Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Hello Church,

As we journey through the Season of Lent, and make our way towards Easter, I'm reminded of the importance of the Resurrection. The Resurrection gives us hope that this life is not the end; and the Resurrection also gives us meaning.

I find that so many people in this world are searching for meaning but they don't know where to find it. They work hard to make money, but even a good job and secure finances can't give them meaning. Other people try to escape the realities of life by continuously distracting themselves, and they too struggle to find meaning. Even well-intentioned people try to better themselves physically and emotionally, and they still long for meaning. But the Resurrection gives us meaning, and it gives us purpose. The Resurrection tells us that there is more to life than what meets the eye. The Resurrection gives us hope when everything seems hopeless. The Resurrection recenters our thoughts and reminds us that we have a Savior. The Resurrection encourages us to be good and to do good on a daily basis. I feel like every day I find myself being thankful for the Resurrection.

I also love the environment we offer here at Zion UCC, thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit. No matter what service someone comes to, they leave here with hope and meaning. On a regular basis someone tells me that they came to church because they were feeling down or longing for something more, and when they leave this place they feel uplifted and hopeful—and that's what Church is all about! The Church is a tool for the power of the Holy Spirit, and when we gather here (in whatever way we gather, in-person or online), the Holy Spirit fills us with its power, moves us to offer God our praise, and gives us courage and strength for another day.

I see so many people searching for meaning in this life, and then I witness all of you here in this church finding your meaning and finding your purpose, and I can't help but thank God for the way we, as the Church, get to be a part of that.

I thank God for the power of the Resurrection—because it gives me the hope and the confidence that this life is not the end. And I also thank God for the gift of this Church community, and how we bless one another in such a way that the Holy Spirit becomes present to all who gather here.

Thank you for being an instrument of the Holy Spirit, and I hope and pray that you, like me, can pause today to Thank God for the power of the Resurrection.

In Christ, Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

What's going on at Zion?

- Worship ► Sundays at 9am & 10:45am
- Sunday School ► Sundays at 9am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm 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 7-1-pm
 1st Friday: Zion UCC, 3rd Friday: Nativity UCC
- Bell Choir Practice ► Wed @6:30pm
- ◆ Chancel Choir Practice ► Wed @7:30pm
- March 17, 7-10pm ► Youth Group @Nativity
- March 18 ► Basket Raffle, 12-3pm
- March 20, 6pm ► Trustees
- March 21 ► No Lenten Study
- March 25, 11am ► Hospice/Palliative Care
- March 25, 5pm ▶ Free Community Dinner
- March 28 at 6pm ► Lenten Study
- ◆ March 30 ► Easter Flower Orders are due
- ♦ April 6, 7pm ► Maundy Thursday Worship
- April 7, 8:30-12pm ➤ Church open for Stations of the Cross and Labyrinth
- April 7, 7-10pm ► Youth Group Vigil
- ♦ April 8, 10am ► Breakfast with Easter Bunny
- April 9, 9 & 10:45am ► Easter Sunday
- April 11, 6pm ► Exercise with Dawn
- April 11, 7pm ► Consistory
- April 15, 11am ► Women's Fellowship
- April 17, 6pm ► Trustees
- ♦ April 21, 7-10pm ► Youth Group at Nativity
- April 29, 10am
 Babysitting Class
- April 29, 5pm ► Free Community Dinner

Sign up for the March Community Dinner Here: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> <u>go/4090B4EA9AD29A7FA7-march1</u>



SATURDAY, APRIL 9 AT 10AM
PANCAKES & EGG HUNT

15 KOENIG CIRCLE TONAWANDA, NY 14150

REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/EGG-HUNT

We're half way through Lent, which means it's time to sign up for the Youth Group's Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt!

This is a great event for the kids and it helps the Youth Group raise money for their Annual Mission trip!

This year the Youth Group is going to Massena, NY.

Sign up online at <u>www.zionuccton.com/egg-hunt</u>

And spread the word on Facebook by sharing this event page:

https://fb.me/e/4b7mLRdI1

BABYSITTING COURSE AT ZION UCC

OF SHARING

is Sunday, March 19th Adults will have ways to donate to this UCC ministry on Sunday, and kids are encouraged to return their donation boxes on this day.

Together we will raise money to help those in need through our denomination's ministry called 'One Great Hour of Sharing.'



Lunch will be provided. Please come ready to learn for this 5 hour training course. Registration closes on April 16th and it is limited, so sign up soon. Sign up is online only at <u>www.zionuccton.com/babysit</u>

🖻 ucczion@gmail.com

www.zionuccton.com/babysit

Buffalo Hospice & Palliative Care Presentation

Saturday, March 25, 2023 11-12pm at Zion UCC

A representative from Buffalo Hospice and Palliative Care is coming to speak about their programs, benefits, and services. Be prepared, get educated and informed in case you need to use them for a friend, family member, or yourself.



