



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

Just like that, summer is coming to a close. And as the seasons change, so do some things around the church. We won't have Kalee and AnnMarie with us every week, because Kalee will be preaching in Niagara Falls (if you didn't read her letter yet, you can find it in this newsletter). They will be very missed, but they will always be a part of us and we are thankful that Kalee is following her calling! The kids will go back to school, and some are already off to college. The weather will soon change, and football season will resume. It won't be long before "Bills" shirts will become normal Sunday attire. It makes me think of the beginning of the 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

But summer isn't quite over yet—we still have one more Sunday with outdoor worship! This Sunday, September 1, we're going to worship outside for one final time (weather permitting). That means we're even going to have communion outside! I wonder if outdoor worship is one of the reasons our summer worship attendance has been so high? I don't have to look at our numbers from previous years to know that we've never had a summer with this good of attendance. Then Rally Day will come on September 8th, as we celebrate the start of Sunday School classes and bless our children as they begin the new school year.

With the changes of seasons, if you've ever wanted to invite someone to church, now is the time! Invite them for outdoor worship this Sunday, or invite them for Rally Day on the 8th, or invite them to the service you most frequently attend starting September 15th. There are many people looking for a Christ-Centered, Inclusive Community of Faith, so make sure to invite people you know to this one!

Be blessed,
Pastor Elizabeth



Church Events

- Summer Worship ► Ends 9/1
- Rally Day Worship ► 9/8 at 10am
- Normal Sunday Services ► Starting 9/15, 9am Contemporary and 10:45am Traditional
- Sunday School ► Starting 9/15 at 9am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live
- Nursery ► Staffed Sundays during the 1st service
- Youth Group ► Resumes 9/20, 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
- Drive Thru Dinners ► Last Sat. of the Month
- August 30 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner
- September 1 ► Final Outdoor worship 9:30am
- September 4 ► Choirs Resume
- September 8 ► Rally Day! Sunday School Kick Off, 10am! Followed by a picnic and fun!
- September 10 ► Consistory, 7pm
- September 11 ► Exercise with Dawn 5:30pm
- September 15 ► Two Services Resume, 9 & 10:45am
- September 21 ► Men's Fellowship 9am @Family Tree Restaurant
- September 22 ► All Church Clean up day!
- September 21 ► Women's Fellowship
- September 25 ► Exercise with Dawn 5:30pm
- September 28 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner

For more events:

www.zionuccton.com/events

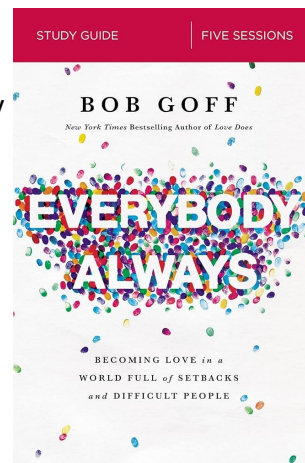
HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES

- ◆ 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.

Study Guide 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



Dear Zion UCC,

In the last three-plus years, you have moved from strangers to friends to family. I have shared in the Zionite before how challenging it was for me to find a church. Zion was like coming home to God's embrace. The purpose of this letter/email is to begin with gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality you gave me as a student minister. Furthermore, for the love you have shown AnnMarie and I as a couple. We both struggled for years as we longed to feel part of a church family and be loved wholeheartedly. Zion healed a hole in our hearts that ached for community and acceptance.

I will begin as pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Niagara Falls in September. I am very excited about this new beginning and to work as a pastor part-time. I will transition to part-time at Hospice as a Spiritual Care Counselor/Chaplain. Moreover, I will continue to complete my ordination process with Zion as my home church.

This opportunity is possible because of my experiences at Zion. Pastor Elizabeth has been the best mentor to be shepherded by. She believed in me when I had endless doubts about myself. She said "yes" to all of my ideas, which gave me the confidence to find myself in ministry. Pastor Elizabeth gave me a voice when others silenced me. I will always remember her email when she first asked me to preach. Most importantly, I know she cares about me, and her trust in me gave me space to heal and grow. I will never know how to thank her enough.

