

JULY/AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY: ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PERU ALEX GARNCARZ, PASTOR

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: ZION UCC, PERU, IL

Dear Zion Family and Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying the warmth and beauty of summer. It's a season of growth and renewal, much like our vibrant church community.

First, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered for our Ice Cream Social in June. Your dedication and hard work made the event a big success, bringing joy and content tummies to everyone who attended.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting July in store with our Vacation Bible School. This is always a highlight of our summer, filled with laughter, learning, and the nurturing of young faith. I can't wait to see the kids' eyes light up as they learn more about God's love.

Speaking of our wonderful children, we're planning to involve them more in our worship services. Their energy and innocence bring a special light to our congregation, reminding us all of the pure joy of faith and the love of God.

As we move into fall, mark your calendars for September 28 when we'll have the honor of hosting the UCC Prairie Association Fall Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to extend our hospitality and connect with the broader church community.

We're also busy planning our Rally Day, which will feature an outdoor service and some surprises. It's going to be a day of celebration and renewal as we gather together after the summer months.

I'm excited to announce a new Bible Study starting this fall, likely to be held midweek. Stay tuned for more details!

As your pastor, I want to emphasize the importance of all who are able attending worship regularly. Our church family is at its strongest when we're all present, supporting and uplifting one another. Each of you brings something unique and valuable to our church family, and we truly need everyone to make our church whole.

Looking at all these plans and the energy in our congregation, I can't help but feel excited about our future. God is doing great things among us, and I'm honored to be on this journey with you all.

Remember, dear friends, that you are loved - by God and by me. Your presence, your faith, and your commitment to our church family mean more than words can express. Wishing you a blessed summer. Enjoy!

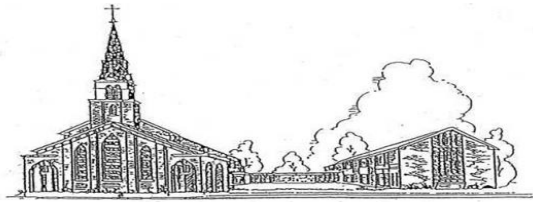
To God be the glory,

Pastor Alex





ZION UCC
Loving God, Loving People



Zion United Church of Christ
"The Church with the Carillon Tower Chimes"

In Need of Ongoing Prayer:

Wisconsin tornado victims, the homeless, Shelly, Zimmer Family, Karen Kradle, Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski, Art Ramey Family, VBS, Ivan Fupler Family, Anne Orval, Mariela Coss family, Joan Hammitt family, Austin Egbert Family, John Kent Family, Kathy Radtke, Bob Clemmenn, Cliff Smith, Rusty & Mary Thies, Arnie Watkins, Willis Dane Family, Eleanor Johnson Family, Joe Smith, Cheryl Grosenbach, Jean Spayer, Dinelle Freschi and Family, Darrell White, Emily, Leslie Grigsby family & friends, Bonnie Bird family, Deb Cooper, Melissa, Renewal Team, Mary Fiedler Family, Marissa, Victims of war, Cindy Harzheim, Estrella, Gary Splittstoesser family, Dixie Tonozzi, Doug Jakse, Marilyn Haslam, Paul Lewis, Ron Narczewski, Bob & Holly Antkowiak, Bill Vlastnik



The Altar Flowers June 16 were in Honor of Karen Kradle's birthday, from the Grant and Zelenak families.

The Altar Flowers June 23 were in Memory of Frances Ford's Birthday and Anniversary, from the Kradle, Grant, and Zelenak families.

A Memorial for Dr. M.L. Toraason was given by Karen Kradle.

A Memorial for Eleanor Johnson was given by Jane Ousec.



Flower Charts There are many open dates for Altar flowers. The dates are hung on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall. We have 4 months hanging at a time. If you would like to reserve flowers you may sign up on the chart or contact the church office to ask about availability. Altar Flowers will be seen on YouTube services, the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and on the church website in the posted bulletin. The cost for flowers is \$25.00. Please be sure to include all names, first and last, and any information you would like added to announcement.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Zion's Annual Ice Cream Social very successful!



