

Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

January 2026



Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

A new year is upon us!

The new year makes me think of Ecclesiastes chapter 3. "For everything there is a season..." And with a new year, full of new possibilities, only God knows what the future holds.

I'm wondering, as I think about all of the wonderful people who are a part of Zion UCC: **what are your dreams for the year to come?**

What are your personal dreams?
What are your dreams for your family?
What are your dreams for your community?
What are your dreams for the church?

I love when people take time to dream together. And as you dream, keep God in that conversation. Turn your dreams for the future and your prayers into a conversation with God.

Praying isn't always just going through a prayer list of requests, apologies, grievances, and woes. Prayer is a conversation with God. So loop God in on all of your dreams. Talk to God about what you hope to see. Let God be a part of the conversation.

As that prayerful conversation between you and God grows, I think you might find that God will weigh in on your dreams.

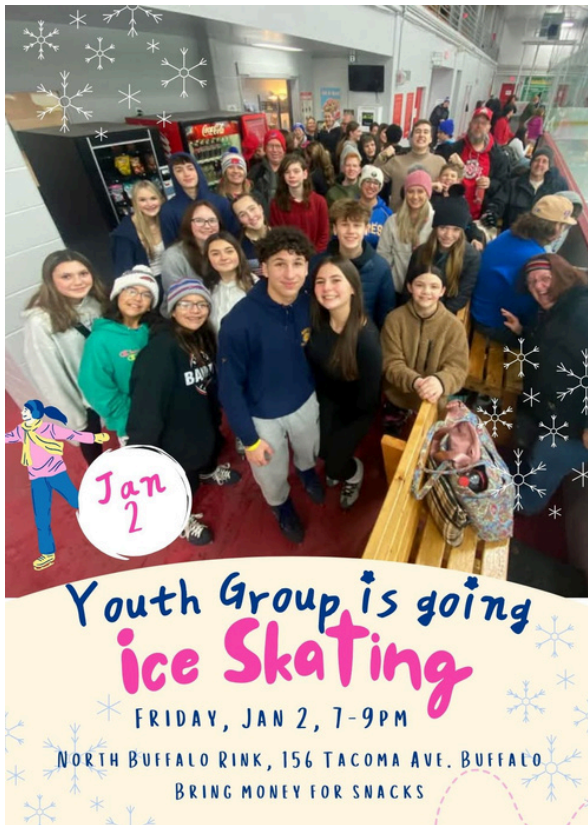
God might just open up doors that didn't want to open in the past.
God might redirect you if your dreams are a little misguided.
God might encourage you if your dreams are good and right.
God might just show up in a way that you don't expect if you turn your dreams into a prayerful conversation.

Friends, in this new year, my hope is that your dreams (at least the good, holy ones) begin to come true. And I hope that every dream, every step, and every action, is taken with God by your side.

Be blessed, Church. And Happy New Year!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth*

Thank you for reading!





**Winter
WAY
Retreat**

Grades 7-12

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026

EPIPHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9365 CLARENCE CENTER RD,
CLARENCE, NY

REGISTER:
WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/WAY

DROP OFF:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 6-7PM

PICK UP:
FEBRUARY 8, AFTER WORSHIP
AROUND 10:30AM

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
- Jan 2 ► Youth Group Ice Skating @7pm at North Buffalo Rink
- Jan 4 ► One Worship Service @10am
- Jan 4 ► Annual Meeting @11am followed by Lunch
- Jan 10 ► Men's Fellowship @9am at Family Tree Restaurant
- Jan 10 ► Medicare Changes You Need to Know @10am
- Jan 13 ► Consistory @7pm
- Jan 14 ► Young Adult Dinner (tbd)
- Jan 14 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Jan 16 ► Youth Group @6pm at Nativity
- Jan 17 ► Women's Fellowship @11am (Meeting at Church followed by Lunch at Olympic Restaurant)
- Jan 19 ► Trustee's in Choir Room @7pm
- Jan 28 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Jan 31 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @5pm

Find more events at:

www.zionucc.com/events

Looking for daily Bible readings?

Click this link.

