



# Zionite Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TONAWANDA, NY

## Message from the Pastor

Happy May, Church!

I'm writing this and looking outside at the blooming trees and listening to some Christian music and even though this world is a crazy place, I'm filled with hope and promise. I know not everyone feels this way, because there is hatred and violence in this world and sometimes that takes over our mind, but I have realized that my hopefulness is encouraged by some of my daily practices (like my own little life hacks).

So I'm going to share these practices with you. Maybe you have time to include them in your daily regimen.

1. **I start my day with scripture.** I don't read much in the morning, because I have to get up and get the kids and myself ready for the day, but a simple verse or two thanks to the daily Bible app is enough to put my mind in the right place.
2. **I listen almost exclusively to Christian music.** Yes there's some Taylor Swift mixed in there, but I listen to Christian music throughout the day. Some of the songs just go by, but occasionally a song pops on that let's me praise God. Especially when in the car!
3. **I take time to breathe and be present.** There's an old Rob Bell Nooma video where he talks about breathing, and how when we breathe, it's like we're saying the name of God. (Breath in) Yah, (breathe out) weh. Breathing allows us to be present in the moment and breathe in the power of the Holy Spirit. And it's important to be present. Not looking ahead, not looking behind, just present and in the moment.
4. **I give myself permission to step away from the constant news broadcasts.** I know that there are many serious concerns in this world that need my attention, but I also know that it's my responsibility to take care of myself psychologically. I make a difference in the world where I can, I give to organizations that I think are doing important work, but I remember, daily, to take care of my own psychological health, and sometimes that means stepping away.
5. **I make myself take time for Sabbath rest.** The key word in that sentence is "make". One thing that the Jewish tradition gets right that we somehow lost is the idea of Sabbath rest. God created the Sabbath for us. Our human bodies require rest, without rest, we become psychologically unwell; without rest we become highly stressed and anxious; without rest our bodies become weak from overexertion. So sometimes I make myself rest. This isn't easy, because my mind is more hyperactive than my body, and it likes to race. But when I remember that God created the Sabbath for us, I know my mortal body and brain need time for Sabbath rest.

These are my 5 practices for a healthy Spiritual (and psychological) life. What about you? I know this world is chaotic; I also know that no matter who we are or what our roles are, we can take time to live spiritually healthy lives. And when our lives are spiritually healthy, we find ourselves filled with hope and the promises of God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Elizabeth

# Covid Updates

Two services are in place until summer (this summer we might get creative and include some outdoor services).

You are welcome to worship with us on Sundays at 9 & 11am, however please make sure that:

1. You do not have a fever or any sick symptoms.
2. You have not had contact with anyone who has Covid.
3. If you are over the age of 2, you are wearing a mask while in the church.

You will also notice that pews are designated as "9:00" or "11:00", please make sure to sit in the appropriate pew.

You no longer need to reserve your spot for worship, however, please make sure to either:

A. Check in online OR

B. Sign in when you enter the building

(This is for Contact Tracing, if someone in worship later tests positive for Covid, and could have been symptomatic on a Sunday, we will contact those who attended worship to let them know.)

Baptisms have resumed, however families are welcome to choose a Sunday baptism or to hold the baptism privately and a recording will be played in worship the following Sunday.

We now have a high quality camera mounted in the back of the Sanctuary, and we will live-stream services every Sunday for now on. We are striving to allow for the best quality of online worship so that members and guests can continue to worship from home for as long as they need (and after the pandemic is over).

The Consistory reviews our policies every month to ensure they're doing everything they can to keep everyone safe.

## Sunday School

Sunday School is in session!

Join us for group Sunday School in Kuck Hall on Sundays at 9am.

The nursery is open and staffed at 9am.

Confirmation meets in a classroom at 9am as well.

Welcome back, kids!

"If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us."

1 John 4:12b

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him."

1 John 4:7-9

## News from the Kraskas

Mandy and Jeff Kraska welcomed a baby boy to their family, Christian. Christian, along with his parents and big sisters, Abrielle and Addison, are all doing well.

Prayers for Baby Christian! Welcome to the world!





# Church Events

- Bible Study ► Every Monday through Thursday at 1pm on Facebook Live
- Sunday School ► Every Sunday at 9am in Kuck Hall
- Nursery ► Open and staffed at 9am on Sundays
- Contemporary Worship ► Every Sunday at 9am in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live
- Traditional Worship ► Every Sunday at 11am in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live
- Food Pantry ► Open Every Monday from 11am to 1pm
- Community Dinner ► Drive Through dinner Saturday, May 29th (last Saturday of every month) from 5pm to 6pm or until food runs out.
- May 5th ► Wedding of Lynn Lakso and Peter Rizzo.
- May 11th, 7pm ► Consistory on Zoom
- May 15th, 11am ► Women's Fellowship
- May 16th, 2pm ► Orrah Wicks Memorial
- May 18th, 6pm ► Trustees on Zoom
- May 23rd ► Pentecost and Confirmation
- May 30th ► Regular Sunday worship and 6pm Area Worship service on WNYACIC Facebook page
- AA ► Wednesdays at 8pm, Saturdays at 10am
- JUNE 11TH ► SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER!

