

# Zionite Newsletter



ZION UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

◆  
December 2024



## Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church,

Advent is well under way here at church! And we're off to a great and busy start!

The recording for our Annual Zion UCC Nativity Pageant Movie begins today. We have gifts piling up in the office for kids and families in need. We have lit our first Advent candle (Hope), and this Sunday we'll light our second Advent candle (Love), followed by the third Advent candle the week the children lead us in worship (Joy), and the fourth Advent candle the Sunday before Christmas (Love).

If you haven't been in church to learn about Advent, make sure to join us. Because Advent is much more than a countdown to Christmas. It's a time of reflection and repentance as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ.

If you're looking to get into the "Christmas Spirit" you can sign up to deliver Christmas poinsettias on December 23rd, or sign up to help decorate cookies at Canal View on December 19th, or sign up for the Breakfast with Santa on December 14th. You can worship with us each Sunday during Advent, and invite a friend, family member, or neighbor. You can join with us on Christmas Eve at 5pm as we gather for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

And if you're struggling or missing a loved one, join me over at Church of Nativity at 1530 Colvin Blvd for the Blue Christmas Service at 7pm on December 16th. Or if you have kiddos, head over to Church of the Nativity for the Living Nativity at 5 & 6pm on December 21st.

We also have our New Member Dinner this Monday (Dec 9) at 6pm, so if you're interested in joining the church, come and join our New Member Team for dinner!

Lastly, I wish I could send out a Christmas card to each and every one of you, but let me extend to you a very Merry Christmas. From myself, Trevor, Taylor, and Walter, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you on Sunday morning and Christmas Eve!



*In Christ's love,  
Pastor Elizabeth*

*Thank you for reading!*



## Annual Meeting January 5 10am Worship 11am Meeting

After a recommendation following our audit this year, we're holding our annual meeting at the beginning of the year, on January 5th.

The budget is in this newsletter, and the narrative of the budget will be available soon.

If you're on a committee, please have your committee chair email the annual report by Christmas.

Thank you!

### 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
- Dec 1 ► 1st Sunday of Advent! 9 & 10:45
- Dec 6 ► Youth Group at Zion UCC
- Dec 7 ► Pageant Recording, starting at 10
- Dec 8 ► 2nd Sunday of Advent! 9 & 10:45
- Dec 9 ► New Member Dinner, 6pm
- Dec 10 ► Consistory 7pm
- Dec 11 ► Exercise with Dawn 5:30pm
- Dec 14 ► Breakfast with Santa, 10am  
[www.zionuccton.com/Santa](http://www.zionuccton.com/Santa)
- Dec 20 ► Youth Group @Nativity, 7-10pm
- Dec 15 ► 3rd Sunday of Advent and Children's Christmas Service 10am
- Dec 16 ► KenTon Blue Christmas at Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd, 7pm
- Dec 19 ► Canal View Cookie Decorating
- Dec 21 ► Living Nativity @Nativity 5&6pm
- Dec 22 ► 4th Sunday of Advent! 9 & 10:45
- Dec 24 ► Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, 5pm
- Dec 28 ► Community Dinner, 5pm
- Dec 29 ► One Service @10am
- Jan 5 ► One Service @10, Annual Meeting @11

### LECTOR SIGN UP



### DINNER VOLUNTER SIGN UP







## Food Pantry

Our food pantry is a busy place on Tuesday mornings from 10am-Noon. Our pantry is stocked by Jeff Quinton, volunteers, and a recent large donation from the Law Office of Melissa A. Day (thanks James and Elena!). John Wagner volunteers each week to greet people, answer questions, and make sure each person takes the right amount. Due to all of this, we're able to bless those in need with food and supplies each week!



## Community Dinner

Our Monthly Community Dinner is going strong! Each month we feed about 150 people through our drive thru dinner. This year, thanks to the amazing cooks photographed above, and all of our volunteers, we were able to cook 9 turkeys, serve about 150 people, and give 50 dinners to our food pantry visitors. Sign up each month with the QR code on page 2 to volunteer.



## The Tree is up!

Our Christmas Tree is up and our church is decorated.

Thank you to the huge team of volunteers, from kids to adults, who helped decorate for Christmas!

Thanks to the "many hands" we had "light work". We appreciate all the help!



15 Dec 2024

## Children's Sunday

Children's Christmas Sunday is coming up on Sunday, December 15th at 10am!

