

Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

October 2025



Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

Somehow we've entered the month of October. I'm not sure how time goes by so quickly. I remember when I was a senior in high school, and my field hockey coach was also my gym teacher. My coach, Mrs. G, always called me "Bizzy." (I can still hear her yelling "BizZZy!" when I messed up on the field!) As I was going on about something in the future, chatting Mrs. G's ear off, Mrs. G looked at me and said words I can remember as clear as if she said them yesterday: "Bizzy, don't wish your life away."

What I didn't know at the time was that Mrs. G was battling cancer. In fact, she would pass away only two years later. And she was right. I was in the middle of one of my favorite years of life, my senior year of high school. I was surrounded by all of my closest friends and family, and instead of thinking forward, she wanted me to be in the present. And that advice has stuck with me 24 years later.

What if we focus more on the present? What if, instead of "wishing our lives away" we enjoy the moment we're in, right here, and right now.

There are moments that now, as a mother of a teenager and a pre-teen, I often want to hit the pause button. I want to enjoy "this" moment.

I often find myself soaking up the little moments: the family squished together on the couch watching the Bills game, and Taylor and me talking much more than the boys appreciate; the car packed with kiddos as we drive around scooping up everyone to take them to youth group; the moments when my kids come snuggle next to me, because even though they're getting big, they still need their mom; the church filled with happy, chatting people on Sunday morning, with families running in late just in time for the children's moment.

I love all of this, and I do want to soak up all these moments. Because as Mrs. G said, "don't wish your life away."

Will you do me a favor and practice being present with those you love? When you're surrounded by family and friends, when you're here in church with your church family, when you're enjoying a beautiful, sunny day, will you practice being present?

And as we practice being present, we will hopefully feel thankful. And somehow, in that thankfulness, we find ourselves feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit all around us.

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

Memorial Park Seed Level

We are thrilled to share that **Zion Memorial Park** is now finished! Stonish's Landscaping did a remarkable job. It is a beautiful, relaxing place for you and your family to soak in nature; enjoy our wonderful neighborhood; and even get a few steps in!

Some of you have expressed an interest in being able to donate at a lower level. So, for the next week, we are opening up donations at a new Seed Level.

For a donation of **\$25**, you can be a **Seed Level Donor**. This means your name and the name of the person you are giving in memory of will be on our donation plaque for the park.

To make a Seed Level donation, click [this link](#) or scan the QR Code below (and scroll down). Donations will close on **October 12**.



Aavyaan's first visit to the Zion Memorial Park!

Church Events

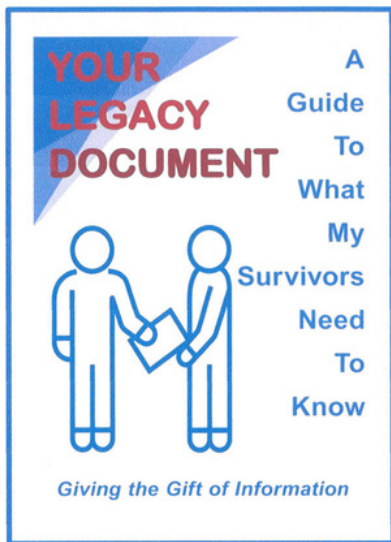
- Contemporary Worship ► Sundays 9:00am
- Traditional Worship ► Sundays 10:45am
- Sunday School ► Sundays 9:00am
- Nursery ► Sundays during 9am worship
- Food Pantry ► Tuesdays 10am-12pm
- Bible Study ► Tues. @12pm on Facebook
- Bell Choir ► Wed. @6:30pm
- Chancel Choir ► Wed. @7:30pm
- AA ► Thu. @5:30pm; Sat. @10am & 1pm
- Oct 3 ► Youth Group, 6pm @Zion
- Oct 4 ► KenTon Crop Walk @Nativity
- Oct 5 ► Blood Pressure Checks @10:30am
- Oct 5 ► Pastor Kalee's Ordination 3pm
- Oct 8 ► Exercise Buddies w/Dawn @5:30
- Oct 11 ► Men's Fellowship, 9am @Family Tree
- Oct 14 ► Consistory @7pm
- Oct 17-19 ► WAY Retreat @Dunkirk
- Oct 18 ► Halloween Happening @Dunkirk
- Oct 18 ► Women's Fellowship @11am
- Oct 20 ► Trustees @ 6pm in Overflow Rm.
- Oct 22 ► Exercise Buddies w/Dawn @5:30
- Oct 25 ► What Survivors Need to Know: Creating a Legacy Document @11am
- Oct 25 ► Community Dinner @5pm
- Oct 25 ► Trunk or Treat @6pm
- Nov 7 ► Save the Date: **Zion Meat Raffle, 6pm @Knights of Columbus!**
- Nov 15 ► Save the Date: **Rummage Sale, 9am - 1pm @Zion!**

