



Zionite *Newsletter*

NEWSLETTER OF ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TONAWANDA, NY

Message from the Pastor

Hello Church!

Somehow another year has gone by, and I'm about to get a year older. I'm starting to think that time is speeding up. Especially since next month my "baby" is going to turn 8.

I remember when I used to be so excited about whatever was coming "next". I think it was my senior year of high school when I was probably in my coach/gym teacher's office talking a mile a minute, when she said to me, "Bizzy" (she called me Bizzy) "don't wish your life away." What I didn't know was that Mrs. G (my field hockey coach and gym teacher) was only two years away from dying from cancer. And there I was, wanting time to speed up, while she was keeping to herself that her time on earth was narrowing down. But her voice saying to me, "don't wish your life away" has stayed with me all these years.

Lately I've realized that I'm loving the current age of my kids. Basically, they're independent but still cute and cuddly. And while I always look ahead to the Kingdom of Heaven, by no means am I wishing my life away. I love being present, even if I have hopes and dreams for the Kingdom to come. But isn't that the life of a Christian?

Jesus told us that he wants us to "have life and have it abundantly". We're also told to remember that Jesus "has prepared a place for us" in the Kingdom of Heaven. We are called to live in the present, while always looking towards the future. And it would seem like we're being pulled in two directions, but really we're not. Because as we look to the Kingdom to come, we're always reminded that the way we're living our lives here and now matters. Right now we have the chance to help those in need; right now we have the chance to love our friends and family; right now we have the chance to forgive those who hurt us; right now we have the chance to live for Christ. And when we live lives as Christ's followers, and we stay faithful reminding ourselves that in everything we do, we do it with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can hope for that day when we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but we don't need to wish our lives away. We can stay present while looking towards the future.

So friends, in the words of Vi Goodnow, who now rests in the Kingdom of Heaven, "don't wish your life away." Be present. Be loving. Be forgiving. Until that day comes, when you find yourself in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth

Covid Updates

Consistory is meeting on June 8th to discuss changes in our Covid policy. An email will go out with an update after that meeting. New details coming soon!



CHAR AND PRINCESS

**we moved.
come visit.**

290 disc dr. apt 212
sparks, nv
89436

Charlene Burchfield moved to Nevada!

Blessings to Char on this new journey!

Her new address is:

290 Disc Dr. Apt 212

Sparks, NV 89436



June is Pride month, and we want to remind everyone that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are **WELCOME HERE!**

We know that not all churches are welcoming to those who are LGBTQ, but we strive to be more welcoming and more affirming every day.

As we strive to continue to be an Open and Affirming Congregation, we want to take this chance to let everyone know that our 9am pianist, Arrow, is non-binary, which means that they go by "they/them" pronoun, not "he/his". Thank you for working on these pronouns out of respect and love for Arrow.

Summer Worship begins July 4th!

This Summer we will worship on Sundays at 9:30am. We are working to create outdoor worship services (weather permitting). We will move the camera outside for those Sundays and use the outdoor sound system. Metal chairs will be available, or you can bring your own chair. Outdoor services will be in the Courtyard between Kuck Hall and the Sanctuary. We will need a group of volunteers to help setup every Sunday that we plan to be outside. Let the pastor know if you can help!

"With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."
Mark 10:27

O God of struggle and sorrow, God of lightening and agitation, may we know in the deepest of night that each new sunrise brings new possibility, making faith, justice and love real. Bless us with the courage to walk even when we are tired, with the assurance you are by our side in the greatest of hope. Amen
Rev. Ryan Henderson
Associate Conference Minister

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 to register for camp.

There is 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!



Church Events

- Bible Study ► Every Monday through Thursday at 1pm on Facebook Live
- Sunday School ► Sundays at 9am in Kuck Hall (starting July 4th Sunday School will be at 9:30)
- Nursery ► Open and staffed at 9am on Sundays (9:30 starting July 4th)
- Contemporary Worship ► Every Sunday at 9am in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live (2 services ends June 27th)
- Traditional Worship ► Every Sunday at 11am in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live (2 services ends June 27th)
- Food Pantry ► Open Every Monday from 11am to 1pm
- June 8th, 7pm ► Consistory on Zoom
- JUNE 11TH ► CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER 4-7pm
- June 19th, 11am ► Women's Fellowship
- June 15th, 6pm ► Trustees on Zoom
- June 20th ► Father's Day
- June 26th ► Drive Through Community Dinner (last Saturday of every month) from 5pm to 6pm or until food runs out.
- June 27th ► Last Sunday with two services
- June 28th ► Baptism of Christian Kraska (private)
- July 4th ► Beginning of Summer Worship! 9:30am
- AA ► Wednesdays at 8pm, Saturdays at 10am
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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 hosting a Chicken BBQ and we need your help to sell as many tickets as possible!

