

Dear Church,

I was listening to a podcast today with Dr. Claude Steele, a Stanford professor and a social psychologist. He mentioned that one of the reasons people go to church on Sundays religiously is because they need a break from the constant cycle of 'everything in the world is bad' and they need the reminder that there is hope.

I loved that message of why people go to church religiously, because I think, in some ways, he's right. There is a constant reminder of how bad things are in the world, but we worship a Good God, and we believe that there is a Savior in this world, and we want to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so when we come to church on Sunday, we get that reminder. And I don't know about you, but I need the reminder that there is hope in this world. I need that reminder that God makes all things good. I need that reminder that the lives we're living have purpose and meaning beyond what we can see.

So if you're in church this Sunday (in particular) and every Sunday, I hope you get the reminder that you need that yes, there is hope! And as we journey through the Season of Advent, I hope you can find the joy, peace, and love that we find in Christ. Even if it's hard to find those things in this world, may you find them when you enter this church.

I'm excited for what we have coming this month. We have a wonderful Sunday Services, a Children's Christmas program, a Blue Christmas Service, and two Christmas Eve services planned (and let's pray a blizzard doesn't change these plans!), and my hope is that when you come to any (or all) of these services, you are filled with a sense of Hope and Peace that you can't get anywhere else in this world. I hope that you come into God's Church searching, and that you find the good news that you are looking for.

I hope to see all of you these Advent and Christmas Seasons. And if you ever enter these walls feeling like 'everything is bad', I pray you leave with a seed of hope. Because in God, there is always hope.

In Christ,

Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Worship ➤ Sundays at 9am & 10:45am
- Sunday School ➤ 9am
- 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 ► Every Tuesday 10am-12pm
- AA ➤ Sat. at 10am & 1pm, Thurs. at 5:30pm
- Bell Choir Practice ➤ Wed @6:30pm
- Chancel Choir Practice ➤ Wed @7:30pm
- Dec 1 ➤ Youth Group @Zion, 7-10pm
- Dec 9 ➤ Bread Making with AnnMarie and Kalee
- Dec 9 ➤ Pageant Recording
- Dec 11, 7pm ➤ Consistory
- Dec 13, 5:30pm ➤ Exercise with Dawn
- Dec 15 ➤ Youth Group @Nativity, 7-10pm
- Dec 16 ➤ Breakfast with Santa, \$5 per person, sign up online:

www.zionuccton.com/Santa

- Dec 16 ➤ Living Nativity at Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, 5 & 6pm
- Dec 17, 10am ➤ Children's Christmas
 Service
- Dec 18 ➤ KenTon Blue Christmas at Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, 7pm
- Dec 24 ► 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas
 Carol Service, 10am
- Dec 24 ➤ Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 5 & 7pm
- Dec 30 ➤ Community Dinner, 5pm
- Dec 31 ➤ One Service @10am

For more events:

www.zionuccton.com/events

Advent & Christmas Schedule



Dec 3: 1st Sunday of Advent 9 & 10:45

Dec 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent 9 & 10:45

Dec 16: Breakfast with Santa, 10am

Dec 16: Living Nativity at Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, 5 & 6pm

Dec 17: Children's Christmas Service, 10am

Dec 18: KenTon Blue Christmas at Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, 7pm

Dec 24: 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Carol Service, 10am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 5 & 7pm

December 31: One Service, 10am

Consistory Meeting Minutes

www.zionuccton.com/meeting-minutes

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 available 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/



Christmas Presents



ARC Christmas Tags are due back on December 9th. Thank you to all who took tags and shopped for kids in need!

If you're looking for a gift for someone who has everything and would rather make a donation in their name, consider purchasing a gift from Heifer International at www.Heifer.org/gift-catalog or call 1-855-848-6437.



Do you, or someone you know, need help with Christmas presents this year? If so, let Pastor Elizabeth know, and we can help!

No one other than Pastor Elizabeth will know if you come to her for help with gifts, and we do not want anyone in the church struggling to make ends meet this Christmas.

We help many people in our community during Christmas, but we know there could be an unknown need in our church. So email, text, call, or talk to Pastor Elizabeth directly if you or someone you know needs assistance (the sooner the better so she's not shopping on Christmas Eve...)



