

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

Announcements for the Week of 10/18 – 10/24

- 10/18: Worship Service 9 am in the Sanctuary & on Zoom
Coffee Hour after Worship
- 10/19: Worship Team Meeting 10:30 am
AA 7:30 pm
- 10/20: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Crafting at Valehaven Home for Adults 2 pm
- 10/21: Knit Wits 1:30 pm
Common Ground Gathering 5:30 pm (Video) 6:30 pm (Discussion) in Chapel
- 10/22: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am

PIPE SCREAMS – Celebrate Halloween at Peru Community Church!
Sunday, October 25 | 3:30–5:00 p.m.

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| 🎵 Pipe Organ “Screams” | 👻 Halloween Crafts |
| 🍷 Cider & Donuts | 👗 Costume Parade |
| 👹 Trick-or-Treating | |

Come for the music. Stay for the fun. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

Peru Community Church
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
Rev. Phil Richards
Worship Asst. – Cindi LaFountain

CENTERING MUSIC/PRELUDE
(If you have prayer concerns, please place them in the BLESSED basket in the rear of the Sanctuary, to be read during Joys and Concerns. If you are new or have changed your information recently, please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate.)

PASTOR’S GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM “Jubilate Deo”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: The world tells us that power and wealth determine our worth.
People: We gather to remember that every person bears the image of the sacred.
Leader: Jesus calls us to a different way.
All: Let us worship with courage, seek justice, and live in love. Amen.

***HYMN** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” (v. 1&2) #480

OPENING PRAYER
Holy One, challenge us to question the values of this world and remember whose image we bear. Open our hearts to compassion, our eyes to injustice, and our lives to the way of Jesus. May our worship inspire us to live with courage, generosity, and love. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:15-21
Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it

lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

RESPONSE

May God grant us grace and wisdom for interpretation.
Amen Alleluia!

MORNING MESSAGE

Pastor Phil

RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY

Holy One, bless these gifts and use them to build a world shaped by justice, generosity, and love. May our giving feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and affirm the dignity of every person. May our gifts and our lives reflect the way of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN

“Is it Lawful to Pay Taxes?”

JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PASTORAL 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.

BLESSING

PRAYER LIST

Shirley Arnold; Abbie Breen; Rob Butts; Carol; Sarah Connelly; Eric Duquette; Denise; Nancy Fegan; Danny Hartman; Jerry; Susanne & Eucky Jones; Linda; Luke; Bonnie Mahnk; Karen Hadad-Meyers; Howard Newton; Noreen; Patricia; Roy Perry; Evelyn Rinella; Sherrie & Julia; Anne Stevensen; Jane Way; Katie Williams; Wren

“Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage



1. “Is it law - ful to pay tax - es when they prop up Cae-sar’s rule?”
2. “Find a tax coin in your trea - sure; see the im - age that it bears.
3. Lord of all, in ev - ery na - tion, may your word be un - der - stood—
4. Still, we al - so hear your teach - ing: “Give to God what God is due.”

So some peo - ple asked of Je - sus, want - ing him to seem a fool.
Give to Cae - sar what is Cae - sar’s. (Give to ru - lers what is theirs.)”
That we have an ob - li - ga - tion to sup - port the com - mon good.
May no ru - ler—ov - er - reach - ing—try to take the place of you.

Say - ing “no” would be se - di - tion; say - ing “yes” would be a sin.
Yet he pressed on with his mes - sage; “Give to God what is God’s own.”
May our tax - es, all to - geth - er, fund our work - ing hand in hand
May we lis - ten to your mes - sage, may we hon - or what is yours;

Je - sus changed the con - ver - sa - tion, call - ing them to look with - in.
We who bear our Ma - ker’s im - age wor - ship God and God a - lone.
So that life will be made bet - ter for all peo - ple in this land.
May we, liv - ing in your im - age, seek your king - dom that en - dures.