
Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

◆
April 2026



Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

Happy Easter and Happy Anniversary! April marks 16 years of ministry for me here at Zion. It's hard to believe that it has been 16 years, but then I look at the weddings and baptisms and it all makes sense. Those who were "kids" when I arrived here at Zion are now getting married and having babies. After 16 years, the kids that I once confirmed, I now have the honor of marrying and baptizing their children. It is such an honor to be able to do this!

It reminds me of the importance of community. We are called to live in community together. Jesus instructed his disciples to go out and "make disciples of all the nations" and he also guided them to build communities of faithful believers. And having a community to nurture your faith, to be there for you when times are hard, to celebrate with you when times are good, and to walk with you on this journey of life, is truly a blessing.

I know that there are many people out in the world who are lonely, and I hope that we can reach out to them and draw them into the Church. Because the Church community is a sacred one. The Church community is one that loves us and cares for us, and it encourages us to be better, more faithful followers of Christ.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, and as we begin our 17th year together, let's strive to grow our community.

How can we find the lost and the lonely and bring them into the fold?

How can we encourage those who think they don't need God, to enter into a relationship with Jesus in a way that makes them more loving people?

How can we seek out those who think that there is only bad news in the world, and how can we show them that in this Church community, there is good news, there is love, there is joy, and there is peace, all in the name of Jesus?

How can we "seek and save the lost"? (Luke 19:10)

I think it starts by inviting people into this community. Maybe it starts with asking them to join you for Easter. Maybe it starts with a low-key Sunday. Maybe it starts with a church event or fundraiser.

Let's start welcoming more people into the fold. Let's grow together in community.

Thank you for reading!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth*



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

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
- Apr 2 ► **Maundy Thursday Worship @7pm**
- Apr 3 ► **Stations of the Cross Open 9-12pm**
- Apr 3 ► Youth Group @6pm at Zion
- Apr 3 ► **Good Friday Service @7pm**
- Apr 4 ► Breakfast with Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast @10am
- Apr 5 ► **Easter Sunday:** Contemporary Worship @9am; Traditional Worship @10:45am
- Apr 8 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Apr 14 ► Consistory @7pm
- Apr 17 ► Youth Group @6pm at Nativity
- Apr 18 ► Women's Fellowship @11am (Craft Painting Event at Zion followed by Lunch at Olympic Restaurant)
- Apr 20 ► Trustees Meeting @7pm
- Apr 22 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Apr 25 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @5pm

Find more events at:

www.zionucc.com/events

Looking for daily Bible readings?

[Click this link.](#)

Easter Sunrise Services

If you're looking for an Easter Sunrise Service, here are 2 options:

- **Elmlawn Memorial Park, Kenmore - 7am**
- **Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown - 7am**



APRIL 25TH
COMMUNITY DINNER
SIGN-UP
(SCAN OR CLICK
HERE)



WORK WEEKEND

Come join us in preparing the grounds for the Summer season! Stay for the whole weekend or just come out Saturday! Lunch and Dinner will be provided on Saturday.

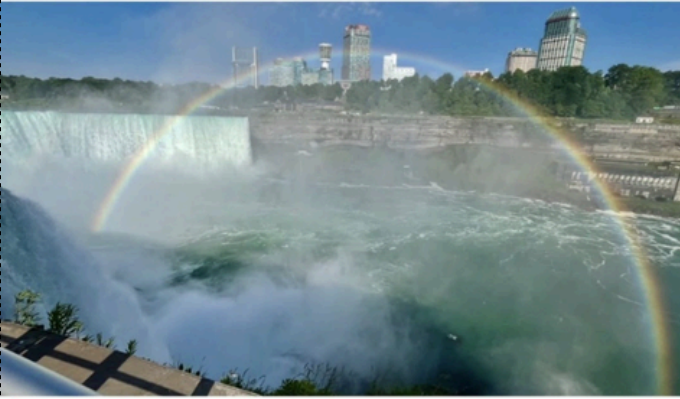
May 16th-18th, 2026

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center

Email to RSVP

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center
3002 Lakeshore Dr., Dunkirk, NY 14048
exec.director@dunkirkcc.com
(716) 366-1900

Niagara Falls Spiritual Retreat
Sunday, May 17th, 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM



You are invited to a peaceful spiritual retreat at Niagara Falls - a sacred time to rest, reflect, and renew your spirit.

Together we will share prayer, meaningful conversation, and practices that nurture the heart, mind, and soul.

Bring your lunch and we will begin with fellowship and eating together.

