



Zionite newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

This prophetic verse from Isaiah can speak to us today. The Israelites were going through a chaotic time, and Isaiah spoke these prophetic words from God. And now, as we're navigating through our own chaos, God speaks to us through the Prophet Isaiah: **Do no fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God.** *Do you hear those words? Can you feel the calming presence of our Lord as you read these words? Do not be fear – Do not be afraid. Our God is STILL with us in the chaos.*

All of us are navigating uncharted territory. Teachers: teaching online, in person, or both. Students: learning from school, learning from home, or both. Pastors: leading worship from Church, leading worship from home, or both. We're all figuring out how to navigate these waters. But no matter what, we KNOW that God is good. We KNOW that God is love. And we KNOW that God is with us. *Can I get an Amen?!*

I hope and pray that as we continue to make our way through this pandemic, that we can all remember to breathe and feel God's presence. And as our Jewish brothers and sisters just celebrated Yom Kippur with a day of repentance, may we follow in their actions. Maybe we could all use a day to repent? Maybe we could all use a day when we fast from all that is toxic and reconnect to God? Maybe we can use a day when we repent for our mistakes and refocus our lives on God? Part of me wishes that this entire world could have celebrated Yom Kippur along with our Jewish siblings, because I think we could all use a moment of repentance and recommitting ourselves to the Lord.

As we make our way through this lengthy time of Covid19, will you join me in focusing on God as #1 in our lives? Spend time in worship and prayer and study. If you haven't joined us in person (only if you feel safe and are in good health) or online for worship, give it a try. Our online service has really improved tremendously and it will continue to get better. Be a part of the faith community, even if it's online, so we can hold each other in prayer and faithfulness as we center our lives around God. Plus, when we join together, either in person or online, we are surrounded by the presence of God – that same God who tells us, *"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."*

In Christ's love, Pastor Elizabeth

Buffalo News Article by Glen Gordon

The following piece was in the Buffalo News, written by our own Glen Gordon.

In "Another Voice: Church provides aid and comfort in time of crises". The writer asked "what is the church? And, how can the church stand in the gap for God's people?"

The writer states "The church is primarily a building". I disagree with this statement. The Church are the people who make up the body of Christ. We, "the Church" are God's hands and feet here to care for all. The building we worship in could be destroyed by some calamity, but the Church would still exist.

The Church is a community as the writer stated. We have a food pantry and provide free food any time. We also gave away free prepared hot dinners once a month. The Church visited homebound and nursing home residents before the pandemic. We hope to resume this.

Jesus drove out the merchants and money changers from the Temple. He said not to turn his Father's house into a market. When asked to show a miracle to prove he had authority he said, "destroy this Temple and I will raise it up in three days". The local leaders said "it has taken forty six years to build this Temple and you will do it in three days?" They didn't understand that he meant the death and resurrection of his body.

The point here is that "the Church" is not the building we worship in. It is the people who are the Church.

Glen J. Gordon

Another Voice on church misses the word's meaning

In the Aug. 26 Another Voice: "Church provides aid and comfort in time of crisis," the writer asked, "what is the church?" And, "how can the church stand in the gap for God's people?"

The writer states "The church is primarily a building." I disagree with this statement. The church are the people who make up the body of Christ. We, "the church" are God's hands and feet here to care for all. The building we worship in could be destroyed by some calamity, but the church would still exist.

The church is a community as the writer stated. We have a food pantry and provide free food any time. We also gave away free prepared hot dinners once a month. The church visited homebound and nursing home residents before the pandemic. We hope to resume this.

Jesus drove out the merchants and money changers from the Temple. He said not to turn his Father's house into a market. When asked to show a miracle to prove he had authority he said, "destroy this Temple and I will raise it up in three days." The local leaders said "it has taken forty six years to build this Temple and you will do it in three days?" They didn't understand that he meant the death and resurrection of his body.

The point here is that "the church" is not the building we worship in. It is the people who are the church.

GLEN J. GORDON
Town of Tonawanda

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Crop Walk Success!

Zion UCC raised \$575 for this year's Crop Walk. Thanks to Pastor Pierre and our teammates for participating and for all of the donors! Joan Mohalski would be proud of the amount raised this year!

For those who may not have heard, our beloved Jean King returned home to the Lord on September 14th. Jean died suddenly, and her death was a shock to all. Please hold Doug, Debbie, and all of Jean's family in your prayers. We will continue to remember Jean and all that she did for this church for years to come.



