



# Zionite *Newsletter*

## Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Hello Church!

As I reflect upon how much our church has done recently for one another, for our folks at home and nursing homes, and for our community, I want to pause to say “Thank you!”

So much that we do at church requires volunteers. In fact, I think EVERYTHING we do at church requires volunteers. Whether it’s delivering flowers to 40 homes/nursing homes, or feeding over 50 people at the Area Meeting, or feeding 150 people at the community dinner, or feeding our food pantry recipients, or taking care of coffee hour, or keeping our church clean and ready for people: everything takes volunteers. And no matter the task at hand, “you” always step up to the challenge!

The truth is, I spend a lot of time being proud of the work of our church and its members. And I’m not sure how many pastors can honestly say that. I truly believe that our church community is full of people who understand we’re far from perfect, but want to do our best to follow Jesus and share God’s love with the world. And God’s love is infectious! (In a good way!)

So just in case no one has told you this lately, I want you to hear this from me: “I’m proud of you. I’m proud of your commitment to follow Jesus and love like Jesus. I’m proud of the work you do. I’m proud of who you’re becoming. I’m genuinely proud of you.”

It’s like when the Apostle Paul was writing to the church in Thessalonica: “We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess 1:2-3)

May we all continue to grow in our relationship with Christ as individuals and as a community of faith, and may we be a blessing to others in the process.

In Christ,

Pastor Elizabeth

# Church Events

- Bible Study : Monday and Tuesday at 1pm on Facebook Live
  - Sunday School : Sundays at 9am
  - Nursery : Open and staffed on Sundays at 9am
  - Food Pantry : Open Every Monday 11am - 1pm
  - AA : Saturdays at 10am
  - New AA Group : Thursdays at 5:30pm beginning May 12th
  - May 1, 12-3pm : Area Meeting at Zion UCC
  - May 6, 7-10pm : Youth Group @Zion
  - May 7, 9am : Stop the Bleed and CPR
  - May 10, 7pm : Consistory
  - May 16, 6pm : Trustees
  - May 20th, 4-7pm : Chicken BBQ
- Buy tickets online: [www.zionuccton.com/BBQ](http://www.zionuccton.com/BBQ)
- May 20th, 7-10pm : Youth Group @Nativity
  - May 21, 11am : Women's Fellowship

## Sunday Worship Schedule:

9am Contemporary Worship

9am Sunday School

10am Coffee Hour

11am Traditional Worship

## UPCOMING IN JUNE:

### STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

*\*other events can be found on our church calendar at [www.zionuccton.com/events](http://www.zionuccton.com/events)*

## Note from Head Usher,

### Ken MacDonald:

Members of Zion Congregation have said that one of the most moving and meaningful Christian Services that they have attended, is Maundy Thursday Service. I believe that Maundy Thursday Service brings the true meaning of the Easter season. After two years of viewing the service virtually, I'm sure you would agree, that attending the service on April 14<sup>th</sup> was more inspiring. The service would not be possible if it were not for the dedicated individuals who took time out of their busy week to volunteer their time.

A thanks to Rev. Duffy for taking time out of her busy schedule and finding the readers. Rev Duffy along with the assistance of Dave Dubbert who arranged the meaningful Tenebrae table. We appreciate Sue Clark and the Choir for adding their voices to the service. We acknowledge and thank the Readers; Jean MacDonald, John Pauling, Laurie Mittlefehldt, Diane Miltz, Debbie Grine, Doug King and Bob Sedota who did such a marvelous job. And a vote of thanks to Tony Fuller and Pat Budd for volunteering as Head Ushers.

Ken MacDonald



## Zion Health Ministry presents:

### Exercise with Dawn

#### Moving to Wednesdays! Dates TBD

Class is yoga based but very beginner type class with modifications for anyone that cannot get up and down from the floor - FREE

Please bring a yoga mat or a beach towel if you can exercise on the floor (can use the chairs if not She asks that everybody bring a hand towel for stretches and a water bottle. She will modify the exercises for people so come and start your new exercise regime!

