

## **JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER**

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

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Dear Church Family,

As the school year comes to a close and summer begins, I hope this season you will take some time to slow down, relax, and enjoy some quality time with loved ones. Summer is a wonderful opportunity to recharge before the busyness of fall schedules kick into high gear again.

Speaking of summer activities, I want to remind you about several upcoming events here at the church. First, mark your calendars for our annual Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 20th. This is always a fun time of fellowship, good food, and weather permitting the Peru Municipal Band will be performing. Bring a friend or neighbor!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 22-26 this summer. VBS is a huge outreach to the children in our community, so we need plenty of volunteers to serve as crew leaders and station helpers. Please let Shelly know if you can lend a hand.

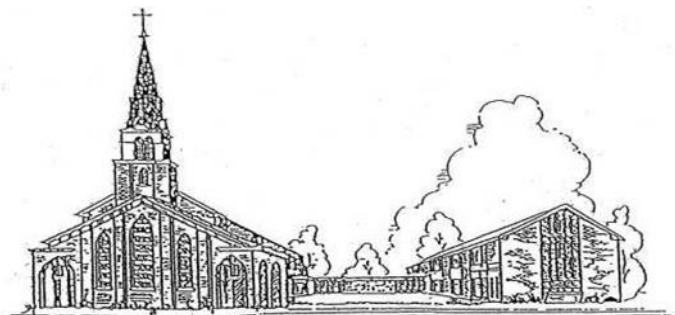
It's also time to register kids for summer camp at Pilgrim Park! Contact the church office or me for details on financial options for children of all ages. A week at camp is an amazing way to grow in faith while experiencing fun outdoor adventures and making lifelong friends. We want to be sure that **all** our kids go to camp this year.

Finally, I'm thrilled to share that the new roof has been installed on our education wing! Through your generosity, our "Raise the Roof" capital campaign has raised over \$10,000 towards the \$17,000 project cost so far. We're getting close, but we could still use some additional support to reach our goal. Thank you for your commitment to maintaining our church home.

I pray this summer is a season of refreshment, rekindling relationships with God and others, and making special memories together. Stay safe and God bless! I love you all.

To God be the glory,

Pastor Alex



*Zion United Church of Christ*

*"The Church with the Carillon Tower Chimes"*



## Zion UCC Church Council Meeting

May 20, 2024 7:00pm

Members present: Pastor Alex, Larry Grosenbach, Arnie Watkins, Jerry Koehler, Dinelle Freschi, Elecia Lindenmier, Jyll Janz, Lori Rynke.

Larry Grosenbach called meeting to order.

Pastor Alex led opening prayer.

April 2024 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Jerry K., seconded by Arnie W. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Arnie W., seconded by Jyll J. Motion carried.

Christian Education: Sunday School ended for summer months. Shelly G. working on VBS. Children are getting more and more involved in morning worship.

Evangelism: Dinelle F. sent some children's birthday cards out.

History: Jerry discussed beginning to plan for Zion's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. Also, church history needs to be updated. Bill Johnson reported to Jerry that there are tombstones at Peru City Cemetery on graves that are historically significant to Zion Church. Bill suggested that we get pictures of them because they are becoming weathered and difficult to read.

Missions: May will be last PADS meal this season. We will continue to provide meals again in fall when the shelter reopens. IV Food Pantry applied and is under consideration for a \$750,000 grant through Community Project Funding.

Building and Grounds: Jerry is working on new signs for church entrance doors/ handicap signs. 'Raise the Roof' campaign is going well. \$9500 has been raised of the 17,000 required. Installation will be done in late May or early June. Jerry spoke with Scott Rohr from OSF regarding our parking lot. Scott understands that OSF employees and patients are using our lot and will continue to do so. OSF has agreed to maintain the lot in return for use of it. A written agreement will be drawn up. Jerry and Scott will meet to finalize the deal.

Women's Guild: Met May 2. They will meet in June for closing banquet until fall. Projects: Tea Party was a big success & Ice Cream Social will be on 6/20. Working on a fall fundraiser, most likely a spaghetti dinner.

Renewal Team: Met 4/22. Productive meeting. Many ideas and plans discussed. Some underway.

