



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

How have two months of 2024 already come to an end? Lately I feel like life is moving a little too quickly. But that's also one of the reasons why I love Sunday mornings so much. No matter what beckons us, Sunday morning is set aside for God. No matter what distracts us, it gets put on hold on Sunday mornings.

Even I feel this way. By the time 9am hits on Sunday morning, there is nothing more I can do to prepare for worship. I can't make any more changes to my sermon. When 9am hits, the next 3 hours are set aside for worshipping God.

For many of you, of course, it's only an hour set aside for God. And yet that hour makes a difference. And think about what 1 hour is in the span of a day, or in the span of a week. 1 hour is such a small amount of time. And yet we get to focus that 1 hour not on the worries and distractions, but on God.

And God enters into our hearts during worship in ways that it's hard to put into words. Sometimes those songs hit deeply. Sometimes I hear people say it was like the sermon was written just for them (but I promise, I never have any one person in mind when I write). Sometimes we just get caught up in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we feel our emotions more strongly in that hour of worship than we do any other time of the week.

And as a mom, I love watching my kids grow and learn on Sundays. Often, my kids ask me what the Children's Moment will be about before we get to church, and the conversations we have about the topics are deep and beautiful. I really love raising my kids in church; I think when they grow up, they'll look back and see that growing up in church was one of the biggest blessings in their lives.

That's why I love Sunday mornings.

Thank you, Lord, for gathering us on Sunday mornings.

May these mornings be a blessing to all of us and teach us to be a blessing to others.

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**
- **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**
- ♦ **March 1 ► Youth Group, 7pm @Zion**
- ♦ **March 7 ► Lenten Bible Study, 6pm**
- ♦ **March 9 ► Jr. WAY event at Ebenezer UCC
www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY**
- ♦ **March 10 ► Annual Meeting, 10:30 Worship, followed by 11:30 meeting and lunch.**
- ♦ **March 12 ► Consistory, 7pm**
- ♦ **March 14 ► Lenten Bible Study, 6pm**
- ♦ **March 15 ► Youth Group, 7pm**
- ♦ **March 15 ► Women's Fellowship, 11am**
- ♦ **March 18 ► Trustees, 7pm**
- ♦ **March 21 ► Lenten Bible Study, 6pm**
- ♦ **March 23 ► Basket Raffle at Zion! 12-3pm**
- ♦ **March 28 ► Maundy Thursday, 7pm**
- ♦ **March 30 ► Breakfast w/the Easter Bunny**
- ♦ **March 30 ► Community Dinner, 5pm**
- ♦ **March 31 ► Easter Sunday!**
- ♦ **Save the date: Zion's Listening Event & Dinner ► April 16th at 5:30pm!**

For more events:

www.zionuccton.com/events

Our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year is almost here!

Spread the word, sign up to volunteer, bring in baskets, and help in any way you can!

Zion UCC's Cabin Fever BASKET RAFFLE

Saturday, March 23

12-2:40pm

Drawing Starts at 3

**See flyers in this Zionite for more details.
Share the information on Facebook by
sharing this link:**

<https://fb.me/e/1u1nOblyx>

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/

Join Zion United Church of Christ for the 5th annual

Cabin Fever Basket Raffle

Baskets Galore - Door Prizes - 50/50 Draw - Superheroes
Crock-Pot Cookoff - Concessions - Bake Sale

Sat. March 23, 2024
12PM - 2:40PM | Drawing @3PM



Easter Flowers

Order Form

orders also accepted online
www.zionuccton.com/flowers

Lilies: \$13.00 each

Tulips: \$8.00 each

Lilies _____

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 17th.



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

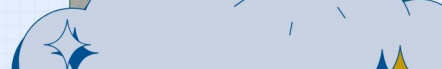


Jr. WAY Carnival Day!