JOIN US FOR ZION UCC'S

# CHICKEN BBQ!



PRE-SALE:  
\$12

DAY-OF:  
\$13

**FRI. JUNE 11TH**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**ZION UCC**  
**15 KOENIG CIRCLE**  
**TONAWANDA, NY**

**DINNER INCLUDES 1/2 CHICKEN,  
BUTTERED SPUDS, MAC SALAD, & DINNER ROLL**

**TICKETS FOR SALE AT ZION OR  
ZIONUCCTON.COM/BBQ.**



MORE INFO ON [FACEBOOK.COM/ZIONUCCTON](https://www.facebook.com/zionuccton)

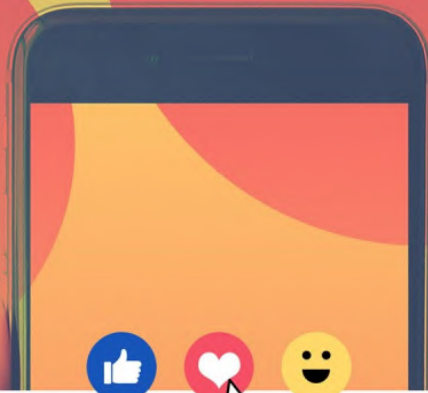
# Chicken BBQ

Our fundraising team is putting on a Chicken BBQ and we need your help to sell as many tickets as possible!

Tickets will be available to purchase soon. You can purchase tickets for \$11 if you buy them with cash at the church (on a Sunday). Or \$12 if you purchase them online at [www.zionuccton.com/bbq](https://www.zionuccton.com/bbq).

Please spread the word and encourage everyone you know in the area to buy a ticket! All proceeds go to our general budget of the church.

[www.facebook.com/WNYACIC](http://www.facebook.com/WNYACIC)



## WNYACIC Area Worship

Worshipping together in WNY

**Sunday, May 30th**  
**On YouTube**  
**& Facebook**

**Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund**

*Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice  
for the United Church of Christ*

Join us for Worship and Celebration on Sunday,  
May 30th. The service will be available for churches  
to download and use, it will also stream on  
YouTube at 10am and Facebook Live at 6pm.

On May 30th, Zion  
will have our normal  
services at 9 & 11,  
then we will gather  
on Facebook to  
watch the service  
together with the  
wider church at  
6pm!



## Camp registration is open!

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center is open for summer camps! Kids can be a part of the full UCC Youth experience by heading to Dunkirk Camp this summer!

There is a link to the website on our own church website, or go directly to [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com) to register for camp.

There is an early bird discount that ends on May 1st which saves \$25 per camp. There is also a First Time Camper discount of \$100 when promo code FTC is entered.

Your kids can join other Zion UCC kids and youth at camp this summer!





## Let's Celebrate!

### Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to these church members!

First Name	Last Name	Birth Month	Birth Day
Cecil	Ammerman	May	24
Megan	Bollman	May	28
Zachery	Bollman	May	26
Kelly	Brown	May	22
Emma	Cousins	May	31
Kathryn	Donoghue	May	13
George	Drescher	May	1
Mary	Drescher	May	25
Kristin	Ferreri	May	10
Ralph	Ferreri	May	2
Jill	Fowler	May	28
Robin	Fowler	May	4
Michael	Galante	May	15
Kevin	Gilcart	May	8
Peter	Grine	May	30
Cecelia	Hachten	May	10
Herbert	Hachten III	May	24
Dylan	Hudson	May	10
Daniel	Kenny	May	19
Barbara	Kobylinski	May	31
Jacob	Korte	May	10
Melissa	Korte	May	29
Peter	Korte	May	31
Dana	Maxwell	May	7
Richard	Maxwell	May	7
Patrick	Metz	May	8
John	Miller	May	22
Dale	Missert	May	13
Tyler	Mitchum	May	17
Maureen	Mudd	May	14
Patrick	Mudd	May	8
Ella	Norris	May	3
Evelyn	Plowe	May	8
Tucker	Pollutro	May	21
Matthew	Rosehart	May	4
Virginia	Sellon	May	1
Gary	Stocksdale	May	9
Sharon	Tuttle	May	27
Robert	Voss	May	2
Peyton	Wingert	May	4
Christian	Young	May	25
Lisa	Zeiger	May	1

Family Name	Anniversary
Pierre & Kirsten Albrecht-Carrie	05/05/1973
Stephen & Wendy Cicatello	05/16/1987
Joseph & Wendy Colosimo	05/03/2003
George & Gail Darrall	05/27/1978
Ralph & Deborah Ferreri	05/24/1975
Michael & Christine Galante	05/08/1999
Joseph & Melissa Metz	05/25/2007
Harold & Katherine Phillips	05/06/1989
William & Brenda Rudolph	05/21/1982
Michael & Susan Wagner	05/20/2006

**Lectors Needed!**

Sign up to lector for  
Sunday services with  
this link:

<http://bit.ly/zionlector>

## **Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes via Zoom® 3-9-2021**

Call to Order: Tim Schlegel called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Tim Schlegel, Jeff Quinton, Edie Bauer, Glen Gordon, Barb Miller, Troy Hengst, Peter Korte, Trustee: Ted Camp. Excused: Debby Williams, Jason Whalen.

