



# Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

I like reading devotionals and reflections, and recently one of them had some advice from Rev. Dr. Brian McLaren that caught my attention. This was the advice:

**Lifelong Learning:** Do not think the knowledge you presently possess is changeless, complete, and absolute truth.... Be open to the Holy Spirit and practice childlike humility...

There are some people who claim to know everything concretely. But even the Apostle Paul understood that he didn't know all that there was to know. In 1 Cor 13:12b, he says, "Now I know only in part, then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." That's Paul's way of saying that when his life is complete, and he sees God face to face in the Kingdom of Heaven, he will finally know all there is to know, but until then, his knowledge is incomplete.

I find that when people are arrogant about their beliefs, they become judgmental, and sometimes mean. **But our faith, all rooted in the salvific grace of Jesus, should not be arrogant or judgmental.** If we believe that Jesus gave us the power of the Holy Spirit, then we should be open to God's guidance in the most powerful, profound and unorthodox ways.

If you were here on Christmas Eve, you heard me talk about St. Francis, and his love for nature and his decorating the trees with lights to show God's love. St. Francis had a constant, childlike "wonder" as he experienced God and God's love. He was open to the Holy Spirit, he didn't focus on absolute truths, but he worshipped God in a deeply spiritual and experiential way. I think St. Francis would have loved the advice from Brian McLaren above.

So while we live in a world that is full of people claiming concrete truths, **let us hold on to the Truth of Jesus, but otherwise be open to the works of the Holy Spirit all around us.** Let us feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and worship God with a childlike wonder. Let us be guided by God's presence and be filled with God's joy. There's a lot of heaviness in this world, but there's also wonder. And God wants us to find Him in that wonder.

In Christ's abundant love,

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 \*except February due to WAY retreat
- 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
- ♦ January 5 ► Youth Group ice skating, 7pm
- ♦ January 6 ► Epiphany
- ♦ January 8 ► New Member Dinner, 6pm
- ♦ January 9 ► Consistory, 7pm
- ♦ January 10 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- ♦ January 19 ► Youth Group at Nativity, 7pm
- ♦ January 21 ► New Member Sunday!
- ♦ January 22 ► Trustees, 6pm
- ♦ January 24 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- ♦ January 27 ► Community Dinner, 5pm
- ♦ February 9-11 ► WAY Youth Retreat
- ♦ February 13 ► Consistory, 7pm
- ♦ February 14 ► Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm
- ♦ February 17 ► Women's Fellowship
- ♦ February 19 ► Trustee's Meeting
- ♦ February 20 ► Lenten Bible Study, 6pm
- ♦ February 24 ► Community Dinner, 5pm
- ♦ February 27 ► Lenten Bible Study, 6pm
- ♦ February 28 ► Exercise with Dawn 5:30pm
- ♦ March 1 ► Youth Group, 7pm @Zion

Save the Date:

Annual Meeting, March 10

Worship at 10:30am

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

January 21, 2024

We're ready to welcome New Members to our Church! Join us as we welcome the following new members of Zion UCC:

**Angie & Marty Staniszewski**

**Rodney Beyer**

**Karen Putnam**

**Madi Feng**

**Jim & Cheryl Logan**

**Linda Clark**

**Carol & Dennis Kieffer**

**Ellen Hughes**

**Marcel & Mary Ross**

*If you or someone you know would like to officially join the church, reach out to Pastor Elizabeth.*

*There is still time to join on the 21st!*

## Please Note:

**Char Burchfield has a new address!**

**746 Hazel St.**

**Livermore, CA 94550**

## 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 Sunday 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 available 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/)



# Kalee's Announcements

**Pastoral Care Classes**  
**4:00 PM**

**Wed. February 7th - Healing and Letting Go**

**Wed. March 6th - Preparing for Easter**

**Wed. April 3rd - How to Make a Prayer Room**



**The Chosen in Theaters Early  
February**

**Come watch season 4 premier together. The date and  
time will be decided in mid-January.**



## Photos from AnnMarie and Kalee's Baking Class





# Youth Group Ice Skating



**Winter WAY Retreat Registration is up! Grades 7-12. Join us this February 9-11!**

(Please note: there is no regular scheduled Youth Group in February because of the retreat.)