We were blessed with a good crowd and great music.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: The Peru Municipal Band, the "KITCHEN CREW," the set up crew, the servers who provided TLC for the customers, all who donated B-B-Q, cakes, and monetary donations, all who advertised the Social, all of our loyal customers.

It is always a joy to see everyone working together and having fun.

The Guild will use the profit for church and Mission projects. Cake pans & containers are available for pick up at your convenience.

**HELP
WANTED**

Ushers

**HELP
WANTED**

**Building
and
Grounds**

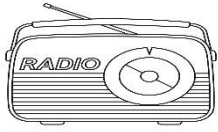
**HELP
WANTED**

Evangelism

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.

Building & Grounds: We have several places around the church and the parsonage that need to have mulch added. Should you be willing to help please let Jerry Koehler know or email buildinggrounds@zionperu.org to let us know you are willing to help.

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.



Listen to Pastor Alex at 8:25 every Sunday morning on 103.9 **WLPO**.
Tell your friends!



**Vacation Bible School "Camp Firelight-
A Summer Camp Adventure with God"
will be held July 22-26 –
Monday-Thursday 5:30pm-8:00pm & Friday
2:00pm-7:00pm**

Join us for fun and fellowship at Zion UCC
Camp Firelight VBS 2024! Crafts, music,
science, stories, and activities. The week
ends with our family celebration including

the HUGE inflatable waterslide. You don't want to miss this.
Invite your friends and neighbors to join in on the fun.

****The return of the GIANT WATERSLIDE will be on Friday the 26th!****

All youth are welcome- ages Pre-K – 8th Grade

*Adults & teens- contact Shelly Garncarz if you would like to help with VBS this
summer or click on the link provided:

Registration is Open Today at:

<https://zion-ucc--peru-illinois.mycokesburyvbs.com>





Sunday School Roof Fund

Update: The Sunday School Roof has been paid for and installed. **THANK YOU ALL** for your contributions!!



Zion Diners met June 27th at Verucchi's with Jyll Janz as host. A great time was had by all. Diners will meet next on Thursday, July 18th at 6:00pm. Randy Fouth will be hosting. The restaurant will be announced soon. In August, the Diners will meet Thursday, August 15th with Jan & Arnie Watkins hosting. The restaurant will be announced closer to the event. All are welcome!



***Please note: Pastor Alex will be on vacation July 29 – August 4th and return August 5th. Rev. Kay Harding will preach on August 4th and will be available for emergencies.**



 On **September 28th**, Zion UCC will Host 2024 Prairie Association Fall Meeting 

Save the date! Zion UCC is honored to host the 2024 Fall Meeting of the Prairie Association of the United Church of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to showcase our hospitality and connect with fellow UCC members from across the region. We need your help to make this event a success! Volunteers are needed for:

- Set-up and take-down of tables and chairs
- Creating welcoming and directional signs
- Preparing and replenishing refreshments
- Serving lunch (catered)
- Clean-up

More details and your opportunity to sign up to help will be coming soon. Together, we'll make our guests feel warmly welcomed at Zion UCC!



Join us for coffee fellowship after worship! If you would like to sign up to provide coffee fellowship (most Sundays) after worship there is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall, or contact the church office.



The Outdoor Ministries Fundraiser: Your gift is not "just" a donation, it is a prayerful statement to help change someone's life. You can donate directly : <https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com> **2024 Camp Registration is open online:** <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Please follow all safety guidelines when in attendance. We understand if you are not comfortable coming in person and invite you to watch services on YouTube.

JOIN US LIVE ON YOUTUBE SUNDAYS AT 10:15

HOW DO YOU GET THERE? EASY.....

- 1) Go to Youtube.com
- 2) Click on "Search" box at top of the page.
- 3) Type in "Zion UCC Peru Illinois"
- 4) Click on the big purple circle with a "Z" in it.
- 5) Click on the video that says "LIVE"



THAT'S IT! SEE YOU SUNDAY!

*Bulletins available to view on our website!