Jean King
August 20, 1936 to
September 14, 2020

New Church Banner



Check out our new church banner!
Made by Olivia at Stitch in Time
for our 175th Anniversary.

T-Shirt & Mask Order Form

Order online or return this order form to
the Church Office by October 9th.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ORDER OPTION:

___ Option 1: Retro Shirt, \$15
Size _____

___ Option 2: 175th Shirt, \$15
Size _____

___ Option 3: Mask, \$10
One Size (Adult)

Total Cost included \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to Zion UCC

Order Online:

https://zionucc.breezechms.com/form/a554eb?fbclid=IwAR0IVwwnlWEay7QdvohwNhJ03UVJT3UWcuw2oGxgd5UHSS9hEXob28ku3_M

Option 1: Retro Shirt, \$15



Option 2: 175th Anniversary Shirt, \$15



Option 3: 175th Anniversary Mask, \$10



"Check in" for Worship

Please read

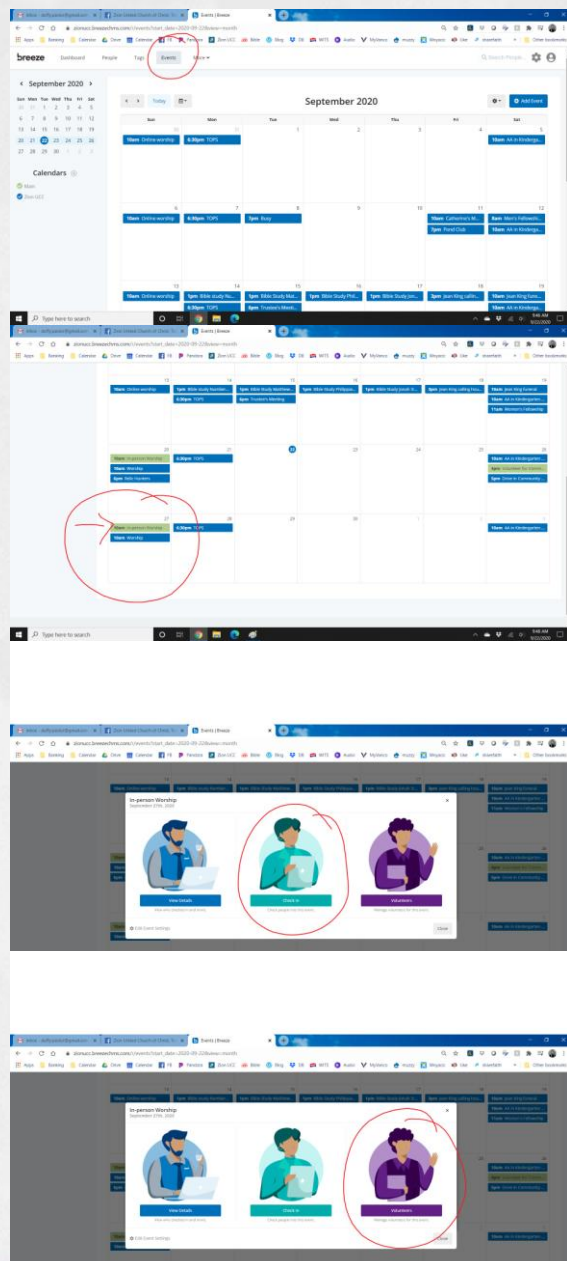
You can now Check-In Online if you plan to attend worship on Sunday. This way you can see how many people are planning to attend and reserve your spot. *You can also check-in other friends and family members as long as they are members of the church.

If you check-in online, you do not need to fill out the covid-check-in form upon entrance because we will already have you on record for attending.

To check-in follow these steps: (Images to the steps are attached)

1. Log into the Breeze App or Website.
2. Select "Events" (The app often takes a moment to load, be patient)
3. Choose the Sunday Service you wish to attend in **GREEN**
4. Select "Check-In" and you are able to check yourself in to the service. You can also check in others by entering their names.
5. If you can volunteer to Lector, Usher, or Sanitize, Please do so by selecting "Volunteer".

If you cannot do this online, you can also leave a voicemail at the church and Charlotte will check you in.



Online Bible Study

Have you participated in online Bible Study? Every Monday – Thursday at 1pm Pastor Elizabeth holds online Bible Study on Facebook Live on our Church Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/zionuccton

Come join us online as we read through and Study the lectionary texts for that Sunday.

You can interact via the comments, and if you miss the live study you can watch it at a later time.

Food Pantry

Zion UCC Food Pantry is open every Monday from 11am – 1pm.