Questions contact: Pastor Kalee at 989-213-2870

Women's Fellowship

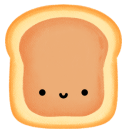
Women's Fellowship will be hosting a **Craft Painting Event** on **Saturday, April 18th** at **11am** right here at Zion, followed by lunch at **Olympic Restaurant**, 1601 Military Rd., Tonawanda, NY 14217. **Come join us!**



March Baptisms



March was a busy month for baptisms! Zion joyfully welcomes **Charlie Peacock** and **Jackson Hachten** into the family of faith!



PBJ's Corner



The PBJ's (Zion's Fundraising Committee) would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone that participated in and donated to our **Basket Raffle!** We had a remarkable turnout. In case you missed it, here's a recap:

- We raffled off **179 baskets** and **37 gift cards!**
- Our Bake Sale raised **\$854** and was a total sellout!
- Our Youth Group raised **\$703** on Concessions!
- Our Basket Raffle raised **\$7,940!**
- In total, Zion brought in **\$9,497** in **3 short hours!**
- Since we began in 2018, Zion has raised **\$102,759.06** on all fundraising activities!

So What's Next?!

Here's a list of upcoming fundraisers planned for 2026:

- **Strawberry Festival:** Date TBD (typically late-June)
- **Meat Raffle:** Sat. Nov 7
- **Rummage Sale:** Date TBD (typically mid-November)



Outreach Activities

Easter Postcards

We recently completed an Easter Postcard campaign, focused on individuals who have attended Zion events, but have not yet joined us for worship. We invited those individuals to Easter worship. We attached the remaining postcards to our Baskets and Gift cards from our Basket Raffle.

We hope to welcome many new faces soon!

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 have at least one confirmed vendor (Pet Supplies Plus), pet and human refreshments, and a Zion information table.



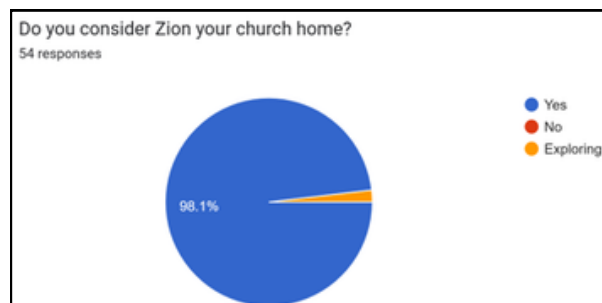
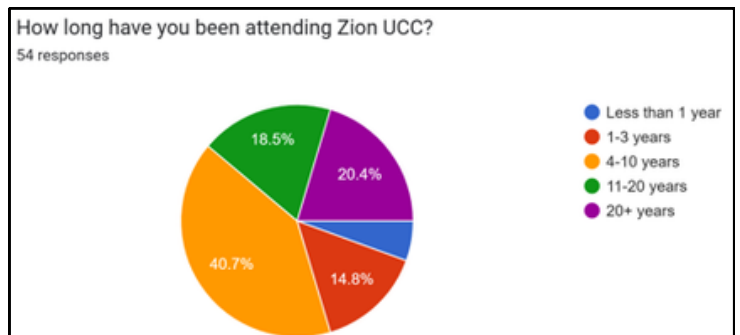
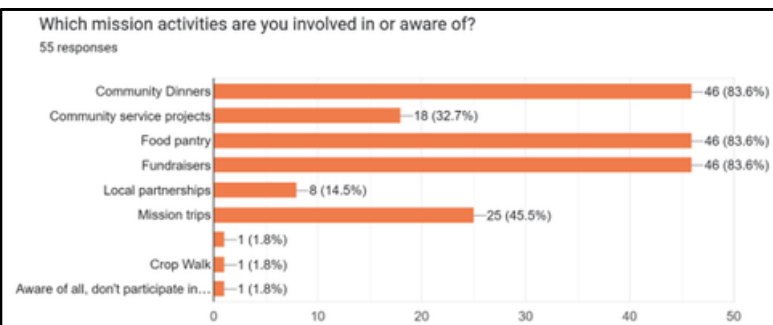
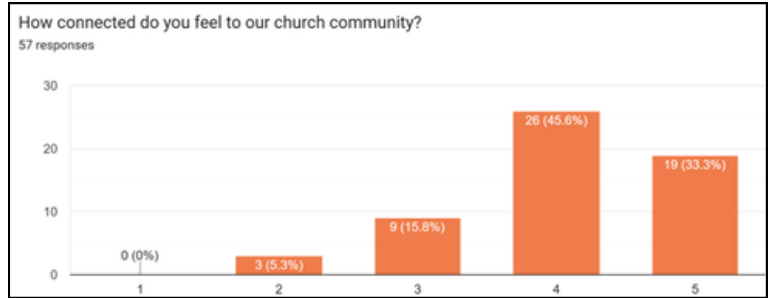
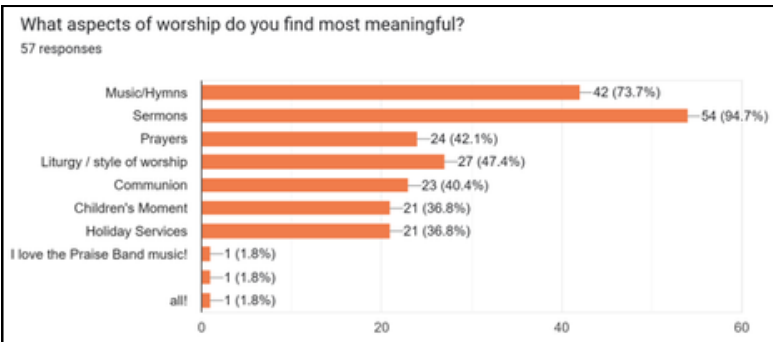
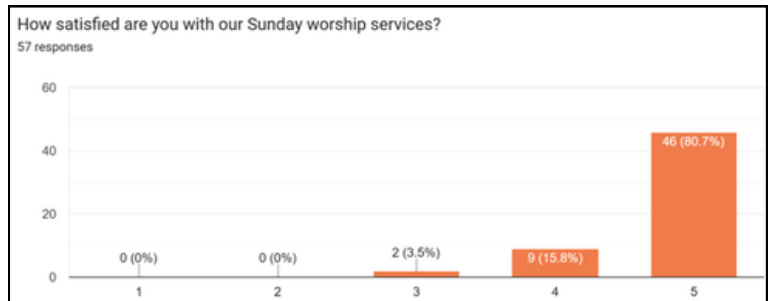
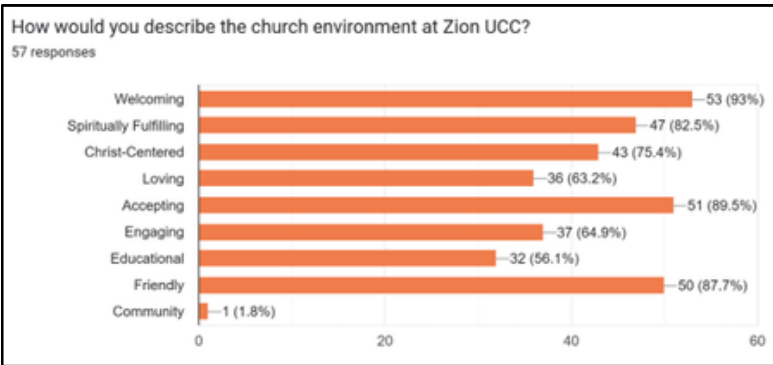
Survey Says ...



