



Pastor's Letter:

Happy March, Church!

I know many of you are excited for the promise of Spring as March approaches. I think I might be one of the very few people who loves a "wintery" winter, but I know many of you are eager for warmer weather.

I want to start this monthly newsletter by letting you know that on **Sunday, March 9th (Daylight Savings Time) we will have only one service at 10:45am.** We know that with the clocks springing forward, everyone will be sleepy, and asking people to come to church at 9am (which would feel like 8am) would be rough, so we're having one joint worship service with Sunday School at 10:45am on March 9th.

Other than that, we'll stay at two services, 9 & 10:45am, until Pentecost and Confirmation on June 8th.

But now for the "heart" of the message. This past Sunday we talked about the Golden Rule. And I want to share some of my sermon with you.

Jesus tells us to "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Now this was NOT a new idea at the time of Jesus.

- The Rabbi, Hillel had said, "What is hateful to thee, do not do to another."
- Philo had said, "What you hate to suffer, do not do to anyone else."
- Isocrates had said, "What things make you angry when you suffer them at the hands of others, do not you do to other people."
- The Stoics had said, "What you do not wish to be done to yourself, do not you do to any other."

But as my Heavenly BFF, William Barclay pointed out, all of those old sayings are in the NEGATIVE.

They're all telling us NOT to create more harm.

Which is a good step... but it's only a first step.

JESUS GOES FURTHER.

Jesus tells us that it's not enough to refrain from doing harm, but we must ACTIVELY do good.

Jesus tells us "DO to others as you would have them DO to you."

Which means...

***Jesus wants us to CREATE goodness, not JUST neglect from causing harm.**

*Jesus wants us to CREATE an atmosphere of kindness, love, compassion and mercy.

*Jesus wants us to CREATE a relationship in place of destruction.

*Jesus wants us to ACTIVELY do good and not just abstain from doing harm.

***Jesus wants us to CREATE more love, compassion, and forgiveness in this world.**

It's not enough to ABSTAIN from doing the bad, but to follow Jesus we need to CREATE the good.

As we approach the Season of Lent, how can we create more good in this work in the name of Jesus?

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth*
Thank you for reading!

Church Events



The Season of Lent is upon us!



Lent is the season of repentance that starts on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ends on Easter Sunday (April 20).

To make Lent more meaningful, participate in the following ways:

1. Receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of our mortality. Drive-thru ashes are available on March 5th from 8:30am-9:30am and then 11:30am-12:30pm and also at our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.
2. Attend Sunday worship during the Season of Lent. This is the best way to make sure our hearts are ready for the good news of the Resurrection.
3. Attend Bible Study on Thursday nights during Lent at 7pm starting on March 13.
4. Consider either giving something up during Lent or adding on a daily act of kindness or a daily spiritual practice. Whether abstaining from something or adding something good, it will remind you of the suffering of Jesus on the cross.
5. Join us at the end of Lent for Maundy Thursday worship on April 17 at 7pm.
6. Walk the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The church will be open from 8am-12pm.
7. Celebrate Easter in Church for worship! Christ the Lord is Risen! April 20, 9 & 10:45am.

- Sunday Services ▶ 9am & 10:45
 - 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
 - Mar 2 ▶ Blood Pressure Checks
 - Mar 3 ▶ "Love Does" Study, 7pm
 - Mar 5 ▶ Ash Wednesday
- Drive Thru Ashes: 8:30-9:30am, 11:30-12:30pm
Ash Wednesday Service: 7pm
- Mar 7 ▶ Basket Assembly, 2pm
 - Mar 7 ▶ Youth Group, 6-9pm at Zion
 - Mar 9 ▶ Daylight Savings, one service at 10:45
 - Mar 8 ▶ Mental Health Class by MHA
 - Mar 11 ▶ Consistory, 7pm
 - Mar 12 ▶ Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
 - Mar 13 ▶ Lenten Bible Study, 7pm
 - Mar 15 ▶ Basket Raffle! 12-3pm
 - Mar 17 ▶ Trustee's Meeting
 - Mar 20 ▶ Lenten Bible Study, 7pm
 - Mar 21 ▶ Youth Group, 6-9pm at Nativity
 - Mar 22 ▶ Men's Fellowship, Family Tree 9am
 - Mar 26 ▶ Exercise with Dawn, 5:30pm
 - Mar 27 ▶ Lenten Bible Study, 7pm
 - Mar 29 ▶ Drive Thru Community Dinner
 - April 3 ▶ Lenten Bible Study, 7pm
 - April 4 ▶ Youth Group, 6-9pm at Zion
 - April 6 ▶ Kids Escaping Drugs Bowling
 - April 12 ▶ Live Your Healthiest Life, 10am