Leading pastoral care, worship services, making crosses/crafts, spiritual retreats, and going to The Chosen together gave me space to be creative and better understand my call. I learned and grew with the church as we grew closer to God and each other. Zion's support through my seminary journey will always be cherished when I remember what "church" means.

Thank you for laughing with me as I made mistakes and journeyed toward more self-compassion. Thank you for being genuinely interested in my life and what God is doing in and through me. Thank you for being my friend.

The letter is not goodbye because there are always ways to partner in ministry through pastoral care, retreats, and services. I will continue on the consistory team at Zion. Also, there are future events with my ordination journey we can stay connected through and possible preaching opportunities at Zion.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord alongside you, In God's service:

Love,
Kalee Mielke



Check out some photos from another great year of Vacation Bible School!



Please Join Us!

Baskets & Brunch

TO BENEFIT

UNITED CHURCH MANOR
SENIOR PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024
The Columns Banquets*2221 Transit Road*Elma
Doors Open 10:00 AM
Brunch Served 10:30 AM - Noon

\$40 per person, or reserve a table of 10 for only \$350

For tickets or to make a donation



Or call 716-668-5804

Thank You to Our Sponsors



livelife.



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.

Scam Alert

Last year I was sent a text that someone charged a \$1500 iPad to my Amazon account. I was at work, with a lot on my mind and distracted. I was almost scammed out of everything. Thank God I realized it at the last minute. I was embarrassed, feeling very stupid and violated. Unfortunately it also happened to a very good friend of mine and they took everything. These people are very smooth and believable. I can now spot these scams, and I call the companies to wish they "represent." I don't call the number given on the text or email. Please take this precaution so this does not happen to someone else. There is also a fraud number: 1-833-Fraud-11.

Thank you,
Gaye Mehlretter

MEAT RAFFLE

TO BENEFIT
DUNKIRK CAMP AND
CONFERENCE CENTER

CAMP DINING HALL
3602 LAKE SHORE DR E, DUNKIRK NY 14048

FRIDAY OCT 18TH

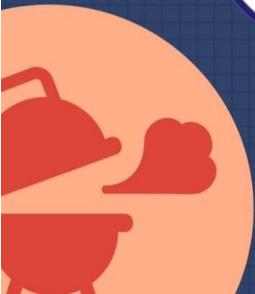
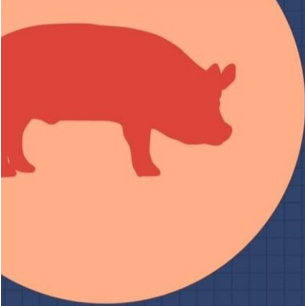
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
FIRST SPIN 7:00PM

\$10 PER TICKET

TICKET INCLUDES:
BEER, SODA AND SNACKS

BASKET RAFFLE AND SIDE RAFFLES
AT ADDITIONAL COST

FOR TICKETS EMAIL RACHEL
RCUMMINS496@GMAIL.COM



CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY!



Let's roll up our sleeves, and get our church building into tip-top shape! We'll find items that can go to the Rummage Sale or trash, and we'll clean all the nooks and crannies of the buildings!

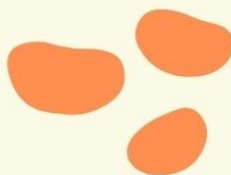


9/22/2024
START 10:00 AM

WE'LL HAVE GROUPS LEADING CLEAN UP EFFORTS AFTER EACH SERVICE.
COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!



LET'S SHOW
OUR BUILDING
SOME LOVE!





Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

Our Association's Newsletter, In The Vineyard, is out with a new quarterly issue. To read it, please [click this link](#).



August 31 Dinner



LECTOR SIGN UP



Starting September 15th!



