



# Zionite *Newsletter*

## Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Hello Church!

The Season of Advent is upon us! The season of hope, love, joy, and peace is here to remind us of God's unending love. Of course there is still hatred and violence in this world. I spent this morning in prayer for Hana, Madisyn, Tate, and Justin, the four victims who lost their lives to the school shooting in Michigan. And yesterday I spent the day helping a woman who had a car accident on our church lawn following a domestic dispute. There is a lot of pain and sadness in this world.

From the way I can see it, evil works through anger, hatred, and divisiveness. But God works through love, renewal and peace. We can't fix all of the world's problems, but we can fix our own "stuff" and we can influence those around us. So during this Season of Advent, will you make a pledge with me? Will you strive to refuse to participate in any form of hatred or divisiveness? Will you work to overcome any anger with love? Let's take this Season of Advent to be instruments of hope, love, joy and peace. We don't need to contribute to any of that nastiness that pollutes the world and creates animosity and abuse. But we DO need to be instruments of God's love everywhere that we go and in everything that we do.

There are 4 weeks in Advent, ending with Christmas. Let's start our day, every day with the prayer below. And let's do everything in our power, in our own little nooks in this world, to act like Jesus' followers and the spread waves of love.

Prayer:

God, as I begin this day, help me to love others, those I like, and those I don't like. Help me to bring hope to those around me. Help me to create peace in my family, community, workplace, and environment. Help me to feel your joy and to share your joy with others. Rid me of all anger, hatred, and malice. Do not let me participate in any divisive behaviors. Let me be your instrument of peace during this Season of Advent. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Elizabeth

# Church Events

What's going on at Zion?

- Bible Study ► Monday and Tuesday at 1pm on Facebook Live and in person
- Sunday School ► Sundays at 9am
- Nursery ► Open and staffed on Sundays at 9am
- Food Pantry ► Open Every Monday from 11am to 1pm
- AA ► Saturdays at 10am
- Youth Group ► Dec 3, 7pm @Zion
- Women's Fellowship Luncheon at Pane's Restaurant, 12pm
- Committee Night ► Dec 14, 6:30pm
- Consistory ► Dec 14 following committee night
- Youth Group ► Dec 17, 7pm @Nativity
- Christmas Eve Worship ► Dec 24th  
5pm Candlelight Service  
7pm Candlelight Service
- December 26th Worship ► 11am only
- \*No Community Dinner in December

## Sunday Worship Schedule

9am Contemporary Worship

9am Sunday School

10am Coffee Hour

11am Traditional Worship

## Upcoming Virtual Events:

- ♦ Virtual Blue Christmas service with Arcade UCC
- ♦ Virtual Christmas Pageant

## Do Not Be Afraid Virtual Christmas Pageant!

Calling all kids!

We're doing another virtual Christmas Pageant, and we need actors and singers to make this possible!

Parents:

Email Pastor Elizabeth if your kid is interested in a part in the virtual pageant. Let her know if your child would like to:

A. Act in a big part

B. Act in a small part

C. Sing

D. Be an animal/angel

## Volunteers Needed for Coffee Hour:

Please sign up to help for 1 coffee hour (or more) a month!

If everyone who is able signs up for 1 Sunday a month, we could stop asking for volunteers!



Thank you!

<http://bit.ly/zionlector>

Lectors please sign up here too!





## Church Bios

Would you like to submit a church bio to be included in the Zionite? If so, email it to Pastor Elizabeth.

If you are involved in any committees, boards, ministry teams, Sunday School, choir/praise band, or more: email your bio to the pastor and we'll include it in an upcoming newsletter.

It's a great way to learn more about our members!

**Interested in helping the  
Pastor deliver Christmas  
Poinsettias?**

**Email Pastor Elizabeth to  
let her know if you can  
help!**

Order your Christmas Poinsettias  
with the below form or online:

[www.zionuccton.com/christmas-poinsettias/](http://www.zionuccton.com/christmas-poinsettias/)



***BUY YOUR  
CHRISTMAS  
POINSETTIAS  
\$8.00***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

OR IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATE TO SHUT INS: ☐ YES ☐ NO

PICK UP AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Order form and check to Zion UCC must be in by 12/12

Please do not put flower request in with your offering.

## Pick up your Christmas Tag!

The missions team has received gift requests from the ARC. Kids are in need of basic supplies and presents. Make sure to note both their age and developmental age when purchasing gifts.

Tags will be available this Sunday and should be returned by Sunday, December 12th. Place unwrapped gifts in either a gift bag or regular bag. Please do not wrap presents.

Thank you!

"I am confident that...  
nothing can separate us  
from the love of God in  
Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 8:38-39

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship  
Christmas Luncheon, December 11th,  
12pm, at Pane's Restaurant.  
Contact Gaye Mehlretter or Robin  
Fowler for more information.

## Birthday Buddies December List

(Birthday Buddies is an organization that gives gifts to Foster Children.)