Tickets are available to purchase. You can purchase tickets for \$11 if you buy them with cash at the church. Or \$12 if you purchase them online at 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.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

(Get to know our lay leaders in the church. New bios will be included each month.)

Debby Williams

My name is Debby Williams and I joined this wonderful congregation in 2012. I am on the Consistory (Health Ministry), on the Community Outreach Committee and in the Hand Bell Choir. I also having been copying names and dates on the tombstones at our church's historical cemetery (in Cheektowaga) in hopes of getting this information on our church website for people seeking their ancestors that are buried there. I recently retired after 22 years at the SPCA Serving Erie County and look forward to the next chapter in my life. I lost my beloved husband in 2018 but have comfort in knowing he is with our Lord. I have two beautiful daughters, Cindy and Cheryl (husband, Nick) who are all members here at Zion too. I have four grandchildren (Skylar, Blakelyn, Christian and Carter) who I enjoy watching as they grow.



Jeff Quinton

Hi my name is Jeff Quinton. I've been a member of Zion for about 6 years. I'm a member of consistory, established and run the new food pantry, partner with John Pauling and Joyce Dolce to provide fun raising events including meat raffle, basket raffle and chicken BBQ. Was member of history committee to assist in 175th celebration of Zion. Also member of environmental and donation committees. I have an antique business and sell at Shawee Country barn and online as well as run estate sales. I married John Pauling in 2013 and moved to the U.S. from Canada. I live in Tonawanda near the dog park with John Pauling and our puppy buster in my forever home!



Marilyn Stewart

My name is Marilyn Stewart and I'm celebrating 61 years of membership at Zion. I grew up in the United Church of Christ and was glad to find a church so close to my home when I married and moved to Tonawanda. My husband, Lyall, or more formally Charles, became very active in the church and our two children, Tom and Sue, were raised here also.

Through the years I began to be more involved in the activities of Zion by being secretary of the old Church Council, now known as the Consistory. I have been active in the Women's Fellowship and for many years our Holiday Fair which was our annual fall bazaar. I joined the Chancel Choir and subsequently the Bell Choir and am still a regular and devoted participant in both.

Over the years, we have had a number of outside groups who use our building for their meetings and special programs as well as individuals wishing to have a one-time event. I have been the coordinator of these activities and make arrangements for them.

In addition, I have been the chair of our Prayer Chain for many years. If there is a prayer concern, one simply asks me to "start a prayer chain" and I email approximately 53 members who will then say a prayer as requested. If anyone wishes to be a part of this group or have a prayer request, please contact me.

I have always considered Zion as a family since we care for each other. The support of our members is amazing and I wouldn't want to worship anywhere else.





BASIC TRAINING FOR LAY PASTORAL CARE HOSTED BY ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 16-18

**IN PERSON TRAINING*

ARE YOU A LAY PERSON TRAINING TO BE A DEACON, PARISH VISITOR,
PASTORAL CARE TEAMMATE, ELDER OR OTHER VOLUNTEER IN YOUR
CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION?

ATTEND A WORKSHOP AND BUILD UPON YOUR CALLING AND SKILLS!

WHEN PARISHIONERS AGREE TO TAKE ON ONE OF THESE ROLES:

- Do they sometimes feel anxious or unprepared?
- Do they wonder if they have the training to know what to say or do?
- Are they unclear about the opportunities and limitations of the role?
- Do they just want to feel more grounded?

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE

www.zionuccton.com/training

BY PHONE OR EMAIL

contact the church to register at 716-836-6220
or ucczion@gmail.com

DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO STEP UP AND HELP OTHERS WITHIN YOUR CHURCH?

This workshop is for you!

ARE YOU A VETERAN VOLUNTEER WHO HAS BEEN SERVING YOUR CHURCH FOR YEARS?

