



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

As I look at the submissions for this newsletter, I am struck by the reminder that we are truly blessed. And I mean it, we are all truly blessed, in the most powerful way, to be a part of this wonderful community of faith. As you read the submissions from Marilyn Stewart and Kalee Mielke on page 3, I know you'll feel the same way.

On a regular basis, I find myself in conversations with people who need a pastor or a faithful confidant to talk to. We'll be standing on the sidelines of a kids' sporting event, or we'll strike up a conversation at a backyard BBQ, and before I know it, someone is confiding in me about the difficulties of life. I often notice that the people who confide in me the most, are those who don't have a church community like ours.

Here at Zion UCC, we have a faithful community of loving, accepting church members. We have people here who are loving and encouraging. I've witnessed church members go through difficulties and immediately be surrounded with love and prayers. I've witnessed church members learn that someone was in need, and rally around them to make sure their needs are met. I've witnessed friendships grow, in the most unexpected places. I've witnessed senior members mentor younger members, and younger members help senior members, and our inter-generational church become a family. It's beautiful.

I also know that there are many people in need of a community of faith like ours. And I know that we want this community to grow, so I have a few things to share with you:

1. Invite friends to Church! Summer worship, especially when we're outside, might be the perfect time to bring a guest!
2. Join us after worship on August 4th for our "Getting to know you" Listening Event and Lunch.
3. We're starting a new mission opportunity with Community Missions, specifically the Canal View mental health recovery location. Once a month, we are going to serve a meal to the residents of Canal View in order to build relationships. If you are interested in participating in this long-term, once a month ministry, please reach out to me. I will need a team of 4-5 people before we begin. Let's spread the love of Christ with those who need it the most.

As you read the words of Marilyn and Kalee in this newsletter, and look through all of our summer events, I hope you feel blessed to be a part of this community of faith, because I know I do.

And one last thing: please sign up to volunteer for the Strawberry Festival. You'll find the sign up on page 6. Thank you!

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Worship ► Sundays at 9am & 10:45am
- Summer Worship ► Sundays at 9:30am
- Sunday School ► 9am, Summers at 9am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live
- Nursery ► Staffed on Sundays, 9-10am
- Youth Group ► 1st Friday at Zion, 3rd Friday at Nativity,
New Time: 6-9pm, Runs Sep-June
- Food Pantry ► Every Tuesday 10am-12pm
- AA ► Sat. at 10am & 1pm, Thurs. at 5:30pm
- Girl Scouts ► Thursdays at 6:30pm
- Bell Choir Practice ► Wed @6:30pm
- Chancel Choir Practice ► Wed @7:30pm
- June 2 ► Luke Miller's Baptism, 9am
- June 7 ► Youth Group at Zion, 6-9pm
- June 9 ► Promotional Sunday
Kids Rehearse at 9am, Worship at 10am
- June 11 ► Consistory, 7pm
- June 12 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- June 14 ► Marriage of Kristin Robins & Joel Krywcun
(off site)
- June 15 ► Women's Fellowship, 11am
- June 16 ► Father's Day! Last Sunday before Summer
worship begins
- June 17 ► Trustees, 6pm
- June 21 ► Youth Group at Nativity, 6-9pm
- June 22 ► Men's Fellowship @Family Tree, 9am
- June 23 ► Start of Summer Worship, 9:30am
- June 26 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- June 29 ► Strawberry Festival! 11am-3pm
- July 3 ► Church Trip to see the Bisons
- July 7 ► Baptism of Weston & Lillian Shields,
and Lillian Knowles
- July 8-14 ► WAY Mission Trip to Detroit
- July 9 ► Consistory, 7pm
- July 15 ► Trustees, 6pm
- August 4 ► Listening Workshop & Lunch

For more events:

www.zionuccton.com/events

Last Chance to order your new Church T-Shirt!

Sign up and Payment Envelope are in the office. The Shirts are \$20 each. Sign up by Sunday, **June 2nd** to get your Church T-Shirt!

Shirts are a dry-fit material and run large.



... It's time to talk!

Join us for a "get to know each other" Listening Workshop & Lunch!

August 4th, after summer worship.
10:30am-12:30pm



From Church Members

From Marilyn Stewart

To My Family and Friends,

I have always told people that Zion is a family because we care about each other. I have been a member for 63 years and have witnessed this on so many occasions. People helping people whether it be with donations for someone who is having troubles or illness; bad circumstances landing on someone's door step; or a friend of a member just needing some encouragement and prayer.



