



Zionite Newsletter

Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ

Dear Church,

The other day I received an email from a church asking if I was interested in applying for their open pastoral position (**don't worry, I said thank you but no!**). I did, however, click on the link to learn about their church, because I'm always curious about churches (or as I say of myself, I'm a "church nerd"). And the church size is more than double ours (1,000-1,500 members) BUT something shocked me: their average Sunday attendance is nearly identical to ours!

I like looking at church numbers because I think it helps to see how vital a church is. Currently, our church is at a membership of 450. And we have a regular attendance of 34% of our membership. For comparison, the other church has a regular attendance rate of 12% (assuming 1,250 membership). And I'm told by people who research church numbers more than I do that it's good if a church has an attendance rate of 20% of its members. We far exceed that!

I tell you all of these numbers not because they necessarily matter, but because I love how active our membership is. Our church life is **active**. Our church ministries (Youth, Women's, Men's, Health, Music, Food, etc...) are active and making a difference in the lives of many people in this community. We have volunteers and organizers who devote a large amount of time making sure that the ministry we do in this church is not just the pastor's job, but it's the work of the entire Church. And I think that shows in our attendance rate and church growth.

Just for one example (though I could share many), our Health Ministry has two workshops coming up, one for CPR/AED certification and the other for Emergency Preparedness. They're creating ministry opportunities that can literally save lives! How amazing is our Health Ministry Team?

Numbers are not what matter, but they give us a glimpse of the work we are capable of doing. I love the ministry that we're doing here at Zion, and I know we're going to do even more as God leads us down new paths. Let's keep being the Church, friends, and let's let Jesus lead us everywhere we go.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth

Church Events

- Sunday Services ► 9am Contemporary and 10:45am Traditional
- Sunday School ► Sundays at 9am
- Bible Study ► Tues. at 12pm Facebook Live
- Nursery ► Sundays during the 1st service
- Youth Group ► 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
- October 4 ► Youth Group @Zion with Kids Escaping Drugs Vaping Presentation
- October 5 ► Crop Walk at Zion
- October 6 ► World Communion Sunday & Neighbors in Need Offering
- October 6 ► Blood Pressure Checks @10:30
- October 7 ► Consistory
- October 9 ► Exercise with Dawn @5:30pm
- October 11-13 ► WAY Retreat at Dunkirk
- October 12 ► Memorial for Bill Roberts @11
- October 12 ► CPR Certificate Training @3pm
- October 12 ► Halloween Happening at Dunkirk 3-6pm, \$5 per car
- October 19 ► Men's Fellowship, 9am @Family Tree Restaurant
- October 19 ► Retreat at Whirlpool Park
- October 21 ► Trustees @6pm
- October 23 ► Exercise with Dawn @5:30pm
- October 26 ► Free Community Dinner @5pm
- October 26 ► Trunk or Treat @6pm
- October 27 ► David Kulaw Baptism

For more events, go to: zionucctn.com/events

HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES

- ♦ Saturday October 12 CPR Certification, 3pm-5 pm, \$45.00 (Cash only please) *certified trainer* - certification is good for 2 years
- ♦ November 16, Emergency Preparedness, 11am
- ♦ 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)*

RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage Sale is coming up, and for this to be a successful fundraiser for the church, we need volunteers! Please click this link or scan the QR code to sign up to volunteer. Also, share the flyer in this Zionite with friends and family! <https://bit.ly/3Y7A3CT>



RUMMAGE SALE

Also, sign up for the Community Dinner & to Lector below!



October Dinner



LECTOR SIGN UP

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.
at Zion UCC

KEN-TON CROP Hunger Walk

Sat. October 5th | 9:30 AM



Scan to Sign Up or Donate
or see *Debbie or Brianna Grine*



Remembering Lori O'Brien

Lori passed away on September 21st after a long battle with cancer. She fought for as long as she could so she could be a loving mother to her daughters, Kayleigh and Ryleigh, and the beloved wife of her husband, Kevin.

Lori was only 41 years old, and she will be truly missed by all of her family, especially her kids, husband, parents, and siblings. Lori will also be missed by all of her O'Brien side of the family, including the O'Brien, Dabney, and Byers family.

Please hold them all in your prayers. We celebrated Lori's life in a funeral on September 26th at Lombardo's.