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
Questions: Email Pastor Krista
Mybabes2@roadrunner.com





SIGN UP GENIES

We've moved our Lector Sign Up to Sign up Genie to make it more accessible. You can also sign up to help with our March Community Dinner on Holy Saturday.

Thank you for signing up!



MARCH DINNER

<https://bit.ly/3SPYW20>



LECTOR SIGN UP

<https://bit.ly/3UYB2nF>

Welcome to our New Conference Minister!

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams has been elected as the new Conference Minister of the NY Conference of the UCC. She has served as our Transitional Conference Minister for the last two years, and prior to that, she was one of our Associate Conference Ministers.

It's exciting that the election happened during Black History Month, because while Dr. Williams is not our first Conference Minister of color, she is our first female Conference Minister of color.

Rev. Dr. Williams has been actively involved in the Western Association, and attended our last meeting in November (at St. James UCC in Hamburg). She has also worked with our own pastor as Pastor Elizabeth has served as Moderator of the Western Association for the last 3 years.

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams! Her love for the Lord is evident and we rejoice with her!

To watch the video where Dr. Williams gives a word of thanks for her election, [click this link](#).



Youth Group WAY Retreat



The Youth Group had a great February Retreat with the Western Area Youth!

If you have youth grades 7-12, invite them to Friday Night Youth Group so they can participate!

1st Friday of the Month:

7-10pm at Zion UCC

3rd Friday of the Month:

7-10pm at Nativity UCC

For the Summer Mission Trip, WAY is going to Detroit, Michigan (staying in Livonia, doing work in Detroit). The dates are July 8-14.

The deadline to sign up is May 1!

Sign your youth up today!

Register online:

www.zionuccton.com/WAY

July 8-14, 2024

WAY MISSION TRIP

WESTERN AREA YOUTH AGES 13+
REGISTER FOR THE WAY SUMMER MISSION TRIP
WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/WAY

HOST CHURCH LOCATION: LIVONIA, MI
WORK LOCATION: DETROIT, MI



Prepare for Easter during the Season of Lent

Lenten Bible Study Thursdays

February 22-March 21

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.

Palm Sunday: March 24

**Easter Sunday:
March 31**

Service times are still at
9 & 10:45. Do not miss
these truly important
Sundays!

**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

*NOTE THERE IS ONLY ONE SERVICE AT
10:30AM. This is also Daylight Savings
Time so we'll set the clocks forward.*

*New Lector Sign Up For
Sunday Worship Services!*

<https://bit.ly/3UYB2nF>



LECTOR SIGN UP

ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST'S

\$5 PER
PERSON

BREAKFAST WITH THE • EASTER BUNNY! •



SATURDAY, MARCH 30 AT 10AM

PANCAKES & EGG HUNT

15 KOENIG CIRCLE TONAWANDA, NY 14150

REGISTER ONLINE:

WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/EGG-HUNT



Zion United
Church of Christ

Memorial Scholarship 2024



Empowering Futures. Encouraging Service.

Investing in the education of future leaders, we aim to foster a legacy of service and dedication. The scholarship provides partial financial support for tuition, fees, and essential materials, alleviating the financial burden and aiding students in their educational pursuits.



\$2,000

Who's eligible?

Zion active church members who are high school seniors.



Pick up applications at the back ledge in the sanctuary or on our website
Submit by March 31, 2024.

Questions?

Contact Brianna Grine at briannagrine29@gmail.com



SIPS SUDS SWEETS

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



Join us for a fabulous evening filled with tastings of wine, beer, sweets, and light bites provided by local businesses.

The event includes free valet parking, a silent auction, baskets, multiple raffles, candy buffet and music by Jay McDonnell. One of the evening highlights is the ceremony introducing some of our past wish recipients, making the evening truly special.

Must be 21+ Years to Attend

Proceeds fund wish experiences for seniors, HERO boxes for Veterans, gifts for our holiday giving program and various events for seniors throughout the year. The support of community members, vendors and corporate sponsors has allowed us to grant over 400 wishes to date! On behalf of all our wish recipients, "thank you!"



