



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

I don't know about you, but I love summer. I love the longer days. I love the kids running around playing. I love the break from school so kids can just be kids. I love letting the sun shine down on my face. I love worshipping outside. I love watching cars stop to listen on the street mid-sermon during outdoor worship. I love hiking and exploring in the summer. I love the camps and the mission trips and the activity that becomes possible during school break. I love watching the most amazing athletes compete in the summer Olympics. And I get a little sad when August hits because it means summer is only with us for another month, but when that sadness kicks in, I remind myself to be in the present. To enjoy right now. And I think it was Simone Biles who recently said that she wishes people would stop asking Olympic athletes, "What's next?" Because they need time to enjoy the moment they're in—the moment they've dreamed of.

Sometimes we need to remember to enjoy the "right now". Instead of rushing past something, we need to pause and enjoy the moments of joy. During outdoor worship a couple weeks ago, we had multiple people in awe of a butterfly flying around during the service. I didn't see the butterfly (other than videos and pictures) but I love that the butterfly was able to capture people's attention and give them a moment of awe right in the middle of worship, because that's part of experiencing the glory of God. God wants to capture our attention and leave us in awe. God wants to capture our attention and make us pause and live in the moment. God wants us to pause.

So I hope you can take time to pause this summer. I hope you can take a moment to let in the glory of God. Because it's in those moments of pause - those moments of awe - when we can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

And as we think about these moments, I want to share a couple additional things with you:

1. We sent a total of 58 people to Detroit for the 2024 WAY mission trip, 18 from Zion. I'll put pictures throughout this short edition of the Zionite for you to see them at work. They worked with a group called LifeBuilders Detroit, and a food pantry sorting location called Forgotten Harvest. They worked hard and they were a blessing to the community!
2. Plymouth Crossroads found a new home, with over an acre of land, so we were able to purchase a new riding lawn mower for them (with the help of our church members). Please continue to pray for them at Plymouth Crossroads, they are the home for homeless teen boys started by the United Church Home Society.
3. We had our listening workshop this past Sunday after church. It was a great way to get to know people on a deeper level. AnnMarie Hartmans said, "Dirck and I truly enjoyed the listening exercise last Sunday. I would recommend it to anyone in the church who would like to learn about members and themselves, we even made new friends! Very good for new members in particular." We will hold another listening event in the winter, and we hope even more people will attend!

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Summer Worship ► Starting June 23, Sundays at 9:30am, One Service
- Sunday School ► Summers at 9:30am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live (not on weeks pastors is away in the summer)
- Nursery ► Staffed Sundays during the 1st service
- Youth Group ► 1st & 3rd Fridays 6-9pm, Sep-June
- 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, Sep-June
- Chancel Choir Practice ► Wed @7:30pm, Sep-June
- August 4 ► Baptisms of Kennedy & Wesley All
- August 4 ► Listening Workshop & Lunch
- August 11 ► Baptism of Zoey Cote
- August 13 ► Consistory, 7pm
- August 14 ► Exercise with Dawn
- August 17 ► Women's Fellowship
- August 17 ► Men's Fellowship 9am @Blvd Family Restaurant
- August 18 ► Jr. Way Day at Dunkirk
Sign up www.zionuccton.com/JRWAY
- August 19-23 ► Vacation Bible School
Kids ages 4-12. Register online:
www.zionuccton.com/VBS
- August 19 ► Trustees, 6pm
- August 24 ► Narcan Training, 9-11am
- August 25 ► Guest Preaching, Pastor Elizabeth's Mom! Rev. Dr. Katherine Adams
- August 28 ► Exercise with Dawn

For more events: [ww.zionuccton.com/events](http://www.zionuccton.com/events)

HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES

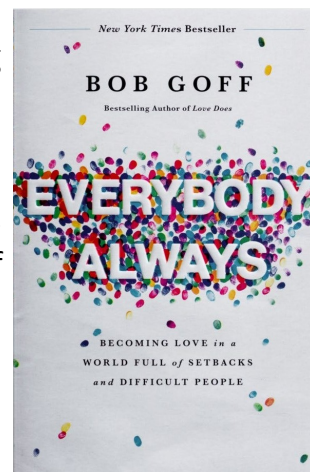
- ◆ Saturday August 24 Narcan Training, Erie County Health Department, 9-11 am
- ◆ *Saturday September Heart Health, TBD, Dr. Andre K speaking*
- ◆ Saturday October 12 CPR Certification, 3pm-5 pm, \$45.00 (Cash only please) *certified trainer* - certification is good for 2 years
- ◆ *November Emergency Preparedness, TBD*
- ◆ December- no classes
- ◆ Saturday January 11, 9-11am, Medicare Information Class
- ◆ Saturday February 8, 9-11:30am, Dealing w/ Grief and Loneliness
- ◆ Saturday March 8, 10-11am, Mental Health Class by the Mental Health Advocates
- ◆ *Saturday April TBD Nutrition Class*
- ◆ *Saturday May TBD Active Shooter Workshop (Town of Tonawanda Police Department)*

BOOK STUDY!

