



Zionite newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NOVEMBER 2020

Pastor's Message

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

Leave it to the Apostle Paul to give us words of hope in a difficult time. He knew what it was like to have hope when everything seemed hopeless. Did you know that at least four of Paul's letters were written while he was imprisoned? Imagine Paul stuck in a cold, wet cell, imprisoned for disrupting the peace by preaching the Gospel, writing to those on the "outside" giving them guidance and hope. Paul sat in a prison cell while he wrote to the church in Ephesus: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..." Ephesians 1:3.

Paul had reasons to complain (and he did – mostly about the behavior of Christians), but Paul never lost sight of the Divine Power of our God.

I'm sitting here in my office, planning for All Saints Day which is this Sunday (November 1st). I'm thinking of all the candles we'll light. This is a year when a pandemic has swept the globe and in the past 12 months the number of deaths has been astronomical. We will light one larger candle for all of the lives lost to Covid-19, but even lighting a candle doesn't seem like enough. The idea of remembering the lives lost seems daunting. And the fear that we live in today of an invisible disease sweeping the nation at this moment can be overwhelming. But remember Paul? Paul wrote from a prison cell. A cold, wet, prison cell where he would become physically sick and weak. And even in that prison cell he wrote words of HOPE. And even when he was out of prison and knew that every word he publicly spoke could put him back in a cell, he PREACHED.

Paul didn't let fear overwhelm him because he knew that the divine power of our God was greater than anything he could fear.

So friends – Church family – as we continue to live with an element of fear (safely, with a mask) let's remember the HOPE that comes from Christ Jesus.

The same God who raised Jesus from the dead is still our God today. The same power that calmed the storms is still at work in the Holy Spirit today. The same love that broke into the world that day our Savior was born still exists today.

So even though this world is daunting, our GOD gives us hope. Our God is greater than the evils of this world. Our God loves us more than our human minds can comprehend.

And yes we need to be safe and not naïve. We need to wear masks, wash our hands, and follow safety recommendations. But we also need to let our faith be bigger than our fears.

So HOLD ON TO YOUR FAITH. And "may be God of hope fill YOU with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, YOU may abound in hope."

Hope wins, love wins, God wins. Remember that, my friends.

In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord,
Pastor Elizabeth

Volunteers Needed

For those who feel comfortable being in person, we can use volunteers for the following positions:

1. Counters following worship (this is less time consuming than normal since most giving is online at this time).
2. Sanitizers – people who can sanitize the church after worship
3. Ushers – those to guide people to the correct seats on Sundays and ensure everyone signs in and wears a mask.
4. Lectors – we need one lector for every Sunday.

You can sign up online for any of these positions through the weekly volunteer email, or email the pastor. Thank you!

Online Worship

If you are not ready to worship in person, that's okay! Join us online for Worship every Sunday at 10am. Watch via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/zionuccton and chat with other friends viewing online. If there are any problems, type into the chat and Charlotte will monitor the chat so we can correct any problems.

See you online!

Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

**Stay tuned
for
information
about a
virtual meat
raffle!**

"Checking in" to Church

In-person worship services resumed in September, but we would like to have a count of who plans to attend each week. This way we can determine if we need to limit attendance at any point. We are asking that everyone who plans to attend church on Sunday "checks in" online or by phone. There are two ways to do this:

1. Call the church and leave a voicemail with your name and that you plan to attend. 836-6220
2. Use the Breeze App or Website, go to events, select the "In Person Worship" for the Sunday you wish to attend, and select "check in". You are able to check in yourself and other members.

Most Sundays only have 40-50 people in the Sanctuary. If our numbers increase we will resume a second service.

Food Pantry Needs

Our Food Pantry is open to the public on Mondays from 11am to 1pm. If you would like to make a donation to the pantry, we could use more of the following:

- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Sponges
- Paper towels
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Bottles of water
- Cereal

Drop off any donations any time the church doors are open. Donations can be left in front of the pantry. Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettias can be ordered online (preferable) or by mailing in this form with a check. Orders will be accepted until December 20th.