In my own life I have been exceedingly fortunate in that my father always had a job and my marriage was uneventful in the best way for almost 55 years and those of you who knew Lyall can understand that. Tom and Sue were ordinary kids who never gave us a moment's trouble, but now take such amazing care of me in spite of the hundreds of miles that separate us.

Since I am now living by myself and doing just fine, I have experienced a love that is to me, almost incomprehensible. My neighbors and my long time friends have been truly supportive and kind so again I am fortunate.

But the real love I have felt has come from my old and especially the new members of Zion starting with Pastor Elizabeth. I am so well taken care of with offerings of help, opening doors, carrying things, "Did you forget your walker?"; "I'll park your car for you so it's not so far to walk" and many more offers of help from people I didn't even know a couple years ago.

With all your help and care, you have succeeded in making a very lazy lady and I love it. Tom and Sue join me in thanking you from the bottom of our hearts.

You have made my life a real joy.
Marilyn Stewart

From Kalee Mielke

Dear Zion UCC,

I began my voyage at Northeastern Seminary four years ago without a church. In truth, the church-seeking process drained me. One of my chaplaincy mentors said, "I know a pastor that would be good for you." We both went to Zion's website. I reached out to Pastor Elizabeth, met with her, and she listened to my story. She shared about the loving people of Zion.

Due to my past hurts, I had many shadows of doubt. Furthermore, her words were truthful, and this church was safe; better yet, Zion was fertile soil for God's "grace upon grace" (John 1:16).

For me, the church is intricate for the seminary journey. Zion is the first place I ever preached. Even if I did not know what I was doing then, I was completely loved. The Holy Spirit (as my advocate) threaded my story within Zion's.

Thank you for the generosity you extended as I studied and learned. As Paul said, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3).

Blessings always,
Kalee Mielke

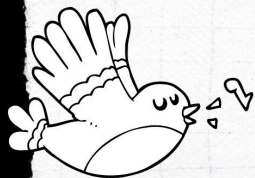




Locations:
 May 3, June 7:
 Zion UCC, 15 Koenig Cir. Tonawanda, NY
 May 17, June 21:
 Nativity UCC, 1530 Calvin Blvd. Tonawanda, NY



Children's SUNDAY



June 9th
10am!

**Submit Camp
Registration by June
10th to
dunkirk@zionuccton.com**

ZION UCC'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

**August 19-23
9:00am-12:00pm**



DUNKIRK SUMMER CAMP

starts for kids entering 1st grade!

Make new friends, discover nature, and grow closer to God through exciting activities, inspiring worship, and tons of fun!



**Our church will completely cover the cost of your FIRST YEAR!
 Returning campers get \$100 off!
 Need based scholarships are also available to returning campers!
 *For Pilgrim, Pioneer, Jr and Sr High Camps Only**

Ready to go?!

Register for camp at dunkirkcc.com
 Then forward your registration confirmation to:
dunkirk@zionuccton.com for the church to send in the
 camp payment. We hope to send a lot of kids to camp!

Questions?

Reach out to Pastor Elizabeth or Jacob Korte



**Register today!
 Kids ages 4-12
www.zionuccton.com/VBS**

Zion United Church of Christ
 15 Koenig Circle
 Tonawanda, NY 14150

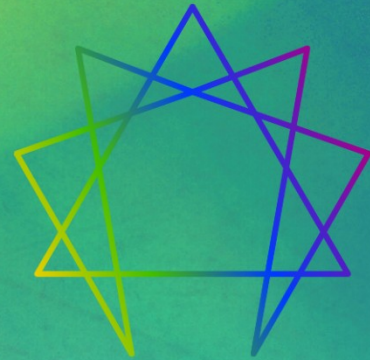
Pastoral Care



Summer Retreat
Following Worship
Sunday, July 14th
Bond Lake
Lewiston, NY
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Are you interested in learning about a helpful self-awareness tool?

Come to pastoral care on Wednesday, June 5th at 5:30 PM at Zion. The class is one hour.



Fellowship



Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship is regrouping!
Join them on Saturday, June 22 at 9am
at the Family Tree Restaurant on Bailey Ave.
Questions? Reach out to Dave Dombrowski

Buffalo Bisons Night!

The Bisons 4th of July Celebration is July 3 at 6:05. The BPO will play and fireworks after the game. The tickets are \$25.00/person. We need a minimum of 10 people.

A sign up is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Payment is due June 9. Please make check payable to Gaye Mehlretter. It is a fun evening, hope you can join us!

Sign up to Volunteer!
<https://bit.ly/3X0lwYD>



Volunteer



Join us for Zion UCC's

STRAWBERRY festival

Delicious strawberry treats. Fresh
berries. Grilled food. Live music.
Kids games.

