



# Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Hello Church,

What a quick summer this was! It always seems as though summer goes by too quickly. I guess that's why they say, "Time flies when you're having fun."

One of the highlights of my summer was our Youth Mission Trip to Massena, NY. We took a total of 51 youth and adults to Massena, where they worked hard to remove invasive Japanese Knot Wood (similar to Bamboo), helped clear land for a new Habitat for Humanity house, and worked with seniors in the community to repaint a porch and other miscellaneous tasks. You'll find pictures in this newsletter, so I want to share some of the most meaningful moments I took away from this trip:

First, our youth are phenomenal. Seriously, they're great kids. Watching them grow up through the challenges of teenage life into the wonderful young adults they're becoming is a privilege. The way in which our teenagers support one another and care for one another is beautiful. Watching them grow into people who own their faith is a powerful thing to witness.

Second, our youth are seriously hard workers! I hope you can tell from the pictures how hard these kids work. I had to bring a sandwich out to Brennan one day because he didn't want to take a break for lunch! Do they have fun? Yes! But do they work hard all week? You bet!

Third, I can't express what a privilege it is to work alongside our young adult leaders who, just a few years ago, were teenagers themselves. You'll find a picture in the next pages from the free day with Brianna, Megan, Zak, and myself. I was able to spend the day with these 3 amazing adults, and all I can say is that I hope my own children grow up the way these young adults have!

Lastly (and I could go on...), working with our sister churches for youth group and mission trips benefits our own kids and our area churches tremendously. The connections our kids have from youth group, to mission trips, to camp at Dunkirk, creates a network of young people of faith who grow up with one another through faith-based programs. I can't express how fortunate we are to have this network! This year, my son's homeroom and science teacher is an adult who I have known for years because she goes to our sister church and attended mission trips with me as a teen!

If you have kids or grandkids, I highly recommend getting them involved with Dunkirk and Youth Group as soon as possible!!

Be blessed, Pastor Elizabeth



# Church Events

- **Worship ► Sundays at 9am & 10:45am**  
(Starting September 17th)
- **Summer Worship ► Sundays at 9:30am**  
(ending on September 3rd)
- **Rally Day Worship ► September 10 at 10am**
- **Sunday School ► 9:30 on Sep. 3, 10am on**  
**September 10, 9am on September 17th and**  
**throughout the school year**
- **Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live**
- **Nursery ► Open and staffed on Sundays**
- **Youth Group ► 1st Friday at Zion, 3rd Friday**  
**at Nativity, 7-10pm**
- **Food Pantry ► Open Every Mon 10am-**  
**12pm (Closed on Labor Day—open 9/5)**
- **AA ► Saturdays at 10am & 1pm**
- **AA: Rigorously Honest ► Thurs. at 5:30pm**
- ♦ **Bell Choir Practice ► Wed @6:30pm**
- ♦ **Chancel Choir Practice ► Wed @7:30pm**
- ♦ **September 3 ► Baptism of Ayumi Naples**
- ♦ **September 10 ► Rally Day! 10am worship**
- ♦ **September 12 ► Consistory at 7pm**
- ♦ **September 13 ► Exercise with Dawn, 6pm**
- ♦ **September 15 ► Youth Group at Nativity, 7-**  
**10pm**
- ♦ **September 17 ► Resume two services, 9am**  
**and 10:45am (Sunday School at 9am)**
- ♦ **September 18 ► Trustees at 6pm**
- ♦ **September 24 ► Baptism of Decker Jackson**  
**at 10:45am**
- ♦ **September 27 ► Exercise with Dawn, 6pm**
- ♦ **September 30 ► Niagara Falls Retreat with**  
**Kalee**
- ♦ **September 30 ► Crop Walk at Zion UCC**
- ♦ **September 30 ► Free Community Dinner**



**We're hosting the KenTon Crop Walk  
this year on September 30th! Sign up to  
walk and talk to Debbie Grine if you  
would like to help.**

## Consistory Meeting Minutes

[www.zionuccton.com/meeting-minutes](http://www.zionuccton.com/meeting-minutes)

## Sunday School Forms

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

[www.zionuccton.com/sunday-school/](http://www.zionuccton.com/sunday-school/)

## Wedding Forms

Have an upcoming wedding to schedule?

[www.zionuccton.com/weddings/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.zionuccton.com/funeral-plans/)

## Rally Day

Rally Day worship is on September 10th at 10am followed by a picnic.

Kids, join us for the start of Sunday School!

Everyone: join us for worship and a picnic!

## Two Services Resume

Two services resume on September 17th.

Be sure to join us on Sundays!

9am Contemporary Worship &

Sunday School

10:45am Traditional Worship & Choirs

## Confirmation Class

All kids grades 6+ who have not yet been confirmed are welcome to join us in Confirmation Class this year! This is the start of a new class, so even if your child has not been in Sunday School for a while, that's ok! Join us for this new Confirmation Class!

## Youth Group

Youth Group resumes on September 15th at Church of the Nativity. All youth ages 12+ are welcome to join!

1st Sunday of the month: @Zion, 7-10

3rd Sunday of the month: @Nativity 7-10

## Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center

Can't wait until next summer to get back to camp? No problem! Register today at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com) for one of our themed weekend youth camps. Star Wars weekend is September 15-17 for kids in grades 2-9. Harry Potter weekend is September 22-24 for kids in grades 3-10 and Outdoor Adventure weekend is October 20-22 for kids in grades 3-11. These fun-filled weekends are a big hit with the kids and spaces are limited. Drop-off is 6:30 - 7:00pm on Friday with pick-up on Sunday at 11:30am. Register today to reserve your spot!