Minister's Report: Two IV Food Pantry Board of Directors meetings. Still looking for a new building. We're in the running for Federal Community Project Funding in the amount of \$750,000. Please pray that it goes through. Met with ministers group twice. Recorded five radio shows that aired on WLPO. Attended Committee on Ministry meeting May 2nd. Attended Prairie Association Spring Meeting on April 20 on Zoom. Officiated two funerals, Eleanor Johnson and Bonnie Bird. Our Renewal Leadership Team had another very productive meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Coordinated the PADS meal on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Worked at the Ladies Tea as server, cleanup, etc. We celebrated moms and mom figures on Mother's Day by presenting the ladies with a carnation. Pentecost and Music Sunday was a success. I'll be meeting with Kathy Lawes soon regarding ordination preparation. Still preparing for VBS 2024! Rev. Kathy Lawes, our Association Minister, was with us on April 21. She led the entire service, allowing me the opportunity to sit with my family and enjoy the service. Kathy stayed for coffee hour then went to lunch with a group of us. It was a great day. Friday May 24 I'll be at HyVee working the Feed the Children Food Drive for the Food Pantry. Worship and lunch at Pilgrim Park is May 26. Summer is upon us. Enjoy! Respectfully submitted, Pastor Alex

Arnie W. made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Alex Garncarz



**ZION UCC**  
Loving God, Loving People

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:evangelism@zionperu.org).

*In Need of Ongoing Prayer:*

Austin Egbert Family, Tom Kaszynski, 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 & Congregation, Mary Fiedler Family, Marissa, Victims of war, Joan Hammitt, Cindy Harzheim, Estrella, Gary Splittstoesser family, Gretchen Kaszynski, Dixie Tonozzi, Doug Jakse, Marilyn Haslam, Paul Lewis, Ron Narczewski, Bob & Holly Antkowiak, Bill Vlastnik.



**The Altar Flowers** May 5<sup>th</sup> were in honor and memory of Clara Wachowiak (Freschi's Busia) on her birthday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Given by Dinelle and family.

**The Altar Flowers** May 12<sup>th</sup> were in honor and memory of Lina Smith on her birthday. Given by Dixie Tonozzi.

**The Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorship** May 19<sup>th</sup> were in Memory of Bill Kivett. Given by Elyn & Gary Hylla.

**A Memorial** for Eleanor Johnson was given by Lois Wilmot.

**A Memorial** in Loving Memory of David Splittstoesser was given by Georgia Splittstoesser.

**A Memorial** for Earl & Dorothy Breuning was given by Barry & Leian, Kids, and Grandkids.

**Recent letters to the Zion UCC congregation:**

*Thank you for all your love, prayers and support while we mourn the loss of our mom, Bonnie. Her service was beautiful. She was lucky to have such an awesome community around her! Thank you for your continued prayers for Darrell and his treatments. We are so grateful for you! – Carrie and Darrell White & family*

*We would like to thank you for all well wishes & prayers – all was appreciated.*

*- Laurie & Marty Johnson*

**Congratulations Kamilla Ann Breuning-** Graduate of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Triad Middle School in Troy, IL.

**Graduates to announce?** Contact the church office!



**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.



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



### **CREW (Creative Rejoicing in Early Worship)**

**Thank you** CREW Members for a great year! CREW will resume in September. *Watch for exciting news about Vacation Bible School!*

Adults & teens- contact Shelly Garncarz if you would like to help with VBS this summer.



***Vacation Bible School will be held July 22-26 with the return of the GIANT WATERSLIDE on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> !***



### ***Sunday School Roof Fund Update:***

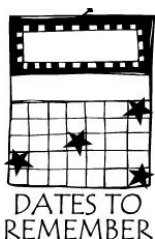
Over \$10,000 has been donated and the new roof has been installed. The total for the project is \$17,000. Thank you for your continued contributions!





"The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one's appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love and understanding companionship."  
-Amelia Earheart

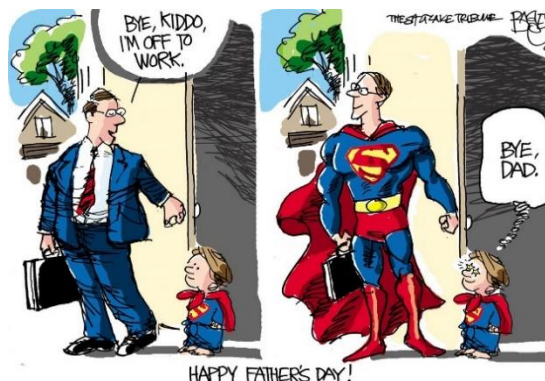
**Join us for coffee fellowship after worship!** If you would like to sign up to provide coffee fellowship (most Sundays) after worship there is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall, or contact the church office.



The next **Zion Women's Guild** meeting will be Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at noon.  
This will be a luncheon at Liberty Restaurant.  
Please call Lois Wilmot to confirm your reservation.  
All Ladies are welcome to attend.



