



Zionite newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF ZION UCC

APRIL 2019

Pastor's Message

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.

Be kind. Always." ~Rev. Ian Maclaren

Humans are weird, complex beings. We think we're highly evolved, and yet our minds are constantly swirling with emotions, worries, fears, and anxiety. And when we're hurt, emotionally or physically, we often don't function at our best.

Lately I've had a lot of conversations with people who are struggling with anger (theirs or someone else's) and it seems to me that most anger comes from a source of pain. When we're hurt and our minds don't know what to do with the overflow of pain, we lash out, sometimes at those who don't deserve it.

Rev. Maclaren said, "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." This reminds me of when Jesus said, "Bless those who curse you" (Luke 6:28). There are times in our own lives when we might not be functioning at our best. And it's at those times that we might say/do things that we regret (harsh words, angry tones). But at those times, we can only hope and pray that people will see that our anger comes from a source of pain and respond with a blessing, even if we don't deserve it.

We also get to display that love and grace when others are battling their own pains. We get to be that person who blesses someone who curses them. We get to be that person who responds to anger with love. We get to display the love and mercy of Christ. I know we want others to respond to us in that way when we're not at our best, so how much more can we try to respond to others with grace when they're clearly going through a hard time. Plus, Jesus tells us to, and following Jesus' advice will never let us down!

So during this long, possibly trying, Season of Lent, let's remember that everyone's fighting a battle. And we always have the option to respond with kindness (even if it's undeserving).

In Christ's love,

Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Apr 2nd – Lenten Study
- Apr 5th – Youth Group
- Apr 9th – Lenten Study
- Apr 9th – Men's Fellowship
- Apr 11th – Consistory
- Apr 14th – Choir Cantata
- Apr 16th – Lenten Study
- Apr 18th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm
- Apr 19th – Good Friday, church open for Stations of the Cross & Labyrinth
- Apr 19th – Youth Group
- Apr 20th – Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 10am
- Apr 20th – Women's Fellowship
- Apr 21st – Easter Sunday, 9am & 10:30am (ecumenical service at Elmlawn at 7am)
- Apr 27th – Community Dinner

Make Holy Week Count

Starting on Palm Sunday, we have many ways for everyone to make Holy Week truly meaningful.

Palm Sunday

After two worship services on April 14th, there will be lunch provided in Kuck Hall. Then starting at 1pm the Chancel Choir will bless us with a Cantata. The Cantata, "Come to the Table" will usher us into Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

Our powerful Maundy Thursday service prepares our hearts and minds for Good Friday. Join us at 7pm (note this time change) for the Maundy Thursday service on April 18th.

Good Friday

The church will be open all day on Good Friday (closing to the public when youth group begins at 7pm). Come to church to walk the Labyrinth in Kuck Hall and walk the Stations of the Cross with a guided booklet in the Sanctuary.

Holy Saturday

Even though Holy Saturday is a time of prayerful preparation, we will host our annual Easter Bunny Breakfast to raise money for the Youth Mission Trip. The breakfast and egg hunt begins at 10am on April 20th. Cost is \$5. Sign up sheet is in the office or call/email to reserve your spot.

Easter Sunday

Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Sunday, April 21st. We have two worship services at Zion UCC at 9 & 10:30. There is also an ecumenical service at Elmlawn Cemetery at 7am (Pastor Elizabeth will only be leading the services at Zion). Invite your friends and family to worship with us and celebrate our Risen Christ!

Zion UCC at the Bison's!

Game night: July 3

Come enjoy the game with your church family and hear the BPO and watch the "best fireworks" of the season!

Cost: \$24

(children and adults)

Sign up is in the entrance near the parking lot. Make Checks payable to Gaye Mehlretter.

"Women for Women"

The Women's Fellowship is collecting items for the Women Veterans at the VA.

Please bring in donations from now until Mother's Day.
Thank you!