#### May 7 Saturday 9 am- noon

Town Paramedics : Stop the Bleed/CPR Training- FREE unless you want to be certified in CPR (that is \$25.00 for 2 year certification which you pay that morning)

Please sign up on the sheets on the front board across from the offices

### Church Bios

Would you like to submit a church bio to be included in the Zionite?

If so, email it to Pastor Elizabeth.

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

Church of the Nativity is having a **Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat** that we'd like to invite you and your congregation to attend. As part of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have invited Rev. Dr. Susan Strouse from Berkeley, CA to lead the retreat entitled, "Carrying Christ into a Divided World." The retreat will be held **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-1 pm.**

**Rev. Dr. Susan Strouse** is the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Burlingame, CA and an expert in the area of Inter and Intra-Faith Theology. Topics for the retreat include:

*"What does Christ mean to each of us?"*  
*"How do we talk to others about our faith and church?"*

*"How do we converse with people of other faiths? What insights apply to our own spiritual journeys?"*

You may register on SignUp Genius, [www.nativityucc.org](http://www.nativityucc.org) or by calling the church office at 716-875-3365.

*Fee: \$10.00 per person may be paid at the door. **Registration deadline is May 8th.***

### BREEZE SOFTWARE

Have you used Breeze lately?

Download the *CHMS Breeze* app on your phone, or go to [www.breezechms.com](http://www.breezechms.com)

To login, type in ZionUCC to access our church's Breeze site. Then you can login with your information. If you can't remember your login, or need help with your login, contact Pastor Elizabeth. Check to make sure your information is up-to-date. You can also search for any other church member in the directory. You'll find their latest contact information.

And you can set up online giving with Breeze.

Thank you for using Breeze!

## Notes from members:

A group of us guys from Zion UCC gather regularly at Panera's for coffee and/or breakfast (usually on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 ). Recently, in the middle of our conversation, one of the servers at Panera's came over to our table and gave us the note below, stating that another customer had asked her to deliver it to us:

"Dear Sirs, I don't come here often, but I have a few times. My daughter goes to Daemen and I work on paperwork while having breakfast on the days I drive her. I thoroughly enjoy listening to your chatter. You are probably about the age my father-in-law would have been. You remind me of him and that is a good thing. Thank you. You have made me smile today and quite frankly, we all need that today. If nobody has told you lately - you are good men." (anonymous)

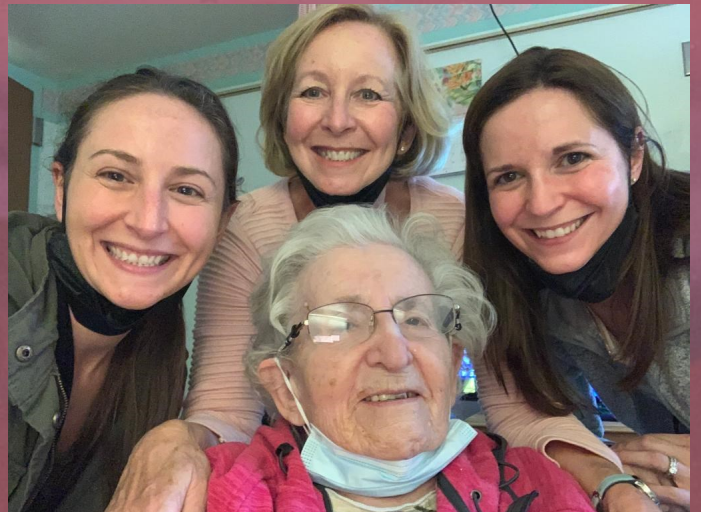
The note came with a \$20 gift card for Panera's!

Needless to say we were all very surprised. . . and pleased. We didn't feel we were doing anything special, but we share and support one another. We thought you might like to know what being a member of Zion UCC can do for you/us. We're proud and honored to represent Zion - and the UCC - this way . . . and we give thanks.

-Submitted by Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrié

### Say Hello!

Jane Turner (who lives at Brothers of Mercy) was visited by her daughter, Nancy, and granddaughters, Annie and Amy.