**Father's Day** IS  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**



**Zion Diners** met May 16<sup>th</sup> at The right Spice with Lois Wilmot as host. **Diners will meet next on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm due to the Ice Cream Social.** Jyll Janz will be hosting. The restaurant will be announced soon. All are welcome!



### **New Church Directories are available!**

Directories are located on the community table in fellowship hall. If you would like a copy mailed to you or a relative, please contact the church office.

*\*Directories cannot be posted online or sent in email due to privacy laws.*



# ZION'S ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



THURSDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>

4:00-7:00pm

PERU MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT

5:00-6:00pm

**NEEDED: B-B-Q, CAKES, WORKERS**

**SIGN-UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**PLEASE HAVE B-B-Q (THAWED) & CAKES AT  
CHURCH BY 1:00pm ON JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>**

**QUESTIONS: Contact the church office**

All are Welcome! Bring your family and  
friends!



## 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

### **The I.V. Food Pantry needs monetary donations**

The Pantry is looking for a larger space to store more perishable and non-perishable foods to help the community. To mail contributions: Illinois Valley Food Pantry- 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301



ILLINOIS VALLEY PUBLIC ACTION TO  
DELIVER SHELTER  
Established 1991

Thank you to all who donated towards the monthly PADS Meals throughout the year. May 28<sup>th</sup> concluded this season's meal ministry for PADS. If you would like to continue to donate, the contributions will be put toward this ongoing ministry which will begin again in the fall. Thank you for doing your part to care for people that are facing hardships we can't imagine. God bless you for your kindness!



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.



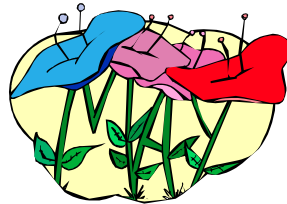
**The Outdoor Ministries Fundraiser:** Your gift is not "just" a donation, it is a prayerful statement to help change someone's life. You can donate directly  
: <https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com>

**2024 Registration is open online:** <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>



### **June Birthdays**

2. Karen Bejster
5. Julie Breuning
7. Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer  
Gretchen Kaszynski  
Marilyn Haslam  
Adam Mize
8. Torie Ploch
11. Lois Edgecomb
15. Alan Fupler
16. Lisa Hoelle  
Ella Ware
17. Carol Harris  
Mark Bingheim
- Julie Goff-Rietgraf Zimmer
19. Bob Noonan  
Art Morrell
21. Brittany Bejster  
Sue Riordan
26. Steve Shetterly
27. Jayne Brown
27. Shirley Janz
29. Renee Lundeen
30. Kim Becker  
Dinelle Freschi



### **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



### **July Anniversaries**

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

### **June Anniversaries**

12. Tim & Julie Breuning
14. Zach & Dinelle Freschi
27. Bill & Kim Becker
28. Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski

Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

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12-22-2014

WHAT DO YOU BUY THE GUY WHO HAS EVERYTHING, MADE EVERYTHING, AND HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING?



# JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	“The World Laughs in Flowers”- Ralph Waldo Emerson					<b>1 8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting
<b>2. 8:25</b> Pastor Alex WLPO <b>9:15</b> Choir practice <b>10:15</b> Worship- Also available on You Tube &Coffee Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Zion Women’s Guild Luncheon at Liberty Restaurant	<b>7</b>	<b>8 8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting
<b>9. 8:25</b> Pastor Alex WLPO <b>9:15</b> Choir practice <b>10:15</b> Worship- Also available on You Tube &Coffee Fellowship	<b>10</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Live Life Group meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting
<b>16. 8:25</b> Pastor Alex WLPO <b>9:30</b> Choir practice <b>10:15</b> Worship- Also available on You Tube  <b>Father’s Day</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:00</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Juneteenth</i>	<b>20</b> <b>4:00-7:00pm</b> <b>Annual Ice Cream Social</b>	<b>21</b> Newsletter info Due	<b>22 8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting
<b>23. 8:25</b> Pastor Alex WLPO <b>9:30</b> Choir practice <b>10:15</b> Worship- Also available on You Tube &Coffee Fellowship	<b>24</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Renewal Leadership Team meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>6:00</b> Zion Diners  <b>6:30pm</b> Compassionate Friends Group meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting
<b>30. 8:25</b> Pastor Alex WLPO <b>10:15</b> Worship- Also available on You Tube &Coffee Fellowship	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 	July 5	July 6 <b>8:00am</b> Weight Watchers meeting