

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ



Zionite *Newsletter*

Hello Church!

The theme for worship for the next month or so is going to be “Biblical Places” and I’m pretty excited about it!

Last Sunday we explored Jericho, this Sunday we’re exploring the Sea of Galilee, the Sunday after we have a sermon recorded from a mountaintop with the scripture and prayer from Nazareth, and eventually we’ll make our way to Bethlehem. My hope is to bring some of what I learned and saw while I was in Israel back to you.

For those of you who follow me on Facebook or Instagram, you already saw the daily updates, but for those who didn’t see and might be interested, I will include my daily reflections from Israel along with a few photos in this edition of the Zionite.

One last piece of information that I want to share with you is what I shared with our Western Association as our moderator. After watching some unfortunate things happen at some of our sister churches, I have asked our Consistory to bring forth bylaw changes at our next annual meeting (in March). I want you to know that the recommendations for these changes are coming from me, your pastor. I think that it’s important that we ensure that the future of our church is in good hands. And since our denomination has the capacity to suspend/terminate ministerial standing, but it does not have the authority to remove pastors, the following change would fix that in our bylaws.

This is my recommended change: “If a minister is suspended by the Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry), they are immediately suspended without pay from the church. If a minister’s ordination standing is terminated by the Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry), the pastor is immediately terminated by the church.”

With all of that said, I want you to also know how proud I am of our church! We have done so much lately to bless the community, from free dinners, to the pantry, to the trunk or treat. Plus, we’ve had a successful meat raffle and we have an upcoming rummage sale. I’m proud of all our members and volunteers for your hard work! Thank you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

What's going on at Zion?

- Rally Day Worship & Picnic ► Sep 11, 10:30am
- Resuming 2 services ► Sep 18, 9 & 10:45am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 1pm on Facebook Live
- Nursery ► Open and staffed on Sundays
- Food Pantry ► Open Every Mon 10am-12pm
- AA ► Saturdays at 10am
- AA: Rigorously Honest ► Thurs. at 5:30pm
- Youth Group ► 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 7-10pm.

1st Friday: Zion UCC, 3rd Friday: Nativity

- ♦ Bell Choir Practice ► Wednesdays @6:30pm
- ♦ Chancel Choir Practice ► Wed @7:30pm
- ♦ November 6 ► All Saints Recognition
- ♦ November 6 ► Daylight Savings time ends (set clocks back an hour)
- ♦ November 8, 6pm ► Exercise with Dawn
- ♦ November 8, 7pm ► Consistory
- ♦ November 12, 9am ► Rummage Sale 9-1
- ♦ November 13 ► Sermon video from Israel in both services! Don't miss the scripture read from the Synagogue Church in Nazareth and the sermon from Masada, Israel!
- ♦ November 12-18 ► Pastor's Vacation
*Call Kalee Mielke for emergencies,
989-213-2870*
- ♦ November 21, 6pm ► Trustees
- ♦ November 22, 6pm ► Exercise with Dawn
- ♦ November 22, 6pm ► New Member Dinner & Meeting
- ♦ November 26, 5pm ► Free Community Dinner (drive through)

For more, check out www.zionuccton.com

Watch "Chosen" with your church family!

Are you interested in seeing the Season 3 Premiere of "Chosen" at Regal Elmwood Center on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7pm? If so, let Kalee know!

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!

Sunday School Forms

Parents, take a moment to fill out this Sunday School form if you haven't already.

www.zionuccton.com/sunday-school/

Wedding Forms

Have an upcoming wedding to schedule?

www.zionuccton.com/weddings/

Rental Forms

Need to rent Kuck Hall or a classroom?

The Rental form is now online:

www.zionuccton.com/rental-agreement/

Funeral Planning Forms

Have you taken time to fill out your Funeral Planning form? You can do so at any time on our website.

www.zionuccton.com/funeral-plans/

Israel Day 1:

We arrived in Israel at 5am local time (11pm at home) and spent the morning seeing a few holy sites.

First we went to the Chapel of Ascension (place of Jesus' ascension), but it wasn't open yet, so we returned after we visited a few other places.

Then we walked down to Dominus Flevit, the small Franciscan Church located where Jesus wept.