Remembering Sallie Browning

Sallie Browning returned home to the Lord on September 19th at nearly 93 years old. Sallie was a beloved member of the church. She sang in the choir for many years, and she will be truly missed. Her funeral was on September 25th, and if you missed it, it is still available to watch on Facebook. Please hold Sallie's family in your prayers. Sallie's daughter, Nancy, plays in the bell choir.



Remembering Bill Roberts

Bill Roberts passed away peacefully at home on September 29th. Bill loved to sing, and he enjoyed singing in the choir until his health no longer permitted him to do so. Bill was a veteran, a social worker, and a life long advocate for justice.

We will celebrate Bill's life on Saturday, October 12th, at 11am at Zion UCC.



Zion UCC Rummage Sale

Here's What to Expect:

New & Used Merchandise!

Bake Sale!

Bag Sale at 12PM!

Adoptable friends from Magic Mission Beagle & Hound Rescue!

When and Where?

Saturday, November 9th, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Zion United Church of Christ; 15 Koenig Circle; Tonawanda
(corner Koenig & Parker, just 1.5 miles north of Sheridan)

Admission:

\$1

What type of merchandise is available?

Antiques & Collectibles

Books

Candles

CD's / DVD's / Records

Crafts

Dishes

Electronics

Games

Home Decor

Jewelry

Kitchen Utensils

Linens

Pictures/Prints

Pots & Pans

Seasonal Items

Silverware

Tools

Toys

All Proceeds benefit the mission of our church



CERTIFICATION

Would you like to be certified in CPR/AED?

When: October 12, 2024, 3:00-4:30pm

Where: Zion UCC

Cost: \$45.00

You must preregister for the class (limit is 26 people).

Class is taught by a certified trainer.

Forms to sign up are in the back of the Sanctuary.

Questions? Ask Debby Williams.

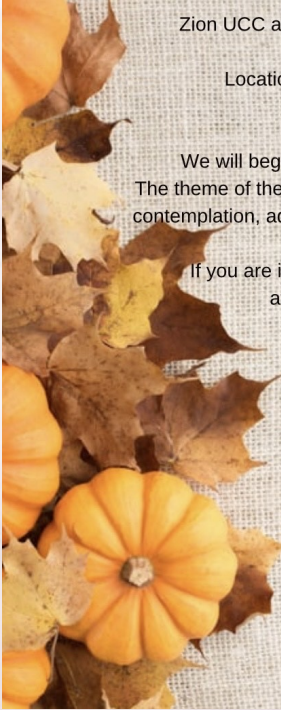
Thank you to the Health Ministry for putting on this class!



CAN YOU DONATE CANDY?
IF SO, BRING IT TO CHURCH!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

WE'RE LOOKING FOR CANDY DONATIONS FOR THE
HALLOWEEN HAPPENING AT DUNKIRK AND THE
TRUNK OR TREAT AT ZION!



Zion UCC and First Congregational UCC, Niagara Falls
Fall Retreat

Location: Whirlpool State Park, Niagara Falls

Date: Saturday, October 19th

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

We will begin by eating together. Please bring a lunch.

The theme of the retreat is "letting go." We will have space for art, contemplation, adventure, creativity, prayer, and fellowship. Come join us.

If you are interested, please text Pastor Kalee Mielke at: 716-327-2960 or 989-213-2870



ARE YOU PREPARED?

Join our Emergency Preparedness Class!
Tim Kornacki will present a class on Emergency Preparedness. This class will cover "all hazards" like fire, winter, active shooter, storms, etc. This will help us learn how to be prepared in all types of emergencies.



WHEN AND WHERE?
November 16 at 11am
Kuck Hall in Zion UCC
15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda

SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD
QUESTIONS: EMAIL DW1416@AOL.COM



Youth Group Conversation for Teens & Parents
PARENTS & TEENS

JOIN US FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 6-9PM

AT ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

6pm Pizza & Wings

7pm Presentation on Vaping by Kids Escaping Drugs

7:30pm Teens Enjoy the rest of Youth Group with fun & games

7:30pm Parents stay for continued conversation with KED

8:30pm Closing Worship for Teens & Parents

Open to youth grades 7-12



Photos from the Women's Wellness Retreat at Dunkirk. Interested in attending one in the future? Keep your eye out for events in the Zionite.