### **Passing of Rev. Kay Woike**

Rev. Kay E. Woike, nee Reinhart, (January 13, 1946 – April 18, 2022) passed into eternal life, at home, with family by her side. They have been grateful for the prayers, meals, and cards that have been sent.

Kay was born in Temple, Texas, grew up in suburban Detroit, then moved to Sylvania in suburban Toledo as a teen where she graduated from high school. She attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana where she met Glenn Woike whom she married in 1965. Together they attended Yale Divinity School.

During those years, they traveled to Naromoru, Kenya where they served for two years as interns with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Kay worked at the Secondary School teaching English and Science courses as well as providing support and encouragement to the female students. Kay's care and compassion for the global community grew there.

After graduation, Kay and Glenn moved to central NY where Kay was called to serve as pastor of Fayette Federated Church and Varick United Methodist Church in Fayette, NY from 1972-1975. She was ordained by the Oneida Association of the NY Conference UCC on October 29, 1972.

The family moved to WNY in 1975. Kay began working part-time overseeing Christian Education at Church of the Nativity in Town of Tonawanda (1976-78), became full-time Associate Pastor (1978-1983) and then Co-pastor with Rev. Dan Schifeling for twenty-nine years until her retirement in 2007. In addition to spending more time with family, particularly her grandchildren, during retirement Kay served as Interim Pastor at Faith UCC, Boston, NY and St. Stephens-Bethlehem, Amherst, NY. In 2011, Kay was honored with the designation of Pastor Emerita for her years of service at Nativity; there, she continued to be an active and beloved member. Her husband, Glenn, passed into eternal life in 2012.

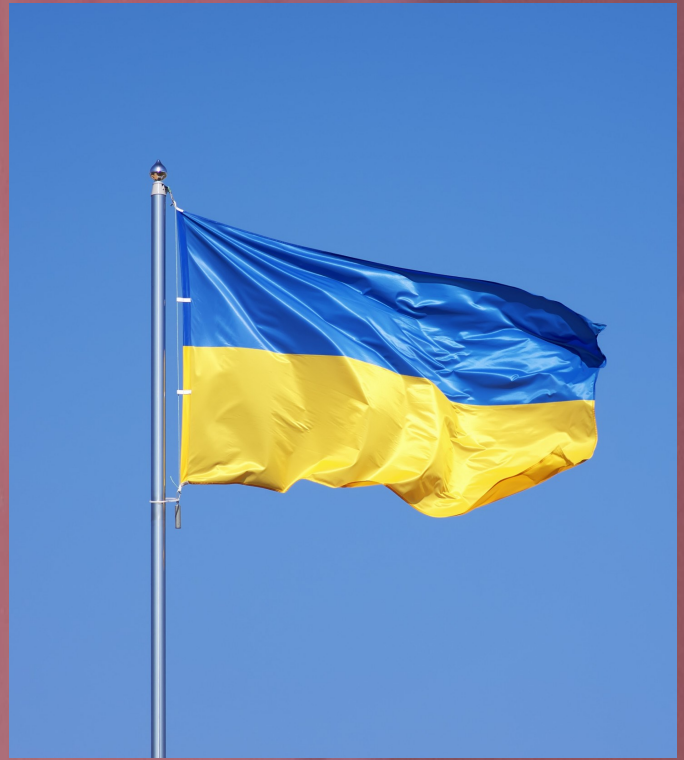
In addition to serving churches, Kay served on various committees of the Western NY Area Churches in Covenant and NY Conference. Most recently, she served on NY Conference's Global Commission and was the liaison with Global Ministries, the Mission Partner sending body of the UCC/DoC. Kay had a strong heart for refugees and encouraged Nativity to settle over fifteen refugee families including, most recently, families from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. Throughout her years, she was also involved in hunger related projects.

She is survived by her daughters, Liz Woike-Ganga (Marital) and Adrienne Woike (Matthew Thomas), grandchildren Jaden Ganga, Aisha Ganga, and Leo Thomas; a sister, Susan Reinhart; brothers, Charles and Fred Reinhart; nieces and a nephew. Memorials may be sent to Justice for Migrant Families where Kay was an active volunteer or Hospice, Buffalo.