Holy Week SCHEDULE	
April 4 (Final Lenten Study)	6PM
April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	7PM
April 7 (Good Friday)	8:30AM-12PM
April 7 (Youth Vigil)	7-10PM
April 9 (Easter Sunday)	9 & 10:45AM

Zion United Church of Christ www.zionuccton.com www.facebook.com/zionuccton



you" getting to know you" article to ucczion@gmail.com to be featured in the Zionite!

Holy Week is Approaching!

See the schedule in this ← image for Holy Week.

We will deliver Easter Flowers to people at homes and nursing homes on Wednesday, April 5th.

If you can volunteer to deliver flowers, please let Pastor Elizabeth know. We will meet at church on Wednesday at 10am for deliveries. (If you want to help but need a different time, that is fine too.)

Be blessed!

KenTon Clergy Presents

Youth Group

Friday, April at Zion UCC 15 Koenig Circle Tonawanda, NY

Open to all KenTon Youth

and WAY

611

Campfire S'mores Games Worship

20

Grades 6-12 Join us on Good Friday !



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life." John 3:16

Easter Flowers Order Form orders also accepted online www.zionuccton.com/flowers \$9.00 each

Lily____

Tulips_____

- Pick up after Easter service_____
- Donate to shut ins_____

Name___

In memory of_____

In honor of_____

Please return order forms and checks (payable to Zion UCC) by March 30th.



Beware of Scammers!

Please beware of people pretending to be others on Facebook messenger. And be careful never to send any codes to another person that you receive via text. There are scammers trying to take advantage of innocent people.

People are also receiving phone calls pretending to be grandchildren or saying that a delivery needs to be scheduled. Before you speak to anyone, please contact your family directly to be safe!

Zion UCC Tonawanda Health Ministry Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Zion has medical equipment available to loan. For information, please contact Debby Williams.



Searching for

volunteers

Come to Committee Night and be a part of the work of the Church!

Save the Date for the Spring Committee Night: Tuesday, May 9th, 7pm



Would you like to be a part of the "work" of the Church? If so, join us on Tuesday, May 9th,

for our Committee Night. Committee Night is a gathering of

all of our Church Committees. You can visit the committees and talk to the members of the committees and the chairs of those committees to see if you would be interested in joining that ministry team.

Come and check out what's going on at Zion and be a part of the wonderful work we do here in God's name!



O taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8

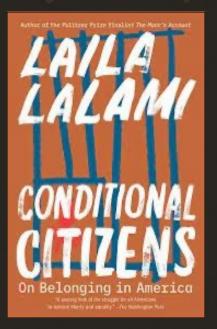
Think about your earliest memories of church. I'll bet those memories are linked with food. Maybe you remember the Lifesaver candy your mother gave you during worship. For some people the memories are tied to Sunday School snacks. Congregations love to eat together whether it's potluck suppers, Lenten soup suppers or the cake served at coffee hours to recognize confirmation classes or church anniversaries.

It's hardly surprising there is this link between food and faith. Each time we celebrate the Last Supper we use the simple elements of bread and wine/grape juice to remember the saving love of Jesus. As warm as early food memories can be, there are many people for whom food is neither pleasurable or communal. Some people struggle with loneliness; others face food insecurity without the resources to provide for themselves and their families. So much of Jesus' ministry was concerned with food. Meeting Jesus at the Table by Cynthia Campbell is a wonderful Lenten study that draws on gospel table stories where food and eating become metaphors for the kingdom of God. The publisher has also offered introductory videos for each of the chapters of this study available on YouTube.com.

Lent is a time of preparation and anticipation beginning with Ash Wednesday through to Easter. The blog post is focused on Lenten recipes and traditions. We have a growing collection filled with ways families and church schools can deepen their Lenten experience.

The Center for Christian Growth is open Monday through Thursday from 10AM to 1PM. Call us at 716 389-2023 if you looking for books on a specific topic or just want to brainstorm ideas. Located at First Presbyterian Church in the City of Tonawanda.