Register online: [www.zionuccton.com/WAY](http://www.zionuccton.com/WAY)

## **Jr. WAY Carnival Day!**

A day of faith, fun, learning, and friendship. All children grades K-6 are welcome to attend!

**Location:** Ebenezer UCC  
630 Main St. West Seneca, NY

**Date:** March 9, 9:30-11:30am

**Registration:** [www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY](http://www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY)

**Questions:** Email Pastor Krista  
[Mybabes2@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mybabes2@roadrunner.com)

## NEW JR WAY!

Exciting news! We're starting a Jr. WAY for the younger kids!

All Western Area kids are welcome to attend our Jr. WAY Carnival Day at Ebenezer United Church of Christ on March 9 from 9:30-11:30am. Sign up online at

[www.zionuccton.com/jrway](http://www.zionuccton.com/jrway)

# Winter WAY Retreat

Grades 7-12

**FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024**

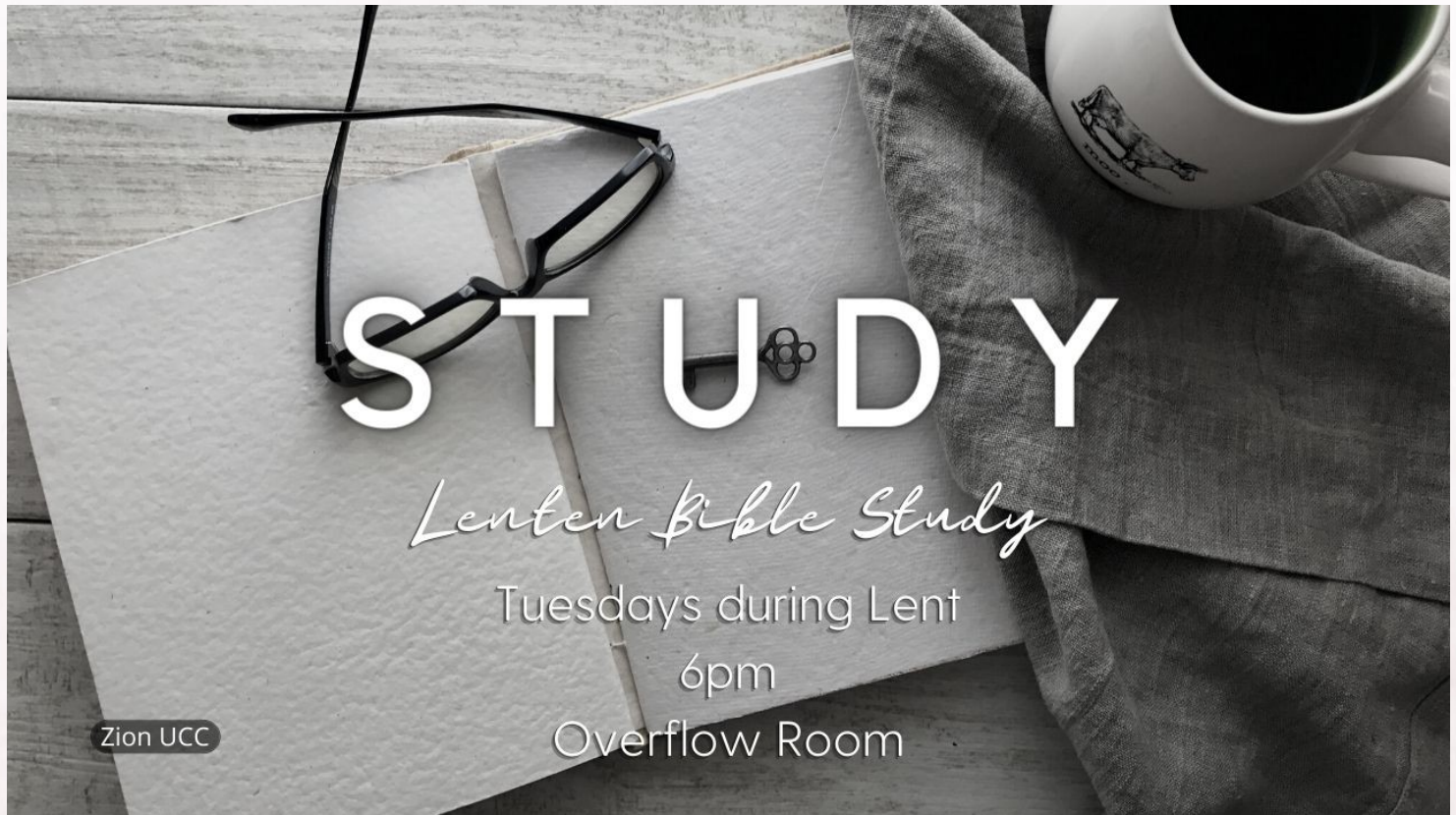
EPIPHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
9365 CLARENCE CENTER RD,  
CLARENCE, NY

