

Zion
United Church of Christ



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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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 *Surely the Presence*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: We come from different places, with different stories and different ways of seeing.

P: **Yet we belong to one God, who welcomes us all.**

L: Let us lay down judgment and make room for grace.

P: **Let us receive one another as Christ has received us.**

L: Come, let us worship the One who alone knows every heart.

P: We come to worship God with humility, gratitude, and love.

*OPENING HYMN *O Master Let Me Walk With Thee*

OPENING PRAYER **Gracious God, you have called us together as your people, not because we all think alike, but because we all belong to you. Quiet the voices in us that are quick to judge and slow to understand. Open our hearts to your grace, and teach us to see one another with patience, humility, and love. As we worship, remind us that you alone know every heart, and you alone are God. Shape us by your Spirit, so that our words, our thoughts, and our lives may honor you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM

The Life of My Song

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 14:1-12

MESSAGE *Let God Be God*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN *We Are Called to Be God's People*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE : Angel, Mclaughlin Family, Jim Brown, Jan Watkins Family, Joe, Jean, Mary Lamps Family, Jim, Dick Tostovarsnik, Paul Lewis & Family, Pastor Kay, Fran Mcfarland Family, Chris Lamps, Keith Jarosz, Mary Thies, Frank Leone, Matthew, Adeline, Baby Eli, Barb, Gary Janisch, Mary Garncarz, Shelly, Alice, Henry, Marsha, Rebecca, Lauren, Ned Yoder, Heather, Jean Spier, Cindy Harzheim, Arnie, Mary Jean, Jon Marcacci, Alan Fupler, Stephanie Heilstedt, Dixie, Deb Cooper, Marilyn Haslam

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *Give Thanks*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Gracious God, every good gift we have comes from you. Receive these offerings and use them to bring hope, healing, and grace into the lives of others. As we give, remind us that our money is only one part of what we offer. Take our time, our abilities, our compassion, and our lives, and use them for your purposes. May all that we give reflect the love we have first received from you. Amen.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*HYMN *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

Angel

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!

I can't thank all of you enough for the blessings that have been poured on and through my life and you were all a great part of it!

-Pastor Betty Delgado

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.

Choir practice will continue every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm

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 Diners will meet again at The Right Spice on September 17th at 6 PM. Jyll Janz will be our Host!

Singer-songwriter **Sarah McQuaid** will be performing a concert at Zion UCC on September 24 at 7pm. Her live performances are full of warmth, wit, and intimacy, and have earned her loyal followings on both sides of the Atlantic. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for students K-college. Check Music www.408fineartsfactory.com for more information.

CROP WALK-Five weeks from today, we will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need Walkers and sponsors for the Illinois Valley CROP Hunger Walk on September 27. Please see Pastor Alex for more details and to sign up to be a Walker, a sponsor, or both. You may also call Pastor Alex at 815-579-5189. Last year, we raised over \$4000. Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world.

Women's Guild will meet again on Thursday, October 1st at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

******There is a bulletin board with sticky notes listing items we need for our Kitchen. Please take a note for any item you're willing to purchase. Your support helps keep everything running smoothly, thank you for giving so generously.

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**](mailto: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**](mailto: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.

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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6th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

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

Attendance September 6th _34_ In Person _2_ children

On YouTube: _7_

This week:

Thursday, September 17th

6:00 Zion Diners @ Right Spice

Saturday, September 19th

8:00 Weight Watchers

Sunday, September 20th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00 Choir Practice

10:15am Worship in person or on You Tube

Fellowship Refreshments