As you may recall, we recently introduced our first ever **Annual Congregational Survey**, asking you to share your thoughts about Zion UCC. We received 57 responses! Overwhelmingly, the results were extremely positive. You also provided us with some suggestions for improvement.

Brooke Benn led a survey task force along with George Darrall and Lynn Alexander to review and analyze your comments. These comments were shared with our committee chairpersons for review with our various sub-committees. More to come on these!

In the meantime, we wanted to share with you some of your responses:



Health Ministry Updates

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*

April 8

April 22



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

These classes are free

Blood Pressure Checks

NOTE: In celebration of Easter, we have moved our next blood pressure clinic to **Sun., March 29th** from **10 - 10:30am**



Get your blood pressure checked for free by one of our nurses. We'll resume our normal schedule again in May.

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!



Dunkirk MEAT RAFFLE

MEAT RAFFLE

TO BENEFIT
DUNKIRK CAMP AND
CONFERENCE CENTER

MAIN TRANSIT FIRE DEPARTMENT
6777 MAIN ST, WILLIAMSVILLE NY 14221



SATURDAY APRIL 11TH
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
FIRST SPIN 7:00PM

**\$10 PER TICKET
OR \$70 FOR A TABLE OF 8**

TICKET INCLUDES:
BEER, WINE, SODA AND A CHANCE AT DOOR PRIZES

DOOR PRIZES: FREE WEEK AT CAMP & MASTERBUILT SMOKER

(NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED)

BASKET RAFFLE AND SIDE RAFFLES
AT ADDITIONAL COST

**FOR TICKETS EMAIL RACHEL
RCUMMINS496@GMAIL.COM**

Youth
Happenings!



July 6-12, 2026

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

Then forward your registration confirmation to:
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



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