## Pastoral Care Classes

**First Wednesday of the next 4 months  
at 4:00 PM**

Wednesday, Sept. 6th: The Enneagram  
(Truity.com has a free Enneagram test - please take  
before class)

Wednesday, Oct. 4th: Hope

Wednesday, November 1st: Gratitude

Wednesday, December 6th: Christmas Crafts



## Niagara Falls Spiritual Retreat

Date: Saturday, September 30th

Time: 9:00 AM (Meet at Zion) - 1:00 PM



Saturday, October 14th

# HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

We are looking for volunteers to decorate  
cabins and pass out candy for the event.

If you are interested in sponsoring a cabin or  
donating candy please contact Anne  
at 716-366-1900

**We need volunteers to put together a cabin for  
Dunkirk's Halloween Happening!**

Are you available on October 14th to help deco-  
rate a cabin and then hand out candy from  
4-7pm?

If so, sign up on the bulletin board!

And even if you can't attend, you can bring in  
candy for us to hand out if you're able!



## Spiritual Formation Making Bread Rolls



Date: Saturday, November 4th  
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Cost:  
\$40

Location: Niagara Falls Culinary Institute

**There will be an introduction class at Zion on  
Wednesday, November 1st at 5:00 PM. On this day you  
will get all of the information needed for Saturday,  
November 4th's class. Plan to attend both classes.**

**We also plan to connect spirituality with bread making  
in fun creative ways.**

**AnnMarie Destino will teach bread-making and Kalee  
Mielke will integrate spirituality.**

And parents, this is a great event  
to bring kids to and to check out  
Dunkirk Camp and Conference  
Center!



**Save the Date for our 2nd Trunk or Treat!**

**Last year was such a success, we're doing it again! To sign up to host a "Trunk", click this link:**

<https://www.zionuccton.com/tot/>



# LISTENING WORKSHOP

LEARN HOW TO  
ACTIVELY LISTEN

Saturday,  
October 14  
9:30-12:30  
at Zion UCC



## **Zion is hosting a Listening Workshop!**

*We are hoping to have a minimum of 5 people to attend this training! Sign up is on the bulletin board near the parking lot.*

### **What is this workshop?**

Rev. Dr. Bruce McKay will teach us how to participate in "Liberating Listening" which is actively listening to others in a way that builds relationships and brings healing. Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Pierre, and Bill Tyrrell attended the first workshop and were very impressed.

Please consider signing up for this workshop so we can equip more of our people with these listening tools!

During Sunday worship, before we left Massena at the end of the Mission Trip, some of the kids were asked to share reflections. Madi, who has been attending Zion along with her boyfriend, Nathan Hengst, and attended the mission trip, shared this reflection:

"I didn't grow up going to church, so the only experience I had was horror stories from my parents of judgmental Sundays when they were forced to attend by their parents or reports of people using the Bible to promote hatred and prejudice. That's what I expected to find when I went with my boyfriend and his family. But Instead I found a group of people that used their religion to promote peace rather than to scold and shame. Though it was my first day, I could feel the community. So I kept coming back. Now I know that I am a part of that community."

This trip has only further solidified this feeling. Most of the people here already knew one another but I never once felt excluded. I've made so many friends this week and been able to help many people and for that I am grateful.

Honestly, I'm still discovering if I believe in Jesus, but I do believe in love, acceptance, forgiveness, and friendship. All of which I have found this week."





WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

# 2023 KEN-TON CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE **STEP** AT A TIME



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH  
STARTS FROM ZION THIS YEAR!

*REGISTRATION AT 9:30 AM, WALK AT 10 AM*



Just \$30 equips a household with a daily supply of fresh, clean water for drinking, washing, and cooking.



\$75 provides a week's worth of groceries for a refugee settling into their new life in the U.S.

and 25% of funds raised stays local to support our food pantries!

**TO REGISTER OR MAKE A DONATION:**

Scan the QR Code or see Debbie Grine





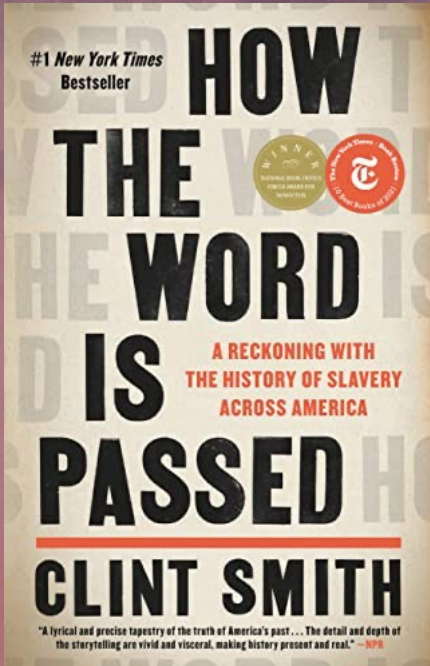
# Book Study with Barb Miller: How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith

September 25th

October 16th

October 30th

7pm in the overflow room



"This *NY Times* #1 bestselling book is a deeply researched exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history. This is Smith's first non-fiction book, and it deftly illustrates how some of our nation's most essential stories are hidden in plain view—whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted. Informed by scholarship and brought to life by the story of people living today, this book offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be." Rev. Gary Smith



## Community Speaker's Bureau

Check out our  
own Debby  
Williams!

*"As chair of the health ministry at my church, I invited a speaker from Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo to provide education to our faith community. Everyone learned that compassion, care, and guidance are needed most if there is a serious illness. The information provided was invaluable, and a couple of attendees reached out the next day to get help for their loved ones."*

— Debby Williams  
Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo Volunteer







# Mission Trip 2023





