



Zionite *Newsletter*

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

Today I was thinking about the second greatest commandment, “To love your neighbor as you love yourself.” And then, I opened the lectionary readings for Sunday, and voila! Guess what verse is in Sunday’s lectionary? I’ll include a couple of the verses for you: When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus answered, “The first is ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There are no other commandments greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)

One thing that all Christians should agree on, is that everything we do should be rooted in these verses. After all, they are what Jesus calls “the greatest commandments.” And I’ve seen some yard signs that I love. They say: “Love your neighbor who doesn’t look like you, think like you, love like you, speak like you, pray like you, vote like you. Love your neighbor.” I’m not one for yard signs, but if I ever get one, that will be it.

And with an election coming, you know that I will never tell you how I think anyone should vote, but I will remind us all to love our neighbors, even those who don’t vote like us. We have members of this church from all over the political spectrum, and I’m going to love each and every member just the same, regardless of how they vote. Why? Because as your pastor, and more importantly, as a follower of Jesus, it’s what I’m called to do.

Last year I was a part of a clergy discussion called, “Resetting the Table.” The idea of resetting the table is to get people from different religious traditions and different sides of the political spectrum to have civil discussions with one another and to come to understand one another. Since then, a small group has worked together to write a letter, which you can [find here](#). The letter is titled, “Statement Against Political Violence.”

From the letter, and the signatures, you can tell that the local religious leaders are committed to creating communities that are rooted in love. None of us want to see division. Our primary purpose should be to “Love the Lord” and secondary purpose should be to “Love our neighbor.” This means there is no room for idolatry, and no room for hate. So this Sunday, before the election, and next Sunday, after the election, and every Sunday after that, come worship with us, and know, that no matter what happens, and no matter where you stand politically, I love you, and Jesus does too.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Sunday Services ► 9am Contemporary and 10:45am Traditional
- Sunday School ► Sundays at 9am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live
- Nursery ► Sundays during the 1st service
- Youth Group ► 1st & 3rd Fridays 6-9pm
- 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
- Drive Thru Dinners ► Last Sat. of the Month
- November is Stewardship Month!
- Nov 1 ► Youth Group @ Zion, 6-9pm
- Nov 3 ► All Saints' Worship

Remember the Saints who have gone before us.

- Nov 3 ► Blood Pressure Checks at 10:30am
- Nov 7 ► Rummage Sale Movers, 6:30-9:30pm
- Nov 8 ► Rummage Sale Sorters, 9am-4pm
- Nov 9 ► Rummage Sale at Zion! 9am-1pm
- Nov 12 ► Consistory, 7pm
- Nov 13 ► Exercise with Dawn at 5:30pm
- Nov 15 ► Youth Group @Nativity, 6-9pm
- Nov 16 ► Emergency Preparedness, 11am
- Nov 16 ► 9am Men's Fellowship @Family Tree
- Nov 17 ► Stewardship Sunday
- Nov 18 ► Trustees Meeting, 6pm
- Nov 30 ► Thanksgiving Meal Community Dinner, 5pm
- Nov 30 ► 3-5pm Set up for Christmas!
- Dec 1 ► Advent Begins!

For more events, go to:
zionuccton.com/events

HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES

- ♦ November 16, Emergency Preparedness, 11am
- ♦ December- no classes
- ♦ Saturday January 11, 9-11am, Medicare Information Class
- ♦ Saturday February 8, 9-11:30am, Dealing w/ Grief and Loneliness
- ♦ Saturday March 8, 10-11am, Mental Health Class by the Mental Health Advocates
- ♦ *Saturday April TBD Nutrition Class*
- ♦ *Saturday May TBD Active Shooter Workshop (Town of Tonawanda Police Department)*

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 9th

9am-1pm

Bring your friends and neighbors to this fundraising event!

We have goods of all sorts!



November Dinner



LECTOR SIGN UP



Please Join Us!

