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## June Zionite

Dear Church,

As most of you know, I was fortunate enough to spend a week in San Antonio, Texas for the Festival of Homiletics (it's a preaching festival). And while I was there, enjoying one sermon and lecture after another, I thought of a few things I want to share with you. So, here are my thoughts:

1. I really love listening to sermons. To me, the ideal sermon is about 25-30 minutes. But, I understand that everyone doesn't fall into this category, so don't worry, I'll keep mine under 20 minutes.
2. It's possible to learn from a sermon we don't agree with. There was one sermon in particular that I did not (at all) agree with. Truthfully, I fear that the words preached could be damaging to young preachers (those new to ministry). However, even when we disagree with a sermon, there is always something that we can learn -- and quite possibly, there might be more that we can learn from sermons we disagree with than those that move us to shout, "Amen!" Why? Because when we disagree with a sermon we have to articulate (at least to ourselves) WHY we disagree with the message. And that means we spend time chewing over what was said and evaluating our own positions. If we do this with a calm, sound mind, then we can learn more about why we view an issue/topic differently from others -- and that can be a great learning experience.
3. There is always SO MUCH to learn about the Bible. I mean, SO MUCH. I spent 4 years studying Religion and Biblical texts in college, then 3 years studying Christianity and the Bible in Seminary, and I still learn new things about the Bible all the time. Why? Because the Bible is a deep, rich collection of different books, poetry, laments, histories, stories, and letters that tell us about the journey the Israelite people and the early church experienced with God.
4. My favorite preachers are nothing alike. Rev. Adam Hamilton from the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (pictured with me below) is an amazing preacher. But he's mostly a teacher. On the Myers-Briggs, he's a strong T (Thinker). He is not charismatic, but I learn so much from every sermon and lecture he gives (and that's probably why he's the pastor of the largest church in the country). Bishop Yvette Flunder is very charismatic and deeply passionate; she is most certainly an F (Feeler) on the Myers-Briggs. Every time I listen to her preach, I feel inspired to get up and do something. They're extremely different and yet they're both extremely gifted. What does that teach us? Our gifts come in all different forms, and we need to use our gifts instead of comparing ourselves to others (this pertains to everything, not just preaching).
5. My goal in ministry is to help people fall as in love with Church as I have. Spending a week listening to sermons and lectures, and singing songs of praise, filled my Spirit in a wonderful and tremendous way. Nothing other than the church gives people an opportunity to put their heart and soul into something greater than themselves. I hope you can fall in love with God's Church, because, friends, it's amazing.

And yes, you'll be hearing stories from this week for a while now, so bear with me! And thank you for being the kind of church that I can praise when I'm away, not the kind that leaves me griping (I heard plenty of griping while I was there!). You, my friends, are good people... you're God's people.

In Christ,  
Pastor Elizabeth



Zion United Church of Christ's

# **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

Saturday, June 17th

11am — 7pm

15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda

BBQ, strawberry shortcake, strawberries,

desserts, bake sale,

craft sale, kids zone, bounce house, and old cars!

Join us for Food, Fun, and Fellowship

**All Are Welcome!**

### **Worship Schedule:**

#### **Sunday, June 11th Children's Promotional Sunday**

9:00 am Children's Rehearsal (no 9am worship)

10:30 am Children's Program

#### **Sunday, June 18th**

Two Services: 9 & 10:30

Father's Day & Dedication of Nunes Overflow Room

#### **Sunday, June 25th**

Two Services: 9 & 10:30

#### **Sunday, July 2nd New Member Sunday**

One Worship Service at 9:30 am

One summer service at 9:30 am runs through Rally Day.

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### **Pastoral Care Team**

*Want to be a part of a ministry team? If so, contact the pastor.*

*The Pastoral Care Team assists the pastor to increase church visitation. This team does not take away from Pastoral visits, but adds to Pastoral visits, similarly to the early church led by the Apostles.*

*The Pastor Care Team is going to split into three groups:*

- 1. Hospital Visitation*
- 2. Nursing Home/Assisted Living/Home Bound Visitation*
- 3. Church Member Check-ins (this is a new team that will use the attendance books to determine when someone has begun missing worship to check in on them).*

*A new training session will begin this summer. We use the UCC's "Called to Care" training program.*

*Anyone is able to be a part of this important ministry team! Give as much or as little time to the team as you're able.*

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### **Evening Bible Study**

Join us for the 6 week evening Bible Study!

It begins June 7 and runs through July 12.

We'll be studying the Gospel of Mark. Come to one or come to all, you're welcome here!

**Wednesdays, 7pm Overflow Room**



## Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, July 7th, we will welcome New Members to the Church!

*Anmarie & Daniel Kenny and children Daniel and Kathleen*

*Lauren Rosehart*

*Lori and Kevin O'Brien and children Kayleigh and Ryleigh*

*Kara Dabney*

*Katie Rosehart*

*Jeannette Welch*

*Tanya walk and daughter Peyton Walk*

*Bonnie MacLeod*

*Melissa and Joe Metz and children Patrick and Jonah*

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**Congratulations to Herb and Stacey Hachten  
on the birth of their new baby, Cecilia!  
And Congratulations to grandparents,  
Melanie and Herb Hachten!**

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View Consistory Meeting Minutes [HERE](#) (password has been lifted)

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