

# Zionite Newsletter



*A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith*

ZION UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

May 2025



## Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church,

What a truly blessed Holy Week we had here at Zion UCC! From a beautiful Maundy Thursday service (this might be one of my favorite services all year), to a contemplative Good Friday, to a joy-filled Holy Saturday with kids from all around the neighborhood, to a truly blessed Easter Sunday, it all served as a testimony that God is at work in this place!

In addition to a blessed Holy Week, we recently celebrated 5 of our church members who were recognized at the Network of Religious Communities Annual Appreciation Dinner. Barb & Ed Miller, Elena Camp, Debby Williams, and Adam Korte (his dad, Peter, stood in for him because he had a concert that evening) were all celebrated for their dedication and service to the church. Well done!



I regularly find myself thankful for all of our dedicated church members. All of you (if you're reading this, I know you're included in this!) take time to worship on Sunday, and then volunteer on top of your regular work schedule. The reason this church keeps growing and thriving is because of the people (you!) who come together every week to act on behalf of the church as the hands, feet, eyes, ears, nose, fingers and toes of Christ! (Read 1 Cor 12 below to understand what this means.)

**I looked back at our attendance records, and I had to go back to the early 90s to find an Easter Service attendance as high as ours was this Easter.** Why? Because God is at work in this place! And God being at work in this place means that God is at work in YOU. Because all of us make up the body of Christ.

So keep up the good work, Church! Whatever God has called you to do, keep doing it!

*"For the body is not one member, but many.  
If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?  
And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?  
If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?  
But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." (1 Cor 12:14-18)*

*In Christ's love,  
Pastor Elizabeth*

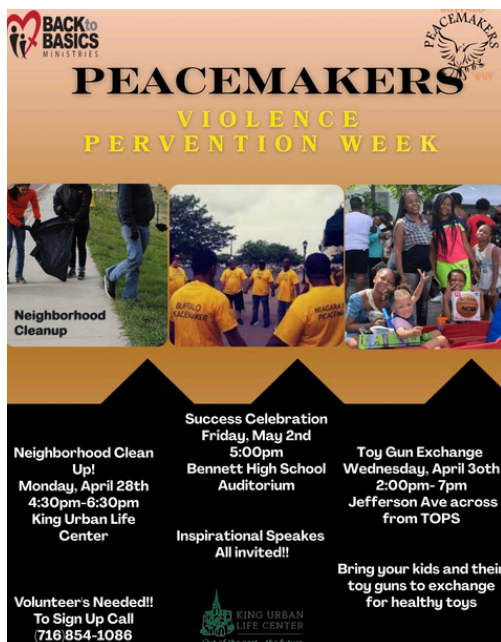
*Thank you for reading!*

# Active Shooter Training

Thanks to the Health Ministry Team,  
we are holding an active shooter  
training specifically for us here at  
Zion UCC.

The Tonawanda police will be  
working with us on  
Saturday, May 10 at 10am.  
Please join us if you're interested!

Zion UCC is sponsoring the  
Buffalo Peacemakers. Volunteers  
are welcome to help!



## Church Events

- Sunday Services ► 9am & 10:45
- 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
- May 2 ► Youth Group at Zion, 6-9pm
- May 3 ► Babysitting Training, 10am-2:30pm
- May 4 ► Blood Pressure Checks, 10:30am
- May 10 ► Active Shooter Workshop, 10am
- May 11 ► Mother's Day, join Mom at Church!
- May 13 ► Consistory, 7pm
- May 14 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- May 16 ► Youth Group at Nativity, 6-9pm
- May 17 ► Men's Fellowship, 9am @Family Tree
- May 17 ► Women's Fellowship, 11am
- May 19 ► Trustee's Meeting, 6pm
- May 28 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- May 31 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner
- June 1 ► Blood Pressure Checks, 10:30am
- June 6 ► Youth Group at Zion, 6-9pm
- **June 8 ► Confirmation and Pentecost, One Service at 10am**
- **June 15 ► Children's Program and Father's Day, One Service at 10am**
- June 20 ► Youth Group at Nativity, 6-9pm
- **June 21 ► STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!!**
- June 22 ► Summer Worship Begins! 9:30am
- June 26 ► Exercise with dawn, 5:30pm
- June 28 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner

[www.zionuccn.com/events](http://www.zionuccn.com/events)

## LECTOR SIGN UP

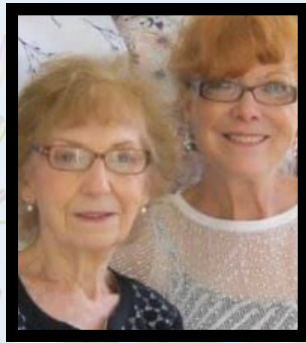


## DINNER VOLUNTEER SIGN UP



## Remembering Virginia "Ruth" Sellon

Our beloved Ruth Sellon passed away on Monday, April 28 at 98 years old. Until earlier this month, Ruth was with us in worship on Sunday mornings, with her beloved daughter, Barb, and her church friends by her side.