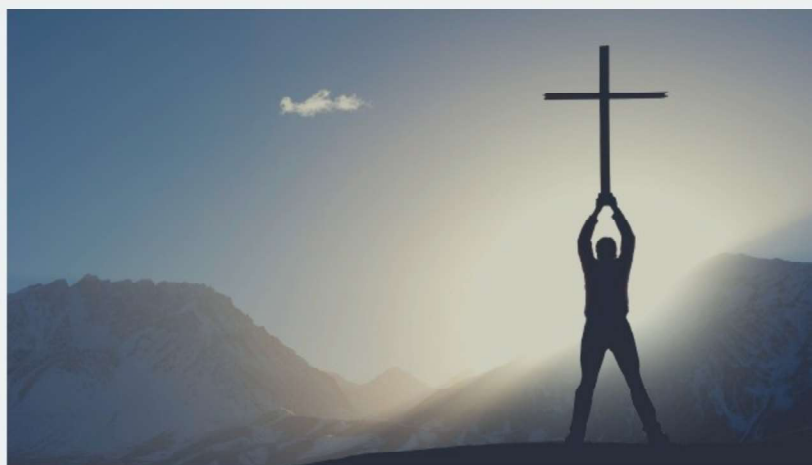
Even veteran volunteers can begin to feel stale or overwhelmed. Take this course to renew your skills

FACILITATOR

Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Gustafson, LDim, LMHC

LOCATION

Zion United Church of Christ
15 Koenig Circle
Tonawanda, NY 14150



Pastoral Care Training/Workshop

Hosted by Zion United Church of Christ

Facilitator/Instructor: **Rev. Dr. Wayne Gustafson**

Date: July 16-18

Friday July 16 – Dinner

6:00pm *Opening Dinner (Catered)*

7pm-9pm Training Introductions

Saturday July 17 – Training

8:30am *Breakfast*

9am-4pm Basics of Pastoral Care Training

Lunch/Breaks provided

Sunday July 18 – Workshop

8:30am *Breakfast (optional)*

9:30am **Worship Service (Summer Hours) (optional)**

11am-2pm Understanding and using spirituality in a practical way – Workshop.

2pm Wrap-up

Lunch/Breaks provided (Working lunch)



WAYNE E. GUSTAFSON, DMin, LMHC has been a Prison Chaplain, Pastoral Counselor, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Care, Adjunct Faculty in Psychology, an Interim Parish Minister and an Author of Religious Fiction.

He is a retired pastoral psychotherapist and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He has recently been certified as a trainer in ***Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy***, a training program for psychotherapists through [ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education](#)

He lives with his wife in an intentional community in Ithaca, New York.

He has written two novels, *Community of Promise: The Untold Story of Moses* and *The Wisdom Weaver*. You can get more information and purchase the novels at entospress.com.

Note: Each event is independent of one another. Please register for one, two, or all three events.

Compassion, Presence, & Care: Basic Training for Lay Pastoral Care

Saturday, July 17

This workshop provides a theological foundation for pastoral caring activities and it is designed to help volunteers improve their competence and confidence. Through presentations, discussions, and small group practice exercises you will learn the opportunities and limitations of lay ministry.

You will also learn to make use of the tools of empathetic engagement, boundary-setting, healthy communication, and a useful approach to assessment and referral.

This workshop is open to all who serve (or expect to serve) religious institutions as deacons, elders, Stephen Ministers, volunteer visitors, etc. or who are otherwise interested in the subject. This is basic training, but those who wish to refresh their skills will also find it valuable.

Spirituality for YOU and ME!

Sunday, July 18

Everyone seems to be talking about spirituality these days, but do we know what we mean by the word? For example, when people say, "I'm spiritual, not religious," what does that mean? Or when people look to religious traditions for guidance in developing a spiritual life, what are they actually looking for?

This workshop seeks to identify the qualities associated with spirituality and draws from the wisdom and experience of a few diverse paths that people may choose to follow in practicing their spirituality.

Dr. Gustafson will help the group look at practical spirituality from a variety of perspectives, none of which is exclusively right or best. You will have ample opportunity to share your experience and wisdom with each other.

Registration:

There is no cost for registration (event is hosted by Zion UCC). However space is limited. Sign up to reserve your spot. Choose one, two, or all event days when registering.

Online:

Submit the online registration form at www.zionuccton.com/training

By Phone/Email:

Call or email the church office to register. 716-836-6220 or ucczion@gmail.com

Workshop Event Days

- Friday Dinner/Introductions 6-9pm
- Saturday Training 9am-4pm
- Sunday Workshop 11am-2pm (breakfast and worship service optional)

Note: Dinner, breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided. We will reach out to you a few weeks prior to let you know the menu options and to learn of any dietary or allergy concerns.

**Deadline to sign up: June 30th
Limited to 30 people**