Online orders:

<https://zionucc.breezechms.com/form/564ad6>

Your Name _____

Phone Number _____

Flower Memory/Honor:

☐ **In Memory of...**

☐ **In Honor of...**

The name of the person/people who are being honored/memorialized with this flower:

What would you like to happen with the flower after the Christmas Eve services?

☐ **I will take the flower home that night.**

☐ **I will pick up my flower at a later date.**

☐ **Please donate my flower to a person who is shut-in.**

Cost: \$8 per poinsettia

Total included: _____
(make check payable to Zion UCC)



Happy 90th Birthday to Dick Apfel!

A September-November birthday list has been emailed to church members. Happy Birthday to all of you with fall birthdays!

Breeze is your friend!

Do you have a smart phone? Do you use Apps? Then download the Breeze CHMS app now and have access to your church directory, forms, events, giving, check-ins, and more right at the tip of your finger! And if you don't use a smart phone but have a computer, you can view all of this online! If you have not activated your Breeze Account, or need any help with Breeze, email Pastor Elizabeth.

Breeze is helping to keep us all connected!
Thank God!

*Consistory and Trustee meeting
minutes can be found on our
website*

Stewardship

It's Stewardship Month!

We are putting together a Stewardship video and YOU are welcome to be in it!

Take a video of yourself answering one of the following questions:

1. Why do you love your church?
2. Why do you give to the church?
3. How has the church been an important part of your life?

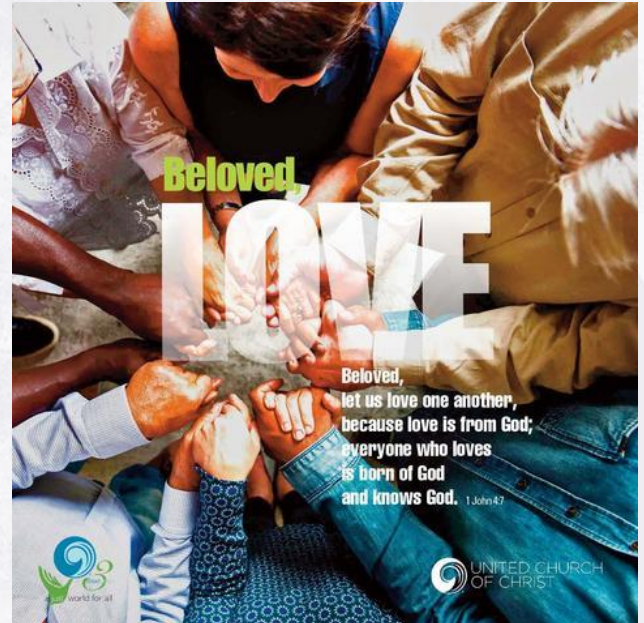
Take a short video of yourself answering one of these questions and submit it in one of the following ways. Please make all submissions by November 15th. Do not worry about editing or trimming your video, we'll do that when the video is put together. Cell phone videos are perfect.

To submit:

- Upload it to this google drive folder:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TG8a34AKgSHofTYjfCP1h9pWZGjz7ZrD?usp=sharing>
- Send the video via facebook messenger to Pastor Elizabeth or the church account.
- Email the video if the file is not too large.
- Email a link to the video (such as a google photos link).
- All emails can come to duffy.pastor@gmail.com

*Do not text the video because it degrades the quality.

Thank you!



Giving online is easy!

Go to www.zionuccton.com and select "Donate" or use the Breeze App to create online giving. Giving can be a one-time event, weekly, or monthly.

Thank you for giving!

Fire Safety

Every year Steve and Wally from the Brighton Fire Department remind us of the importance of fire safety. They always remind us to change our smoke detector batteries when we change the clocks, always check for exits in buildings, to do family fire safety drills, and more. Even with Covid, they still want to keep us safe! So check out these videos for safety reminders. Thanks for keeping us safe!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbTSWmIKq1c0CO8qNZhwN_g





Welcome to the world baby Genevieve!
Melanie (Hachten) Knowles gave birth to Genevieve
Ava Knowles on Friday, October 2nd at 10:49AM.
Genevieve is 6 pounds 5.5 ounces and 19 inches in
length.
Everybody is doing very well!