Then we went to Gethsemane to see the Garden and the Grotto of Gethsemane, where Jesus was betrayed.

When we were in the garden, I put ear buds in to soften the noise of the traffic (I'm glad I had them with me.)

Tomorrow we will see much more, but for the rest of the day we're going to eat and relax.



Israel Day 2:

Today was a wonderful day of exploring Old Jerusalem.

We started at Zion Gate (of course!), visited the Upper Room and the Tomb of King David outside of that gate before heading back into the Old City to make our way to the Western Wall.

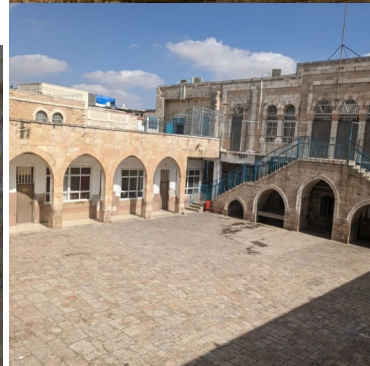
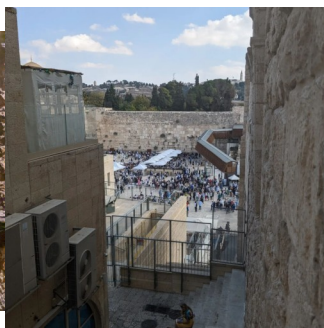
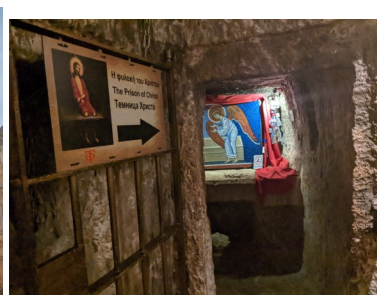
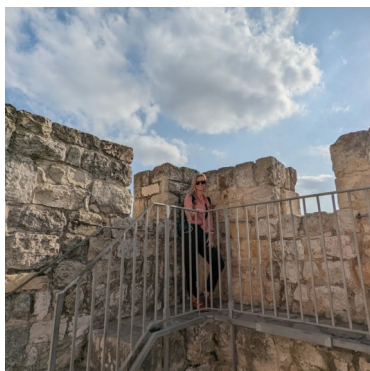
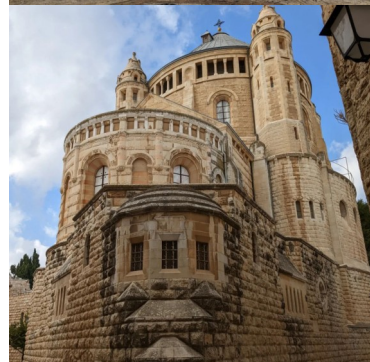
After visiting the Western Wall, we went to the Lions' Gate to walk the Via Dolorosa (Stations of the Cross - "Sorrowful Way"). A store owner brought us into the first station where Jesus was sentenced by Pilate- the building is a Muslim School now, so we were glad for the private tour.

After walking the Via Dolorosa, we made our way to Jaffa Gate where we found an entrance to the Rampart (where you can walk on top of the wall of the city).

This was easily my favorite part of the day. It is amazing to walk up on the wall and see Old Jerusalem on one side and New Jerusalem on the other. Plus, this is where we got to see kids playing and living their lives inside the Old City walls. I definitely didn't imagine so many people living in Old Jerusalem. I think I thought it was more of a Holy place people visited, without realizing how many people spend their lives in that small, old, Holy city.

We walked a lot today and it was worth every step! We made our way around the entire city and walked through all of the must-see places within.

I can now imagine so many biblical stories in a much better way. As we walked through the narrow streets of Jerusalem, I pictured the women running to tell the disciples that the tomb was empty; I imagined the woman from my Maundy Thursday reading saying "I knew the streets of Jerusalem like the Pharisees know the details of the Law."