Baskets & Brunch

TO BENEFIT

UNITED CHURCH MANOR
SENIOR PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

The Columns Banquets*2221 Transit Road*Elma

Doors Open 10:00 AM

Brunch Served 10:30 AM - Noon

\$40 per person, or reserve a table of 10 for only \$350

For tickets or to make a donation



Or call 716-668-5804

Thank You to Our Sponsors



livelife.



**Olive Jo Rentschler joined us on
October 18, 2024**

Congratulations to parents,
Paige & Timothy Rentschler
and big sister, Winnie!



 @ 

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
DOORS OPEN @ 12PM, GAME STARTS @ 1PM

 **PRESENTS A**
BILLS VIEWING PARTY
FUNDRAISING EVENT

@ ISMAILIA SHRINERS • 1600 SOUTHWESTERN BLVD, BUFFALO, NY 14224

- ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS
- \$40 DONATION FOR A TICKET (INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS & FOOD)
- BASKET RAFFLE & PRIZE DRAWINGS
- SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR CALL (716) 393-3906



Stacey Menard, member of First Congregational UCC, in Niagara Falls, experienced vandalism to her car. As an Essential Worker in Buffalo, our church is seeking help for her to get another car before winter.



Go Fund Me QR Code



My name is Kalee Mielke. I am Stacey's pastor, writing on behalf of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Niagara Falls. A week ago, Stacey's car was broken into and vandalized, and the car cannot be repaired now. Stacey currently does not have insurance that covers this type of damage.

Stacey works for a homeless organization in Buffalo, New York, as the Cook and Outreach Assistant. Stacey makes meals for people who are homeless and for the shelters 5 nights a week; she cooks year round. In addition, Stacey cooks for people without a home or meal during a 'Code Blue' - when the temperatures are below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Last winter she helped supply 16,000 meals. After the blizzard of 2024, she was taken by two men from the fire department to bring emergency resources to the shelters. Stacey's courage is inspiring!

The vandalism to Stacey's car was heartbreaking and an unexpected expense. Currently, she does not have the money to afford a different car. Stacey's boyfriend, her boyfriend's son, and her friend also relied on this car. As winter approaches, Stacey needs a reliable vehicle.

I have witnessed the care and compassion Stacey has for others. Her heart beats to provide meals to people in need. When her car was vandalized, our church chose to step in and help fundraise for her. Stacey is also a lifelong member of First Congregational in Niagara Falls, a very small congregation. We knew we needed help from our community, which is how we were led to GoFundMe.

We appreciate you taking the time to read, share, donate, and/or pray for guidance and God's direction at this time. In gratitude, First Congregational UCC, Niagara Falls

If you would like to make a donation, could you please write a check to First Congregational UCC, Niagara Falls, on the Memo Line: Stacey's Car. Address is: 6118 Townline Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

ARE YOU PREPARED?+

Join our Emergency Preparedness Class!
Tim Kornacki will present a class on Emergency Preparedness. This class will cover "all hazards" like fire, winter, active shooter, storms, etc. This will help us learn how to be prepared in all types of emergencies.



WHEN AND WHERE?

November 16 at 11am
Kuck Hall in Zion UCC
15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda

SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD
QUESTIONS: EMAIL DW1416@AOL.COM





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER 2024



FREE
for
residents
of the
Town of
Tonawanda
or
Village of
Kenmore



**TAKE OUT
or
HOME
DELIVERY**

Call 874-3595 to
register and have a
meal brought to
your door, or
reserve a meal to
take out

Thanksgiving Day Take Out

Call 874-3595 to reserve your take out meal
between November 4 and November 20, 2024.
We will have the meal waiting for you to pick up
on Thanksgiving Day between
Noon and 1:00 p.m. Come inside at Door 6
(south lot) of the
Parkside Village Community Building,
169 Sheridan Parkside Drive