Book Discussion via Zoom



Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America by by Laila Lalami March 29, April 12, April 26 6:30-8pm EST

In this deeply personal book, author Laila Lalami recounts her unlikely journey from Moroccan immigrant to U.S. citizen using her own story as a starting point for an exploration of the rights, liberties, and protections that are traditionally associated with American citizenship. Weaving together her experiences with an examination of the place of nonwhites in the broader American culture, Lalami illuminates how conditional citizens are all those whom America embraces with one arm and pushes away with the other. This discussion will take place via Zoom and a link will be sent out prior to the first session. Please read pages 3-71 ("Allegiance" through "Borders" chapters) prior to the first session. This book discussion is sponsored by the UCC-NY Conference New and Right Spirit Antiracism Program and hosted by the Center for Racial Justice. It will be facilitated by Ms. Courtney Williams, MA, MPH, and doctoral fellow in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University, Dr. Mary Frances Stuck, professor emerita in Sociology at SUNY Oswego, and Rev. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Racial Justice and Racial Justice Consultant for the UCC-NY Conference. To register, use the following link: https://form.jotform.com/222844649839169



2023 CAMP REGISTRATION

Register today and receive a \$25 Early Bird Discount for each camper with a \$150 down-payment per registration. Early Bird Discount ends April 15th

Discounts

(discounts apply to weeklong overnight camps only)

First Time Camper Discount - \$100

(Discount applies to weeklong overnight camps only) Sibling discount - \$50 (discount begins with the second child registered) Referral Discount - \$25/ registered referral Refer a NEW First Time Camper to camp and when they register and make their down-payment, you will receive \$25 off your camp fees. Multi-Camp Discount - \$100/camp

Receive \$100 off for each camp you attend beginning with the 2nd camp you register.

For more information or to request a brochure, call Anne Wilmot @ 716-366-1900 or visit our website www.dunkirkcc.com

See you at Camp!

Zion is also offering \$100 scholarships to campers from Zion! And if your child would like to go to camp but you cannot afford it, we have scholarships available for them!

Email Pastor Elizabeth to ask for Camp scholarships.

SUICIDE & CRISIS FELINE

greet for Sunday services and sign up to help with coffee

hour with this link:

http://bit.ly/zionlector

Thank you!



Purpose

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

Missions Fund Pastor's Discretionary Fund Consistory Approval

Funds Needed by ___/___/ Request Received __/___/ Response Date __/___/__

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/

Funded: Y/N Date ___/___ Check No _____

For Internal Purposes Only

Source:

Zion United Church of Christ Annual Congregational Meeting March 12,2023

Called to order by James Cousins, Chair, Board of Trustees at 11:11 AM

Quorum was present (counted by Barbara Miller)

Opening prayer was done by Pastor Duffy

James Cousins reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order (page 18 of the booklet)

Old Business:

a. Review and Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2022 (pages 8-9 of the booklet)

Susan Clark moved to accept the minutes. Ray Greiner seconded. The motion was approved by the entire congregation that was present.

b. Review and Approval and Debate of 2022 Committee Reports:

Tim Schlegel opened a debate on the committee reports and Barb Miller seconded.

Tim Schlegel wanted it to be mentioned that the committees are all run by volunteers. He used examples like Mark Burr who is running the Food Pantry on Mondays and the new garden put in by the Environmental Ministry Team.

<u>Reverend Pierre Albrecht-Carrie'</u> made a motion to accept the reports (except Trustees report which was separate). Edie Bauer seconded. The motion was approved by the entire congregation that was present.

New Business:

Bylaw Amendments:

The following Bylaw Amendments are recommended by the Pastor and Consistory. The Pastor discussed what they Amendments were and that she was the one that recommended them added for the future protection of the church. The first change is a response to events that have occurred in other churches in our Association.

1. "Article V. The Pastor" of our bylaws.

Under Article V. The Pastor, C. Termination of Service

a. first, change that to read: "C. Suspension or Termination of Service"

The following statement to be added after the existing paragraph in section C. "If a minister is suspended by the <u>Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry</u>), they are immediately suspended without pay from Zion United Church of Christ. 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."

b. Amend "Article XI. Functions" of our Bylaws.

Note: It currently reads: "Alcohol or any illegal behaviors are not permitted on church property. Smoking is not permitted within twenty-five (25) feet of any church entrance and change to: "Alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal behaviors are not permitted on church property.

Smoking is not permitted within twenty-five (25) feet of any church entrance

A debate/questions was opened by James Cousins and Barbara Miller seconded it.