Israel Day 3:

We hired an Israeli Christian tour guide today, Charlie, who took us into walled Palestinian territory where we began our day in the City of Bethlehem. We saw the church located in the place of Jesus' birth. We saw the valleys where the shepherds saw the star. We listened to monks and priests sing in the cave (the manger). And we saw the place under the Catholic part of the church where bodies of children killed by Herod after Jesus' birth were buried. Then we visited Jericho, where we saw a sycamore tree old enough to be the one Zacchaeus climbed. We went part way up the Mount of Temptation where Jesus was Tempted for 40 days by the Devil (the monastery on the Mount was closed, so we couldn't go up all the way).

After that we went to the Israeli side of the Jordan River to the place of Jesus' baptism. That was wonderful. And lastly we floated around in the Dead Sea, which was super cool.

We're back in Jerusalem now, as the Jewish parts of the city are shutting down for the Sabbath. I am amazed at how close everything is here. Which makes sense, since they walked everywhere back in Jesus' time. But nonetheless, it's all closer together than I imagined.

We also got to witness a small protest in Jerusalem where the Jewish side was protesting to build a new complex, and the Palestinians were protesting against it. That was interesting to see first hand (quickly, as we drove by).

Our tour guide was awesome, and if anyone needs a Christian tour in Israel and Palestine, Charlie is your guy!

Oh, and we saw 3 Banskys in Bethlehem!



Israel Day 4:

Today was an unexpectedly cool day.

We didn't know exactly what we would do in Israel on the Sabbath, so we decided to drive down to Masada (a cool mountain overlooking the Dead Sea where Herod once built a fortress). We weren't sure if we could drive through the disputed territories in a rental car, so we had to loop around to Be'er Sheva. We made a quick stop at the location of Abraham's Well and then went on to Masada.

Once we made it to Masada, we took the cable car up to the top (no hiking for us today). The views were spectacular. And once I found a quiet place, I even recorded a sermon up there (for when I'm away next month).

On the way back we had lunch/dinner by the Dead Sea, in the Petra Shopping Center (Petra is the name of my niece!), and then came home again driving around the disputed territory.



Israel Day 5:

Today we made it to Nazareth: Jesus' hometown.

While in the Basilica of Annunciation (Annunciation is when the Angel, Gabriel, spoke to Mary) we stumbled onto a wonderful worship service, led by a tremendous Priest (who we think was leading a group from Indiana). His message was powerful. Speaking to faithful people he said, "Like Mary, the work of faith doesn't end when we say 'yes Lord', that's when it begins."

After that we made our way back to our adorable hotel in Old Nazareth before taking a taxi to Tiberias. On our way we drove through Cana, and (no joke) we drove by a wedding at a church in Cana! I bet they didn't run out of wine! (Cana is the location of Jesus' first miracle where he turned water into wine at a wedding.)

Once we got to Tiberias, we got on a boat in the Sea of Galilee. There was lightning in the distance, and the wind was picking up. But we got on the boat anyways (against my better judgment). My mom loved every second of the boat ride; she said it was her favorite thing all week. I, on the other hand, was terrified and felt a little too much like the disciples when they said to Jesus before he calmed the seas, "Lord, do you not care that we are perishing?!"

After we safely made it back to land, we had dinner by the sea.



Israel Day 6:

It's official, my mom, James, and I love Nazareth. And if you're ever planning to stay in Nazareth (which I recommend you do) stay at Michel House. It's seriously wonderful.

Our day started with a delicious breakfast cooked by Michel himself (owner of Michel house). Then my mom and I went to the Synagogue Church where both of us were able to read and record Luke 4 for our congregations. We met a wonderful attendant of that church whose daughter is interested in ministry. So we spoke for a while and exchanged information.

Then we went to Nazareth Village, which all three of us loved. It gives detailed visual explanations of what it was like at the time of Jesus.

Then we went to Mt. Precipice, where the people wanted to throw Jesus off the cliff in Luke 4. There we enjoyed the views, some pomegranate juice, and wonderful conversations with locals.

And then we returned our car and checked into our hotel in Tel Aviv before having one final dinner in Israel.