The Children will lead us in worship, we'll light the "JOY" candle, we'll watch the Nativity Pageant, and we'll welcome our new members.

Don't miss it!

## WE'RE DECORATING COOKIES WITH CANAL VIEW!



Canal View is a home for those who are working on their mental health and need support and a stable living place to do so. And we are starting a new ministry with them! On December 19th at 6pm, a team of us will meet at Canal View to help them decorate cookies. If you're interested, sign up on the bulletin board. Questions? Talk to Pastor Elizabeth



**BREAKFAST WITH  
SANTA**

JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
WITH SANTA!

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
15 KOENIG CIRCLE  
TONAWANDA, NY

**December 14, 2024 at 10am**  
**\$5 per person**  
*Enjoy a pancake breakfast and pictures  
with Santa!*

Sign up online at [www.zionuccton.com/santa](http://www.zionuccton.com/santa)

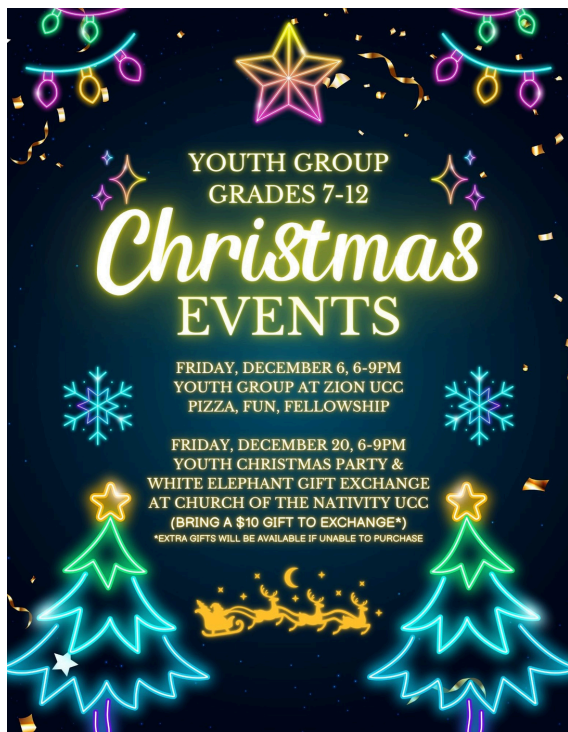
KEN-TON CLERGY'S

# Blue Christmas

DECEMBER 16, 2024  
7PM

Church of Nativity UCC  
1530 Colvin Blvd  
Tonawanda, NY

Blue Christmas is a service to  
acknowledge any sadness  
during the holiday season.



**YOUTH GROUP  
GRADES 7-12**


## Christmas EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6-9PM  
YOUTH GROUP AT ZION UCC  
PIZZA, FUN, FELLOWSHIP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6-9PM  
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY &  
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE  
AT CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY UCC  
(BRING A \$10 GIFT TO EXCHANGE\*)  
\*EXTRA GIFTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IF UNABLE TO PURCHASE

**Jr. WAY  
Winter  
DAY!**

January 25, 2025  
9am to 11am  
St. Matthew's UCC  
5289 McKinley Pkwy Hamburg, NY  
Register: [www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY](http://www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY)  
4yrs old to 6th grade



## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

We have expanded Western  
Area Youth to include kids  
ages 4 to grade 6 for Jr. WAY,  
and young adults ages 18-35  
for Sr. WAY.

This is open to all Western  
Area Youth and Young adults!

**SR. WAY  
Winter  
Retreat** For ages  
18-35

**JANUARY 3-5**

*This is the first retreat designed for  
young adults. Join us for the  
weekend at Dunkirk for fun, faith,  
work, conversation, food, and  
fellowship.*

**STARTING FRIDAY AT 5PM  
ENDING SUNDAY 3PM**

**LOCATION: DUNKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE  
CENTER, 3602 LAKESHORE DR. DUNKIRK, NY**  
**BRING: WARM BEDDING & WINTER CLOTHING**  
**COST: \$40 PER PERSON**

TO REGISTER: [WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/SRWAY](http://WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/SRWAY)





# STEWARDSHIP MONTH REVIEW!

We asked our members to tell us how they serve.

The categories were divided into Time, Talents, and Tithes.

Take a look at all the ways our members volunteer, and if you see an area that could use more volunteers, please consider signing up!

Our Church runs on Volunteers!

