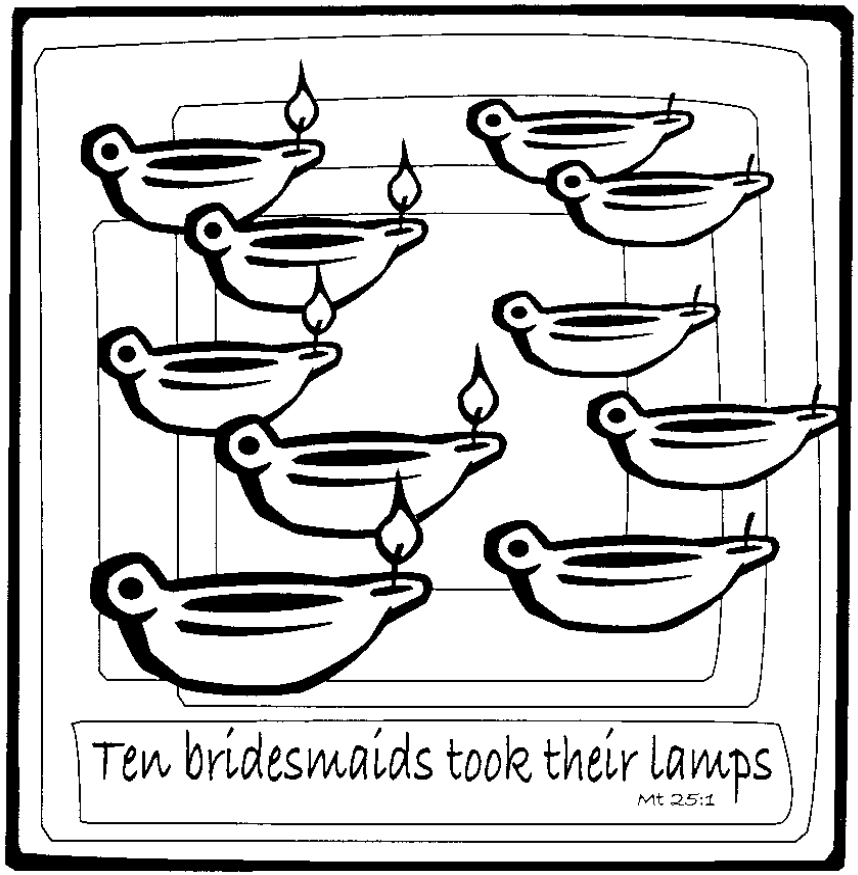
Zion
United Church of Christ



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www.zionperu.org
Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL
815-223-2671
1521 6th St. Peru, IL 61354

WORSHIP AT PILGRIM PARK
November 8, 2026 11:15 a.m.
(* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Surely the Presence*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

OPENING SENTENCES

L: God, as we gather together to worship you, we are in awe of your creation.
P: **We see you in the rising and setting of the sun. We see you in the moon and the stars of the night sky. Your creative presence is all around us.**
L**:** We see you in the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the creatures of the sea.
P: **From the flowers of the valley to the mountaintops in the sky,**
L: We see your beauty all over the earth.
All**: Let us worship you for who you are, our creator and sustainer.**

*SONG *This Is My Father's World*

*OPENING PRAYER **Eternal God, we come together today to in this place to celebrate the wonder of Your creation. We marvel at the wonders You have performed, creating the peaks and the valleys and all the beauty in the plains. We give You our heartfelt thanks for places like Pilgrim Park that remind us of Your great love. Be with us now as we celebrate the beauty of nature and worship You together. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:1-13
MESSAGE *Keep Your Lamp Burning*

*SONG *What a Wonderful World*
I see trees of green, red roses too
I see 'em bloom, for me and for you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue, clouds of white
Bright blessed days dark sacred nights
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

The colors of a rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands sayin' how do you do
They're really sayin' i love you

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Carol Krause, Esme, Bonnie, Roxie, Joe Smith Family, Candie, Avery's Dad, Bonnie Picco, Jamie Crew Family, Abby, Terry, Red Bly, Evan Grove, Mary Thies, Jim D, Mitch K, Angel, Mclaughlin Family, Jan Watkins Family, Joe, Jean, Mary Lamps Family, Jim, Dick Tostovarsnik, Paul Lewis & Family, Pastor Kay, Chris Lamps, Matthew, Adeline, Barb, Mary Garncarz, Alice, Marsha, Rebecca, Lauren, Ned Yoder, Heather, Jean Spier, Cindy Harzheim, Arnie, Mary Jean, Stephanie Heilstedt, Dixie, Deb Cooper, Marilyn Haslam
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)
PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer O Lord*
Hear our prayer, O Lord
Hear our prayer, O Lord
Hear our prayer, O Lord
And grant us thy peace. Amen.

OFFERING
OFFERTORY
*PRAISE RESPONSE *We Give Thee But Thine Own*
We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gifts may be,
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O lord from Thee. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **Creator God, we offer these as well as our time and talents, in the hope that they may reflect Your light to others in our community and throughout the world. Amen.**

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

*BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Announcements
New Prayer Requests
Carol Krause, Health
Esme, Health

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!

Memorials were given in loving memory of David Splittstoesser from Georgia Splittstoesser

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!

Choir Practice Schedule Change Please note that choir will no longer practice on Wednesday evenings. Going forward, choir practice will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Choir members, please plan to arrive ready to rehearse at 9:00. Thank you

If you would like to provide special music please contact Shelly Garncarz. Please note that the choir will not sing on **11/29** and **12/27**. If you're willing to offer special music on one of these Sundays, we'd love to include it.

Harvest Home Sunday '26 will take place on November 22nd. All food will be given to Illinois Valley Food Pantry. If you would like to give a cash donation to purchase food, we will do your shopping for you! Please contact Larry Grosenbach, Arnie Watkins or Pastor Alex. We will also take a special love offering that day to purchase turkeys for the Pantry, so come prepared to give a little extra for those in need during the holidays.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service Join us for a community Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Cherry United Church of Christ. This special service is your opportunity to gather with friends and neighbors from several area churches to give thanks together for God's blessings. All are welcome-come with a grateful heart as we join in worship and fellowship!

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner Once again this year, we will be hosting our Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day! This special tradition is one of the ways we can reach out and share hospitality, fellowship, and a good Thanksgiving meal with our neighbors. Everyone in the community is welcome. As always, it takes many helping hands to make the dinner possible. Stay tuned for more information about meal times, volunteering, donations, and how you can help make this year's Thanksgiving Dinner a success!

Zion's Annual Cookie Sale Mark your calendars! Zion's Annual Cookie Sale will be held on Friday, December 11. This favorite holiday tradition will be here before we know it, so bakers, start thinking about those cookies! More information about baking, donating, volunteering, and sale details will be coming soon. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

Help Us Spread the Word on Facebook!

You can help our Church reach more people in our community with just a few simple clicks! When you see a post from our church on Facebook, **LIKE it, SHARE it**, and **CHECK IN** when you're here for worship or an event.
These small actions help more people see what's happening at our church and are an easy way to spread the word!
Not sure how? We have created an easy, step-by-step How-to Guide. Pick up a copy in the fellowship hall and give it a try!

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.

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

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Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Organ Player – George Garncarz
Secretary	Brianna Kupperschmid
Liturgist	Arnie Watkins
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Pilgrim Park

Attendance November 1st _52_In Person__8_children
On YouTube: _10

This week:
Saturday, November 14th
8:00 Weight Watchers
Sunday, November 15th
8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO
9:00 Choir Practice
10:15am Worship in person
or on You Tube