You can donate to Zion Church with a credit card or by bank transfer from your bank account. All you need to do is go to our web page and click "Donate" located on the right-hand side. Also, here's the link to give to our church:

<https://zionuccperu.breezechms.com/>

You can also donate to Zion Church 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. *Thank you for giving during these difficult times*

Food Pantry Seeks Donations for Expansion

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is in need of financial support as it searches for a larger facility. The expanded space will allow the pantry to store more perishable and non-perishable foods, enabling them to better serve our community's needs.

Your monetary contributions can make a significant impact. To donate, please send checks to: Illinois Valley Food Pantry 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301

Together, we can help ensure no one in our community goes hungry. Thank you for your generosity.



COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS

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 meets every Saturday morning at 8:00. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Special Event: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Hill Family of Faith Celebrating 175 years as a congregation: Special Organ Concert by former member, John Linker, Music Director at Christ Church Transitional Cathedral, New Zealand to be held on July 14th 2024 at 1:30pm at the church 151199 2825 E Street, Princeton, IL- Refreshments served afterward. Freewill charitable offering.



July Birthdays

- 3. Lauren Trumpinski
- 4. Kalli Ware
- 6. Bob Holsinger
- 8. Miranda Grosenbach
- 9. Nicholas Grosenbach
- 10. Jack Kuzma
- 11. Paul Gillmann
Austin Ploch
Michelle Fupler
- 12. Martin Johnson
Lilley Nicole Boroski
- 24. Wes Baltikauski
Makenna Zimmer
- 25. Bill Becker
- 28. Addison Opsal
- 29. Ryan Lindemier
- 30. Richard Ploch



August Birthdays

- 1. Kayla Daugherty
- 6. Kari Ann Baker
Terry Hoelle
- 7. Cassidy Elizabeth Baker
Marjorie Huetteman
- 8. Charles Schmollinger
- 10. Aubrey Goff
- 12. Jennifer Berkley
Terri Bergagna
Camri Garncarz
- 18. Isla Kilday
Evan Grove
- 22. Bill Bender
- 23. Debra Jacobson
Francis Paul Baker
- 24. Parker Cronk
- 27. Randy Fouth
Michael Hoelle
Lauren Knutson
- 29. Leian Breuning
Abigail Watkins
Mary Garncarz-Opsal

July Anniversaries

- 14. Martin & Laurie Johnson
- 15. Bob & Holly Antkowiak

August Anniversaries


- 2. Nathan & Lauren Trumpinski
- 6. Barry & Leian Breuning
- 17. Richard & Beth Vlastnik
- 18. Tony & Beth Coutre'
- 24. Bruce & Kelly Merkel
Bill & Phyllis Bender
- 28. Larry & Cheryl Grosenbach

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Thanks to Paul 04-28-2000
HEY HONEY, MY BEST FRIEND IS HERE AND HE SAYS I HAVE TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO FISHING

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
7. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on YouTube	8 6:30pm Live Life Group meeting	9	10	11	12	13 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
14. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	15 7:00 Church Council Meeting	16	17	18 6:00 Zion Diners	19	20 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
21. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	22 VBS 5:30pm-8:00pm	23 VBS 5:30pm-8:00pm	24 VBS 5:30pm-8:00pm	25 VBS 5:30pm-8:00pm	26 VBS 2:00pm-7:00pm *Giant Waterslide*	27 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
28. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	29 6:00pm Renewal Leadership Team meeting <i>Pastor Alex on Vacation</i>	30	31			

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
4. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on YouTube & Coffee Fellowship	5 Pastor Alex Back	6	7	8	9	10 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
11. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	12 6:30pm Live Life Group meeting	13	14	15 6:00 Zion Diners	16	17 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
18. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	19 7:00 Church Council Meeting	20	21	22 6:30pm Compassionate Friends Group meeting	23	24 8:00am Weight Watchers meeting
25. 8:25 Pastor Alex WLPO 10:15 Worship- Also available on You Tube & Coffee Fellowship	26 6:00pm Renewal Leadership Team meeting	27	28	29	30	31

“To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall.” -Ann Patchett