Find more events at:

www.zionucc.com/events

LECTOR SIGN UP	COMMUNITY DINNER SIGN UP
	The Women's Fellowship is serving this month. Thank you! 2

Health Ministry Updates



You're gone...now what?

When a loved one passes or becomes incapacitated, the survivors need access to critical information that is missing from traditional documentation. Creating a **LEGACY DOCUMENT** empowers your survivors with the information they need at their most vulnerable times. It's giving them the most important gift you can give...the GIFT of INFORMATION. This FREE presentation, **"What Your Survivors Need to Know—Creating a Legacy Document,"** focuses on gathering and organizing critical details needed after a significant life event; it does not offer legal, financial, or estate planning advice.

Presentation Topics Include:

- 📁 Critical information to collect and gather
- 📁 How to organize your collected information
- 📁 Ways to store your information
- 📁 When to review/update what you have collected

Attendees will receive information on obtaining a FREE digital template to download and create their personal Legacy Document.

Zion United Church of Christ

15 Koenig Cir, Tonawanda, NY 14150

October 25th, 2025
11:00-12:00 PM

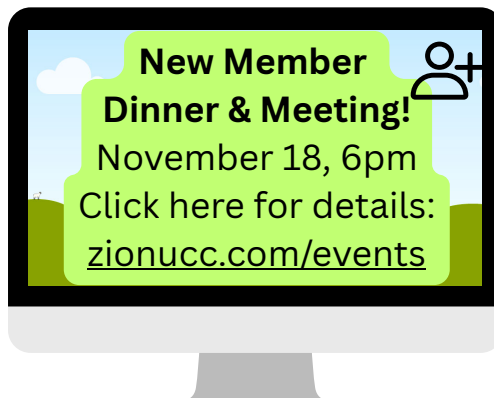
The presenter, Mr. Bardot, is a former lecturer, program coordinator, assistant professor, and academic dean. He has been inducted into the Who's Who of America's Teachers twice. Since his retirement, Mr. Bardot has served as a board member and corporate secretary for Concordia Foundation Inc. and currently chairs the Amherst Senior Services Center Advisory Board. He has **no affiliation** with financial/investment entities, the funeral industry, or estate planning law firms.

WhatYourSurvivorsNeed@gmail.com

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood Pressure Checks resume the **first Sunday in October.**

In-between services, on the first Sunday of the month, you can have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our nurses!



Church Babies!

Baby Vivian!

Born in May to Karen Kazibut
(Mittlefehldt)



Grandma Laurie with all of her grandbabies!



Baby Charlie!

Born in August to
Joseph & Taylor Peacock!





Generations United Federal Credit Union

Are you considering a new financial institution? Have you thought about joining a Credit Union?

Generations United Federal Credit Union is a digital-first, member-owned, financial cooperative committed to the financial growth of the **United Church of Christ** community. They blend innovative banking with traditional values to foster economic justice and community support.

Service Offerings include:

- Mobile and Online Banking
- Surcharge-free ATMs at over 60,000+ locations worldwide
- Shared Branch Banking at over 5,000+ locations
- Mobile Check Deposits
- Direct Deposit from your employer
- Online Check re-ordering
- Financial Education courses and articles

For more information, scan the QR code below or visit <https://gufcu.org/>.



Growing Together



Discover how **Generations United Federal Credit Union**, the credit union of the United Church of Christ, can help you and the UCC community prosper.