Zion United Church of Christ Women's Fellowship Community Service Mother's Day Project



Women Veterans Donations

- ★ Transportation Assistance
 - UBER or Lyft Gift Cards
 - Bus Tokens
 - Gas Cards
- ★ Food
 - VA Canteen Lunch Tokens (when in for long appointments)
 - Shelf Stable Snacks
- ★ Toiletries
 - Toothbrushes, Full Size Toothpaste, Bar Soap
- ★ New Clothing Items
 - Sports Bras in Various Sizes

Deadline: Sunday, May 12, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME TO THE — TABLE —

by Joseph & Pamela Martin
at Zion United Church of Christ
April 14, 2019
1:00pm



Easter Egg Hunt

EGG HUNT

Saturday 10am

April 20, 2019

pancake breakfast

with
the

EASTER BUNNY

fun for all ages

Call for reservations

(716) 836-6220

Or email ucczion@gmail.com

face painting EGG HUNT

All are welcome!

Zion United Church of Christ

\$5

adults and children

15 Koenig Circle

Tonawanda, NY

14150



Senior Wishes

Enjoy an evening sampling wine, beer, sweets and appetizers while listening to live music by Rockin' Robin. There is a complimentary candy buffet and valet parking.

Pre-sale Tickets are \$50

All proceeds go to the Senior Wishes program! Have fun and raise money for an important cause!

To purchase tickets go to:

www.seniorwishes.org/events

Sips, Suds and Sweets

April 11, 2019 6-9pm

Fox Run at Orchard Park

presented by

 **UnitedHealthcare**
COMMUNITY & STATE

Sponsor a Youth

In July the Youth Group is going to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for A Common Mission Experience.

Their fundraising efforts are already underway, and they are working hard to raise all of the money needed for the trip.

You can help their fundraising efforts by Sponsoring a Youth for the mission Trip!

To sponsor a youth, fill out the below form and return it to the church with a check payable to Zion UCC. One member of the youth will send you a hand written letter while on the trip, telling you about their mission, and a photo. Thank you for all of your support for the young people in the church! Through your help they'll learn how to grow in faith and in service.

Sponsor a Youth

(return this form with your check to the office or collection plate)

Amount (select one)

- ☐ Sponsor for half a day, \$25
- ☐ Sponsor for a day, \$50
- ☐ Sponsor for a week, \$375
- ☐ Other amount _____

Total Sponsorship Donation

\$ _____

Your name and Address:

Thank you for your support of our youth!



Baby Shower!

Our first service musicians, Bethany & David Ward are having a BABY!!!

We are so excited for Bethany, David, and daughter Lily to welcome a new little boy in their family, so we're throwing them a BABY SHOWER!

Please join us after the first service (the shower will continue during the second service) on

Sunday, May 5th at 10am.

If you would like to purchase a present for Bethany & David, they are having a little boy due at the end of June.

If you would like to purchase a gift from the registry, here is the link:

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/2LHGH9E7C8XYV>

Meet the Nursery Staff



Sam Caci
9:00 Service



Brianna Grine
10:30 Service

Hey Church, our church nursery is now staffed and open during both services and Holiday Services. The nursery is open to kids ages 3 months to 7 years. We have two fantastic people leading the nursery. They have both been involved in the church for many years. Samantha even works full time at a daycare! Get to know the two of them in the information below and feel free to stop in and chat with them if you would like to get to know them better. Kids are always welcome in our worship services, but we know it's also nice for parents to have the option just to worship too.

Sam Caci

Samantha has been going to Zion UCC for 8 years. She has 5 years + experience in child care and she loves caring for the little ones.

Samantha works at Amherst Community Church Child Care Center and is professionally trained in caring for children.

Sam likes providing a fun atmosphere for kids to learn and socialize with each other while worship is in session.

Sam is in the nursery during the 9am service.

Brianna Grine

Most of you know Brianna already. Brianna has been going to Zion UCC her entire life. She has 5+ years experience in childcare and she loves kids and wants to provide a safe and fun environment for them during the worship services.