Christmas Pageant Roles

We will record these roles on December 9th. Please come in 10-15 minutes prior to the time of your scene so you can receive your costume. There will be a non-church event in the fellowship hall, so consider parking on the street and entering the church through the Narthex.

Sign up: https://bit.ly/411Z02q

Angels

9am recording

Perfect role for all

little ones who

want to be Angels

Intro:
9:30 recording
Narrator

Scene One:

9:40 recording
Mary
Angel Gabriel
Talking Dove
(voice only,
older teen)

Scene Two: 10am recording Joseph Talking Dog

(voice only)

Joseph's Angel

Scene Three: 10:20 recording Mary Joseph

Talking Donkey
Narrator
Baby Jesus

Scene Four: 10:40 recording

Shepherd #1
Shepherd #2
Talking Sheep x4
Shepherd's Angel

Scene Five: 11am recording

Talking Camel
(voice only)
Wise Person #1
Wise Person #2
Wise Person #3
King Herod
Narrator

Choir 11:30 recording

All kids and adults who want to help sing the first line of the following songs, come be a part of this role!

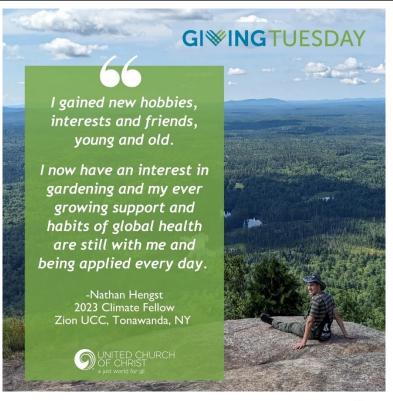
First lines of the following songs:

- We Wish You a Merry Christmas
- What child is this?
 - O Come All Ye Faithful
- Away in a Manger
- Hark! the Herald
 Angels Sing
- Joy to the World



We will make room for anyone who wants to be a part of the show!

If the roles fill up, please let Pastor Elizabeth know and we'll find a role for you!





CALLING ALL NEW MEMBERS!

Are you interested in joining the church?

If so, join us on Monday, January 8th, for a New Member Dinner at 6pm!

All are welcome!

Have you attended for years and realized you've never joined? Join us for dinner!

Have you just started attending and want to know more? Join us for dinner!

Do you know you want to join and are so excited?! Join us for dinner!

This Christmas end a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the wonder of Earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it yet

Once again.

lessonslearnedinlife.com

Would you like to help deliver Christmas
Poinsettias?
If so, meet at Church on:
Wednesday, December 20th, at 10am

Each person will deliver a couple poinsettias to church members

Sign up is on the bulletin board.

Thank you!

Remembering Margaret Goerss & Becky Belling, both of whom returned home to the Lord in November.





Saturday Thanksgiving Dinner at Zion

*Sadly not photographed: Ted Camp who cooked all the turkeys! Also not photographed are Ted's assistants, Jake Korte and Melissa Korte.



SCAM WARNING

If you have received a text message from 716-936-2750 claiming to be from your pastor, it is a scam. Do not reply to it and if possible, Report as Spammer or Block Sender.

Christmas Pageant

Don't miss this year's pageant and Children's
Christmas Sunday!
December 17th
One Service at 10am!

Living Nativity at Church of the Nativity

December 16 at 5pm and then again at 6pm 1560 Colvin Blvd, Tonawanda

Living Nativity at Ebenezer

December 17 At 6pm and 6:30pm 630 Main St. West Seneca, NY



Important News! We're now a Red Cross Shelter in case of emergency!

Background: After the blizzard last year and the power outage in the neighborhood, we had an emergency generator installed at church. It kicks on whenever the power goes out.

What does this mean: If there is an emergency in our area (blizzard, shooting, etc.), Red Cross can use our building as a shelter. They will have access to Kuck Hall, the kitchen, the bathrooms, the nursery, and one of the classrooms. The office will only be available if staff needs a place to do paperwork.

Storm Prep: If there is a large blizzard anticipated in our area, the Red Cross might park a truck in our parking lot with supplies in case they need to open up the shelter.

Thank you to Brianna Grine and our Trustees for making this possible!