Ruth has now returned home to the Lord, where she is reunited with her beloved family members and friends who have gone before her.

We will hold a private service for Ruth by invitation. Please hold Barb, Ruth's daughter, in your prayers.

We want to send all of our church kids to camp! Send your kid to any one of the 4 camps in the red squares (divided by age groups), and if it's their first time camping, the church will pay the full tuition! If it's the second+ time, the church will pay \$100 towards the tuition. (There are also scholarships available for kids going on their 2+ year that need additional funding.)

After you register for camp, forward the email confirmation to us at [dunkirk@zionuccton.com](mailto:dunkirk@zionuccton.com)  
Let's help all of our church kids have a great summer!

**SIGN UP FOR  
CAMP  
TODAY!**

## Womens Weekend

JUNE 6-8, 2025

"Knock, Knock.  
It's me, God."

Join us for a meaningful weekend of reflection, connection, and renewal as we explore the many ways God knocks on the doors of our hearts—through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and calls to serve others. Through inspiring talks, small group discussions, quiet reflection, and joyful fellowship, we'll deepen our awareness of God's presence in our daily lives. Come rest, recharge, and open the door to His love!

Directed by Mary Pfeiffer



**JOIN US!**  
Register at [www.Dunkirkcc.com](http://www.Dunkirkcc.com)

Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center  
3602 Lakeshore Dr. Dunkirk, NY 14048  
[exec.director@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:exec.director@dunkirkcc.com)  
(716) 366-1900

## Summer Youth Camps

Visit [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com) to explore all our camping opportunities

## Family Camps

### JUNE

#### June 29-July 5 Senior High Camp

Directors: Greg & Krista Furgala

We invite you to join us for an exceptional week of Christian-centered activities that blend enjoyment and learning. Escape the daily grind and immerse yourself in a supportive community of teens and counselors, where you can engage in meaningful discussions and forge enduring friendships.

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 10 - Grades)

#### June 29-July 2 Pilgrim Mini Camp

Director: Kathy Aldrow & Amanda Aldrow

This camp is for young or first-time campers that want to begin summer with lots of fun activities with other campers. We will splash in the creek in search of crayfish, explore the beach for sea glass souvenirs, swim in our pool to cool off, sing silly songs, play goofy games and MUCH, MUCH MORE! We create an atmosphere to make new friends in a Christian environment. Join us for the whole week or just for the 3 day "mini" camp.

**COST: \$350** (Entering Grades 1 - 5)

#### June 29-July 5 Pilgrim Full Week Camp

**COST: \$520**

### Day Camp

Director: Christina Reid  
Asst. Director: Heather Johnson

#### June 30-Aug 16

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY from 7:30am-5:00pm

Join us for a summer packed full of games, crafts, swimming, hiking and much, much more!

\*Breakfast, Lunch and Snack Included\*

#### SIBLING DISCOUNT:

Full-Time (5 days): \$50/wk  
Part-Time (3 days): \$30/wk, beginning with your second child registered.

#### Day Camp

#### Entering Grades K-5

Part-Time (Mon-Wed-Fri): \$200

Full-Time (Mon-Fri): \$260

#### Senior Day Camp

#### Entering Grades 6-8

Part-Time (Tues-Wed-Thurs): \$185

Full-Time (Mon-Fri): \$235

### JULY

#### July 13-19 Outdoor Adventure Camp

Directors: Kathy Aldrow, Rachel & Joe Paglicci

This week is for youth who have LOTS of HIGH ENERGY and are looking for a fast paced, fun filled week that includes getting messy, lots of "new" games, a twist on sports, pool time, creek hikes, team challenges, water fun, sleeping under the stars and so much more! We emphasize fun and trying new things as part of life's adventurous journey! Come join in and bring a friend!

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 3-8)

#### July 27-Aug 2 Pioneer Camp

Directors: The Aures Family (Bob, Kathy, Carlton & Mari)

Join us for an amazing week of fun, fellowship, and adventure! Spend time with old friends and new ones as we explore God's wonderful creation of DCC. Our days are packed with fun activities from the time you wake up until you go to bed. Some of our activities include swimming, archery, hiking, team challenges and campfires with lots of singing!