**Call to Order at 7:05 pm.**

**Devotion and Lord's Prayer:** Pastor Elizabeth lead us in the devotion and Lord's prayer.

**Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes:** A motion to accept was made by Troy and seconded by Edie. Motion was passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

As of 04/02/2021 there is a balance of \$48,668.57 in the operating account and \$19504.94 in the restricted funds account.

The revenue for March was \$13,364.19 and the net income was \$1099.55. The budgeted March revenue was \$14,434.58 and the net income budgeted was \$-5576.63. The budgeted YTD revenue was \$48,144.77 and the budgeted YTD net income was \$-5001.63. The actual YTD revenue is \$43,701.61 and the actual YTD net income is \$6013.62.

Notable P&L events in March included the quarterly payments to the UCC: \$1250.00 for OWCM, \$630.00 for Western Area and \$210.00 for the per capita fee.

The revenue continues to remain stable as a result of the continued support of our congregation. As long as we maintain the same attitude we have used since last March, we will continue to remain in good shape.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Janiszewski

Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Jeff to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was passed.

**Trustees's Report:** Ted discussed meeting with the security systems consultant. Cameras could be added to monitor entrances and new garage. The cost could be reduced by having Ed Miller do the wiring. The consultant would install the system. Ted discussed installing numeric keypads on the doors. An additional quote could be provided. Monitoring would be done by the security company. Tim asked what the cost would be. Ted said that fire monitoring costs \$30.00/mo. Total cost is \$4,500.00. This includes \$2,000 for installation. This would be reduced if Ed does the wiring.

### **Pastor's Report:**

1. Annual Reports emailed and snail mailed to those who receive a hard copy of the Zionite. Extra copies available in the back of the Sanctuary.
2. I'll begin permitted nursing home visitations after my second vaccination.
3. With re-opening plan, we need to discuss Easter Sunday and the possibility of an outdoor egg hunt? We could have a 9AM traditional service with Arrow at the organ and an 11AM contemporary service.
4. I'll be on vacation the week after Easter. Rev. Rick Danielson will preach on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Danielson recently transferred his membership to Zion after moving back to the area – he was also my pastor and mentor when I began ministry.
5. Thank you to our anonymous donor who funded \$1,000 to go to our new camera. Thank you to Jeff, Ed, and Dave for our new plexiglass. And thank you for the help from Zak Zientek and Mike Durshordwe (and again Ed and Dave!) for helping install our new camera.
6. Would we like to put in our annual Easter ad in the KenTon Bee? Decision was not this year.
7. We need two alternates for Consistory. An email is to be sent out.

## **Discuss Re-opening Plan**

### **Committee Reports:**

Administration - No report.

Christian Education - Sunday school has resumed.

Church Life + Community Dinners: Last community dinner saw 134 dinners served. Leftover bread was given to the food pantry. Potato salad was given to the American Legion. Women's fellowship will prepare the March 27, dinner.

\$500 received from Milton J. Brounshidle Post No. 205 (American Legion) for our food pantry. Thank you letter sent expressing our gratitude for their generosity. An oven maintenance request is to be presented to the trustees.

Memorials-

Outreach- Peter had no report.

PPR-Jeff had no report.

Health Ministry- Blood pressures are being checked and Dash's register tapes collected.

Environmental Ministry- Met with the Community Foundation of Buffalo. One million dollars was received from the Tonawanda Coke settlement. Grants of \$25,000.00 are to be made available. Zion could use one to create a park in our side lot. A draft of the proposal will be sent to the Trustees and the grant request will be submitted to the TC settlement.

### **Old Business:**

1.

Pastoral Care Ministry Training: Thirty people plus one trainer costs \$3,300.00. This includes the trainer's travel, lodging and time as well as meals for all. Cost is approximately \$110.00/person on a Saturday and Sunday.

### **New Business:**

1.

Annual meeting to be held March 21, in the Sanctuary with Zoom® on the big screen. A microphone will be available.

2. Bob Faulks is resigning from the Trustees Committee. We need to express recognition for his service at the annual meeting. Pastor Elizabeth will get a Tim Horton's® gift card.

3. Vaccine centers needed. Zion could provide temporary space for this. A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Jeff. Motion was passed.

4. Jill Fowler has accepted nomination to be on the Trustees Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Next meeting: April 13, at 7:00 PM via Zoom®.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

**CHECK THE WEBSITE [WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/MEMBERS](http://WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/MEMBERS) FOR MORE MINUTES FROM  
CONSISTORY AND TRUSTEES.**