

Announcements for the Week of 8/23 – 8/29

- 8/23: Worship Service 9 am in the Sanctuary & on Zoom
Coffee Hour after Worship
Celebration of Life Reception for Sandy Lashua will be held in Fellowship Hall *following a 2 pm Private Burial* at God's Acre Cemetery
Peru Town Concerts 6 pm to 8 pm in Heyworth Mason Park
(Rain Location – Peru Community Church Fellowship Center)
- 8/24: Mission & Social Justice Ministry Meeting 10:30 am
AA 7:30 pm
- 8/25: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- 8/26: Knit Wits 1:30 pm at Carol Gallagher's home
- 8/27: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Organizational Meeting for Halloween Community Event 6pm
Choir Rehearsal 6 – 7:30 pm

Worship Asst.: Ken Edwards



Worshipping every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

www.perucommunitychurch.com

office@perucommunitychurch.com

518.643.8641

Office Hours: M/W/F 9am – 3pm

Celebrating Over 200 years of Ministry

Peru Community Church
13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey

CENTERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

(Please fill out a green “Welcome Visitors” card in the pews and place it in the offering plate if you are new or visiting, would like to be added to our mailing list, or need to update your contact information.)

PASTOR’S GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus walks the roads of our world today, asking what the crowds are saying, and asking us directly: *Who do you say that I am?*

People: **We see you in the faces of the outcast and the seeker. We see you in the work of peace and the courage of justice.**

Leader: Blessed are you when grace awakens your heart. For truth is not revealed by flesh and blood, but by the living Spirit moving among us.

People: **You are the Christ, the promise of God’s liberating love, breaking open the rigid boundaries of our world.**

Leader: On this rock of shared faith and open hearts, Christ builds a community of belonging, held together by love

People: **Open our ears to hear the Spirit anew. Open our doors to build a sanctuary of grace. Let us worship God together!**

*HYMN

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

#426

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Living God,

You ask us who you are, and we confess that our answers are often too small.

We content ourselves with historical labels and comfortable doctrines instead of recognizing your living presence.

We confess our hesitation to speak truth to power, our fear of stepping onto the rock of true solidarity, and our tendency to choose the safety of silence over the risks of love.

Turn us around, O God. Break open our hearts and dismantle our systems of apathy. Remind us that whatever we bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Give us the courage to loose the bonds of injustice and to bind ourselves to your vision of collective liberation. For the sake of Jesus the Messiah, Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 138:1-3
I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 16:13-20
Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

RESPONSE
Leader: May we be doers of the Word and not hearers only.
People: Amen. Alleluia.

SERMON “Who and where is Jesus? And ourselves?” Pastor Leigh

JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
God of abundance, we thank you that we are able to give and sing Your praise. In thanksgiving for your steadfast love and faithfulness, we have dedicated ourselves to your service. Help us now, O Holy One to use these gifts faithfully, binding and loosing in your name for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN “Called As Partners in Christ's Service” #343

*BLESSING

*Indicates to stand if you are able CCLI #309370

PRAYER LIST
Abbie Breen; Rob Butts; Carol; Sarah Connelly; Katie Davis; Eric Duquette; Denise; Nancy Fegan; Jerry; Susanne & Eucky Jones; Bonnie Mahnk; Howard Newton; Patricia; Roy Perry; Evelyn Rinella; Sherrie & Julia; Anne Stevensen; Jane Way

Pastors:
Rev. Phil Richards: (518) 791-1123 pastorphils@gmail.com
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey: (518) 247-8886 fivechurchesumc@gmail.com

Musicians:
Steve Woodruff: Virtual Organist
Patsy Yang: Choir Director (over)