www.zionuccton.com/events

LECTOR SIGN UP	DINNER VOLUNTEER SIGN UP
	

FOOD PANTRY RULES



1. Only one bag per household
2. Please only take one or two of each item.
3. Do not take anything to resell.
4. Do not hoard any items.
5. Be courteous and kind.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is open every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm. Thank you to all of our supporters who donate items and money to the food pantry. With over a dozen guests each week, we are able to help supply food to those who are in financial need.



Community Dinner

Troy Hengst is cooking Stone Soup for the March Community Dinner!
To sign up, click the link below. If you have questions about cooking, reach out to Troy to offer to help.

<https://bit.ly/43di4y6>



Lenten Bible Study

Join Pastor Elizabeth and fellow church members in the Overflow Room for an in-person Lenten Bible Study.

Dates: Thursdays, March 13-April 3

Location: Overflow Room at Zion UCC

Time: 7:00pm to 8:00pm.



Network of Religious Communities

"Works for Humanity"

NRC Annual Appreciation Dinner: April 10, 6pm at The Grapevine in Depew

This year Zion is excited to honor the following members at the NRC dinner:

Barb & Ed Miller, Elena Camp, Debby Williams, and young adult: Adam Korte!

To attend the April 10th dinner, please sign up in the office with a check payable to the Network of Religious Communities by March 23rd. Tickets for the event are \$65.

This is a wonderful event with many religious communities in WNY!

Join Zion United Church of Christ for the 6th annual

Cabin Fever

Basket Raffle

*Baskets Galore - Door Prizes - 50/50 - Superheroes
Crock-Pot Cookoff - Concessions - Bake Sale*

Sat. March 15, 2025

12PM - 2:40PM | Drawing @3PM



Basket Raffle

We're having our Annual Basket Raffle!
To volunteer, sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/basket2025>

And spread the word!

Date: March 15, 2025

Time: 12-3pm

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1A25rWBJyv/>

BOWLING FOR KIDS ESCAPING DRUGS



Sign up for this fundraiser for Kids Escaping Drugs!

Western Area Youth is putting together a group of teams of kids and adults for this great fundraiser. All ages welcome!

Cost: \$25

Registration: www.zionuccton.com/Bowling

Register by March 19th

Date: Sunday, April 6th

Time: 11am-1pm

(during our second service, sorry, we didn't choose the time...)

YOUTH GROUP BANDITS GAME & OVERNIGHT



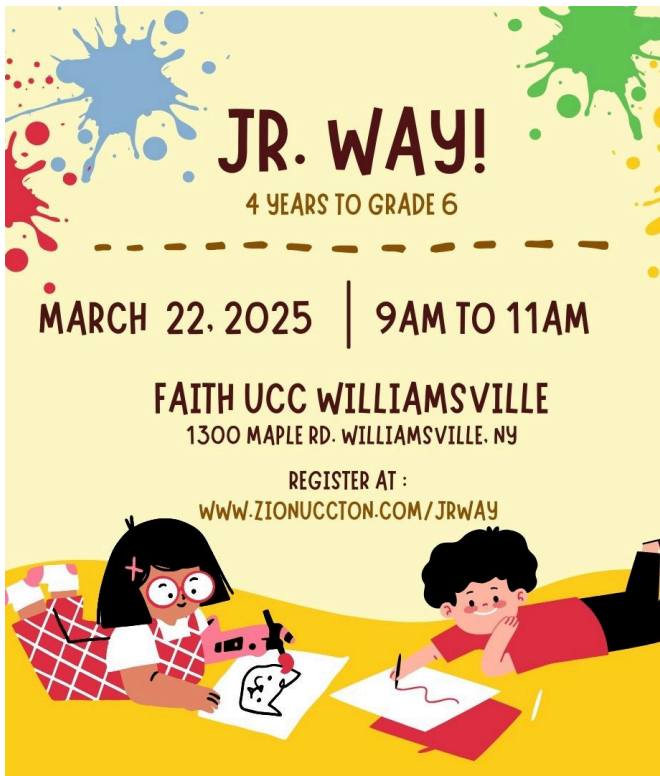
The Youth Group is going to a Bandits Game!

