

# Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

◆  
March 2026

There are three leaves on the shamrock  
I see, it is a reminder of the Holy Trinity.  
God the Father, Jesus the Son, with the  
Holy Spirit they are Three in One.

## Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

The Season of Lent has begun! Lent is the Season of 40 days (plus Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Lent comes to an end on the morning of Easter when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lent is a Season of Repentance and Prayer, and this year most of my sermons will encourage us to lay things down at the foot of the cross. There are so many weights that we carry through life: shame, anger, judgment, jealousy, loneliness. These weights are a burden to us and keep us from being who God calls us to be in this world. So during these 40 days, we'll focus on laying those weights down and freely being who God calls us to be.

We're also reading the Gospel of Luke throughout the Season of Lent. We have a reading guide that gives us less than a chapter a day to read during Lent, and when these 40 days are over (minus Sundays), we will have read the entire Gospel of Luke.

We also have a Lenten Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke on Mondays at 7pm in the Overflow Room. We already had our first Bible Study, but you are welcome to join at any time throughout these six weeks.

I hope you join with us on Sundays, as we practice laying down our weights at the foot of the cross. And I hope you join us by following the Luke reading guide (you can find that below), and Bible Study.

The Season of Lent is a great time to grow spiritually, and I hope you join with us during this time of spiritual growth.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 40-DAY READING PLAN	
Day 1: Luke 1:1-38	Day 21: Luke 13:1-35
Day 2: Luke 1:39-80	Day 22: Luke 14:1-35
Day 3: Luke 2:1-40	Day 23: Luke 15:1-32
Day 4: Luke 2:41-3:20	Day 24: Luke 16:1-31
Day 5: Luke 3:21-4:13	Day 25: Luke 17:1-37
Day 6: Luke 4:14-44	Day 26: Luke 18:1-17
Day 7: Luke 5:1-26	Day 27: Luke 18:18-43
Day 8: Luke 5:27-6:16	Day 28: Luke 19:1-28
Day 9: Luke 6:17-49	Day 29: Luke 19:29-48
Day 10: Luke 7:1-35	Day 30: Luke 20:1-19
Day 11: Luke 7:36-8:3	Day 31: Luke 20:20-44
Day 12: Luke 8:4-21	Day 32: Luke 20:45-21:28
Day 13: Luke 8:22-56	Day 33: Luke 21:29-22:23
Day 14: Luke 9:1-27	Day 34: Luke 22:24-53
Day 15: Luke 9:28-62	Day 35: Luke 22:54-71
Day 16: Luke 10:1-24	Day 36: Luke 23:1-25
Day 17: Luke 10:25-11:13	Day 37: Luke 23:26-56
Day 18: Luke 11:14-54	Day 38: Luke 24:1-12
Day 19: Luke 12:1-34	Day 39: Luke 24:13-35
Day 20: Luke 12:35-59	Day 40: Luke 24:36-53

For use with Adam Hamilton's *Luke, Jesus and the Outcasts, Outcasts, and Outcasts* by Abingdon Press.

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



**Attention Church families!**

The UCC is again holding its annual Climate Hope Art Contest for children through grade 12. The theme comes from Jeremiah 29:11 which says, *“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”*

If your child would like to draw a picture to submit to the art contest, envisioning a hopeful future for our earth, you can pick up a copy of the art page in the church office, or you can [print it here](#).

Please return your finished pictures to the office by **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**, so we can submit them to the national office before the deadline.