Home Delivery

Call 874-3595 between November 4
and November 20, 2024 and we will
deliver a complete Thanksgiving meal
with all the trimmings to your home on
Thanksgiving Day
between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

SPONSORED BY



Rotary
Club of Kenmore



Junior WAY

THANKSGIVING DAY

SAT., NOV. 16

9 AM – 11 AM at Epiphany UCC 9365 Clarence Center Rd. Clarence Center NY 14032

**For age 4 through
6th grade**



Stewardship Month

It's Stewardship Month! These cards will be available in the Sanctuary all month. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. We will collect these cards all month and see all the ways our members serve the church.

If you are not already serving in some way, please consider a way you can.

If everyone helps out in one way, we will have an abundance of volunteers!

STEWARDSHIP CARDS

Giving of time, talents, and tithes

*If everyone helps out in one way,
we will have an abundance of
volunteers!*



www.zionuccton.com

**All the
believers
were one
in mind...
they
shared
everything
they had.**
Acts 4:32

Giving of Time:

- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Consistory
- ☐ Trustees
- ☐ Acolyte
- ☐ Usher
- ☐ Community Dinners
- ☐ Food Pantry
- ☐ Coffee Hour
- ☐ Ministry Team/Committee
- ☐ Count the Offering
- ☐ Bible Study
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Altar Guild
- ☐ Health Ministry
- ☐ Fundraising Team (PBJs)
- ☐ Other

Giving of Talents:

- ☐ Building Improvement
- ☐ Cleaning
- ☐ Choir/Praise Band
- ☐ Lector
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Bake/Cook
- ☐ Fundraise
- ☐ Other

Giving of Tithes:

- ☐ Regular Giving
- ☐ One Time Giving
- ☐ Include Church in Will
- ☐ Sponsor events
- ☐ Other



Trunk or Treat!



PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Take a moment to add your business or hobby to our professional directory. You can also add businesses of family members!

We like to support the work of our members, and with this professional directory, we'll be able to do this.

We will print the first edition this December, and we'll print updated ones as needed.

To add your business/work/hobby, go to [our website and select "Professional Directory" under "Events"](#).



**BUY YOUR
CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS
\$8.00**

NAME: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR IN HONOR OF: _____

DONATE TO SHUT INS: ☐ YES ☐ NO

COLOR: ☐ RED ☐ MARBLE

PICK UP AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: ☐ YES ☐ NO

**Order form and check to Zion UCC must be in by 12/1.
Forms are collected online or in the back of the Sanctuary.**

Looking Ahead to December...

Setting Up for Christmas

Can you help us set up for Christmas? If so, come join us on Saturday, November 30th starting at 3pm. We will have volunteers taking care of the community dinner, and other volunteers can help decorate! It will be a wonderful day to volunteer!

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

It's time to start ordering Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to order a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one, you can do so starting this week. Please place all orders by December 1. Orders can be placed in the Sanctuary box or online at www.zionuccton.com/flowers

Breakfast with Santa

The Youth Group is holding their annual Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser on Saturday, December 14. For \$5 per person, you can bring your kids/grandkids/neighbors, and enjoy a pancake breakfast and then take photos with Santa.

Ministry at Canal View

We are planning a new ministry with Canal View. On December 19th, members of the church will go to Canal View (a mental health home) to decorate cookies with the residents. None of the residents are dangerous, and if you would like to join us, please reach out to Pastor Elizabeth.

Also, there is a job opening at Canal View, if anyone is interested, [click here](#) for the application.

Blue Christmas Service

We will hold a KenTon Blue Christmas Service at Church of the Nativity again this year on December 16. If you are missing a loved one, this is a beautiful service to attend.

Christmas Eve Services

This year we will have only one evening Christmas Eve Service at 5pm. We are considering also holding a Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve at 10am. (We did that last year since Christmas Eve was on a Sunday, and it was beautiful!) Christmas Eve is a wonderful time to invite new people to Church!