Cost: \$25

Registration forms are in Pastor's Office. Register by March 22.

Date: March 29, 5pm

Location: Starting at Church of Nativity



Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Jr. WAY: Ages 4 to Grade 6

WAY: Grades 7-12

Sr. WAY: Ages 18-35

If you know someone in one of these age groups, help them get connected today!

Welcome to our Newly Baptized!



Emmersyn



Frankie



BAKED
with love

Would you like to sign up to bake for coffee hour?
We would love it if you did!
Sign up with the QR code below.

SCAN ME

ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST'S

**BREAKFAST WITH
THE
EASTER BUNNY!**

55 PER PERSON

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 AT 10AM

PANCAKES & EGG HUNT

15 KOENIG CIRCLE TONAWANDA, NY 14150

REGISTER ONLINE:

Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 02.11.2025

Call to Order: 7:08pm by Dave Dombrowski

Members present: Pastor Elizabeth, Kalee Mielke (remote), Robin Fowler, John Pauling, W. George Darrall, Kelly Deschamps, Cheryl Lindstrom, Dave Dombrowski, Jeff Quinton (Alternate), Elena Camp (Alternate), Ted Camp (Trustees)

Absent: Debby Williams, Pierre Albrecht-Carrie, Bob Sedota

Devotion and Lord's Prayer: Pastor Elizabeth

Election of Officers: Recommendations of Dave as President, John as Vice President, and Debby as Secretary. Motioned for approval by George and seconded by Cheryl. All attending members approved.

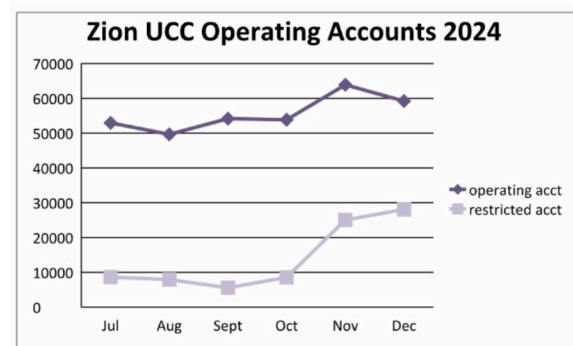
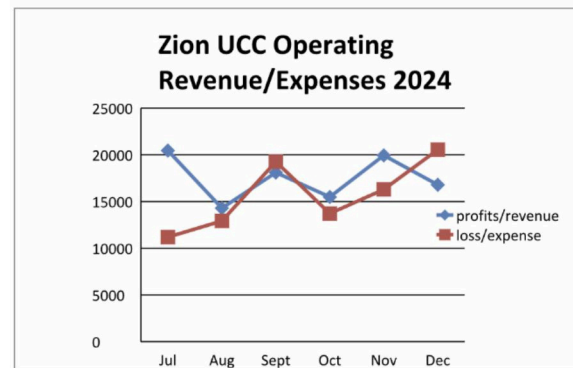
Approval of Consistory Meeting Minutes: Motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Kelly. All attending members approved.

Treasurer's Report: As submitted by Ron. Motioned for approval by George and seconded by Elena. All attending members approved.

- As of 2/7/25, there is a balance of \$68,532.79 in operating account and \$31,294.41 in the restricted funds account.
- Revenue for January was \$18,077.70. Net income was \$3,432.25. In comparison, revenue for January 2024 was \$12,903.97 and net income was \$-623.10.
- There were no notable P&L events in January.
- We are off to a solid start and with a little luck and a lot of strong effort, it should be another good year.

