

Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

September 2025



Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church,

I'm not sure how, but summer is nearly over. The kids are about to go back to school, and the colder weather is already approaching. As it says in Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season..."

And as we approach this new season, we have a lot going on at church, so I hope and I pray that everyone takes a few minutes to read this newsletter 😊. Additionally, feel free to check out the [Association Newsletter](#) that just went out too!

We have Rally Day coming up on September 7th. We'll have one service at 10am and don't be surprised when you see a fire truck here! Our fire fighters are bringing over the truck to go over fire safety and let the kids check it out! Thank you Wally and Steve and Brighton Fire Company!



We're also having a PICNIC after Rally Day with hot dogs and sides. We'll need some volunteers to sign up for that, so please **click this link** to sign up. We'll have hot dogs, sides, and desserts. And we'll have a bounce house for the kids!



In this Newsletter, you'll also find that we're starting a **Safety Team**. Our Safety Task Force has been working diligently to get as much in place before Rally Day as they can, and one thing they need is volunteers. Please read through that description on Page 6.

Lastly, I know this world is chaotic and heartbreaking. I know many of us go to sleep with tears in our eyes as we lift up our prayers to God. And I know we want nothing more than for our kids to be safe in school, church, and everywhere they go. That's why on Rally Day, we'll be blessing our children: not their backpacks but them. We'll pray over our children before they head off to Sunday School, and I know that each and every one of you will pour out your heart in prayer as we ask for God to protect them and keep them safe. So join with us on Rally Day, and be a part of this blessing.



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

- Sunday School ► Sundays 9:00am
- Nursery ► Sundays during 9am worship
- Food Pantry ► Tuesdays 10am-12pm
- Bible Study ► Tues. @12pm on Facebook
- Bell Choir ► Wed. @6:30pm
- Chancel Choir ► Wed. @7:30pm
- AA ► Thu. @5:30pm, Sat. @10am & 1pm
- Aug 31 ► Contemporary Worship @9:30am (Last Summer Worship)
- Sep 5 ► Youth Group, 6pm @ Zion
- Sep 6 ► Immune Boosters & Busters/ Nutrition and Cooking @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 @ 3pm. To read her paper, [click here](#).
- Sep 9 ► Consistory @7pm
- Sep 10 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- Sep 13 ► Men's Fellowship 9am@Family Tree
- Sep 14 ► Resume 2 services, 9 & 10:45
- Sep 15 ► Trustees @7pm
- Sep 19 ► Youth Group, 6pm @Nativity
- Sep 20 ► Women's Fellowship @11am
- Sep 24 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- Sep 27 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner
- Oct 5 ► Pastor Kalee's Ordination & Reception @3pm

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
	

Health Ministry Updates

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 ASAP!

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

Date: Saturday, October 25

Time: 11am-12pm

Topic: What survivors need to know:

Creating a Legacy Document

Speaker: James Bardot



IMMUNITY BOOSTERS AND BUSTERS NUTRITION & COOKING CLASS, September 6, 10am-12pm

Come join us at Zion United Church of Christ for a fun and informative nutrition and cooking class! Learn how to boost your immune system with delicious and healthy foods. This class explores foods and habits that can boost our immune system and also those that deplete it. Hear the latest research behind immunity and what you can do, easily, to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Specific Course content includes:

- * Video instruction from the founder of the Food Saved Me Institute, Kathryn Lawrence
 - * What is the Immune System?
 - * The Immune Response
 - * 10 Immune Boosting Habits
- * Fiber – The importance of building a healthy gut microbiome with fiber and fermented foods
 - * The types of fiber and how much should we get per day
 - * Immune Busters – What to avoid !
 - * Recipes that Boost the Immune System
- * Additional resources for learning about gut microbiota and the immune system
 - * LIVE! Cooking Demonstration
 - * Lunch/Food Tasting



The class includes a beautiful colorful booklet containing all the science you will learn as outlined above, plus recipes to incorporate into your meal planning.

We are adding one additional feature to the class that includes a tutorial on Sprouting and Fermenting. Learn the nutritional value of both to building a healthy gut and immune system. Receive your free gift to start sprouting at home!

You may register for the class by using this link to EVENT BRITE. The online cost is \$20 per person or couple plus a \$3.18 registration fee.

Alternatively, you may text or email Elizabeth Kovacs at info@healthykitchenhealthylife.com or cell 716.282.2098 and pay \$20 at the door. Either way, state full name, email and cell number for the registration. Two for one pricing is offered to encourage couples to attend the class.

Message from Church Administrator



Hello Zion family and greetings from John Pauling, our new Church Administrator. As I write this, I'm beginning day 2 and I'm very excited to be in this role! I wanted to take a few moments to introduce myself, explain my role, and let you know how you can contact me.

- **Who am I:** For those who I've not yet met, I joined Zion in 2015. I attend our first service with my husband, Jeff Quinton. I'm the Vice President of our Consistory board; I previously held a spot on our Trustees; and I help to lead our PBJ's (which is our church volunteer fundraising committee).
- **What am I doing:** As our new Church Administrator, these are some of the tasks I'll be responsible for. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change, as Pastor and I work on further refinements:
 - Focusing on strategies to support church growth initiatives
 - Coordinating and maintaining our church's calendar of events
 - Managing church room rentals
 - Supporting communications such as our newsletter, flyers, email announcements, and social media updates
 - Assisting committees and church leaders as needed
- **When (and where) am I working:** I'll be working approximately 15-hours per week. Generally, I'll be working Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9am – 2pm in the church office. At times I may also work from home.
- **How can you contact me:** You can reach me via email at john@zionucc.com or you can call the church office at (716) 836-6220 or my personal cell at (716) 863-5051.