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 3-7)

### Youth Weekend Camps

Directors: Mike Hanes & Scott Benaglio

Jan 17-19, 2025 Winter Weekend I

Feb 14-16, 2025 & Feb 13-15, 2026 Winter Weekend II

April 25-27 Superheroes Camp

September 12-14 Star Wars Camp

September 19-21 Fall Adventure

October 10-12 Harry Potter Camp

**COST: \$125** (Entering Grades 3-9)

### Forms

#### Necessary Medical Forms:

Current Physical & Immunization Records  
Physician's Medical Form (for RX meds and OTC meds)  
Form must be signed by your child's physician and returned to the camp office even if your child is not taking any medications.

#### ATTENTION Youth Camp & Day Camp Parents

As per NYS Department of Health law, ALL necessary medical forms MUST be turned in to the camp office by the first day of camp or your child will NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND!!

### AUGUST

#### August 3-9 Soccer Camp

Directors: Mike & Kelly Hanes & Scott Benaglio

Spend a week playing the game you love! Improve your game with daily skill training and participate in a weeklong World Cup tournament of small-sided games. This hybrid soccer/adventure camp has plenty of soccer plus all the bells and whistles of an outdoor adventure camp including creek hikes, swimming, adventure races, campfires and more!

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 3-9)

#### August 3-9 Swim Camp

Directors: Allison Augst, Mike Hanes & Scott Benaglio

If you love to swim then this camp is for you! Spend a week improving your skills and playing games in the pool. This hybrid swim/adventure camp has plenty of swimming plus all the bells and whistles of an outdoor adventure camp including creek hikes, games, adventure races, campfires and much more!

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 3-9)

#### August 10-16 Junior High Camp

Directors: Kathleen Shrader & Jackson Cummins

Junior high is a camp that is designed to help young teens discover themselves through faith and guidance. During our week together we will encourage the campers to step away from the outside world and to just be themselves. The campers will have an opportunity to engage in open discussions, meditations, outdoor activities, sports, and free time with friends. This is a chance to build yourself and friendships that will last a lifetime.

**COST: \$520** (Entering Grades 7-10)

### Volunteers Needed:

Call the office @ 716-366-1900 for more information

**Counselors** (Must be 18 or older) Be a counselor for one of our Summer Youth Camps.

#### May 16-18 Work Weekend

Cleaning building, cabins and preparing the grounds for the Summer season. Lodging provided if needed. Lunch and Dinner provided on Saturday. Please let us know if you are planning to come!

#### October 18 Halloween Happening

Decorating, clean-up, food sales, costume contest, traffic control.

#### Saturday, October 25 Fall Work Day

Help us close camp for the Winter. Lunch provided. Please let us know if you are planning to come!

### Mom and Dad with kids? Grandparent? Single parent with kids? On your own?

Experience a sense of belonging, family and coming home to God. There are morning learning groups and activities for all ages. Afternoon activities include swimming, hiking, crafts, and archery, but most importantly there is time set aside to develop peaceful, spiritual connections with God. Evenings bring vesper services overlooking the sunsets of Lake Erie, campfires, and more entertaining activities for families of all sizes and ages. Please join us for a week of peace... a week that will feed your body and spirit.

#### June 22-28 Family Camp 1

Directors: Revs. David & Beth Long-Higgins

#### July 20-26 Family Camp 2

Directors: Jessica Burdick-Giordano, Rev. Krista Ulrich & Christopher Burdick

#### COST:

6 and under: FREE

Ages 7-11: \$350

Ages 12-17: \$450

Adults \$520

### Discounts

DISCOUNTS APPLY TO WEEK-LONG OVERNIGHT CAMPS ONLY

You are allowed the Early Bird Discount (until April 15th) and (1) additional discount. (Ex. If you are a first-time camper and have siblings, you will only receive the first-time camper discount.)

**Early Bird Discount:** \$25/person. You must register by April 15, 2025 and have made a \$150 deposit per registered child or family member.

**First-Time Camper:** \$100/person. First time attending a DCC week-long camp.

**Sibling Discount:** \$50 off week-long overnight camps beginning with 2nd child registered.

**Sibling Discount:** \$15 off weekend camps beginning with 2nd child registered.

**Multi-Camp Discount:** \$50 off each additional week-long camp registered for the same child

**Health Insurance:** Check with your health care provider for possible fee reimbursements.

**Church:** Ask your Minister or Christian Education Director about church sponsorships.

**DCC Scholarships:** Call our camp office @ 716-366-1900 for details.

# Children & Youth

## BABYSITTING COURSE AT ZION UCC



Excellence in Education Awards Buffalo  
32m •

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 Excellence in Education finalists. Please attend the 6th Annual Awards program on May 3rd to learn the winners of each category. \*\*\* Tickets can be purchased for the May 3rd Excellence in Education Awards at [www.friendsforabetterbuffalo.com](http://www.friendsforabetterbuffalo.com).\*\*\*

*Congrats Mandy!*



## JR. WAY ANIMAL DAY!



**10** | Saturday  
May 10th  
9am to 11am

St. James UCC  
76 Main St.  
Hamburg, NY 14075



register:

[WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/JRWAY](http://WWW.ZIONUCCTON.COM/JRWAY)

Ages 4 through Grade 6



## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Jr. WAY: Ages 4 to Grade 6  
WAY: Grades 7-12  
Sr. WAY: Ages 18-35

If you know someone in one of these age groups, help them get connected today!