Christmas Caroling

We hope to go Christmas Caroling around the neighborhood this year, and if anyone comes outside, we'll give them an invitation to Christmas Eve worship. We will select a date in December.

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Agenda 10/8/24

Call to Order at 7:06 pm by Edie

Present: Robin F, Edie B, Dave D, Elena C, Debby W and Ted (trustee representative)

Absent: Kailee, George, Bob, Pierre and John

Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes – motion to approve minutes made by Dave d and seconded by Edie B.

Treasurer's Report

As of 10/4/2024 there is a balance of \$54,173.43 in the operating account and \$5,561.70 in the restricted funds account.

The revenue for September was \$18,105.57. The net income was \$-1,160.12. In comparison: The revenue for September 2023 was \$10,398.40. The net income for September 2023 was \$-3,197.39. The YTD income for 2024 is \$155,355.25 and the net income is \$10,567.72. The 2023 YTD was \$139,547.18 and the net income was \$-4,974.86.

Notable P&L events in September:

54701 Property Insurance - \$3677.75 (awaiting reimbursement from the Trustees for this payment)

55404 Water & Sewer - \$743.19 Cost of maintaining the new grass areas

55404 Fire Safety - \$680.00 Annual System Inspections

Quarterly payments to UCC - \$2486.50 total for OWCM, Western Area & NY Conference per capita

We are continuing to trend in a positive. The property insurance payment created a negative bottom line although we are awaiting the reimbursement for that payment.

A motion to close was made by Dave D. and seconded by Robin F. All members attending approved.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update

#1 – She misses all of you. She has a small hole in my heart because her life is not the same without all of you in it weekly. (AnnMarie feels that way too)

The past month of pastoring at 1st Congregational has been fruitful and life-giving for her. The church members are wonderful. She feels more balanced as a pastor and chaplain. The church days have been devoted to networking, meeting people in the community, working on creative projects for the church, and, most importantly, having more time with God. (God never left her, but she is more aware of God's presence). ☺

This weekend, our church is at the Farmer's Market. We have been crafting together for the past three weeks. She has also been making crosses and other crafts during her downtime. The goal of the Farmer's Market is to share about our church and give prayer items to help others grow in their faith.

She looks forward to the retreat with Zion and 1st Congregational on October 19th at Whirlpool State Park. (12:00 - 3:00 PM). The theme is "Letting Go."

Random Thoughts:

- Being part of Hope's Ordination service was exciting!
- The NU event was great to network with others!
- Tonight, she is attending the Interfaith Prayer Service by Community Mission.
- She continues with Hospice 3 days a week.
- Thank you for being part of her ordination journey.

Pastor's Report

- November 17 will be Stewardship Sunday and lay preacher, Angie Staniszewski, will be preaching on the importance of Stewardship.
- She is meeting with Canal View this month to plan for a monthly event starting in November for a new ministry plan with them.

- She has been busy with funerals lately, including two more this week. If she is not in the office when you're looking for her, call her cell phone or send her an email and she will get back to you as soon as she is available.
- We had Kids Escaping Drugs lead a presentation for kids and then parents about vaping during youth group. They were wonderful, and the kids were extremely respectful and receptive. When the kids went to have fun, the parents were able to stay and learn more.
- There is a youth group retreat at Dunkirk this weekend, as well as the Halloween Happening Trick or Treating event. She will be at one of the cabins handing out candy on behalf of Zion.
- Trunk or Treat is returning on October 26th! This should be another wonderful community event after the community dinner.

Trustee's Report (Ted)- have been coordinating with Ron J (treasurer). The contract for new pew cushions has been signed and measurements will be taken to start this project. An RFP (is a business document that announces a project, describes it, and solicits bids from qualified contractors to complete it) has been formulated for plans on renovating Kuck Hall. They are looking into ceiling renovation to modernize it, new material on the walls with fresh paint, new window treatments, lighting and fans as well as a sound system upgrade. Pastor asked if it was possible to speed up the projector hookup mounting. An RFP has also been formulated for new sidewalks and a courtyard upgrade project.