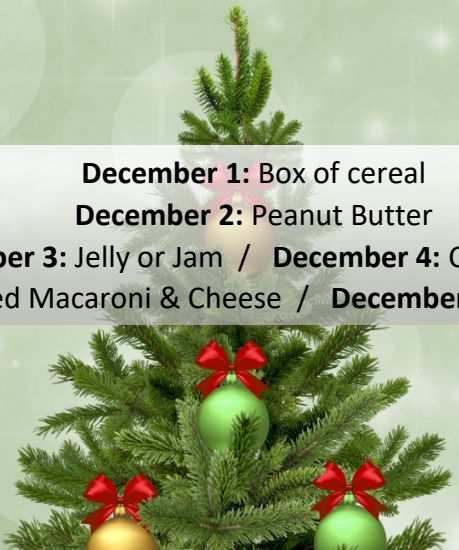
James and I will catch a taxi for our flight home at 3am.

This was a wonderful, educational, spiritual trip, and I can't wait to bring my kids here (husband too!) to experience it one day.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Are you interested in doing a Reverse Advent Calendar, where you give instead of receiving?
If so, consider purchasing the following items and bringing them in during the week or on Sunday morning.

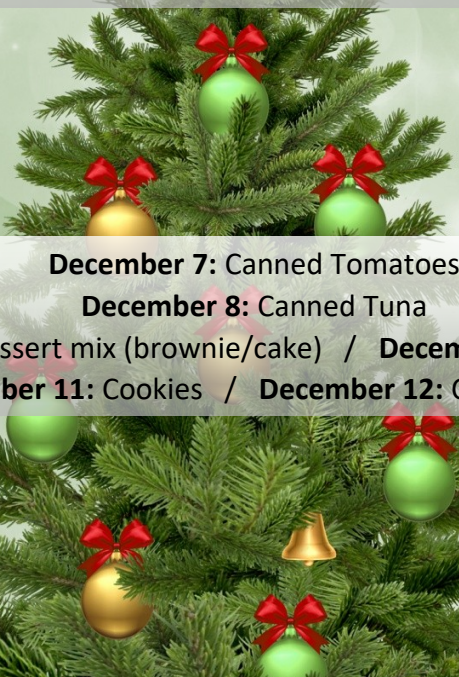


December 1: Box of cereal

December 2: Peanut Butter

December 3: Jelly or Jam / **December 4:** Canned fruit

December 5: Boxed Macaroni & Cheese / **December 6:** Fruit Cocktail cups




December 7: Canned Tomatoes

December 8: Canned Tuna

December 9: Dessert mix (brownie/cake) / **December 10:** Applesauce

December 11: Cookies / **December 12:** Cooking Oil



December 13: Canned beans

December 14: Box of crackers

December 15: Baked Beans / **December 16:** Oatmeal

December 17: Pasta / **December 18:** Spaghetti Sauce

December 19: Chicken Noodle Soup / **December 20:** Tomato Soup

December 21: Can of Corn / **December 22:** Can of Green Beans

December 23: Can of Carrots / **December 24:** Canned Pasta (Spaghettios/Ravioli)

Thank you!

Also, if you would prefer to give a financial gift, our Food Pantry is always in need of more resources.
To give, simply put "food pantry" on your offering, or go online to www.zionuccton.com and select Donate (or go on Breeze) and choose to give to the Food Pantry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Calling all knitters!

Knit hats, scarves, and gloves are a huge hit in our "blessing box". If you're a knitter, feel free to bring them in to the office and all winter long we'll keep the blessing box filled with knit supplies.



It's time to order your Christmas Poinsettias!

Choose to take your flowers home or have them donated to church members in nursing homes, senior housing, or at home.

You can also order online at:

www.zionuccton.com/flowers/



**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 12/10

Would you like to buy a Christmas present for a child in need at The ARC, Erie County?

If so, pick up a gift tag at church soon and simply return the unwrapped present Sunday, December 11th.

Thank you!



Do you have items to donate to the Rummage Sale? Drop them off at church when it's open, or talk to John or Jeff.

If you need help getting items to the church, call Jeff at 863-8368.

Thank you!

And a huge shout out to John and Jeff and all of our volunteers for putting on another awesome

Dunkirk Pizza Kit pick up will be on Sunday, November 13th.

If you ordered a pizza kit, you can pick it up then.

Thank you!



Zion UCC Rummage Sale

Here's What to Expect:

New & Used Merchandise!

Bake Sale!

Bag Sale at 12PM!

Friends from Magic Mission Beagle & Hound Rescue!