# Easter Bunny Breakfast

With over 200 people from the neighborhood, we had a blessed Holy Saturday!  
What a wonderful way to introduce people to the church!



# Congrats to the Newly Baptized Oliver



# Visiting Youth Group

A youth group from Acton, MA spent the week after Easter at Zion for their annual mission trip. The youth minister, Ryan, went to seminary with Pastor Elizabeth. This group of 18 (14 teens, 4 adults) worked with Meals on Wheels, helped a few seniors in our church with their yard work, helped our sister church, Epiphany UCC in Clarence with their basement clean out, and gardened here at Zion. They also enjoyed a visit to Niagara Falls and the Anchor Bar on their free day!

Below are some pictures from their visit.



# To Donate:

[www.zionuccton.com/Memorial-Park](http://www.zionuccton.com/Memorial-Park)

## ZION MEMORIAL PARK

### Donation Levels



#### Labyrinth Level Donor

For a donation of **\$100**, you can be a Labyrinth Level Donor. This means your name, or the name of the person you are giving in memory of, will be on our donation plaque for the Labyrinth.



#### Walking Path Level Donor

For a donation of **\$200**, you can be a Walking Path Level Donor.

This means your name, or the name of the person you are giving in memory of, will be on our donation plaque for the Walking Path.



#### Bench Level Donor

For a donation of **\$300**, you can be a Bench Level Donor. This means your name, or the name of the person you are giving in memory of, will be on our donation plaque for the Benches.



#### Tree Level Donor

For a donation of **\$500**, you can be a Tree Level Donor. This means your name, or the name of the person you are giving in memory of, will be on our donation plaque for the Memorial Park Trees.



#### Park Level Donor

For a donation of **\$1,000** or more, you can be a Park Level Donor. This means your name, or the name of the person you are giving in memory of, will be on our donation plaque for the Memorial Park.



DONATE

## Zion Memorial Park

We're building a Memorial Park on the Side Lot!  
The Memorial Park will include a labyrinth in the center, and a walking path around it. Along the path there will be benches and trees. There will also be signs noting how many laps to walk a mile (8) with a trash can and "doggy bags" to clean up after pets.

Inside the church there will be a memorial plaque.  
To memorialize a loved one, select the level and donate online or with a designated envelope in the church office.

We will build a beautiful walking park for the community and in doing so, we'll have a way to memorialize our loved ones!



## New Date for the June Retreat with Pastor Kalee



We have a new date/location for the June Retreat!

Join Pastor Kalee on June 22, 2025  
from 12:30-3:30pm  
at Whirlpool State Park  
(no cost)  
For the June Retreat!

To register: call or email at 989-213-2870, [kaleemielke@gmail.com](mailto:kaleemielke@gmail.com)

## Dunkirk Mother's Memorial

Mothers Memorial Appeal Update - April 2025

Thank you from the DCC Board of Trustees to everyone who donated to the Mother's Memorial Appeal. Through your generous donations, we have raised \$65,000 leaving us just \$15,000 short of our goal. We are blessed to have such good support from our Dunkirk family.

There is still time to donate to help preserve this beautiful Arts and Crafts building. The ways to donate are included below.

The Board has determined that we will need a new roof on Mother memorial. The 5 dormer windows will also need to be replaced. This project will be one of the largest we have taken on in recent years. We are projecting a budget of \$80,000 for this major project.

This structure was designed to serve as an all-purpose assembly hall. Construction began in 1923, with funds collected from the Atlantic, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and New York State Sunday School leagues. From these groups the primary fund raisers were mothers who lost their sons in World War I. Later, as a fitting tribute this building was renamed...Mothers Memorial.

Please consider donating In Memory of or In Honor of your Mother/Grandmother or a Veteran as we help maintain this beautiful Arts and Crafts building and a centerpiece of our camp. This could be a year-end gift or possibly a pledge over the next 3 years.

Ways to Donate:

- On our website [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com). From there you can donate using a credit or debit card PayPal or Venmo You can also use the QR code below to access our website.
- Call our office @ 716-366-1900 to donate by phone with a credit or debit card
- Mail a check to : Dunkirk Conference Center 3602 E. Lake Rd Dunkirk, NY 14048



Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to seeing you around camp in 2025!