Have you invited anyone to church lately?

There are many people in need of a loving, inclusive, community of faith. Don't be afraid to ask people to join you on Sunday mornings!

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 02.13.2024

Consistory Call to Order at 7:02 pm by Edie Bauer

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

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

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Kalee. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

- As of 2/10/2024 there is a balance of \$48,300.92 in the operating account and \$19,499.95 in the restricted funds account.
- The revenue for January was \$12,903.97. The net income was \$-623.10 In comparison: The revenue for January 2023 was \$20,883.63. The net income for January 2023 was \$4,461.05(included Christmas).
- There were notable P&L events in January.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID)

- She is enjoying her preaching class in Seminary. Getting more direction.
- Has been busy mentoring (through Hospice Program in Niagara) Rachel, a student and is enjoying her grow and develop as she learns.
- Kailee's graduation is May 18
- Pastor Elizabeth sent a letter praising Kalee on her progress and growth as she works toward her goal of being ordained.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

1.Their last Trustee's meeting consisted of the vision for the rest of the year and the next 2-5 years. Visions include compliant doors, a concrete ramp, new pew cushions, window treatments and to refresh Kuck Hall.

2. They decided to split the cost this year between Consistory and Trustees for the insurance.

3. They all agreed that an outside audit should be arranged to audit the church's budget. Consistory also agreed this was a good idea.

Pastor's Report

- 1.We welcomed 9 new members last month.
- 2.We had a successful WAY Retreat, and we have a JR. WAY event coming up for the younger kids on March 9 at Ebenezer. The Mission Trip for WAY will be the week of July 8 in Detroit (staying in Livonia, doing mission work in Detroit).
- 3.Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams is officially our new Conference Minister. The only meeting was a complete mess (because of technology problems and some rude conversations in the chat), but the

vote was successful by 93%. Thank you to our delegates for participating in that meeting. Both our NY Conference and our Denomination are now led by Black Women, which is something to celebrate during Black History Month. Dr. Williams is very Christ-centered and inclusive, and she has great leadership skills, so I think she's the best choice for our Conference.

4. Pastor Duffy was considering going to a "Modern Church" continued ed event put on by Breeze, especially since one of the lead speakers is Craig (from the song Craig by Walker Hayes), however all the speakers are male, so she is not sure it will be a safe conference for a female minister to go to. Unfortunately, a lot of denominations are still not supportive of female pastors. This is one of the reasons why the UCC is an important denomination in our country.

5. Pastor Duffy started a TikTok account for the church. Every Sunday Night or Monday Morning, she will post a 90 second or less video from the end of the sermon (or at some focal point of the sermon) to share with the younger generations. If you're on TikTok, follow us @zionucc or have your kids/grandkids follow us for a short clip of the sermon.

6. Pastor Duffy has decided to work from home on Mondays when she can. She finds it easier to plan out her week and do the technology pieces she needs to do (website, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram). This also means when she works through the weekend, she can have a little Sabbath time when needed on Mondays. She will be in the office only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, but can be reached by phone on Mondays and Fridays. She has updated the bulletin. Her hope is to share the Gospel through the voice of a female/inclusive pastor on social media to reach young people.

7. Lenten Bible Study will be on Thursdays starting Feb 22 at 6pm in the Overflow Room. We'll walk through the life and the ministry of Jesus.

Budget Meeting Review- was gone over line by line and discussed by Consistory members.

Committee Reports – no reports tonight due to going over budget.

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

Next Meeting: March 12th at 7 pm

Closing: At 8:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debby Williams
Consistory Secretary

STEWARDSHIP CARDS

Giving of time, talents, and tithes

Zion United Church of Christ

www.zionuccton.com



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

Acts 4:32



Giving of Time:

- ☐ Volunteer during the week
- ☐ 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