COMMUNITY DINNER SIGN UP



January Dinner

LECTOR SIGN UP



Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch

Join us for our **Annual Congregational Meeting:**

- **Sunday, January 4**
 - 10am Worship
 - 11am Meeting
 - Lunch to Follow



Get ready for the meeting by reviewing the following documents. Copies are in back of the Sanctuary:

- **Annual Reports**
- **Draft By-Laws**



Annual Congregational Survey

Please complete our **NEW Annual Congregational Survey:**

This survey gives you an opportunity to share your thoughts about Zion UCC! Your feedback will help us to better serve not only our congregation, but our community as well.

- Survey takes **5-10 minutes**
- All responses are **anonymous**



To complete the survey:

Either click [this link](#) or fill out a paper copy. Paper copies are in back of the Sanctuary.

- Please **return paper copies to the office**
- Provide your feedback by **January 5**

Lunch Volunteers Needed:

We need volunteers to help with the lunch, following our Congregational Meeting. To sign-up, [click here](#) or scan the QR Code below:



Lunch Volunteers



Upcoming Outreach

Hello Church! Greetings from John Pauling, Church Administrator! As you know, Outreach and thinking about new, innovative ways to continue to grow our church is a constant mission.

Pastor and I have been brainstorming and have come up with some exciting new Outreach initiatives that we plan to implement soon. More details to follow!

- **Animal Blessing:** Bring your beloved pet to Zion to be blessed! We plan to hold this event at our new, beautiful Zion Memorial Park.
- **Postcard Campaign:** Using Breeze, we will be targeting individuals who have attended our events in the past, but have not yet joined us for worship!
- **Facebook & Instagram "Why Zion" Campaign:** This is an ongoing outreach that we will continue to expand.

Do you have a great outreach idea? If so, please email us at ucczion@gmail.com and/or john.zionucc@gmail.com and let us hear your idea!

Health Ministry Updates



101

Join us **Saturday January 10, 2025, 10 am- 11:30 am**
for a presentation about **Medicare**.
Get your Questions Answered!

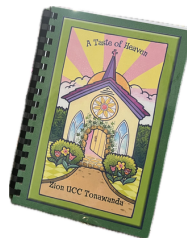
A representative will be here to present the mystery of Medicare and will answer questions you all have. a clear overview of Medicare. Explain what Medicare Advantage plans are versus Medigap Plans (Like the Plan G). Why would a person choose one over the other. They will also talk about the penalties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

Free to everyone in the community

Church Cookbooks

Have you picked up Zion's new Cookbook, **A Taste of Heaven**? If not, time is running out!

It's jam-packed with **over 200 recipes** from our Church members! All proceeds will support Community Educational classes and other projects sponsored by our church.



But, don't take our word for it. Check out this video to see **WHY** you **NEED** this cookbook!



Get your copy today for just **\$20** from any of the following individuals or stop by our table in the Narthex:
Debby Williams, Dawn Mack, Sally Budik, Pam Sedota

Exercise Buddies

Have you made a resolution to get in shape for the new year!? If so, join **Exercise Buddies with Dawn** right here at Zion! Dawn is a certified trainer who does light weight training, chair yoga, strength training, and more! All ages are welcome and this program is **FREE!**

Classes are held two times a month on the **second and fourth Wednesdays**.



Wednesday January 14th & 28th
5:30 - 6:30pm

Blood Pressure Checks

On the **first Sunday of the month, from 10:00 - 10:30am**, you can have your **blood pressure checked** by one of our nurses!



Please note, due to the Annual Congregational Meeting, we will NOT host our blood pressure clinic in January. We will resume again on **Sunday, February 1st**.

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!

Women's Fellowship

First Meeting of 2026:

Women's Fellowship invites you to join our first meeting of the new year on **Saturday, January 17 at 11am!** We'll meet at the church to discuss ideas for 2026 service projects and trips.

Following the meeting, we'll enjoy **lunch at Olympic Restaurant**, 1601 Military Rd., Tonawanda.



Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship Breakfast:

Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on **Saturday, January 10 at 9am!** Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship at **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst!



All are welcome! Please join us!