When and Where?

Saturday, November 12th, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Zion United Church of Christ; 15 Koenig Circle; Tonawanda

Admission:
\$1 or Canned
Good Item

Have you noticed our security cameras?



Our new (top of the line!) security system was donated by the Smith Family. This will help create a safe space in our church for years to come!

We are also in the process of changing over the door locks to an automated system. This is in the works, and it is part of the security system donated by the Smiths.

Thank you to Ron Smith and family for this wonderful donation to the church!



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER 2022



FREE

for
residents
of the
Town of
Tonawanda
or
Village of
Kenmore



TAKE OUT

Call 874-3595 to
order a meal that
you will pick up on
Thanksgiving. Meal

HOME DELIVERY

Call 874-3595 to
register and have a
meal brought to
your door.

NO ON SITE DINING DUE TO BILLS GAME AT 12:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Day Take Out

Call 874-3595 to reserve your take out meal
before November 15, 2022. We will have the
meal waiting for you to pick up on
Thanksgiving Day between
11:45a.m. and 12:15p.m.

Come inside at Door 6 (south lot) of the
Parkside Village Community Building.

Home Delivery

Call 874-3595 before
November 15, 2022
and we will deliver a complete
Thanksgiving meal with all the
trimmings to your home on
Thanksgiving Day
between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m

SPONSORED BY



Zion UCC also has our free community dinner on Saturday, November 26th.

Volunteers, a sign up will be emailed closer to the date. Thank you!



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 or call 716-563-2450.

*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.



Are you looking for a new way to volunteer by forming a friendship with someone who might be lonely?

If so, check out Compeer, and see how you can volunteer.

www.compeerbuffalo.org/

Consistory Call to Order at 7:07 pm by Troy Hengst

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Barbara Miller, Troy Hengst, W. George Darrall, Debby Williams, Elena Camp, and Trustee, Ted Camp.

Absent: Mark Burr, Peter Korte, Jeff Quinton, and Edie Bauer

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth led us in the devotion and the Lord's Prayer.

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - motioned for approval by Barb M. and seconded by Elena. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

As of 10/6/2022 there is a balance of \$39673.90 in the operating account and \$11,621.47 in the restricted funds account. The balance for the operating account does reflect the subtraction of the payroll to be paid on 10/7/22.

The revenue for September was \$18,620.96 and the net income was \$1280.33. The YTD revenue is \$127,381.17 and the YTD net income is \$-6,393.05. In comparison: The revenue for September 2021 was \$16,670.49. The net income was \$4,351.71. YTD revenue for 2021 was \$126,167.99. YTD net income was \$10,003.06.

Notable P&L events in September were the 3rd quarter payments made for the OWCM, Western Area and NY Conference per Capita totaling \$2,654.00 and Pastor's 3rd quarter FICA for \$1489.00.

The report was motioned for approval by Barb M. and seconded by Debby W. All attending members approved.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

Waiting for the electric door order for 4 months. Doors will have new locks. Specific people will be given key fobs and others assigned people will be assigned a code to get into the locked building.

Stepping back for plans for parking lot enlargement due to growing increased costs. Not tabling plans entirely but will be doing project slower than originally planned. The start timeline is estimated to be 2024.

Looking at snow removal contracts- will vote on it at next meeting

The floor machine was discussed, and the decision was made to send it back to Consistory which approved the purchase of the machine.

Rummage Sale will be held at church on November 12.

Jill brought up issues with the cemetery we own in Cheektowaga. There are overturned and knocked down old grave markers. They are continuing to investigate this and what to do.

Exterior parking lights project is completed - Ed M.-thank you for following through on this project. A donor covered all the costs. They looked great (the parking lot was well lit!)

The Trustees are meeting next week

Pastor's Report - Pastor Duffy

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update: Kalee has officially become a "Member in Discernment" with the Western Association's Church and Ministry (Committee on Ministry). This is the first step of the process to become an ordained minister in our denomination. Consistory will become her "support team" and will receive a monthly update from Kalee at the beginning of Consistory meetings starting next month.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Duffy

She will be away in Israel from October 17-25. While in Israel she will record a sermon that will be played during the November 13th service. She will also be away Nov 12-18 for another postponed trip from 2020.