Make a difference, join today.



Visit gufcu.org to learn more.

Generations United Federal Credit Union | 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 850 | New York, NY 10170 | Phone: 646-472-7175

In Loving Memory

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Char Burchfield's sister, Carol. Carol grew up at Zion. She was a member until her move to Florida. She sang in the choir and was married at Zion by Pastor Miltz. Please hold Char and her family in your thoughts and prayer during this difficult time.



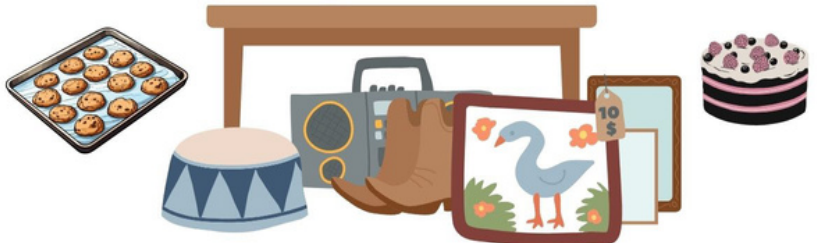
Women's Fellowship Project

Women's Fellowship has begun a community project with **Ken-Ton Closet**. We are collecting packages of **new underwear and socks** (ages infant to teenage adult). There is a donation box in the Narthex to drop off items. Ken-Ton Closet is a non-profit, located in the Town of Tonawanda. They distribute donated items of daily living for needy children in our community at no cost.

Cards for Carole

Carole Snyder is in Rehab at Northgate Health Care Facility, and she would love to receive get well cards. Please send the cards to her at Northgate, Rm 106, 7264 Nash Rd, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Upcoming Fundraisers!

Event:	Volunteer:	Buy Tickets:
ZION UCC'S MEAT RAFFLE  FRI, NOV 7 DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FIRST SPIN AT 7PM  KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 755 ERIE AVE. N. TONAWANDA, NY CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE! outside food welcome, no outside drinks. TICKETS includes beer, pop & water bring snacks, singles, and a cooler GET YOUR TICKETS AT: zionucc.com/events  \$12 PRE-SALE \$15 DAY OF \$80 TABLE OF 8 \$100 TABLE OF 10 	Sign-up in Back of Sanctuary	<u>Click Here or Scan Below</u> 
Zion UCC's RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE Saturday Nov 15 9 AM - 1 PM Bag Sale at 12 PM! 15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda zionucc.com/events Donation: \$1 	<u>Click Here or Scan Below</u> 	n/a



Be the reason a Senior smiles today!

Our incredible staff and volunteers have had a heartwarming summer—granting both individual and group wishes, hosting joyful Ice Cream Socials, and welcoming Centenarians into our Century Club (including an 111-year-old!)

As the seasons change, we are excited to launch our favorite Fall and Winter programs. These include honoring our Veterans with HERO Boxes and spreading holiday cheer to isolated seniors with personalized gift deliveries.

Thanks to overwhelming community support, we are thrilled to announce that in addition to the over 100 holiday gifts we distribute throughout our five-county service area, we will also be adopting TWO nursing homes this holiday season! Every resident will receive a gift bag containing:

- Cozy new pajamas
- A warm blanket
- A cuddly stuffed animal
- A puzzle book for fun and engagement
- Essential toiletries

If your business or organization would like to host a collection or contribute to this meaningful initiative, we would love to hear from you. Follow our journey on social media for updates, stories, and ways to get involved!

Gratefully,

Wendy Miller Backman
Wendy Miller Backman, Executive Director

Newsletter Sign Up

Visit our Facebook Page to see more of our wish granting, Century Club birthdays and other photos

Senior Wishes/UCHS, One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127
www.seniorwishes.org
phone - 716-508-2121 | fax - 716-662-6985
Wendy Miller Backman, Executive Director
wbackman@uchsinc.org

Christianbook

«GIVEBACK»



Purchasing Bibles or Christian Supplies? If you use Christianbook.com, you can link your account to our church so we can earn 4% from every purchase! Scan the QR code or add this **Organization ID: ANATQW** to your Christian Book Account!



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