to grow in faith and community together. See you Tuesday! All are welcome!

More news about The Chosen Bible Study: There are good reviews of the first two seasons on YouTube. They are The Chosen RECAP: Season 1 www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FtuFaPonTQ which is 12 min. long and The Chosen RECAP: Season 2 www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOMOhuz7PT8 which is 8 min. long. Both are worth watching. If you were part of the study group last year they will refresh your memory and if you are new to the group they will give you a good sense of what has been discussed so you will feel "at home" joining now. You can participate in person at the church or online.

Feeding the Future – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry launched 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.

Zion Diners met Thursday, October 16th at The Blue Margarita in Oglesby. Candie Zelenak hosted and everyone had a great time. Next Diners will be Thursday, November 20th at 6:00pm. Alice and Dick Tostovarsnik will be hosting. The restaurant will be

announced. **Save the Date** for the Zion Diners Christmas Party on Thursday, December 18th! The time is 6:00pm and the place is Liberty Restaurant. All are welcome!

Harvest Home Sunday will take place on November 23rd this year. If you would like Jim Greening to do your shopping for you, please contact him or the church office. Decorating the church will be Thursday November 20th at 3:30pm.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service—Join us for a community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Cherry United Church of Christ. This special service is an opportunity to gather with friends and neighbors from several area churches to give thanks together for God's blessings. Pastor Alex will bring the evening message. All are welcome—come with a grateful heart and join us in worship and fellowship!

CAN YOU HELP?—We're preparing for our community-wide Free Thanksgiving Dinner and need a team of helping hands to make it happen! This is a **preliminary sign-up** so we can confirm we have enough volunteers to make it happen.

Ways to help (pick one or more):

- Food prep & cooking (Thanksgiving week and Day)
- Baking pies/desserts (at home or in the church kitchen)
- Set-up & decorating (fellowship hall/table settings)
- Serving & hospitality (greeting, hosting, refills)
- Dishwashing & clean-up

A sign-up sheet will be available at worship this Morning. Questions or early interest? See Pastor Alex. Let's bless our neighbors together—thank you for serving!

This Christmas, Zion UCC will be collecting and providing gifts for a local family in need. There are four children, and we invite you to help make their holiday bright! Gift ideas include:

* **6-year-old girl:** size 8/10 clothes, size 12 shoes — loves Lilo & Stitch, coloring, Squishmallows, and princess dolls

* **5-year-old boy:** size 5T–6 clothes, size 11 shoes — loves Paw Patrol, Minecraft, and monster trucks

* **3-year-old boy:** size 4T–5T clothes, size 10 shoes — loves Bluey, PJ Masks, Spider-Man, and toy cars

* **Toddler girl:** size 2T clothes, size 7 shoes — loves Ms. Rachel, building blocks, and Blue's Clues

* **The family also needs new sheet sets for:** 1 full-sized bed, 2 twin beds, and 1 toddler/crib bed

Please consider choosing an item or two to donate. You can bring unwrapped gifts to the church. Let's share the God's love through generosity and kindness this Christmas season! For questions or more details, see Pastor Alex.

COOKIE SALE NEWS FLASH

We hope you are thinking ahead and including time to help with the Cookie Sale on your calendars. To help with that we've made the sign-up sheets for the December 12th COOKIE SALE available now. They are currently in the Fellowship Hall. Take a look at them and see what things you might be able to help with. If you know what you plan to do sign-up now. If you need to check your personal calendar, do that and sign up over the coming weeks. Here's a summary of what to sign up for:

—Baking: Cookies of all kinds, Holiday Breads, Coffee Cakes, Pies, and Candies

—Arranging tables and chairs in fellowship hall after worship **Sunday, Dec. 7th**

—Sorting, packaging & pricing items starting at 9 a.m. on **Thursday, Dec. 11th**

—Helping with the sale starting at 2:30 till about 6 on **Friday, Dec. 12th**. If you can't come at 2:30, come at about 5:30 to help rearrange the fellowship hall. Thanks in advance for all your help!

Zion Spaghetti Express-Save the Date! On Wednesday, February 19, 2026 we'll be hosting a Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our church community. We'll need plenty of hands to make this event a success—help will be needed to prepare the food, serve meals, and clean up afterward. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

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: 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).

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	Marcia Brown
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson

Attendance: October 26: In Person: 51 + 10 children
On YouTube: 7

This week:

Monday, November 3rd

Pastor Alex on Vacation

Tuesday, November 4th

6:30pm Bible Study

Wednesday, November 5th

6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, November 6th

1:00pm Women's Guild Meeting

Saturday, November 8th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, November 9th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on You Tube

Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -5:00pm *

Zion
United Church of Christ



Handicapped Accessible
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