
Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

♦
August 2025



Pastor's Letter:

Happy Summer, Church!

What a wonderful July this was!

We took 44 youth and leaders on the mission trip to my hometown, Sunderland, MA. We had 24 kids at Vacation Bible School. And we've had wonderful summer worship services inside and outside!

You'll find pictures of the Mission Trip and VBS, and you can click these links to watch recap videos: [Mission Trip](#) and [VBS](#).

One story that I want to tell you in this newsletter is from the mission trip.

On the second day of work, I took a group hiking to clean up debris on the trail (though we couldn't move a tree that was on the path without a chainsaw). And after we finished hiking on a hot and sweaty day, my nephew (who is local there) gave me the idea to take the kids to the waterfalls that you can slide down. Once we were at the waterfalls, and some of us were wading in the water, someone said something about being baptized. So I said, "Who wants to be baptized?!" And one of our youth from Zion who has worshipped with us and attended youth group for a while, said that he did, and that he hadn't been baptized before! So he came forward and I baptized him. Then others wanted to be baptized (though technically this is a reaffirmation

of baptism for those who have already been baptized). And on the two trips we took to the waterfalls, I baptized (and reaffirmed baptisms) of at least ten people. It was wonderful! Even my daughter wanted a full submersion baptism, so I was able to reaffirm her baptism as well. To say my mom/pastor heart was happy would be an understatement.

Then a few days after the trip, I was in our basement working out, and I realized my bicep was sore. For a second I was confused, because I hadn't lifted any weights for over a week because of the mission trip. Then suddenly I realized why it was sore - it was from baptizing everyone! What a glorious temporary pain to have!

I can't help but think, over and over, how blessed we are.

We serve a God who loves us and redeems us.

We have a church that welcomes all people and that has a loving presence that can be felt.

We have kids, youth, and adults of all ages who are really leaning into their faith journeys.

We have a community of faith that God continues to grow and serve God and our neighbors.

We truly are blessed!

I hope you feel that blessing, because I know I do!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth
Thank you for reading!*

Church Hats/Shirts!

**ORDER YOURS TODAY!
\$20 EACH
(OR \$37 FOR HAT AND SHIRT COMBO)
ORDER ONLINE OR IN OFFICE**

www.zionuccton.com/order-form



Church Events

- Summer Worship ► Sundays 9:30am
- Summer Sunday School ► Sundays 9:30am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm on Facebook
- Nursery ► Sundays during worship
- Food Pantry ► Every Tuesday 10am-12pm
- AA ► Sat. at 10am & 1pm, Thurs. at 5:30pm
- Aug 3 ► Communion & Traditional Worship indoors
- Aug 10 ► Outdoor Contemporary Worship*
- Aug 13 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- Aug 17 ► Indoor Traditional Worship
- Aug 22 ► Women's Fellowship Buffalo Harbor Cruise
- Aug 24 ► Outdoor Contemporary Worship*
- Aug 27 ► Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
- Aug 30 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner
- Aug 31 ► Outdoor Contemporary Worship*
- Sep 6 ► Food Addiction 101 @10am
- Sep 7 ► Rally Day! One Service @10am with a picnic to follow!
- Sep 7 ► Pastor Kalee's Ecclesiastical Council at Zion! Please join us at 3pm. To read her paper, [click here](#).
- Sep 13 ► Men's Fellowship 9am@Family Tree
- Sep 14 ► Resume 2 services, 9 & 10:45

*Outdoor worship is weather permitting

Find more events at:

www.zionuccton.com/events

Please sign up to Lector and to serve at the Community Dinner!

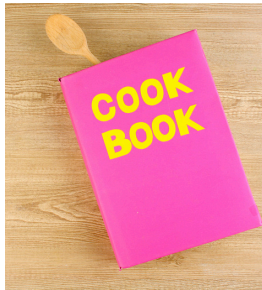
LECTOR SIGN UP



COMMUNITY DINNER SIGN UP



Zion's New Cookbook!



We need your help!!

The Zion UCC Health Ministry has decided to publish a cookbook.
We would really like at least one recipe from every family that attends Zion UCC.

Please type or clearly printed out 1-2 family recipes on one of the categories below
If typed, please send it to DW1416@aol.com by August 10, 2025.

You should list:

1. name of the recipe
2. Ingredients
3. directions
4. Your family name



Categories to put your recipe under are:

- Soups and Salads
- Breads and rolls
 - Desserts
 - Vegan
- Kids Favorites
- Main Dishes



There will be a box on the back shelf for the printed recipes. All the recipes will be put into the computer under categories by some of the designated Health Ministry Team. They will be submitted to the company for printing. We will be selling the cookbooks in the Fall. They will make great keepsakes, holiday and birthday gifts, and your family name will forever be documented in print. Please help us by taking a few minutes to put down your beloved family recipe to share with others. The money collected for this project will go back to the church.

Any questions, see Debby Williams, Lynn Alexander, Sally Budik, Pam and Bob Sedota,
Dawn Mack, Tina Erickson or Mallory Felvus.

Health Ministry Classes

Date: Saturday, September 6

Time: 10am-12pm

Topic: Food Addiction 101

Speaker: Elizabeth Kovacs
(certified nutrition instructor)

Date: Saturday, October 25

Time: 11am-12pm

Topic: What survivors need to know:

Creating a Legacy Document
Speaker: James Bardot

Support this event at
New Covenant UCC
in Buffalo!



Heaven's
BOUTIQUE

Ladies you are cordially invited to attend
Heaven's Boutique

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2025
Location: New Covenant United Church of Christ
Address: 459 Clinton Street, Buffalo, NY 14204

We will host two sessions with 60 people each:

Session 1:
God's Grace
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Session 2:
God's Favor
Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RSVP is MANDATORY

Please provide the following information:

- Your agency
- Your session preference
- The number of guests attending

Sessions will be filled on an RSVP basis and will be closed once the maximum capacity is reached. Although we would love to serve everyone, our limit is 120 guests.

RSVP to:

Rachel Taggart
Heaven's Boutique Chairperson
Phone: 716-570-3565
Email: raesoffin@verizon.net

You may also leave a message at NCUCC:
Phone: 716-856-3392

Donation Opportunity

Zion is collecting Diapers & wipes!

If you would like to donate, bring in your donations of diapers and wipes and put them under the coat rack in the Narthex.

Let's help in any way we can!

Donations will be collected through the end of August.



Harvest House
Buffalo

3rd Annual Baby Shower



In 2024, Harvest House was helping 600 children per month. This year, that number has swelled to almost 800 children per month.

Federal poverty incomes will increase by just 5% in 2025. Basic baby supplies are expected to increase by 24% or more. This will force families to decide between paying rent, utility bills or caring for their children.



Western Area Youth Mission Trip!





Vacation Bible School!