Susan Yondt, daughter of Sheridan and Lucy Yondt, is playing a piano concert at the Friends of Vienna located at The Unity Church, 1243 Delaware Ave. on Sunday 9/15 at 3:30pm. To purchase tickets, go to: www.friendsofvienna.org

Women's Wellness

the voice of feminine intuition

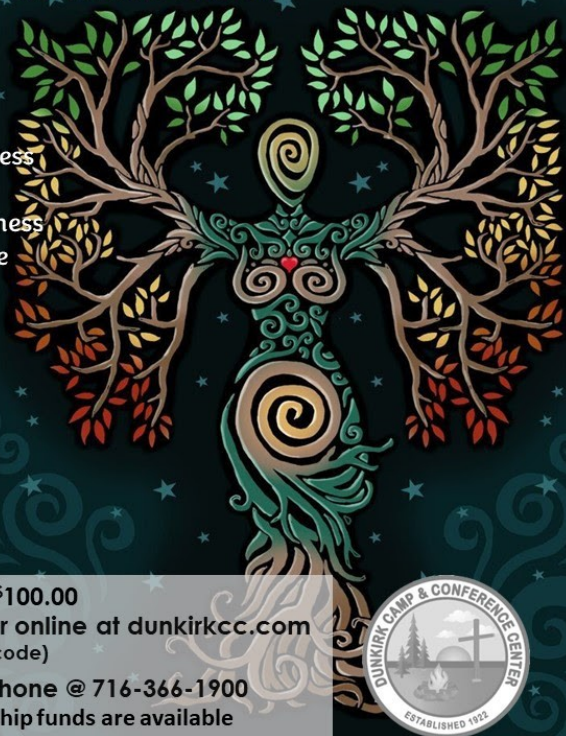
**September 27- 29, 2024
at Dunkirk Conference Center**

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 08.14.2024

Call to Order: 7:01pm 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, Debby Williams and Ted Camp (Trustees)

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth

Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes: Motioned for approval was made by Debby and seconded by Elena. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- As of 8/2/2024 there is a balance of \$52,956.13 in the operating account and \$8,645.67 in the restricted funds account. The operating account balance takes into consideration the payroll for 8/9/24.
- The revenue for July was \$20,459.95. The net income was \$9268.54 In comparison: The revenue for July 2023 was \$16,269.06. The net income for July 2023 was \$3,604.37. The YTD income for 2024 is \$122,653.76 and the net income is \$10,354.20. The 2023 YTD was \$116,238.44 and the net income was \$3090.27.

Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID):

- As of September 1st, Kalee will be starting PT as Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Niagara Falls and PT as Chaplain at Hospice Niagara.
- She is still a member here at Zion and will be here for Consistory and for other events.
- September 25, she will be preaching at St. Paul's on Shawnee Road
- Kalee's Pastoral Care Team Updates: will be meeting September 4 and have a session on how the teachings are going

Approve adding Marcel to Trustees

- Discussion about waiving the two year requirement since marcel has been participating in church activities and worship for fourteen years.
- It was decided that Consistory would conditionally approve this with the final approval to be made at the annual congregational meeting. Pierre made a motion to approve, and John seconded. All attending were approved unanimously.
- A proposal was made to possibly reword the bylaw- will think of how Consistory wants it worded and will vote and discuss it more next month.
- It was recommended to review proposals in regards to language for membership to be on one of the Zion's boards in the future.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor will be away August 22-27 for Trevor and her anniversary. Kalee will be on call and Pastor Elizabeth's mom will preach that Sunday.
- November 17 will be Stewardship Sunday and lay preacher, Angie Staniszewski, will be preaching on the importance of Stewardship.
- Rally Day is September 8 with 10am worship followed by lunch and festivities. This is the kickoff to Sunday school.
- Two services resume Sept 15. 9 & 10:45am.
- We're looking forward to a great week of VBS! So far, we have 20 children registered and some youth volunteers planning to help.

