

Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

December 2025



Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

It's hard to believe that December is here!

I know I might be in the minority for getting excited about winter, but if you know me, you know how much I love it! Christmas, snow, skiing, hot cocoa by the fire: all of these things are just a few of my favorites. And yet I know that Christmas can also be a time of sadness when we think about loved ones who are now in the Kingdom of Heaven. And that's why we have a KenTon Blue Christmas Service. If you need a moment to process your grief, join us for that service on Dec. 16 at 7pm at our sister church, Nativity.



We also have an exciting month of services ahead:

On December 14th we have our Children's Christmas Program and New Member Sunday at 10am (no 9am service, but kids arrive at 9am to rehearse). The Youth Group also has their Breakfast with Santa on December 20th at 10am! www.zionucc.com/events

And we of course have our Christmas Eve Service coming up on December 24th at 5pm. Last year we had a record attendance and this year we anticipate having even more. We can squeeze in and make room for more people, so be sure to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ! Also, if you're comfortable walking a little further than others, consider parking on a side street to leave more spaces for cars in the parking lot. It is such a blessing to see a full church on Christmas Eve to celebrate the greatest miracle of all! I can't wait to celebrate with all of you!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth*

Thank you for reading!





Christmas Poinsettia Orders



Your Name: _____

In Memory or Honor of: _____

Donate to people who are in nursing homes
or are unable to come to church?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Order forms must be submitted online or in
person by December 14th.

To order online, go to zionucc.com/give and
scroll down to the Poinsettia order form.



**\$8
Each**



LECTOR SIGN UP



COMMUNITY DINNER SIGN UP



December 27th

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
- Dec 5 ► Youth Group @6pm at Zion
- Dec 7 ► Blood Pressure Checks in between Services
- Dec 9 ► Consistory @7pm
- Dec 10 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- Dec 14 ► Children's Christmas & New Member Worship @10am
- Dec 15 ► Trustees @7pm in Choir Room
- Dec 16 ► Blue Christmas Service @7pm at Nativity
- Dec 19 ► Youth Group @6pm at Nativity
- Dec 20 ► Breakfast with Santa @10am
- Dec 20 ► Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon @12pm at Pane's Restaurant
- Dec 24 ► Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @5pm
- Dec 27 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @5pm
- Dec 28 ► One Worship Service @10am

Find more events at:

www.zionucc.com/events

Looking for daily Bible readings?

Click this link.



**Coffee Hour Volunteers
Needed for Sundays!**

Are you able to help?
Please talk to Kathy Hunt or
Jean MacDonald!





The PBJ's (Zion's Fundraising Committee) want to thank everyone that took part in our 2025 fundraising initiatives! As previously shared we raised **\$22,541.16 in 2025**. This was a record-breaking year for Zion! We ran four events this year: Basket Raffle on 3/15, Strawberry Festival on 6/21, Meat Raffle on 11/7, and Rummage Sale on 11/15.

So, What's Next? We're taking a break for the holidays. Our next fundraiser will be our Basket Raffle in March 2026. We'll publish the date soon.

Special thanks to our PBJ Core Committee!

Pastor Elizabeth, Brianna Grine, Jacob Korte, Jeff Quinton, Jill Fowler, Joyce Dolce & John Pauling. Without their efforts, these events would not be possible! We all know how well **P, B & J** go together!

Women's Fellowship

Upcoming Holiday Outreach: Warm Winter Accessories

As we look ahead to the holiday season, our next initiative will focus on collecting **gloves, scarves, and hats** for those in need. These items will be lovingly hung on the **Christmas tree in Kuck Hall**. Once the tree is full, the donations will be distributed to local organizations to help keep our community warm and healthy this winter.



A collection box is available for your convenience. We appreciate your continued support and generosity—thank you in advance for helping us spread warmth and joy this season!

Zion UCC Outreach

Recently, we asked you to participate in a video testimonial series titled, **"Why Zion UCC?"**

Our Children interviewed 17 people, asking 5 short questions and from this, we created 28 short videos which have been (and will continue to be) posted to Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help us with this important outreach! Because of you, we have reached **over 4,000 people to-date** with these videos!



Our online presence **MATTERS!**

Did you know that **MOST** of our new members find us online!? Thanks to your heartfelt testimonials, we can continue to grow our church.

**BREAKFAST WITH
SANTA**

JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WITH SANTA!

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
15 KOENIG CIRCLE
TONAWANDA, NY

December 20, 2025 at 10am
\$5 per person

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and pictures
with Santa!



Sign up online at www.zionucc.com/events

Health Ministry Updates

🎉 **EXCITING NEWS!** 🎉

Our Church Cookbook is Coming!

📖 **Pre-Order Now – Only \$20 Each!**

We're thrilled to announce that our church cookbook is now at the publisher! Books will be available soon, but you can reserve your copy today.

👨👩👧👦 Full of cherished recipes from our church family – it's the perfect gift for:

- ✓ Family
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Holiday hosts
- ✓ YOU!

**Let's Get
Cooking**

📁 Great for Holiday Giving!

Give a gift that warms the heart and fills the table.

💬 To Pre-Order, Contact or see the table in the Narthex:

**Debby Williams, Dawn Mack,
Sally Budik, Pam Sedota**



🏡 Support Your Church While You Shop!

All proceeds (after expenses) go right back to the church.
It's a win-win this holiday season!



101

Join us **Saturday January 10, 2025, 10 am- 11:30 am**

for a presentation about **Medicare**.

Get your Questions Answered!

A representative will be here to present the mystery of Medicare and will answer questions you all have. a clear overview of Medicare. Explain what Medicare Advantage plans are versus Medigap Plans (Like the Plan G). Why would a person choose one over the other. They will also talk about the penalties for Part B and D and how to avoid them.

A good foundation with correct information.

Free to everyone in the community

You are Invited:
Exercise Buddies at Zion UCC Tonawanda



Dawn is a certified trainer who does weight training with light weights, chair yoga, strength training and more!
All ages are welcome, and it is FREE!

It is held **two times a month** here at Zion on the **second and fourth Wednesdays**
5:30-6:30 pm

Wednesday December 10

(only 1 date this month due to holiday)

Bring your own water bottle and a set of small weights if you have them
(but not necessary)

Blood Pressure Checks

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



Support the Health Ministry with Your Dash's Receipts

If you shop at Dash's Market, please consider saving your receipts. These receipts directly support the valuable classes and programs provided by the Health Ministry for our church community.



You can drop off your receipts in the designated box on the sanctuary shelf or place them in the labeled clear folder located just outside the church office.

Thank you for your continued support!