Condolences may be sent to Liz Woike-Ganga, 6166 Blossom Court, E. Amherst, NY 14051.

## Looking for ways to help those in Ukraine?

Some of you may remember that Sheridan and Lucy Yondt (who both now live in the Kingdom of God) have a grandson who serves as a missionary, Mark Witte. Mark's wife, Natalie, is from Ukraine. World Witness, their missionary organization, is also doing tremendous work with their Ukrainian ministers. While I can't share any of the details (they ask not to publicize any of their stories or information), I can attest that World Witness is doing great work in Ukraine. We have already donated to them on behalf of the church, and in memory of Sheridan and Lucy, but if you would like to give more, you are welcome to do at [worldwitness.com](http://worldwitness.com) or by clicking [this link](#).



## Kids will LOVE our UCC camp!

### Dunkirk Summer and Family Camp Discounts

DISCOUNTS APPLY TO WEEK LONG CAMPS ONLY

FIRST TIME CAMPER: \$100 OFF PER PERSON - No other discount can be applied except Early Bird.

SIBLING(S): \$50 OFF beginning with second child registered

MULTI-CAMP DISCOUNT: \$100 OFF each additional week-long camp registered for the same child.

DCC SCHOLARSHIPS: Call our camp office at (716) 366-1900 for details.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Check with your health care provider for possible fee reimbursements.

REFERRAL DISCOUNT: Refer someone NEW to DCC and when they register and make their \$150 deposit, you will receive \$25 off your fees for each person who registers.

CHURCH: If you belong to a church, ask your minister or Christian Education Director about possible church sponsorships.





JOIN US FOR ZION UCC'S 2ND ANNUAL WEIDNER'S

# CHICKEN BBQ

PRE-SALE:  
\$14



DAY-OF:  
\$15

FRI. MAY 20TH  
4:00 - 7:00 PM

ZION UCC  
15 KOENIG CIRCLE  
TONAWANDA, NY

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

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT [ZIONUCCTON.COM/BBQ](http://ZIONUCCTON.COM/BBQ)**

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

**Lectors & Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed!**

Sign up to lector for Sunday services and sign up to help with coffee hour with this link:

<http://bit.ly/zionlector>

*Women's*  
Fellowship

**The Women's Fellowship meets at 11 on the 3rd Saturday of the Month. Occasionally the time/location change, so contact Gaye Mehlretter with any questions.**





## Community Assistance Ministry (C.A.M.)

Assisting our Community in Times of Need

**New Church Ministry! Applications are available at the church entrance. (Ask Pastor if you need help finding the forms)**

## Community Assistance Ministry (C.A.M.)

### Our Mission

To assist congregational members and our community in times of need for temporary financial assistance.

### Instructions

Complete the following request form for consideration by our committee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

### For Internal Purposes Only

Source:

\_\_\_\_\_ Missions Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Discretionary Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Consistory Approval

Funds Needed by \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Request Received \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Response Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Funded: Y/N Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Check No \_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: Any monies allocated will be at the discretion of the C.A.M. Committee, based on committee and church guidelines.



### Check out our new ministry!

For those who would like to donate specifically to Community Assistance Ministry (CAM), you are welcome to give to "missions" online or in an envelope.

All submissions are confidential within the small CAM ministry team and the pastor.



## New Committee For Church Improvement

A new committee has been formed to assess the church's assets. It is the Committee for Church Improvement which will be chaired by Laurie Mittlefehldt and assisted by Joyce Dolce. We will be asking for the assistance of the congregation in providing thoughts and ideas for areas of improvement or renovation. Please email your ideas to: [ideas@zionuccton.com](mailto:ideas@zionuccton.com) or speak to Laurie or Joyce. Suggestions will be collected until the end of April.

## Zion UCC Tonawanda Health Ministry Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Zion has medical equipment available to loan. For information, please contact Debby Williams at [DW1416@aol.com](mailto:DW1416@aol.com) or call 716-563-2450.