Trustee's Report (Ted):

- Thank you to Laurie M and team who painted the Narthex and had new carpeting placed.
- Working on Vision plan for future projects
- Environmental committee has been asked to come up with their vision for the mound and grass area outside from lot to Koenig.
- Scholarship awards were sent out to recipients
- Kuch Hall will be having a new look with fresh paint (different color). Marcel is the team leader for this project.
- Projects being discussed are the sidewalk replacement on our property that need it. A canopy (weather rated) that will be put up from Spring-Fall for outside worship area and will provide additional room for fundraising activities' needs to be in ADA compliance in that area by the doors. •A question was asked about a possible chancel space outside.
- Pew cushion project ongoing.
- Overview of the mound; plans call for plants that are low maintenance with a comprehensive grander plan of the future use of the space next to the parking lot. They will continue to work with the Environmental Committee on this plan.
- The Consistory officially named the outdoor mound, Mount Zion.
- Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John)
- Rummage sale meeting was held last week. It will be held November 9 from 9am-1 pm.
- They will be looking for volunteers to set up, sort and help the day of the event.
- There will be no meat raffle this year due to a scheduling conflict. It will be back next year.
- Stewardship Sunday will be November 17.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Edie) - VBS August 19-23. Campfire theme

Missions (Edie)- No updates

Health Ministry (Debby)- We will be restarting monthly blood pressure checks the first Sunday of the month in between services. This will start the first Sunday in October.

Our first class is on Saturday August 24 from 9-11- A representative from the Erie County Health Department will be here to discuss opioid addiction in our community and ways we may be able to help. Narcan will be demonstrated and given to all attending participants.

2024/2025 Class Schedule is:

(All classes are free to church members and community unless otherwise noted in description)

- 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 (a Medicare representative)
- Saturday February 8, 9-11:30am, Dealing w/
- Grief (Kalee) and Loneliness (an Erie County presenter)
- 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)

The Ministry team has so many great ideas and is hard at work making sure we are lined up with great topics and speakers for the future. They are also working on having a Congregational Healthy Recipe Cookbook where we ask for healthy recipes from members that would like to contribute. The book will be printed and sold for a small donation that will go back to church activities. More coming on that in the new year.

Altar Guild (Robin)- No report

Memorials (George)- Received one donation for Luke (the neighborhood boy who was hit by a car and sadly passed away)

o Current balance in account is \$3,918.40

PPRC/Admin (George)- No report

Community Assistance Ministry (Dave)-Committee did approve money to be given to a member that needed assistance

New Member (Dave)- spoke about some possible new members coming from another church. They are already attending our worship services now. It was mentioned how well the Listening Workshop was earlier in the month with members old and new getting to know each other better. Pastor got great feedback on event so plans are to have another one in the future.

Environmental Ministry (Pierre)- discussed working on the plans with the Trustees for the mound and surrounding area.

Network of Religious Communities (Pierre)- No report

Community Dinners (Bob)-Last one we had went well, grilled meats leftover from Strawberry Festival. 150 dinners were passed out. Had great support with volunteers.

Food Pantry (John)- We have been well stocked for the last two weeks thanks to congregational support.

Coffee Hour (Ted)- As we approach Fall, Gaye and Ted will be switching to Coffee Hour inside

Old Business

- Ken Voght is waiting for a few more items before finalizing the budget and will meet with the Consistory and Trustees to discuss results. Thank you to Ken V for all his hard work on preparing the audit of this church. Dave made a motion for our next meeting that we invite the Trustees and Ken Voght to discuss his results and then to work on the Consistory Handbook afterwards. Pierre seconded the motion and members unanimously approved the motion.

- 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. Will start to go over this next month.

- Professional/Hobby directory is being created. To submit yours, fill out this link:
<https://www.zionuccton.com/professional-directory/>

New Business

Debby wanted to thank everyone who was involved with obtaining the cross from Kenmore Presbyterian Church, getting it here safely and helping to repair it so it can go up in Kuch Hall. It will be back from the fabricators the last week in August and will be hung up when time allows. The cross was repaired thanks to a donor.

Closing Prayer

- In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen. Next Meeting September 10th at 7 pm.

Closing: 9:17pm

Respectfully Submitted, Debby Williams, Consistory Secretary)