



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Hello Church,

November is here, and that means my mind is already thinking about Advent and Christmas: Which means for me, it's time to start planning for the Advent and Christmas seasons. It's time to get the Pageant roles in order. It's time to pick up some tags for kids and teens in need. It's time to plan for Christmas Eve services and it's time to start praying that a blizzard doesn't squash our Christmas plans!

The pumpkins are still outside from Halloween, but my mind goes straight past Thanksgiving and straight to Advent and Christmas. It's not that I don't look forward to Thanksgiving, but nothing brings me quite as much joy as preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Just last night, as my kids were eating their Halloween candy, they both stated that Halloween is okay, but Christmas is their favorite holiday; and it's not just because of the treats and the presents that come at Christmas, but it's also because they know there is so much more meaning to that day than the gifts they give and receive. And that's the special thing about raising kids in the Church—they know that there is more to Christmas (and Easter) than what the secular world celebrates; they know that it's a testimony to God's love for us.

Of course, I don't want to skip this month of Thankfulness. Thanksgiving gives us pause to remember to give thanks for the people we have in our lives. We can also give thanks for the things we have in our lives to provide shelter and safety, but I hope we give even more thanks for the people in our lives than we do for the things. I saw a quote today by John Green that read: "People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used."

So as Thanksgiving approaches, and the shopping extravaganza begins, let us reflect on that quote. How can our actions this November and December reflect our love for people and not for things. And how can we teach this lesson to our children as well—remembering that the best lesson is by example.

May you be blessed by the love of God,

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
- ♦ November 3 ► Youth Group @Zion, 7-10pm
- ♦ November 4 ► Meat Raffle @Knights of the Columbus, www.zionuccton.com/MEAT
- ♦ November 8, 5:30pm ► Exercise with Dawn
- ♦ November 11 ► Western Area CWS Period Pack Assembly. Join our sister churches in helping assemble period packs for Church World Service at Amherst Com. Church, 77 Washington Hwy, Amherst, 10am.
- ♦ November 14, 7pm ► Consistory
- ♦ November 17 ► Youth Group @Nativity, 7-10pm
- ♦ November 20, 6pm ► Trustees
- ♦ November 22, 5:30pm ► Exercise with Dawn
- ♦ November 25 ► Thanksgiving Community Dinner <https://bit.ly/3shWwAa>
- ♦ December 9th ► Bread Making with AnnMarie and Kalee (sign up on the bulletin board)
- ♦ December 16th ► Breakfast with Santa, \$5 per person, sign up online: www.zionuccton.com/Santa

For more events:

www.zionuccton.com/events



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S

MEAT RAFFLE

SAT. NOVEMBER 4

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM | FIRST SPIN AT 7PM

DON'T BE CHICKEN. THERE'S A LOT AT STEAK.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT ZIONUCCTON.COM/MEAT



Deck the Halls



We will decorate the Church for Christmas at the end of the month. Please let Pastor know what date works best for you if you're able to help: Nov. 24/25/26. Thank you!

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 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/



Christmas Presents



Would you like to buy presents for a child or teen in need? If so, we'll have gift tags available this month for members to pick up and purchase Christmas gifts for those in need.

And if you're looking for a gift for someone who has everything and would rather a donation in their name, consider purchasing one of these gifts in their honor. You can also purchase Heifer International gifts in honor of others at [www. Heifer.org/gift-catalog](http://www.Heifer.org/gift-catalog) or call 1-855-848-6437.



Remembering Carol Beyer & Marsha Beyer who both returned home to the Lord last month.



**BUY YOUR
CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS
\$8.00**

NAME: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR IN HONOR OF: _____

DONATE TO SHUT INS: ☐ YES ☐ NO

COLOR: ☐ RED ☐ PINK ☐ MARBLE

PICK UP AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Order form and check to Zion UCC must be in by 11/30

Forms are collected online or in the back of the sanctuary.

Online Orders: www.zionuccton.com/flowers

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have some spare time during the week and would you like to volunteer at the church? If so, sign up on the bulletin board.