**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
- Mar 1 ► Blood Pressure Checks @10-10:30am
- Mar 1 & 8 ► Lucy Cousin’s Girl Scout Troop selling cookies @10-10:30am
- Mar 2 ► Lenten Bible Study @7pm
- Mar 6 ► Youth Group @6pm at Zion
- Mar 7 ► Memorial for Patti Voght @2pm
- Mar 9 ► Lenten Bible Study @7pm
- Mar 10 ► Consistory @7pm
- Mar 11 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Mar 14 ► Food Addiction 911 @10am
- Mar 14 ► Women’s Fellowship @11am at Olympic Restaurant
- Mar 14 ► Basket Assembly @12pm in Classrooms 1 & 3
- Mar 16 ► Lenten Bible Study @7pm
- Mar 16 ► Trustees @7pm in Choir Room
- Mar 20 ► Basket Raffle Setup @6pm
- Mar 20 ► Youth Group @6pm at Nativity
- Mar 21 ► Zion UCC Cabin Fever Basket Raffle, 12-3pm
- Mar 23 ► Lenten Bible Study @7pm
- Mar 25 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Mar 28 ► Men’s Fellowship @9am at Family Tree Restaurant
- Mar 28 ► Busy Mom’s Fellowship: Spring Fling Tea Party @10:30am
- Mar 28 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @5pm
- Mar 30 ► Lenten Bible Study @7pm

**The Most Tree-mendous Earth Day Nature Program!**

Sign your child up by **March 15, 2026** for a **FREE native tree to plant in your yard!**

To register, scan the QR Code or visit the website link below:  
[www.neighborhoodforest.org/registration-services/?school=152224](http://www.neighborhoodforest.org/registration-services/?school=152224)

**Neighborhood Forest**  
giving trees to children

Trees will be delivered to the Kenmore Library and can be picked up anytime during our Nature Craft Program on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM.

**MUST REGISTER BY MARCH 15, 2026 TO RECEIVE A TREE!**

Individuals in need of an accommodation may contact the ADA Coordinator at [access@buffalolib.org](mailto:access@buffalolib.org) within 7 days of the program.

TOWN OF TONAWANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY - KENMORE BRANCH  
160 DELAWARE RD. KENMORE, NY 14217 ☎ 716-873-2842

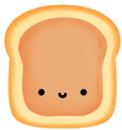
<p><b>COMMUNITY DINNER SIGN UP</b> (SCAN OR CLICK HERE)</p>	 <p>March Dinner</p>
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**Find more events at:**  
[www.zionucc.com/events](http://www.zionucc.com/events)  
 Looking for daily Bible readings? **2**  
[Click this link.](#)

# Available for Free:

## Child's Baptismal Dress:

If you or anyone you know could use a size 6X white lacy baptismal dress with a veil, please contact **Lindalee Gallmeyer**. See photos here.



## PBJ's Corner



Our **Basket Raffle** is THIS MONTH on **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** from **12-3pm**! Here are a few important dates & times:

- **Sun. 3/8:** Last day to **Drop-off assembled baskets** or **basket contents** to tables in Kuck Hall
- **Sat. 3/14, 1-2pm:** **Basket Assembly** volunteers meet in Classrooms 1 & 3
- **Fri. 3/20, 6-9pm:** **Drop-off Baked Goods** to Captain Sue in Kuck Hall and **Basket Raffle Setup** volunteers meet in Kuck Hall
- **Sat. 3/21, 11:30am:** **Drop-off Crock-Pot Entries** for the Cookoff and Basket Raffle **Volunteers Arrive**
- **Sat. 3/21, 12 - 3pm:** **BASKET RAFFLE** in Kuck Hall; Classrooms 1,2,3; and Narthex!!!
- **Sat. 3/21, 4-5pm:** **Cleanup**



## Zion Memorial Park Plaque

Our beautiful **Zion Memorial Park Plaque** is here and hanging prominently in the hallway. Thank you to our donors who were able to memorialize their loved ones and help make Zion Memorial Park a reality!



## Animal Blessing Event

On **Sunday, July 19** from **11-1** (after summer worship), we're hosting an Animal Blessing event here at **Zion Memorial Park**. In addition to Pastor Elizabeth blessing our beloved pets, we are hoping to have a few vendors, pet and human refreshments, and a Zion information table.