Join Barb Miller for a new Book Study, starting September 16 and continuing for 5 Sessions.

Book: "Everybody Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People" by Bob Goff.

The book we will use is a study guide and is available from Christianbook.com.



ZION EXERCISE BUDDIES WITH DAWN!

Chair yoga exercises for Seniors. Chair stretches for pain relief, relaxation, and flexibility. Chair yoga poses for home practice.

All Are Welcome!

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm

August 14 & 28
September 11 & 25
October 9 & 23

Passing of Dodie Johansen



Dodie Johansen (seen in the picture above with her sons, Kirk and Kyle), returned home to the Lord on Monday, August 5th. Dodie was 92 years old. She was ready to return to the Kingdom of Heaven to be reunited with her husband after many years apart. Even though Dodie was not able to worship with us in person much the last two years, she always joined us online and even had her aids watching church with her the last two months. She truly loved being a part of this church community.

Dodie was part of the "Coffee Hour Crew" for many years, and the friendships she developed from her time serving her church became some of her closest friendships. She loved getting to know the young people in church, and she loved watching them go to camp and on mission trips. Dodie will truly be missed until we see her again in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Her funeral will be Thursday, August 15, at 6pm, here at Zion UCC.



Painting Volunteers Needed!

Eugene Robinson is closing on a new house in Gasport, NY, and he's wondering if there are any volunteers who would like to help him paint (the previous owner smoked, so the whole inside needs repainting).

If you are interested in lending Eugene a hand, he's planning to begin painting at 10am on August 20th. Please reach out to Eugene if you can help.

Thank you!



Bell Choir Ringers Needed!

Bell Choir is looking for people who would be interested in playing bells.

Practices are every Wednesday 6:30-7:30. We play in church at the second service every 3rd Sunday from September-June.

We are looking for 1 full time ringer and substitutes who could come in and practice/play if needed.

"If you can count, you can play!"

Come make a difference! We need your help!
Contact Gail Sweeney at 716-983-4251

Canal View Ministry Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for 4-5 volunteers to help start a new ministry at Canal View, a mental health home. We will be feeding them once a month (dinner or ice cream) and building relationships. Please let Pastor Elizabeth know if you're interested!

It's an easy way to make a difference in the lives of those who need love and compassion.



August 31 Dinner
<https://bit.ly/3AdEOBj>
 Sign up here to volunteer
 for our next community
 dinner!



ZION UCC'S
**Summer
 Vacation
 Bible School**

August 19-23, 2024
 9am to 12pm

AGES 4-12

Register online:
www.zionuccton.com/VBS

Women's Wellness
 the voice of feminine intuition

**September 27- 29, 2024
 at Dunkirk Conference Center**

Learn

- ☉ The virtues embodied by different goddess energies
- ☉ Kindling aliveness
- ☉ Poetic self care

Enjoy

- henna tattoos
- beach walks
- wine & cheese
- bonfires...
- or simply rest

Registration fee: \$100.00

Register online at dunkirkcc.com (use QR code)

or by phone @ 716-366-1900

Scholarship funds are available

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 06.11.2024

Call to Order: 7:03pm by Edie Bauer

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Elena Camp, W. George Darrall, Robin Fowler, Kalee Mielke, Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Dave Dombrowski, Bob Sedota, Edie Bauer, John Pauling, Ted Camp (Trustees)

Absent: Debby Williams

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth

Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes: Motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by Bob. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report: Deferred until Ron's return from his Alaska trip

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID):

- Committee Meeting held this week; Kalee shared her portfolio, school updates
- She is leaning towards pastoring 1 day/week
- She and Annmarie will be going on a trip soon
- After such time she will start working on her thesis (which must be completed by February)
- Working her way towards ordination
- She continues working with Hospice; days are hard and long; doing walking & yoga to help keep her centered

Kalee's Pastoral Care Team Updates:

- Retreat coming up July 14th; she and Annmarie will record a video from the retreat location

Pastor's Report:

- We are still looking for 5 volunteers for the Community Missions ministry. Pastor will continue to spread the word for this. If anyone is interested, let her know.
- Summer Worship begins June 23rd. Worship will be at 9:30am during the summer. When it is a contemporary Sunday and weather permits, we will worship outdoors.
- Summer schedule: Pastor will be in the office as she regularly is, however, she might have to leave temporarily to drive kids from one place to the other, so it's always safest to call/text before coming in to see her. She will be in Massachusetts June 24-28 (Monday-Friday) to visit with family. She'll still be available by phone and she'll return Friday night in time for the Strawberry Festival. She'll be away the week of July 8th for the mission trip in Detroit. Kalee will preach on July 14. From Detroit, Taylor and Pastor are flying to Colorado to see family. They'll return home that Saturday, so she will be preaching on July 21st. Trevor and Pastor are hoping to plan a trip away without the kids for their 15th anniversary on August 22nd, so she might be away for the end of that week (though not the beginning so she'll be at VBS for at least the first part of the week).
- August 4th is our Listening Lunch and event; she hopes everyone plans to stay after worship!
- Kids did a wonderful job on Sunday, June 9th! Thank you kids and teachers!