Both projects must be presented to the congregation for approval.

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John)-they need more volunteers to sign up to help with the rummage sale.

Committee Reports

- Christian Education & Missions - (Edie) - The KenTon Crop Walk was held Saturday October 5. We were the host church this year, Zion UCC Tonawanda raised \$2,047.00 this year and the entire KenTon group raised \$10,505.00! Last year, Zion raised \$2,046.66 and the total group raised \$8,637.00
- Health Ministry - (Debby)- Started Blood pressure checks (thank you to Mallory F. and Deb C who volunteered to do this). We had 4 people come to the clinic. This will be held the first Sunday of every month between 10-10:30 am (in between the 2 services). The CPR class has 13 people pre-registered and will be held Saturday October 12 from 3-4:30 pm. The next class is November 16 from 11-noon in Kuck Hall. It will be on Emergency Preparedness. Our speaker is Tim Kornacki, Director of Corporate Emergency Management at Kaleida Health. It is free for anyone to attend.
- Altar Guild - (Robin)- no report

Memorials - (George)- Memorials were received for Dodie Johansen. Current balance: \$4393.40

PPRC/Admin - (George)-need to rewrite the church's safety policy to qualify for better insurance coverage

- Community Assistance Ministry - (Dave)- we helped multiple people this Summer
- New Member - (Dave)- no report
- Environmental Ministry - (Pierre)- no report
- Network of Religious Communities - (Pierre)- date for recognition dinner will be in April of 2025. Our church needs to nominate some deserving members.
- Community Dinners - (Bob)- Taco night dinners went over successfully.
- Food Pantry - (John)- John W. is here every week volunteering to assist people with our Food pantry. He is doing a wonderful job, and it is so appreciated. Post its our on the door for items that need to be replenished if anybody is willing to help
- Coffee Hour - (Ted)- really need bakers. It really does not have to be every week but any baked good would be so appreciated.

Old Business

- Continue working on Consistory Manual/Handbook Debbie began. -- should this wait until the bylaws are revised? Decision was yes as it will change the format of the handbook.
- Still collecting: Professional/Hobby directory is being created. To submit yours, fill out this link:
<https://www.zionuccton.com/professional-directory/>

New Business

- Need new picture of the congregation.
- Christmas commercial- Need to plan an evening for people to sing Silent Night for the commercial. A plan was made for ~~Wednesday night November 6~~ as choir is already in the building practicing and it will be dark out (to enhance the mood/meaning of the song). A motion was made by Dave D. and seconded by Debby W to use \$200 to do the commercial which will be placed on social media to promote our church.
- Looking for ways to promote the volunteering of other people in our congregation that will bring new ideas, etc. Bookmarks being made was suggested by Pastor Duffy.
- Adults have been asking for a church mission. Exploring the 8 Great Days of Hope Buffalo (a non-profit organization) which is usually held in July. Elena C. will be looking into this and reporting back.
- Thinking about moving the annual congregation meeting up in the calendar year as recommended by our auditor to effectuate the annual budget. Thinking about doing it the last Sunday in December (29th) following the service. If anybody has any questions or feedback on this, please speak to a consistory member. Consistory will start working on next years budget at their November meeting.

A motion to close was made by Debby W and seconded by Edie B. All members attending approved. Time was 8:33 pm

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

Next Meeting: November 12, 7pm

Note: There will no longer be a filming on November 6th, because we used last year's Christmas Eve Service and the previously made commercial to create a new commercial which can be found here: https://youtu.be/s_gA6SV-nto?si=EgdLqEwYxgLd4qed



Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of
your mouths, but only such as is
good for building up, as fits the
occasion, that it may give grace to
those who hear.