**REGISTER:**  
[WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/WAY](http://WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/WAY)

**DROP OFF:**  
FEBRUARY 9, 6-7PM

**PICK UP:**  
FEBRUARY 11, AFTER WORSHIP  
AROUND 11AM





## Prepare for Easter during the Season of Lent

### Ash Wednesday Worship, Feb. 14.

Join us as we begin the Season of Lent with the reminder, "From dust we have come, to dust we shall return."  
7pm.

### Lenten Bible Study Tuesdays February 20-March 19

Join us in the Overflow Room  
Bring your own Bible or use one from church.  
6pm.

### Maundy Thursday Worship March 28

Join with us for this deeply spiritual worship service as we walk through the last supper.  
7pm.

### Good Friday March 29

Come to the church to walk the Labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross on this solemn Good Friday.  
8:30am-12pm.

Envelopes are available for pick up in Kuck Hall.

If you use envelopes for your giving, pick up your envelopes next time you're in church. If you do not have envelopes, but would like them, you can sign out a box in Kuck Hall.  
Thank you!

### Save the Date:

Annual Meeting of Zion UCC  
Approval of Officers &  
Annual Budget  
Date: March 10th  
10:30am Worship  
11:30am Meeting  
12:30pm Lunch

The Budget and list of Officers will be available two weeks prior to the meeting.

We have been asked to participated in a "Lights in the Darkness" event on Feb 6 from 7-8pm. It includes standing on the streets of Elmwood Ave for the hour (with other churches) holding lights and signs that say "Jesus is the light of the world." If you are interested in doing this, please contact Pastor Elizabeth. Thank you!





**This photo was recently donated to us from the family of Ronald Hewitt. It was originally in Friedens UCC prior to it's closing.**