Trustee's Report (Ted):

- Parking lot nearing completion; had a small concrete add-on; still under budget
- 1st Zion UCC Scholarship awarded to Madie Feng
- Pew Cushion plan; approved to have a sample made from our lowest bidder
- Carpet/Paint Refresh in Narthex (donor paid for new carpeting – install 6/18)
- DCC Sponsorship – we have 3 first timers & 3 returners



- Trustees walked grounds – envisioning of next projects (i.e., sidewalks, ADA compliance, Courtyard, entrance way, etc.)
- Likely in future, they will host an envisioning night for all

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John)

- Strawberry Festival planning is coming along nicely; we have met 3 times
- Women’s Fellowship funded purchase of Cotton Candy machine
- Men’s Fellowship is renting a Dunk Tank from ABC Rental
- We are going to have challenges with refrigerator & freezer space
 - A member graciously offered to purchase a new chest freezer; this is in same room as existing freezer and Ed Miller confirmed that our electricity can support it
 - One of the signups is to have people bring in coolers on Friday night before the event
- George has graciously offered for us to use his 10’ x 20’ tent in the courtyard area for the band
- We still have quite a few volunteer positions to fill for the event
- Upcoming future events include Meat Raffle & Rummage Sale (dates tbd)

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Edie)

- VBS August 19-23

Missions (Edie)

- No updates

Health Ministry (provided by Debby, in advance)

- We have purchased a 10-pamphlet acrylic holder which will go on the wall somewhere accessible to all. Area organizations have donated health related informational pamphlets for it.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 27 at 7 pm.
- We will be restarting monthly blood pressure checks the first Sunday of the month in between services. This will start in September.
- We have already scheduled informational classes for September, October and November. We will pass out flyers with all the information to the congregation when August comes.

Altar Guild (Robin)

- New schedule published (for next 6 months)

Memorials (George)

- No updates
- Current balance in account is \$3,913.40

PPRC/Admin (George)

- No updates

Community Assistance Ministry (Dave)

- No updates

Environmental Ministry (Pierre)

- Will be coordinating an upcoming meeting
- Have begun discussing plans for the mound (for clarity, per the town, we cannot refer to this as a berm) and surrounding areas
- Discussion of planting native shrubs, plantings, and a natural habitat
- Consideration to be given on starting a raised garden as we have in the past
- We may not be able to plant shrubs on top of the berm/not berm because the town will not allow it to exceed a certain height



Network of Religious Communities (Pierre)

- No updates

Community Dinners (Bob)

- Last one we had went well; somewhat lighter turnout due to parking lot
- Regardless, we still gave away 159 meals

Food Pantry (John)

- Jeff recently made a purchase run to restock the pantry
- There are many sticky notes for items that we need on back of door
- We still have funding available to continue
- One challenge we are continuing to face is individuals who take more than their share (despite signage with limits)
- Part of this may be attributed to language barriers as well as some mental illness
- Thoughts were giving on allocating and distributing limited amounts of specific items that are higher in value or tend to disappear fastest (like detergents, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.) vs. having these items free-form stocked on the shelves
- Pastor will have a follow-up conversation with Jeff about this

Coffee Hour (Ted)

- As we approach summer, Gaye and Ted will be switching to cookies & conversation
- There were some issues with the large coffee urn so we'll be switching to a smaller capacity unit

Old Business

- Ken Voght needs to meet with the Trustees in order to finish the church audit.
- New T-shirts will probably be in this Sunday! Thanks Cyle!
- Men's Fellowship is June 22nd at the Family Tree. Thank you, Dave for getting this started again!
- Fall Church Cleanup - set date for **September 22 (after each service)**.
- Debby created a Consistory Manual/Handbook. Pastor will send this out to Consistory for our review.
- Professional/Hobby directory is being created. To submit yours, fill out this link:
<https://www.zionuccton.com/professional-directory/>

New Business

- None

Closing Prayer

- In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next Meeting

- August 13th (We will not meet in July.)

Closing: 8:38pm

Respectfully Submitted,
John Pauling
(filling in for Debby Williams, Consistory Secretary)