Financial Graphs Presentation: George Darrall

- George met with Ron with the intent of complimenting the great work that Ron provides us monthly with illustrative graphs to visually support key data points.
- These graphs can be provided along with the Consistory Financial Report.
- George provided us with 4 sample graphs:
 - Graph 1 illustrating monthly historical revenues vs. expenses
 - Graph 2 illustrating monthly historical balances of restricted and operating accounts
 - Graph 3 (to be provided annually) illustrating current to prior year annual income vs. expenditures
 - Graph 4 (to be provided as needed) illustrating current year endowment fund and total church asset balances
- George would produce Graphs 1 and 2 monthly, email these images to Pastor Elizabeth, and she would insert these on top of our Consistory minutes.
- Motioned for approval by George and seconded by John. All attending members approved.



Kalee's Member in Discernment (MID) Update:

- Kalee facilitated a wonderful session on “Dealing with Grief.” This was well-attended, extremely well-delivered, and deeply appreciated.
- Kalee is in her 3rd week at Catholic Health (after having left Hospice). She is feeling really good about this transition.
- Her church (First Congregational in Niagara Falls) has started a Community Learning Project with community prayer.
- She plans to show/review the movie, “The Chosen” at a local nursing home.
- She has successfully started a Live Stream service at her church.
- She has finished essays for her board certification for Chaplainship.

Pastor’s Report:

- Sunday worship has gone back to two services, 9 & 10:45. This will stay the same until Pentecost/Confirmation on June 8th.
 - For the switch to Daylight Savings time on March 9th, we agreed to one service at 10:45am.
 - That day, we will also have an informational table on Dunkirk Conference Center (DCC), after the service.
- Schedule for the season of Lent:
 - Ash Wednesday is March 5th: Ashes will be available during the day (drive thru) and in the evening during 7pm Ash Wednesday worship.
 - Lenten Bible Study will be Thursdays at 7pm in the Overflow room: March 13 – April 3 (the NRC dinner is scheduled for April 10th, so the series will end the week before).
 - Holy Week Schedule: April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm. April 18: Good Friday, Church open for Stations of the cross, 8am – 12pm. (Holy Saturday: Youth Group’s Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt). Easter Sunday: April 20, two services as normal. There is an optional Ken-Ton Clergy Led Sunrise service at Elmlawn Cemetery that Pastor will share info about when she has it.
- Pastoral Care Team Luncheon: postponed to spring. Too many people who would like to attend can’t attend on the 16th.
- (200) New Welcome Mugs have arrived, cost of \$700.
- July 13th: Pastor will be away. Larry Benn will be preaching (he has preached in the Presbyterian church).
- Pastor has joined the Committee on Ministry of the Western Association. This is the committee that ordains and disciplines pastors, it also offers support to pastors and churches.
- There is a large UCC Church in Nebraska that has shared some interesting (and staggering) stats. One of these is that there are only 350 out of ~4,000 churches (which is only about 7%) that regularly see Sunday attendance in excess of 50. What we are doing here at Zion UCC is good!

Trustee’s Report (Ted): Shared work in progress around projects and process

- **Projects:** Trustees are developing a Capital Improvement Plan (to include timelines and scheduling for ongoing projects). Some of these include:
 - Pew cushions: are in the final state of production and should be coming soon!
 - Kuck Hall refurbishment: RFP is going out to quote; once these are received back, there will be a congregational presentation
 - Outside Concrete work: will be working with engineers to include future visioning for areas like the courtyard as well as consideration for ADA compliance
 - Outside Water Faucet repairs
 - Water damage to sanctuary ceiling
- **Process:**
 - Church Rental Process; currently re-evaluating, as this hasn’t been reviewed in some time
 - Signatory Updates in process for Ron
 - Memorial Scholarship: Brianna is beginning to announce for this
 - Dunkirk Conference Center (DCC) Scholarship: will put some more background details into this

Fundraising, Stewardship, and Outreach (John)

- Basket Raffle, our most important fundraiser, is coming up on March 15th.
- We are hoping for ~225 baskets/gift cards (to match or exceed what we had last year).
- We still need volunteers, bakers, and crock-pot cookoff entrants.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education & Missions (Kelly)