## From the Center for Racial Justice

### Book Discussion

***The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois***  
by

by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

**THURSDAYS**

**January 25, February 1, 15, 22, 29**

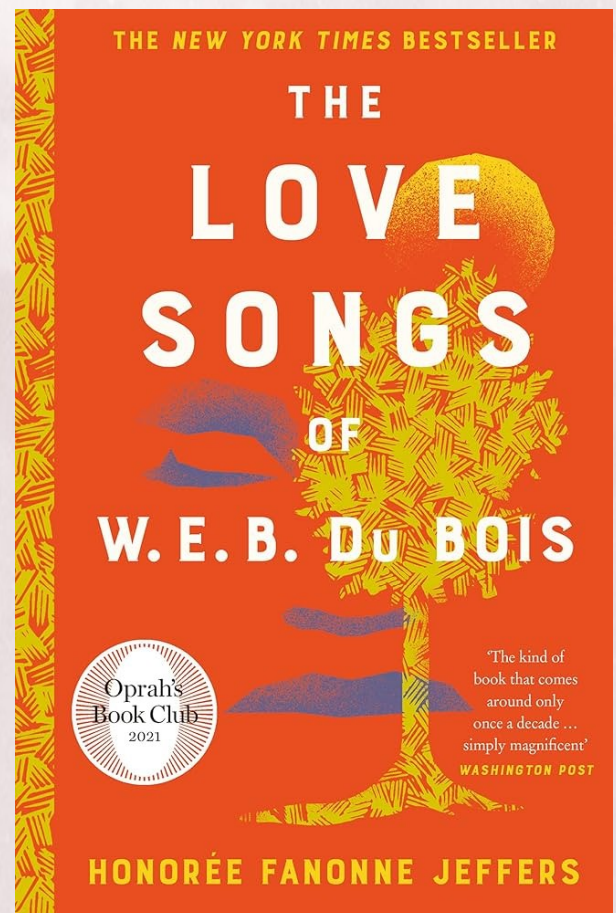
**6:30-8pm EST**

**via Zoom**

The NAACP Image Award-winning poet makes her fiction debut with this magisterial epic that chronicles the journey of one American family, from the centuries of the colonial slave trade through the Civil War to our own tumultuous era. Please read Songs I - III (pgs. 1-186) prior to the first session. This discussion 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>.





## **Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 01.09.2024**

### **Consistory Call to Order at 7:08 pm by Edie Bauer**

Due to weather, meeting was on Google Meet. Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Dave Dombrowski, Elena Camp, Debby Williams, Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Kalee Mielke, Edie Bauer and Trustee, Ted Camp and, W. George Darrall, and Robin Fowler

**Absent:** Sarah Handley-Cousins, and Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie

**Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes** - motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by Robin. All attending members approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- As of 1/6/2024 there is a balance of \$50,449.23 in the operating account and \$13482.54 in the restricted funds account.
- The revenue for December was \$12,525.26. The net income was \$-10,448.35. In comparison: The revenue for December 2022 was \$20,052.42. The net income for December 2022 was \$-1991.94. YTD revenue for 2023 was \$188,362.91. YTD income for 2023 was \$-8021.37. In comparison the YTD revenue for 2022 was \$190,118.73 and the net income was \$8790.08.
- The notable P&L events in December were:
- December was a 3-payroll month. This accounts for an additional \$4,500.00 in expense
- 54701 Property Insurance - This \$3,677.75 was for the payment due January 1st. Since this expense is falling back under the general budget, this expense line will have to be added to the budget with the full cost of \$14,711.00 for 2024.
- 54502 Treasurer Supplies - \$705.79 was for the annual renewal of the QuickBooks product
- We did end the year in the negative. This is not catastrophic since we have enjoyed several good years of surplus. However, as he mentioned previously this year, we must remain very cognizant of the fact that we are adding \$14,711.00 in expense for the insurance premium. A plan will need to be put in place to help absorb this expense or we will very rapidly deplete our funds.
- The donations for Christmas Eve will not be reflected till the January financials since they were not actually deposited until January 2, 2024.

### **Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID)**

- She is mentoring a student in CPE program who is interested in hospice pastoral care.
- She is taking her last two classes: Preaching and Being Mission. She will graduate May 18, 2024
- Meeting with Rev. John Lord about preaching at his church a few times.
- She is helping with a funeral this Friday 1/12.
- She is bringing Enzo, her dog to Hospice visits and has plans to get him certified to become a therapy dog so he can become a Hospice visitation dog.

### **Trustee's Report: Ted Camp**

- Trustees did not meet in December.
- It was mentioned at new member meeting on 1/9 about getting additional television or larger ones for services. Ted will bring it up at next Trustees meeting.

### **Pastor's Report (Pastor Duffy)**

- Had new member orientation on Monday 1/08. We have 11 new people who want to become members. January 21<sup>st</sup> will be the services when they become members of our church and Maddie will be baptized that day as well.
- A picture was donated that has Jesus with children. It was donated by Ron Hewitt's family and is currently hanging in the Children's Nursery
- Ted mentioned about pledge cards/stewardship and Pastor Duffy discussed about printing them in the bulletins and having Ted announce the pledge cards/stewardship.
- Bible study during Lent-TBA
- Ash Wednesday is February 14
- Annual Mission trip is being planned for July. Going to Michigan. Youth group retreat is planned for February.



