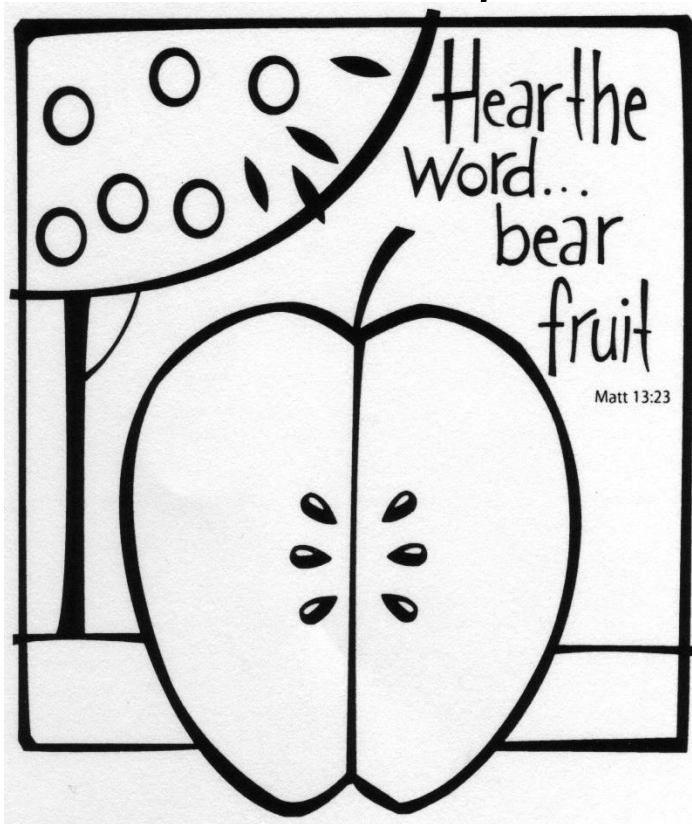


Zion
United Church of Christ



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www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6th St. Peru, IL 61354

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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 *All Are Welcome*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: God is the Sower, generous and faithful.

P: **God scatters seeds of grace, hope, mercy, and love.**

L: Some seeds fall on hard ground. Some fall among rocks.
Some fall among thorns.

P: **But some fall on good soil and bear fruit beyond what we can imagine.**

L: Today we come asking God to prepare the soil of our hearts.

P: **May the Word take root in us. May grace grow in us.
May our lives bear fruit for the kingdom of God.**

ALL: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*OPENING PRAYER **Gracious God, you are the faithful Sower. You scatter your Word with generosity. You plant love where our hearts have grown tired or guarded. So we come before you today asking that you would prepare the soil of our hearts. Break up the hard places in us. Remove the stones that keep our faith shallow. Make us open to your Spirit. Make us willing to be changed. And may something holy take root in us today—something that bears fruit in kindness, patience, courage, generosity, forgiveness, and love. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who still speaks, still calls, and still plants the seeds of the kingdom among us. Amen**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

MESSAGE *When the Seed Takes Root*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN *Revive Us Again*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Baby Eli, Barb, Gary Janisch, Mary Garnicarz, Pastor Alex, Shelly, Alice, Henry, Marsha, Rebecca, Lauren, Barb Giese Family, Bob Holsinger Family, Elinor Lindenmeyer Family, Ed Dergance Family, Streator Tornado Victims, Ned Yoder, Heather, Jean Spier, Nancy Schmidt, Baby Brexton, Monreal-Berner Family, Cindy Harzheim, Jean, Renee, Austin, Arnie, Debbie, Gene and Family, Stacy's Family, Randy, Stacy Demerest, Nicole Griffith, Linda, Mary Jean, Jon Marcacci, Donna, Joyce Patton family, Alan Fupler, Stephanie Heilstedt, Larry Grosenbach, Karin, Chelsea, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dixie, Deb Cooper, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Generous God, Today we return a portion of what you have entrusted to us. Use these gifts as seeds of your kingdom. Let them take root in the lives of people who need mercy, help, love, welcome and hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

Baby Eli, health

Barb, health

Gary Janisch, health

Mary Garncarz, health

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!

A huge **thank you** to everyone who helped make our Annual Ice Cream Social a wonderful success. From those who prepared, served, donated, and cleaned up — to everyone who came out to enjoy the evening — we are grateful for each of you.

Thank you to all our CREW students, teachers, and families for a wonderful season of faith and fellowship. Enjoy your summer break — we can't wait to welcome our CREW back in the fall.

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!

Feeding the Future – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is raising funds for the purchase and renovation of its new building, along with the expansion of food programs that serve individuals and families throughout our region. As the need continues to grow, local individuals, churches, and businesses are coming together to help make this vision a reality. To learn more or to make a donation, visit www.ivfoodpantry.com or contact 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

6th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

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Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Brianna Kupperschmid
Liturgist	Larry Grosenbach
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Marcia Brown

Attendance June 28th 35 In Person 3 children

On YouTube: 6

This week:

Monday, July 13th

6:30 Live Life Group

Thursday July 16th

6:00 Zion Diners

6:30 Comp Friends Group

Saturday, July 18th

8:00 Weight Watchers

Sunday, July 12th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00 Choir Practice

10:15am Worship in person or on You Tube Followed by
Fellowship Refreshments