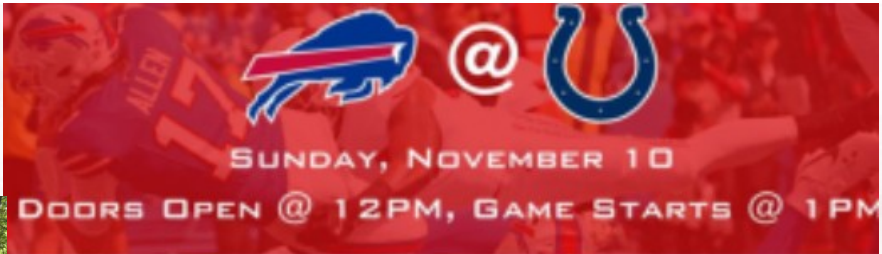


Fall Outdoor Adventure Weekend is October 18-20 for youth in Grades 3-11. Register online today at www.dunkirkcc.com.

If you love the great outdoors, then this "mini-adventure-camp" is for you. Join us for a fun-filled weekend as we explore all 110 acres of the Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center. Activities to include Geocaching, Hiking/Exploring, Sardines (hide-n-seek game) with a Halloween twist, Lunch prepared over an open fire and MUCH, MUCH MORE!!! Come experience a weekend of adventure!

Email Mike Hanes with questions

Mhanes@dunkirkcc.com
Weekend Camp Co-Director
Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

DOORS OPEN @ 12PM, GAME STARTS @ 1PM



PRESENTS A
BILLS VIEWING PARTY
FUNDRAISING EVENT

@ ISMAILIA SHRINERS - 1600 SOUTHWESTERN BLVD, BUFFALO, NY 14224

- ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS
- \$40 DONATION FOR A TICKET (INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS & FOOD)
- BASKET RAFFLE & PRIZE DRAWINGS
- SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR CALL (716) 393 - 3906



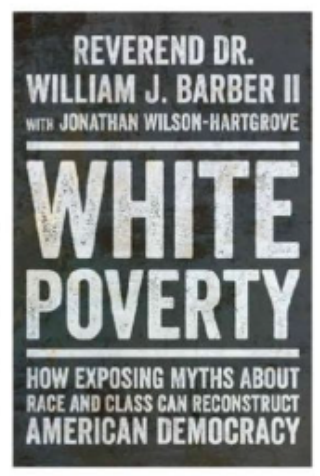
Book Discussion

White Poverty by Rev. Dr. William Barber II

WEDNESDAYS, October 23, 30 & November 6

6:30-8pm ET via Zoom

One of the most evil and persistent myths in the United States is the association of Black skin with poverty. Though there are forty million more poor white people than Black people, most Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, continue to think of poverty—along with issues like welfare, unemployment, and food stamps—as solely a Black problem. Why is this so? What are the historical causes? And what are the political consequences that result? These are among the questions addressed in *White Poverty*, a hugely neglected subject that just might provide the key to mitigating racism and bringing together tens of millions of working class and impoverished Americans. We will cover the Preface and Part I of the book in the first session on 10/23, and then cover Part II on 10/30, and Part III and Epilogue on 11/6. This discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Courtney Williams, Dr. Mary Frances Stuck, Professor Susan Belair, and Rev. Gary Smith. To register, use the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/222844649839169>.





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.



www.zionuccton.com/TOT

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 26, 2024

6:00-7:00PM

ZION UCC'S

PARKING LOT

15 KOENIG CIR. TONAWANDA, NY

To volunteer, sign up at www.zionuccton.com/TOT



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



YOU'RE INVITED TO

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Sat. October 12th

3PM - 6PM

\$5 CARLOAD DONATION

TRICK OR TREATING
HAUNTED HOUSE
COSTUME CONTEST
DANCE PARTY

DUNKIRK CAMP &
CONFERENCE CENTER

3602 LAKE SHORE DR E, DUNKIRK, NY



Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Agenda

Call to Order at 7:03 pm by Edie Bauer

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Elena Camp, W. George Darrall, Robin Fowler, Ron Janiszewski, Kalee Mielke (online with us), Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Dave Dombrowski, Edie Bauer, John Pauling, Debby Williams and Ted Camp (Trustees).

Absent: W. George Darrall and Bob Sedota

Also present: James Cousins and Brianne Grine (both Trustees)

Devotion and Lord's Prayer

- Audit Report: **Thank you to Ken for all his work in preparing the audit report of the church!**
 - Introduction of Ken Voght
 - Presentation of Audit Report
 - Discussion of Audit Report- spoke about some possible updates to our by-laws.
- Approval of Consistory meeting notes: Motioned for approval was made by Dave and seconded by John. All attending members approved.
- Treasurer's Report:

As of 9/3/2024 there is a balance of \$49,657.08 in the operating account and \$7,933.83 in the restricted funds account. The operating account balance takes into consideration the payroll for 9/6/24. The quarterly payments I make to the UCC every September are already accounted for in this bank balance.