- Reverend Pierre Albrecht-Carrie' thought the sentence, Church, and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry) should have added to it, of the Western Association of New York Conference of the United Church of Christ in the two places where it states the "Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry)".
- James Cousins questioned adding marijuana to the second recommended amendment as New York State has legalized marijuana. Pastor answered that although it is legal, the church does not want it brought in and used on our church property.
- James Cousins stated that two thirds of the majority is needed to approve the first and second recommended amendments.
- The motion to close the debate/questions was made by Elena Camp and seconded by Susan House. The motion was approved by the entire congregation that was present.
- Reverend Pierre Albrecht-Carrie 'made a motion to approve the first Amendment(a) to read, Church and Ministry Committee (Committee on Ministry) of the Western Association of New York Conference of the United Church of Christ in both spots as recorded above. Laurie Mittlefehldt seconded, and the congregation voted unanimously in favor of the change.
- The second amendment (b), Diane Miltz made a motion to approve the addition of the wording: "Alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal behaviors are not permitted on church property. Debbie Grine seconded, and the congregation voted unanimously in favor of the change.
- c. Nomination of Board of Trustees vacancy:
- Consistory nominees are Kalee Mielke, Reverend Pierre Albrecht-Carrie' and Dave Dombrowsk
- Trustee nominee is Dave Dubbert

A debate/questions was opened by Tim Schlegel and seconded by James Cousins. Tim Schlegel thanked them for volunteering.

A motion to close the debate was made by Edie Bauer and Sarah Handley-Cousins. The motion to close was approved by the entire congregation that was present. Motion to approve all nominations by the present congregation was unanimously approved.

Approval/Debate of the 2023 FY Budget:

The treasurer's report is located on page 12-13 of the booklet and any changes suggested are highlighted. Ed Miller opened it up for debate with George Drescher seconding.

- Tim Schlegel raised concern over the Pastor's salary. That she was only receiving a .9 percent increase for everything she does while other staff were getting a 5% pay increase. Pastor asked if we would leave her salary alone as it is over minimum guidance guidelines and she we could revisit the issue in next year's budget.
- Motion was made to close debate/questions by Tim Schlegel and Doug King and the motion to close debate was approved by the entire congregation that was present
- The motion to approve the budget was made by Mike Thorp and seconded by John Pauling. The budget was unanimously accepted by the congregation that was present.

Trustees Summary (is on page 17 of booklet)

Ted Camp (Trustee Secretary) presented:

- 1. Current Balance and Breakdown
- 2. Projects Completed
- 3. Projects Pending
- 4. Long Range Projects-10-year plan
- 5. Summary/questions
- Susan House stated that the Sacristy Room need to be upgraded and Pastor Duffy said that the Consistory would be handling.
- Glen Gordon (on Zoom) asked if there were any future plans for large signage to be added to the other side of the church property. James Cousins said no plans have been made for this.
- Ted Camp did note that the parking lot renovations do have smaller signage that will be put in place.
- Sarah Handley Cousins asked about the remodeling plans for the Narthex and a coffee bar. James Cousins said the church infrastructure is difficult and updating the building will mean some things will need to be torn off and taken down
- Mike Thorp asked who the church historian was now that Char Burchfield is gone. Jeff Quinton volunteered to be the Church Historian.
- James Cousin stated that Trustees are going through with certification by the Red Cross to be a warming station for emergencies.
- Lori Juliano mentioned that the stove in the kitchen needs to be replaced. James Cousins asked Laurie Mittlefehldt to add this to her list for Trustees to look at.
- Motion was made to adjourn by Reverend Pierre Albrecht-Carrie' and seconded by Dave Dombrowski. It was passed unanimously by the congregation that was present.

Benediction- Pastor Duffy

The meeting officially adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Debby Williams Consistory Secretary

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 03.14.2023

Consistory Call to Order at 7:03 pm by Debby Williams

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Peter Korte, Edie Bauer, Dave Dombrowski, W. George Darrall, Elena Camp, Debby Williams, Robin Fowler, Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Kalee Mielke and Trustee, Ted Camp.

Absent: Mark Burr, Sarah Handley-Cousins.

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

Choose a new President and Vice President- Edie B. volunteered to be President and Dave D. volunteered to be Vice President. All attending members approved

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update- Kalee had a Member of Discernment Luncheon on 3/13. She will have a meeting soon with the Committee to discuss where she is on her spiritual journey and will be meeting with her advisor soon. Working on her project of bringing nursing home ministry to our church. She is busy with Hospice Niagara, working at Northgate and doing home visits. She is studying Isaiah and will be preaching on it to the congregation in April.

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - motioned for approval by Peter K. and seconded by George D. All attending members approved.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> (Ron Janiszewski)

As of 03/03/2023 there is a balance of \$47,628.71 in the operating account and \$16,554.37 in the restricted funds account. The payroll for 03/04/23 is already accounted for in this balance.