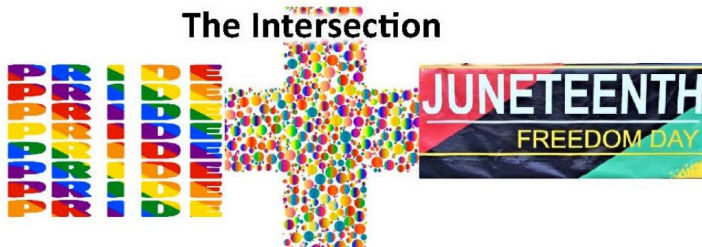
Saturday, June 29, 2024 | 11am-3pm

Zion UCC
15 Koenig Circle
Tonawanda, NY 14150
zionuccton.com

Come to Commemorate!

Come to Discuss!

The Intersection



Of Queer Phobias and Racism

Kenilworth United Church of Christ
45 Dalton Dr. Tonawanda 14223

Saturday, June 15, 2024 – Dinner and A Movie

Cost: \$ 12 per person for dinner

Reservations for Dinner *required* by Sunday, June 9; call 716-835-4120

5:30 pm: Join us for a **Soul Food Dinner** prepared by KUCC members.

Tickets for a 50/50 drawing will be on sale during the Dinner; drawing later in the evening.

7:00 pm: Greetings from Rev. Derek A. Terry (He/Him/They)

Program Director, The Open and Affirming™ Coalition of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
Viewing of *Blind Faith* followed by discussion.

(No reservations required for movie and discussion only.)

Sunday, June 16, 2024 – Worship and Lunch

10:30 am: Worship with guest preacher, Rev. Derek A Terry

Father's Day lunch following (love offering collected)



SUN., AUG. 18
NOON – 5 PM

POTLUCK @ 3 PM
FAMILY WORSHIP @ 4:30 PM

An afternoon at
Dunkirk CC with:

- Creek walks
- Gaga
- Swimming
- Slip-n-Slide
- Bounce House



To register, go to: zionuccton.com

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 05.14.2024

Consistory Call to Order at 7:03 pm by Edie Bauer

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

Absent: Robin Fuller, John Pauling, Bob Sedota and Elena Camp

Devotion and the Lord's Prayer: Rev. Pierre Albrecht-Carrie led us in the devotion and the Lord's Prayer.

Approval Of Consistory Meeting Minutes - [motioned for approval by Debby and seconded by Dave. All attending members approved.](#)

Treasurer's Report (Ron Janiszewski)

As of May 6, 2024, there is a balance of \$43,679.98 in the operating account and \$19,602.81 in the restricted funds account. The operating balance takes into consideration the payroll for 5/17/24.

The revenue for April was \$17,960.31. The net income was \$4,817.01 in comparison: The revenue for April 2023 was \$14,405.93. The net income for April 2023 was \$2,276.35. The YTD income for 2024 is \$71,160.96 and the net income is \$6,770.90. The 2023 YTD was \$69,616.47 and the net income was \$8,832.71.

Notable P &L events in April:

51720 Pastor's Pension \$1,436.74

52560 Envelopes \$446.20

55404 Fire System- Annual monitoring fee \$360.00

After one third of the year, we are pretty much where we planned to be financially. The numbers versus last year are relatively the same. All things considered we are probably in a better spot financially this year than we were last year as we have a better handle on the expenses.

Motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by Pierre. All attending members approved.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID)

Has a meeting June 10 with Committee of Ministry. Setting dates to finish her 15-page paper on her faith history and theology on certain topics. She then has a meeting with council for them to question her about her paper. This will lead to her ordination.

Pastor's Report

- Possible new mission with Community Missions (proposal and details were emailed last week to Consistory members). Would we like to move forward with this? If so, she'll need to compile a team of 4-5 members to begin this ministry with them.

A decision was made to announce it in church to see if some people would be interested in volunteering.

- *From Robin who is not here tonight: When Lisa Drysdale was the Pastor at Brighton Community Church, they did some things with/for Community Missions. It was a great program for the community, and it seems to have really expanded the services offered. I think it would be great to work with them.*
- Mission Trip planning is nearly complete. We are all set for a mission trip to the Detroit area. We are sending a group of 60 on the mission trip, with 18 from Zion.
- We have purchased zionucc.com. We are using .com instead of .org because even though we're an organization, people more commonly search for .com addresses. If you go to zionucc.com right now, it will send you to our current website. We will continue to keep both addresses because keeping zionuccton.com will only cost us \$17/year. She is slowly working to design a new website. When that happens, zionucc.com will be our main website and zionuccton.com will redirect to it.
- She is working with Sue to plan for Promotional Sunday and VBS.