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# Health Ministry Updates

## Food Addiction 911



Saturday, March 14, 2026



10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kuck Hall

By Elizabeth Kovacs, our own certified nutrition instructor

Are you struggling with cravings? Do you find yourself eating foods that you know aren't good for you, but you can't seem to stop? Do you sometimes feel controlled by food? Learn to identify the root causes of cravings and overcome them with powerful strategies to tackle them when they occur



**Cost: \$15 per person or per couple**  
**SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE**

Look for more announcements on this informative class!!

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## ***Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn***



Chair Stretching Exercises for Seniors. Chair Stretches for Pain Relief, Relaxation, Flexibility. Chair Yoga Poses for Home Practice.

All are welcome

(Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm) \* here at Zion UCC Tonawanda\*

March 11

March 25

Come join us in this class designed for people of ALL ages

These classes are free

## 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!



Our Next Clinic: **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** in the room behind the sanctuary.

## Support 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!

## Men's Fellowship

### Men's Fellowship Breakfast:

Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am!** Come join us at **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst.

LET'S  
**connect**

## **new!** Busy Mom's Fellowship

### Spring Fling Tea Party 🌸 🍵

Busy Mom's and Women - this one's for you! Take a break from the hustle and join us for a relaxing Spring Fling Tea Party on **Saturday, March 28 from 10:30 - 12:30pm in Kuck Hall!**

Enjoy a delightful spread of finger foods; sample a variety of teas; and get creative with a fun spring wreath-making craft.

This casual fellowship is designed to offer time to connect, unwind, and build community with women in a similar season of life. Our hope is that this event will be the start of many future gatherings - and perhaps even spark new groups like a walking club or book club. Come as you are, bring a friend, and **let's welcome spring together!**

RSVP: To **Sara Hengst** ([shengst@roadrunner.com](mailto:shengst@roadrunner.com)) by **3/21/26**.

## Women's Fellowship

### Women's Fellowship Lunch:

Our next Women's Fellowship lunch will be on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am!** Come join us at **Olympic Restaurant**, 1601 Military Rd., Tonawanda.

After lunch, please join us for **Basket Assembly at Zion** from **1-2pm!**





# Easter Bunny Breakfast

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S

**\$5 PER PERSON**

## BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 AT 10AM

**PANCAKES & EGG HUNT**

15 KOENIG CIRCLE TONAWANDA, NY 14150

REGISTER ONLINE:  
[WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/EVENTS)



# DUNKIRK SUMMER CAMP







## DUNKIRK SUMMER CAMP

starts for kids entering 1st grade!

Make new friends, discover nature, and grow closer to God through exciting activities, inspiring worship, and tons of fun!

Our church will completely cover the cost of your **FIRST YEAR!**  
Returning campers get \$100 off!  
Need based scholarships are also available to returning campers!  
*\*For Pilgrim, Pioneer, Jr High and Sr High Camps only, must register by June 1.*

**Ready to go?!**  
Register for camp at [dunkirkcc.com](http://dunkirkcc.com)  
Then forward your registration confirmation to: [ucczion@gmail.com](mailto:ucczion@gmail.com) for the church to send in the camp payment. We hope to send a lot of kids to camp!

**Questions?**  
Reach out to Jacob Korte, Ted Camp, or Pastor Elizabeth




# Youth Happenings!



July 6-12, 2026

Western Area Youth Summer 2026 Mission Trip!

## 2026 Mission Trip

Join us for a week filled with faith, service, community, and mission!

Greenville, PA

Registration:  
[www.zionucc.com/WAY](http://www.zionucc.com/WAY)



Zion United  
Church of Christ

# Memorial Scholarship 2026



## Empowering Futures. Encouraging Service.

In loving memory and through God's grace, we invest in the education of our future leaders. This memorial scholarship offers partial financial support for tuition, fees, and essential materials, easing the burden as our students pursue their educational goals and prepare to serve our community and world.



**\$2,000**

### Who's eligible?

Zion active church members who are high school seniors.



Pick up applications at the back ledge in the sanctuary or on our website  
Submit by March 29, 2026.