The revenue for August was \$14,295.90. The net income was \$1,373.64. In comparison: The revenue for August 2023 was \$12,910.34. The net income for August 2023 was \$-4,867.64. The YTD income for 2024 is \$137,249.68 and the net income is \$11,727.84. The 2023 YTD was \$129,148.78 and the net income was \$-1,777.49.

There were no notable P&L events in August.

- Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) update & Pastoral Care Team Updates

Things are going well. Met with person at Niagara University about the First Congregational Church and getting more college students to attend and participate.

A retreat is planned for October 19 from 2-3 pm at Whirlpool State Park in Niagara Falls. Will be with Zion and First Congregational Church.

She continues to work on her paper that is due for ordination.

- Pastor's Report
 - Summer Worship was very well attended. Pastor Duffy wanted to compare it to pre-Covid summer numbers, so she compared 2017 Summer Worship (not including Rally Day) to 2024 Summer Worship (also not including Rally Day). Our average summer attendance in 2024 (compared to 2017) increased by 17.5 people. Both summers had multiple baptisms, so they were a good comparison. Our average attendance during summer worship this year was 109.3 people. While this is less than our average attendance during the "school year" it is very good for summer and both our attendance, and our giving reflected greater participation from our members and guests.
 - November 17 will be Stewardship Sunday and lay preacher, Angie Staniszewski, will be preaching on the importance of Stewardship. This will be a great way for our church to get to know Angie better. She transferred from another church last year, and she is an active lay preacher in our Association.
 - We have enough volunteers to start the new ministry with Canal View. If anyone else is interested in helping, we will announce the date and plan. We will serve ice cream one evening for our first visit to Canal View.

- **Gail is desperately looking for one more Bell Ringer - if she can't find one, Christmas Eve will be the last time the Bells play. Please spread the word for anyone who might be interested in playing the Bells. Male or female. Thirteen years old and up. They will teach you. The bell tolls for you!**
- Trustee's Report – no report due to audit presentation
- Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach Report (John)- November is the rummage sale. Keep collecting stuff from home and bring it into church in boxes please. They can be stored in the shed.
- Committee Reports
 - Christian Education & Missions - (Edie)- no report
 - Health Ministry - (Debby)-had to cancel the September Heart Health presentation as the doctor that was presenting it must now work due to the resident strike. We will try to reschedule.
 - Altar Guild - (Robin)- no report
 - Memorials - (George) There were donations made for Dodie Johansen. The current balance is \$4268.40.
 - PPRC/Admin - (George)- no report
 - Community Assistance Ministry - (Dave) - no report
 - New Member - (Dave)- no report
 - Environmental Ministry - (Pierre)- update on garden plans tabled for future discussion
 - Network of Religious Communities - (Pierre)- Upcoming Events
 - a. 3rd Annual Living Green Festival, 9/28, 12-6pm at UU Amherst
 - b. 15th Annual Interfaith Walk of Abraham, 9/19 at 3pm from North Presbyterian Church to the Islamic Center.
 - c. Food & Wine Pairing 9/22, \$75, at Bravo Café & Catering, to benefit St. Peter's UCC of West Seneca.
 - d. Chicken BBQ at Nativity UCC, 9/22, 12-4pm, \$14 presale, \$16 day of.
 - e. Women's Wellness at Dunkirk, 9/27-9/29. Register at dunkirkcc.com or 716-366-1900
 - Community Dinners - (Bob)- no report
 - Food Pantry - (John)- spoke about restocking issues
 - Coffee Hour - (Ted)-no report

1. Old Business

- Fall Church Cleanup - date: September 22 after services.
 - This was in the Newsletter and should be announced next week.
 - Who will our point people be to lead this during the services? Edie volunteered. There will be a sign-up genie for this day for others to assist in the clean-up
- Continuing work on Consistory Manual/Handbook Debby began. Brianna also created a document to help with Consistory/Trustees responsibilities. – Tabled for future discussion
- Professional/Hobby directory is still being created. To submit yours, fill out this link: <https://www.zionuccton.com/professional-directory/>

2. New Business

- Anything? Not at this time

The motion to close the meeting was made by Dave and seconded by John. All attending approved.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next Meeting: October 8, at 7pm

Respectively submitted,

Debby Williams

Consistory Secretary