

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025 10:15 a.m.
(* Indicates: all who are able please stand.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP *This Is The Day*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: In the midst of work, we find God's presence.

P: **In the midst of service, we find God's strength.**

L: When we are tired, God renews us.

P: **When we are tempted to give up, God encourages us.**

L: Let us worship the One who calls us to faith

P: **and sends us out to live that faith with purpose and love.**

HYMN *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, You call us not to idleness, but to purpose. Not to be busybodies, but to be builders of Your kingdom. As we gather in Your presence, stir our hearts, awaken our spirits, and strengthen our hands for the work You have given us. May our worship inspire us to go out and make a difference. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTHEM *Reasons to Thank You*

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSICAL PRESENTATION

God Bless America

Thy Word

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

MESSAGE *Does My Faith Work?*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Holly and family of Bob Antkowiak, Lois Wilmot, Tina Garncarz, Dave Wagner Family, Steve Theisinger, Shelly, Mary Thies, Kittilson Family, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Kevin Kramer, Dixie, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Make Me a Servant*

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **God of all good gifts, we offer these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them—and use us—to make a difference in the lives of others, so that our faith may be seen in our love, and our love may be seen in our actions. Amen.**

*HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

-Lois Wilmot, who has suffered a stroke and is at Bounce Back at Liberty Village.

-Shelly Garncarz, for healing

-Mary's brother Johnny, for health

Our deepest condolences go out to Holly and the family of Bob Antkowiak. Bob passed away Wednesday, November 12th.

*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. *If you would like to provide refreshments there is a sign-up sheet for November & December in fellowship hall!

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!

The Church Council will meet tomorrow, Nov. 17th at 7:00pm.

Tuesday Night Bible Study will take a break through the holidays. We'll resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Enjoy Advent and Christmas, and we'll see you in the new year!

Harvest Home Sunday will take place next Sunday November 23rd. Decorating the church will be this Thursday November 20th at 3:30pm.

Zion Diners will be Thursday, November 20th at 6:00pm at The Right Spice. Alice and Dick Tostovarsnik will be hosting. **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!

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 is collecting and providing gifts for a local family in need. There are four children, a girl age 6, a boy age 5, a boy age 3 and a girl who is a toddler. We invite you to help make their holiday bright! Several people have already purchased some of the items requested. To avoid duplicate purchases we have put the remaining items on post-it notes on a board. You can take the post-it for one or more items, purchase them and bring the items, unwrapped, to church. We will see that they get delivered. Let's share God's love through generosity and kindness this Christmas season! For questions or more details, see Pastor Alex.

COOKIE SALE NEWS FLASH THE COOKIES SALE IS NOT ABOUT COOKIES. IT'S ABOUT MISSION AND MINISTRY.

You have been hearing about, and will continue to hear about, the things we need to do to make the Cookies Sale a success, but let's remember why we are having the sale. **The Cookies sale raises funds the help send kids to church camp, support Vacation Bible School, assist area service organizations and help maintain our church facilities.** We hope that each of you can find a way, or ways, to help with the sale this year, because it does help make ministry and mission happen. Even if you are not able to bake or work at the sale, you can help by praying for its success. Thank you in advance for your help. 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!

Our wreaths and garland for decorating at Christmas have seen better days so the Women's Guild has purchased 23 new wreaths and new garlands. The cost was \$500. **THANK YOU WOMEN'S GUILD!** If you would like to help the guild with this purchase you can give your donation directly to Mary Thies, Phyllis Bender, or just put it in offering marked for decorations. The old wreaths and garlands be made available to anyone who wishes to have them.

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.

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 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
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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	Marcia Brown

Attendance: November 9: In Person: 40 + 8 children
On YouTube: 5

This week:

Monday, November 17th

7:00pm Church Council meeting

Wednesday, November 19th

6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, November 20th

3:30pm Decorate for Harvest Home Sunday

6:00pm Zion Diners

Saturday, November 22nd

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, November 23rd

Harvest Home Sunday

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

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

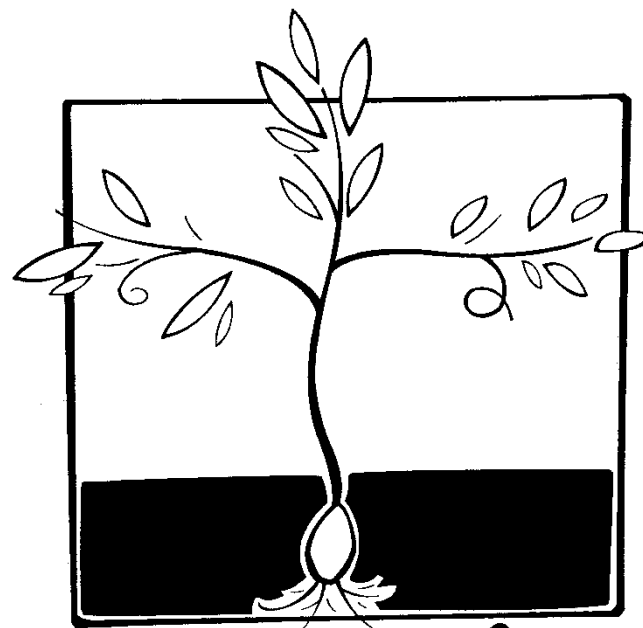
Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

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

Zion United Church of Christ



Increase our faith

Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

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