***Pantry volunteers and volunteers for November 11th are in need.**

NOVEMBER OFFICE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

LOCATION	DUTIES	
CHURCH OFFICE	GREET PEOPLE/ANSWER PHONES	
DATE	NAME	TIME FRAME?
MON, NOV 6		
TUE, NOV 7		
WED, NOV 8		
THUR, NOV 9		
MON, NOV 13		
TUE, NOV 14		
WED, NOV 15		
THUR, NOV 16		
FRI, NOV 17		
MON, NOV 20		
TUE, NOV 21		
WED, NOV 22		
MON, NOV 27		
TUE, NOV 28		
WED, NOV 29		
THUR, NOV 30		

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN ON TUESDAYS FROM 10AM TO 12PM. VOLUNTEERS SIT IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL TO WELCOME PANTRY GUESTS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND OFFER ADDITIONAL ITEMS WHEN THEY'RE AVAILABLE.

DATE	NAME	TIME
TUE, NOV 7		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, NOV 14		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, NOV 21		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, NOV 28		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, DEC 5		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, DEC 12		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, DEC 19		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, DEC 26		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, JAN 2		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, JAN 9		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, JAN 16		9:45AM-12PM
TUE, JAN 23		9:45AM-12PM

Volunteer Opportunity

Join us on November 11th at 10am
at Amherst Community Church
77 Washington Hwy
Amherst, NY

As we put together period packs.

Please also collect and bring along the following donations:

1-gallon size re-sealable bags

2oz bottle hand sanitizers

4-gallon bathroom trash bags

Travel Packs of Wet Ones

Regular Tampons

Super absorbency Tampons

Pads (Unscented, Long super ultra-thin.)

Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove

from packaging.)

Packs of flushable wipes (Unscented, 42 count)

Fragrance-free laundry sheets

Small Zip-lock bags

NO STUDENT should have to stay home because they do not have access to period products. Help us make a difference!

Questions? Call Pastor Krista: 716-572-5642

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



Bread Class (New Date)

**Saturday, December
9th**

**Location: Niagara Falls
Culinary Institute**

**Meet at Zion
at 8:45 AM**



**Our November Community Dinner will be a
Thanksgiving meal!**

**We will need plenty of helpers, so sign up online (link below).
And come enjoy this time of service with church members as
we prepare this meal together! If we run out of sign up spots,
come anyways to help! The more the merrier!**

<https://bit.ly/3shWwAa>



Send us photos of you with your church family!



Trunk-or-Treat 2023 at Zion UCC!



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.

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

Christmas Pageant

We will record for the Christmas Pageant at the beginning of December. Start talking to your kids about what part they would like to play in our Christmas Pageant Film!

(Mary, Joseph, Angel, Sheep, Shepherd, Wise person, Star...)

Christmas Assistance

If you or anyone you know is in need of Christmas Assistance, please talk to the pastor by calling 716-836-6220.

We can help with purchasing Christmas presents and/or meals.



On November 1st and 2nd, Colvin Cleaners will collect for

Coats 4 Kids with LIVE DRIVES!

You can bring any coats, hats, scarves, boots, or gloves to:

NOVEMBER 1st, 2023 | 4-6:30 PM

Market in the Square

Southgate Plaza

940 Union Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224

NOVEMBER 2nd, 2023 | 4-6:30 PM

Rusell's Steaks, Chops, and More

6675 Transit Rd, Williamsville, NY 14221

Submissions for the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Newsletter:

In the Vineyard asks the question:

"Where do you find hope and inspiration when life seems overwhelming?"

For inclusion in the winter issue, please send your response

to loismaevid@yahoo.com by

November 12, along with your church name, if you so desire.



BREAKFAST WITH
SANTA

JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WITH SANTA!

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
15 KOENIG CIRCLE
TONAWANDA, NY

December 16, 2023 at 10am

\$5 per person

*Enjoy a pancake breakfast and then
take your own pictures with Santa!*

Sign up online at www.zionuccton.com/santa