I look forward to further supporting our amazing church and helping to take some of the administrative burden off of Pastor Elizabeth. Please reach out at any time if you have any questions!

John

ConnectLife
Blood Drive
Thursday, September 11, 2025
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Brighton Volunteer Fire Co.
50 Jamaica Rd., Tonawanda, NY 14150
In the Main Hall

September donors will receive a Bills phone wallet, AND each week, be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of three pairs of tickets to a regular season Buffalo Bills home game in the all-inclusive M&T Bank Club.

To make an appointment: Scan Me

Scan QR code, call ConnectLife at 716.529.4270 OR visit ConnectLifeGiveBlood.org & enter sponsor code: 000340

Thank you to Bob, Dave, and Pat for assembling our new slides!



We still have our main swing set, but we added additional swings to the side so the kids can swing safely!

Update on Zion Memorial Park

Many of you are probably curious on the status of our Zion Memorial Park. As a reminder, we are developing this park on the large triangular field across from our parking lot. The park will include a bridge over to the adjacent land; a metered one-eighth mile walking path; a labyrinth; benches; and trees. Jeff Quinton and our Environmental Committee envisioned this park as a way to further beautify and utilize this otherwise untouched piece of church land and as one more way to encourage our community to join us.

Back in April, we requested bids on this project and then enlisted the services of a landscaping firm to complete the work. At that time, we made our initial deposit. While we had good reason to trust in the workmanship and reliability of this firm, sadly, this gentleman has done nothing but given us the runaround and provide us with months of unfulfilled promises for work that has yet to be started.

We have subsequently parted ways with this gentleman and we are pursuing the return of our deposit. The good news is that we do have a backup plan! Jeff is now working with our friends at Stonish's Landscaping. They were one of our original bidders on this project. We already have a history with Stonish's and many of our church members have had exceptional experiences working with them. Stonish's expects to start the project on September 11! We will continue to keep you informed on the progress.

As a church, we are incredibly blessed with the generous donations that many of you have made towards this park.

As you might recall, we offered multiple donation levels:

- **Labyrinth Level** – for a donation of \$100
- **Walking Path Level** – for a donation of \$200
- **Bench Level** – for a donation of \$300
- **Tree Level** – for a donation of \$500
- **Park Level** – for a donation of \$1,000 or more



If you made any donations, your name (or the name of the person you are giving in memory of) will be listed on a donation plaque for the Memorial Park. This plaque will be prominently mounted somewhere in the church. To clarify, a donation at the bench level or the tree level doesn't mean that you are specifically purchasing one of these items but rather that you are contributing towards the overall park project.

Initially, we expect to start the park with the bridge, walking path, labyrinth, 2 benches, and 5 trees. Over time, we can continue to make park improvements which might include additional benches or trees as well as pet waste disposal stations.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this unexpected, challenging situation.

John Pauling, Church Administrator
Jeff Quinton, Environmental Committee

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood Pressure Checks resume the **first Sunday in October.**

In-between services, on the first Sunday of the month, you can have your blood pressure checked by one of our nurses!



Hallway Safety Ushers Needed

New Volunteer Role: Hallway Safety Usher

Beginning this fall, Zion UCC is starting a new **Hallway Safety Usher** volunteer role to help ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes to worship.

We are seeking volunteers for the **September–December rotation**.

Details of Service:

- Two services each Sunday: **9:00 AM** and **10:45 AM**
- Volunteers sign up for **one service** and choose **which Sunday of the month** (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th) they wish to serve
- Commitment is for **three consecutive months** (Sept–Dec, then Jan–Apr, May–Aug)



Responsibilities include:

- Providing a welcoming and watchful presence in the hallway between the parking lot entrance and the sanctuary
- Responding quickly and appropriately in the event of an emergency
- Alerting the congregation and Sunday School classrooms if someone poses a potential threat to our safety
- Leverage a simple handheld device that will either trigger a strobe light signal (for an alert) or an audible alarm (for an emergency)

This ministry is a vital way to care for one another and provide peace of mind as we gather for worship.



👉 Sign up today through Sign Up Genius: [Click this link!](#) or scan the QR code.

Star Wars Camp Sept 12 - 14 Cost \$125 (Entering grades 3 - 9)

The Star Wars weekend camp is just a short time away. The path to becoming a Jedi is a tough one that every Padawan must complete. You will learn to use the Force and work together to complete a series of Jedi trials in an attempt to complete your ultimate quest and defeat the evil Empire. Mastering lightsaber skills and rescuing Baby Yoda will be just a couple of your many trials.

Check-in for camp will begin at 6:30pm on Friday, September 12, 2025 at cabin 1.

Camp ends at 11:45am on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

Fall Adventure Camp September 19 - 21 Cost \$125 (Entering grades 3 - 9)

Outdoor adventure weekend is just a short time away. I hope that you are as excited as we are! A fun-filled exciting weekend has been planned, including games, hiking, exploring and more.

Check-in for camp will begin at 6:30pm on Friday, September 19, 2025 in Pilgrim's Lodge.

Camp ends at 11:45am on Sunday, September 21, 2025.

Harry Potter Camp October 10 - 12 Cost \$125 (Entering grades 3 - 9)

You have been invited to attend the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry at the Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center.

The Harry Potter themed weekend camp is just a short time away.

Check-in for camp will begin at 6:30pm on Friday, October 10, 2025 at Pilgrim's Lodge.

Camp ends at 11:45am on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

Register for these camps and more @ <http://www.dunkirkcc.com>

If you are on Facebook and haven't done so already, please "like" our page "Dunkirk Conference Center" for access to pictures and to receive information about upcoming camps and events.