- Youth created Valentines for Vets
- Currently thinking about next mission

Health Ministry (Debby, provided in advance)

- Medicare ABC's (in January) was well attended. February class on Dealing with Grief & Loneliness was wonderful with 16 people attending.
- Next class is Sat. March 8 from 10 – 11am on Our Mental Health.
- The class on Sat. April 12 from 10 – 11:30am is Live your Healthiest Life. The topic is on nutrition and healthy eating.
- The last class is Sat. May 10 and is an Active Shooters Workshop with the Town of Tonawanda Police department.
- Blood pressure clinic will be Sun. March 2 in between services and Dawn's Exercise Buddies will be Wednesdays, February 12 and 26 from 5:30 – 6:30pm.
- The ministry team will be meeting in June/July to start planning for next year's class presentations and topics

Altar Guild (Robin)

- No updates
- Per congregation, there is a preferred gluten-free wafer. The other one is not tasty.

Memorials (George)

- No updates; current balance in account remains at \$4,673.40

PPRC/Admin (Cheryl)

- No updates

Community Assistance Ministry (Jeff)

- No updates

Environmental Ministry (Jeff)

- New members include Jeff, Cheryl, Tim Rentschler and Ray Greiner (as advisor)
- In March timeframe, will meet to consider ideas for the area adjacent to parking lot (potentially something sports-related, planting of additional trees, etc.)
- During the week after Easter, the visiting Youth group will cultivate the soil for our vegetable gardens as it will be too early to plant.

Network of Religious Communities (In the absence of Pierre)

- Thursday, April 10 is Annual Appreciation (awards) dinner at Grapevine in Depew
- Nominations for this year: Elena Camp, Debby Williams, Barb & Ed Miller, Adam Korte; Congratulations to all!
- Motioned for approval by Dave and seconded by John. All attending members approved.

Community Dinners (in the absence of Bob)

- No updates

Food Pantry (Jeff)

- Jeff continues stocking the pantry with generous donations from our congregation.
- Jeff will connect with John Wagner (who monitors our pantry) to see if he is aware of any individual(s) who tend to be taking more than their family share.
- New shelf purchased for food pantry overflow stock; Dave Dubbert and Andrew will assemble this; Pastor will make a sign noting that it's for food pantry use.

Coffee Hour (Ted)

- We need more bakers.
- Suggestion was to create a sign-up genie; Pastor will laminate a document with the QR code so individuals can quickly sign up at the table, while enjoying coffee hour

Old Business

- Ken Voght has agreed to chair the Constitution/Bylaws task force and he will set a meeting when he returns from Florida in March.
- Consistory Handbook is tabled until the Constitution/Bylaws have been revised.

New Business

- We received a \$5,000 check from "Peacock Charitable Foundation" (earmarked to be used for youth, VBS, etc.)
 - Pastor spoke with Sue Clark to get her thoughts
 - We will split the funds between VBS (\$1,000) and Youth Group Fund (\$4,000)
 - Motioned for approval by Elena and seconded by Dave. All attending members approved.
- Babysitter class at Zion:
 - Lynn Nash-Fulmore, CEO at EPIC Trainings would like to facilitate a Babysitters class at Zion. It has been 2 years since our last class. Class is recommended for students ages 11-15 at a rate of \$40 per participant
 - Recommended Date: Sat. May 3, 10am – 2:30pm and they would use one of our classrooms
 - We will provide them pizza for lunch.
 - Suggestion to share this with our Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- Offering Envelopes
 - These are in Kuck Hall and reflect the few individuals who still wish to receive offering envelopes
 - There are still a few that haven't yet been picked up.
 - Most individuals use online giving in Breeze, eliminating the need for envelopes.
- Church Name Pins
 - Dave would love to alphabetize these in hopes that more people might wear them.
 - Some additional conversation took place around the possibility of either lanyards or magnetic pins.
- Joint Meeting with Trustees
 - There was discussion around a joint meeting between Consistory & Trustees on March 11th.
 - Since this meeting ran quite long, Consistory is suggesting that this be deferred until April 8th. This would allow both committees time to consider topics for the agenda.

Closing Prayer

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

Next Meeting

- March 11 at 7pm

Closing: 9:36pm

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