- Jr. Way is having a Carnival Day March 9 from 9:30-11:30 am at Ebenezer UCC Church 630 Main Street in West Seneca. All children K-6 are welcomed to attend.
- Sr. Way (young adults) are planning their mission trip for next year and will be working with Habitat for Humanity.

#### **Current Business**

- Spent most of meeting going over upcoming budget line by line with discussion after each line item. Will continue to look it over and discuss it again next month. Will need to be presented to Trustees before Annual Meeting.

#### **Committee Reports**

- **Administration – no report**
- **PPRC- no report**
- **Christian Education & Missions- Sue Clark said kids are starting Valentines for the Veterans at the VA Hospital. ARC Project was very successful. Our church helped 16 children have a happy Christmas. Gift cards were collected for Plymouth Crossroads as well.**
- **Church Life + Community Dinners- Need more volunteer bakers for Coffee Hour. Community dinners are solid. The chicken parmesan dinner was a big hit.**
- **Memorials: Donations to the Memorial Fund were made in December for Mary Mueller, Margaret Goerss and Ron Hewitt. Total is \$5,488.40.**
- **Community Assistance Ministry- no report**
- **Health Ministry - Purchased a Life Vac Choking Device for kids and adults. It is in yellow labeled bag at the First Aid Station across from the woman's restroom. Includes masks for children and adults. Ted mentioned about purchasing another one for the kitchen. Will be investigated.**
- **Environmental Ministry- planted milkweed seeds for butterflies**
- **Pastoral Care Ministry Team- Will be going to see the next part of The Chosen in February. Information will be in the Zionite. Group will start meeting again the first Wednesday of the month and will be accessing who they are visiting. Information will be in Zionite.**
- **Food Pantry- over \$1,300 was collected by the congregation when asked for assistance. Thank you to the volunteers who have signed up to help for the 2-hour shifts on Tuesdays. The sign-up sheet is on the front bulletin board.**
- **Altar Guild- no report**
- **New Member- 11 new members will become members on January 21**
- **Network of Religious Communities- no report**

#### **Old Business:**

1. None.

#### **New Business**

- Need to look to see when the Consistory and Trustee member's term end.
- Pastor Duffy wants to send out survey on what congregation would like for Christmas Eve service for next year. People seemed to like the Lesson and Carol Service. Needs to talk to our musicians first before she sends it out.

**Debby made a motion to close meeting. Elena seconded it and all attending members approved.**

**Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.**

**Next Meeting: February 13th at 7 pm**

**Closing: At 8:52 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Debby Williams  
Consistory Secretary**



# STEWARDSHIP CARDS

Giving of time, talents, and tithes

Zion United Church of Christ

[www.zionuccton.com](http://www.zionuccton.com)



*These cards will be in the pews soon!  
Think about how you can give of  
your time, talent, and tithes in this  
new year!*

**All the  
believers  
were one  
in mind...  
they  
shared  
everything  
they had.**

Acts 4:32



## **Giving of Time:**

- Volunteer during the year
- ☐ Consistory
  - ☐ Trustees
  - ☐ Acolyte
  - ☐ Usher
  - ☐ Count the Offering
  - ☐ Community Dinners
  - ☐ Staff Food Pantry
  - ☐ Coffee Hour
  - ☐ Health Ministry
  - ☐ Outreach
  - ☐ Pastoral Care Team
  - ☐ Environmental Committee
  - ☐ Bible Study
  - ☐ Special Events
  - ☐ Altar Guild
  - ☐ Women's Fellowship
  - ☐ Youth Group
  - ☐ Other

## **Giving of Talents:**

- ☐ Building Improvement
- ☐ Cleaning/Maintenance
- ☐ Choir/Praise Band
- ☐ Lector
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Bake/Cook for Coffee Hour
- ☐ Fundraise
- ☐ Other

## **Giving of Tithes:**

- ☐ Envelope Giving
- ☐ Online Giving
- ☐ Recurring Giving
- ☐ One Time Giving
- ☐ Include Church in Will
- ☐ Sponsor events
- ☐ Donate to the Food Pantry
- ☐ Other