- The revenue for February is \$12,149.77 and the net income is \$-3,907.98. In comparison: The revenue for February 2022 was \$13,779.60. The net income for February 2022 was \$-293.21. YTD revenue for 2023 is \$33,033.40. YTD income for 2023 is \$553.07. In comparison the YTD revenue for 2022 was \$27,983.62 and the net income was \$1411.93.
- Notable P&L events in February: Expense of Pastor's FICA \$1489.00. There was also an expense of \$2421.00 for quarterly payments to the UCC.
- The report was motioned for approval by Dave D. and seconded by Debby W. All attending members approved.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

Congregation was update during congregational meeting

Projects they are working on

a. Working on camera angles to get them where the view is best

b. Parking lot survey-engineering team did a walk-through of the grounds

Note-barrier right now is cost of asphalt

Window blind project was completed at a cost of \$3,600 with free installation

Blizzard reaction and prep-identifying needs in case of emergency

Generator coming this week. Motion for approve generator was made by Dave D. and seconded by Rev. Pierre. All attending members approved.

Formal document being worked on of what Consistory and Trustee duties are. As it will be in writing, it will prove accountability to the congregation and be flexible if changes are needed in the future

Pastor's Report - Pastor Duffy

Lent & Holy Week plans

Tuesday Lenten Studies on the Via Dolorosa (Stations of the Cross), 6pm during Lent in the Sanctuary. (Not on March 21st, since Pastor Duffy will be away)

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7pm

Good Friday, April 7th, church open for Stations of the Cross and Labyrinth

Good Friday, KenTon Youth Vigil at Zion, 7-10pm

Holy Saturday, April 8th: Youth will host fundraiser (Breakfast with the Easter Bunny) Easter Sunday: April 9th

Pastor Duffy will be looking for volunteers to help delivery of flowers before Easter. (Wed.April 5).

Pastor Duffy has her final event with the Next Generation Leadership Initiative in Arizona from March 21-24. This finishes up her 10 years of continued training with NGLI. She will be back Friday morning.

She will be away the Sunday after Easter - Kalee will be preaching on Isaiah (text she's currently studying in school).

The Youth Group is heading north to Massena, NY for the mission trip this July

<u>Old Business</u>:

Upcoming Committee Night: May 9th, 7-9pm, Consistory to meet briefly at 6:30pm. Ted will announce in church.

Continue to look at pictures for the Overflow Room.

NRC Appreciation Dinner: Network is finalizing plans this coming week so more information will be coming

New Business:

1. Sacristry renovations

Discussion occurred about what the Altar Guild would need and why.

The decision was to have Altar Guild meet and discuss needs and formulate plans to present to Consistory and Trustees.

2.Pastor Elizabeth read our constitution notes about the breakdown of financial responsibilities between Consistory and Trustees and that Consistory's duties are the day-to-day maintenance of the church, so it runs smoothly while trustees are responsible for the physical aspect of making sure the church runs smoothly and safely.
3.Discussion made about getting new members for Women's Fellowship and restarting Men's Fellowship. Announcements will be made about this.

Committee Reports:

Administration (George)- no report

PPRC (George) -no report

Christian Education & Missions (Edie)- children are participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing Project Coffee hour & Community Dinners (Peter)- Dinners are going well and Ted brought up that some new coffee machines needed to be purchased to replace the older ones (one is broken)

Memorials-(Mark) – no report

Community Assistance Ministry- (Dave D.)- no report

Health Ministry- (Debby)- Hospice Buffalo and Palliative Care representative will be coming Saturday March 25 11am -12 noon to talk about their many programs. It will continue to be announced in church. Hoping for more interest. The Babysitting course by Epic Trainings will be offered to kids 11 years and older on April 29th from 10-3. Working with the con Alzheimer Association to come and speak on the subject and what services they provide. Will all be advertised in the Zionite and announced in church as well.

- Environmental Ministry (Rev Pierre)- The church received a grant of \$2,500 to hire a youth interested in assisting in the summer gardens. Nathan expressed interest in this, and the grant money will be used to pay his PT salary for the Summer.
- Pastoral Care Ministry Team (Kalee)- Note: Kailee's plans for the nursing home ministry- in development stage

Food Pantry- (Mark)- doing great; they have about 11-15 regulars coming every week

- Altar Guild- (Robin) –was a covered in New Business. Sue House will be told the results of what was discussed so she can plan a meeting.
- New Member- (Pastor)- Pastor Duffy said a few people are interested in transferring to our church and become new members
- Network of Religious Communities (Rev. Pierre)- meeting to be held this coming week so no report

Closing: At 8:55 pm, the meeting was called to adjourn by Debby W and seconded by George D. The rest of the group approved.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 11th at 7 pm. Respectfully Submitted, Debby Williams Consistory Secretary