### Gift Cards to:

- ♦ Target
- ♦ TJ Maxx
- ♦ Walmart
- ♦ Burlington Coat Factory
- ♦ Wegmans
- ♦ Tops
- ♦ The Dollar Store
- ♦ Michaels
- ♦ CVS

## Birthday Buddies December List

### Birthday Party Supplies:

- ♦ Plates
- ♦ Cups
- ♦ Napkins
- ♦ Candles, candles, candles!
- ♦ Party horns or blowers
- ♦ Balloons
- ♦ Party hats
- ♦ Table cloths
- ♦ Treat bags
- ♦ Plastic toy favors
- ♦ Name tags
- ♦ Plastic silverware
- ♦ Happy Birthday banners
- ♦ Birthday centerpieces & ceiling decorations





# Zion United Church of Christ

15 Koenig Circle  
Tonawanda, NY

# Christmas

CELEBRATE WITH US

Worship with us in-person or online

[www.zionuccton.com](http://www.zionuccton.com)

5pm & 7pm

## Face Mask is Required



Per Erie County Guidelines,  
facemasks are currently  
required in the building



Zion United Church of Christ

Are you or someone you know in  
need of Christmas gifts this year?  
Do you need assistance in buying  
gifts for your children or  
grandchildren?

If so, please contact the pastor for  
assistance. We're here to help!





# Committee Night!

**Our 1st Committee Night was so productive that we're having another Committee Night (we plan to hold 3-4 a year). On December 14th at 6:30pm we are having another COMMITTEE NIGHT! (\*\*Note time change to 6:30, instead of 6\*\*)**

**If you are on a committee, please join us to meet with your Committee and/or Ministry Team.**

**ALSO if you're not on a Committee but are interested in joining a Committee or Ministry Team, come on December 14th to check it out!**

**Below are a list of our Committees and Ministry Teams:**

- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Altar Guild
- ◆ PPRC (Pastoral Parish Relations Committee)
- ◆ Christian Education & Christian Ed Missions
- ◆ Coffee Hour & Community Dinners
- ◆ Memorials
- ◆ Community Outreach (new committee)
- ◆ Health Ministry Team
- ◆ Environmental Ministry Team
- ◆ Pastoral Care Ministry Team
- ◆ Food Pantry Ministry Team
- ◆ New Member Ministry Team



## Introducing: MitoSantas!

MitoSantas is a group that supplies Christmas gifts to children with Mitochondrial disease. They provide approximately \$50 worth of presents to kids suffering from this disease. For the next two weeks (starting on December 1) this group is using our church to store collected gifts and organize the gifts for distribution.

Here are the ways you can help:

1. If you see unwrapped presents in the back room behind Kuck Hall or on the tables in Kuck Hall, please note that those are for MitoSantas.
2. If you can sew, please contact Jennifer Schwartzott at [Jennifer@mitoaction.org](mailto:Jennifer@mitoaction.org). Kids with Mitochondrial disease often need feeding tubes, which can be uncomfortable. "Tubie pads" help, however they're expensive. But with a small amount of materials, sewers can make these pads for the kids! Contact Jennifer if you sew and if you can help.

## Let's Celebrate!

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

First Name	Last Name	Birth Month	Birth Day
Max	Felvus	December	2
Paige	Rentschler	December	3
Deborah	Ferreri	December	7
Jeremy	Hachten	December	7
Lisa	Laufer	December	7
Joshua	Roberts	December	7
Jean	MacDonald	December	8
William	Rudolph	December	9
Sylvia	Robinson	December	10
Owen	Hengst	December	11
Lori	O'Brien	December	11
Tanya	Walk	December	11
Martha	Jaques	December	13
Stephen	Mitchum	December	13
Kayleigh	O'Brien	December	13
Joshua	Wharam	December	13
Edith	Bauer	December	14
Sharon	Fortuna	December	14
Timothy	Schlegel	December	14
Stephen	Cicatello	December	15
Zavier	Raynor	December	15
David	Dombrowski	December	16
Lois	Warren	December	18
James	Zeiger	December	19
Brennan	McCarthy	December	20
Lynn	Lakso	December	21
Nicole	Lakso	December	21
Kenneth	MacDonald	December	23
Carol	Peacock	December	23
Cyle	Pollutro	December	24
Mark	Wingert	December	25
Linda	Murray	December	26
Richard	Baker	December	27
Mallory	Felvus	December	27
Melanie	Hachten	December	28
Harold	Phillips	December	28
Corrie	Louth	December	29
Michael	Roberts	December	29

Family Name	Anniversary
Gaye & Frank Mehlretter	12/03/1977
James & Linda Hybicki	12/13/2002
Thaddeus & Paula Zientek	12/28/1991
Timothy & Paige Rentschler	12/28/2019
Mallory & Mike Felvus	12/31/2011

**Happy 100th Birthday  
Martha Jaques!!!**

Join us in celebrating Martha's  
birthday at the 11am service on  
December 12th!



*November Consistory minutes were in the last  
Zionite. No minutes are included in this newsletter.  
Find all minutes on our website under Members.*