Trustee's Report: Ted Camp

Trustees are figuring out what projects can be finished this year.

The parking lot is on schedule so far.

Painting and new carpeting in the overflow room will be completed in a couple of weeks.

- Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John provided a report to the Consistory as he was away)

Women's fellowship will be purchasing a cotton candy machine for events. It will be used at the Strawberry Festival.

The Planning meeting for the Strawberry Festival was held on 4/22/24 at 6 pm. They met to evaluate how much they will charge for menu items to better align with similar events and increased costs.

They discussed "potential" funding sources for supplies, related to this event.

They added "Captains for key areas to spread out responsibilities more evenly and provide central points of contact.

Volunteers will be needed to help make this an successful event There next meeting is Wednesday May 22 at 6 pm

Pastor mentioned we need to do some Summer Outreach

Committee Reports

- Christian Education & Missions (Edie). June 9 will be Promotional Sunday for the children and Campfire Light is the Vacation Bible School theme this August 19-23.

- Cemetery (Debby)-no report.
- Health Ministry (Debby)- The Zion UCC Tonawanda Health Ministry is hosted a representative who specializes in Elder Law on Saturday April 27. It was well attended. 40 people came. The speaker (Katie Alexander) was excellent. Six people from the community and 34 people from our church attended.

Results from the Health Survey we passed out to the congregation have been completed. 97 people completed the survey (Thank you!). The top 10 classes people were interested in were:

Nutrition, Standard First Aid, Stress Management, Mental Health issues, Wills, POA, Trusts- held 4/27, Women's Health Issues, Nursing Home Questions, Dealing w/ grief, Arthritis, Vision/Hearing Topics

Note: The best days were Saturday and Thursday for classes and afternoons and evenings were best.

-The Health Ministry team is meeting Thursday May 16 to discuss results and plan out the next few programs we can host.

- Altar Guild (Robin)- no report
- Memorials (George)- \$2,000 was taken out of account for the Rob Voss scholarship which leaves a balance of \$3,913.40.
- PPRC/Admin (George)- no report
- Community Assistance Ministry (Dave)- no report
- New Member (Dave)- no report
- Environmental Ministry (Pierre)- they will be meeting after Ed and Barb Miller get back from their trip
- Network of Religious Communities (Pierre)- no report
- Community Dinners (Bob)- sign up sheet is up. Will need volunteers. Having grilled sausage w/ peppers and onions.
- Food Pantry (John)- it is well stocked at this time but will continue to need monetary and item donations for support. Volunteer shifts are all filled to help with Pantry.
- Coffee Hour (Ted)- one of the coffee makers is giving the crew some issues so looking for other options right now. Women's Fellowship is helping to provide more baked goods for Coffee Hour. Always need bakers!

Old Business

- domain is purchased (see above)
- Ken Voght is in the process of doing the church audit.
- ♦ New T-shirt deadline is the end of the month. (Thank you, Cyle!)
- ♦ Men's Fellowship is this Saturday.
- Women's fellowship is this Saturday as well. Meeting for lunch at the Olympic on Sheridan and Military at 11 am.
- Cross for inside hall- date needs to be set. Looking at July calendar.

New Business

- ♦ Women's Fellowship asked if we could bring up Spring cleaning of church and grounds in new business? They specifically mentioned the kitchen (cupboards and baseboards). result: Spring is here, and people have already gotten busy, so the plan is to do a Fall Cleanup on a Sunday in October that does not involve a Bills game.
- ♦ Create a Consistory Manual/Handbook. A manual has been started and will become a living document that will help future Consistory members with what their duties are while they are in the Consistory. Members of the Consistory have started it and will continue to add or delete things that the members feel are pertinent.
- ♦ Listening Workshop has been rescheduled for Sunday August 4th. Lunch will be provided.
- ♦ Laurie M had mentioned to Edie about getting a professional list/skill list/hobby list of congregational members to provide aid or help if needed. Pastor was putting something together to send to the congregation.
- ♦ Discussions of tents was brought up. George said he had 2 10 x 20 tents in his shed that the church can be used for events. Edie said she has a few tents as well. Trustees have been looking into purchasing a few tents (instead of renting them) so we had them for all events. The decision was made to contact Jill. John or Jeff about this. The motion to close the meeting was made by Dave, seconded by Pierre, and all attending members agreed.

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

Next Meeting: June 11th at 7 pm

Closing: At 8:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Debby Williams, Consistory Secretary