Brianna spent a summer watching Pastor Duffy's kids, and she did a wonderful job!

Brianna is in the nursery during the 10:30 service to watch children ages 7 and under.

Kids over the age of 7 are welcome to watch a show in the Kindergarten Room during the 10:30 service.

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 3-14-19

Call to Order: Tim Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Tim Schlegel, Ron Janezewski. Jeff Quinton, Joan Mohalski, Glen Gordon, Barb Miller, Jason Whalen, Ted Camp, Excused: Sarah Handley-Cousins. Note: Ted Camp was a visitor and Jason Whalen an alternate.

Call to Order: Pastor Elizabeth lead us in the devotion and Lord's prayer.

Meeting Minutes: Glen moved and Barb seconded the approval of the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Ron reported, (see Treasurer's Report). Balance sheet needs to be revised.

An anonymous gift of \$1,300.00 was received for the first year of nursery operation.

The books need to be organized for an October- November audit. Ted asked what the cost and time would be for the audit. Pastor Elizabeth said that in the past a local accountant performed it in minimal time. Ted recommended a firm. A motion to accept the report was made by Glen and seconded by Joan. Motion was passed.

Trustees' Report: None. See church website for reports.

Review of Annual Meeting: Joan said that the meeting went well.

Pastor's Report:

- We purchased one inexpensive logo which was used on the website. It's a water colored cross. We are looking into getting another that is more like the original one we had wanted to purchase.
- Lenten Study started off great. There were 27 people in attendance as we talked about forgiveness.
- We are going to move Maundy Thursday and future Ash Wednesday Services to 7pm. Now that the nursery is staffed, more people come with their children, and it's easier for them to come if it ends at 8 instead of 8:30 due to early bed times.
- The week after Easter I will be away for vacation. Retired Pastor Steve Hall will be leading both services.
- We're planning a baby shower for David and Bethany.
- New website is up. There is also an app (but I am still working on that). We have a new podcast station for anyone who adds our services to their podcasts. Take a look and if you have recommendations, let me know.
- NY State now required Sexual Harassment training for all employers (including churches). Training needs to be done by October and the links and information is on the UCCNY website. Who should do the training? Pastor and Admin Chair/Committee?
- Copier being renewed – would we like color as an option?

Committee Reports:

Administration: \$1,300.00 was anonymously given to the nursery. Nursery care positions were filled. 9Am – Samantha Caci, 10:30am – Brianna.

Christian Education: No report.

Missions: No report.

Church Life & Community Dinners: January's meal consisted of salad, chicken broccoli casserole and dessert. Seventy five guests were served at a cost of \$50.00. There were 18 volunteers.

Memorials: No report.

Outreach: Veterans' Voices to meet Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Pastoral Parish Relations: No report.

Health Ministry: No report.

175th Anniversary Planning: Jeff reported that we could have a celebration at Classics V for \$5900.00/200 people. This is approximately \$30.00/person. The question that arose was should the church put in some money? Tim said that the dinner should be open to all? How much are we willing to contribute to defray the cost? Pastor Elizabeth said that anyone who wants to come but needs money should talk to her. Tim suggested we table discussion on ticket prices. Glen made a motion and Barb seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: UB church listings. Sarah was not present to report. Peace Pole: To be put near church sign.

New Business:

- Sarah had suggested that we bring in someone to advise on handicapped accessibility.
- An update on Sanctuary renovation time line was presented.
- The CCLI song license fee to put music online and stream services is \$62.00/year.
- Food Pantry- Jeff suggested that sticky notes with food needs be placed near pantry.
- Ted discussed a community garden near church. Tim, Ted and Sarah are to discuss this.
- Ted recommended putting age restrictions on YouTube® on church tv. Tim said that we can program this.
- Jeff said that we should not use chemicals on the garden. The Trustees and House and Grounds committee decide what to use.

A motion was made to adjourn by Glen and seconded by Barb. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.