Church Business directory

to add new information go to <https://zionucc.breezechms.com/form/98fcbf>

Church Member	Owner	Business Name	Business Email	Phone	Business Address	Information to share
Joyce Dolce	Family	Dolce + Dolce Cpa, P.C.	jrdcpa@goodbyme.com	716-875-2100	350 Alberta Dr. Suite 201 Amherst, NY 14226	We specialize in tax services and accounting for individuals, Corporations, Trusts, Estates and Not-for- Profits.
Lauren Paul	Friend	Home Today	hometodayinc@gmail.com	716-906-3143	4475 Transit Road Eastern Hills Mall Williamsville, NY 14221	Home Today/Home Decor a charming new decor store located in the former Sears store at the south end of Eastern Hills Mall. It is full of Holiday Cheer with seasonal items. "Our favorite are the angels." At Home Today we will assist you with your decorating. A floral arranger/designer is on staff to assist you. Home Today truly has everyday low prices.
Melanie Hachten	Me	Instant Products CompanyInc Makers of Life O' Wood Furniture Polish	melanie@lifeowood.com		www.lifeowood.com	visit www.lifeowood.com for a complete list of stores and online websited you can purchase Life O'Wood. No household's cleaning supplies cupboard is complete unless our Life O' Wood furniture polish is there. Formulated by a chemist over 106 years ago, this unique and very versatile furniture polish contains soap and water for cleaning, along with two types of natural oils for replacing moisture into the wood, while leaving it with a beautiful, glowing appearance. There are no harsh chemicals, silicone, or damaging ingredients, only the basic essentials and natural ingredients are used to clean, preserve, restore and beautify your family's household valuables.This furniture polish can be used on almost anything that needs cleaning and polishing without leaving a waxy film on surfaces like other brand name polishes do. It is great for antique and modern finishes, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, hardwood floors, pianos, dining room furniture, bedroom sets, kitchen appliances and cupboards, natural and painted woodwork, leathers, *vinyls,* and even on the hood of your car for that extra shine and protection! Use as much or as little as you want. Just pour it on the surface you want cleaned and simply rub it in!
Mary Drescher	Me	The Old Greenhouse Antiques	marycrosbydrescher@gmail.com	716-481-4995	700 East Robinson street North Tonawanda 14120	I rent a dedicated room full of antiques that I have gathered from all over western New York, some dating back to the early[1800 &1900rds;] I have them at a reasonable price..... If you Call my cell phone and I am unable to answer ----PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE.
Cory Mitchum	Me	Mitchum's Power Washing	Mitchumspressurewashing@gmail.com	716-226-8332	62 Jackson Ave North Tonawanda, NY 14120	House Washing, Driveway Cleaning, Roof Cleaning & more Mitchumswashing.com 20% off one service for Zion UCC Members! Gift certificates available!
Lucille Cudeck	Family	N.A.Cudeck Landscaping		716-807-7000	111 Firetower Drive Tonawanda , NY 14150	Licensed-Insured-Free Estimates

Church Business directory

to add new information go to <https://zionucc.breezechms.com/form/98fcbf>

Becky Belling	Me	Shawnee Country Barns Antique Co-Op	Scbantiques@Yahoo.com	716-731-1430	6608 Shawnee Rd. North Tonawanda 14120	We are a 100 booth antique store housed in a 1912 restored barn!! We carry a general line of antiques and also sell gifts, old fashioned candy and much more! Open 6 days 10-5 , closed Wednesday. "Full of antiques and country charm"
Ted Camp	Friend	Insurance Associates Marketplace Agency, Inc.	tcamp@iamagency.com	716-253-6671	3849 Delaware Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217	I am a Licensed Insurance Agent with 11+ years providing solutions for your insurance needs. No hard sales pitch, just honest consultation. We are a family owned Independent Insurance Agency.
Jeff Quinton	Me	Quintessential	ybadbado@gmail.com	716-863-8368	22 Willow Dr. Tonawanda, NY 14150	estate sales,buying and selling antiques and collectibles,clean outs,senior downsizing
Deanna Roberts	Family	millennium microsystems		716-213-0559	74 webster street north tonawanda, NY 14120	computer repair, upgrade, virus removal , data recovery and transfer of data onto new machines.