Call Rev. Pierre for emergencies while she is away. 716-998-0905.

Kalee is preaching on October 23rd at the one service at 10am. Pastor Duffy highly recommends signing up for the retreat after the service.

We're hoping to reschedule the Hakuna Matata Children's Choir for 2023 once they have their travel visas sorted out.

Barb Miller asked her to do a service attendance comparison from 2019 to 2022. 2019 we were showing some record high attendance for us. It was possible to listen (later in the week) online, but that was not widely utilized. She put an estimate of 5 for weekly online attendance in 2019 to include those who may have listened online. In 2022, she can accurately check the attendance on Facebook for those who sit and watch the service for consecutive minutes (not counting those who view momentarily then leave). She did not add the podcast or YouTube viewings. The chart below is split in half so it can fit on one page. It compares the first 5 weeks of this school year starting with Rally Day. While our in-person attendance is behind (though catching up in the last two weeks), our overall attendance is higher by an average of 43. Our giving has also increased since 2019, and if we were to calculate our number of givers, she would assume that has increased too (given the increase in online donations from those who watch online). This chart shows the comparison for the start of the school year, and she will do another comparison chart at the end of the year. (Thank you, Ken MacDonald and ushers, for tracking our attendance!) *This attendance does not include Sunday School.*

	2019 9am attendance	2019 10:30am attendance	2019 Rally Day	2019 online attendance*	2019 Total Attendance
Rally Day			157	5	162
2nd week	85	70		5	160
3rd week	69	76		5	150
4th week	89	67		5	161
5th week	93	63		5	161
Average	84	69		5	158.8

2022 9am attendance	2022 10:45 attendance	2022 Rally Day	2022 online attendance**	2022 Total Attendance
		120	56	176
58	52		70	180
62	48		75	185
91	47		103	241
93	44		88	225
76	47.75		78.4	201.4

*2019 online attendance estimated to 5 weekly from those who listened to the podcast online

**2022 online totals are from facebook only (not counting youtube or podcast) based on those who watch for consecutive minutes)

Old Business:

1. Floor cleaner was purchased, and Dave has begun to use it. Currently Dave is enjoying using the floor cleaner but will let us know if he needs others to run it.
2. Dunkirk cabin update: Hoping to get the cabin updated (they will do the work with money from our account) before next Summer

New Business: none

Committee Reports:

Administration- (George)- no report

PPRC -no report

Christian Education & Missions- (Edie)- no report

Coffee hour & Community Dinners- (Peter)- Women's Fellowship is hosting the next community dinner in October

Memorials-(Mark) - has \$1,408.40 presently in their budget.

Community Assistance Ministry- (Jeff)- no requests were made this month.

Health Ministry- (Debby)- Red Cross was contacted about their Babysitting course. They need a minimum of 8 girls for us to host the class at the church. Designed primarily for youth ages 11 and older, this online course will prepare students to be better babysitters. Topics include how to provide care for infants and children; how to stay safe; what to do in an emergency; how to choose age-appropriate activities; and how to recognize and handle a variety of behaviors. Students will also learn the basics of starting a babysitting business. The course consists of six interactive modules featuring video, activities, games, and tools babysitters can use to build their knowledge and skills and manage their babysitting business. This course, which includes a final exam at the end, takes about 4 hours to complete. Students who successfully complete the course will receive a printable certificate. Price is \$45 dollars a girl. More information will be forthcoming.

Environmental Ministry (Barb)- There is a Climate Art Contest for kids that Pastor Duffy registered our church for. More information will be forthcoming.

Pastoral Care Ministry Team- (Troy)- Pastor mentioned that she would like the team to resume their visits, so some congregational members are visited by the team as well as the Pastor (especially in the nursing homes) at different times.

Food Pantry- (Mark)- Have changed the time the pantry is open to 10am-noon on Mondays

Altar Guild- (Robin) –no report

New Member- (Pastor)- Pastor is hoping to plan the class for some time in November.

Closing: At 8:55 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday November 8 at 7 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debby Williams
Consistory Secretary

All meeting minutes can be found online here:

www.zionuccton.com/meeting-minutes/