

# Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

◆  
May 2026



## Pastor's Letter:

Hello Church!

The other day my husband was scrolling through Facebook, and this image popped up on his feed that he promptly shared with me, titled "The Rise of the Micro Church."

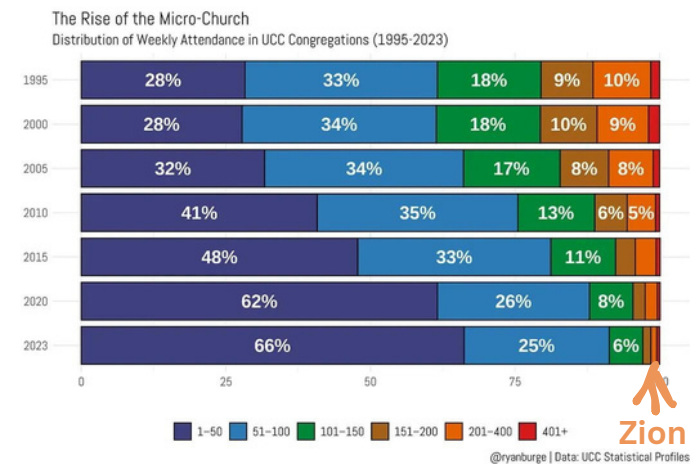
I studied the image, and at first I was sad. More than half of our denomination only worships with 50 or fewer people on a Sunday. And while little churches can be small and mighty, I know many of these churches used to be the center of their communities.

**But then**, as I studied the image more, I was filled with a little bit of pride (not arrogant pride, but joyful pride) in the fact that our church worships over 200 people on average at the moment. Which puts us in that tiny little orange sliver around 98% (and note, this chart is from 2023, so the orange sliver might be around 99% today).

Since our ushers take amazing attendance and have for many, many years, I looked back, and in the 2015 time period, we only worshipped in the 101-150 category, meaning that we've bumped ourselves up 2 whole categories in the last 10 years! Praise God!

As I think about how we've grown, I can't help but think about why. And I know, #1 it's because God is Good! All the time! And #2 I believe it's because we have an amazing community of faith here, that welcomes people and builds meaningful relationships, while all of us grow in our faith. The truth is, the Holy Spirit is felt here at Zion.

So let's keep growing! Let's keep sharing the Gospel! Let's Praise God together and build more relationships. Let's be the Church together and praise God every step of the way



Thank you for reading!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Elizabeth<sup>1</sup>

Niagara Falls Spiritual Retreat  
 Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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

**Sign-Up Sheet  
 on Bulletin Board**



### Remembering Ellen Hughes

**September 20, 1949 to March 23, 2026**

Ellen returned home to the Lord on March 23<sup>rd</sup> after a battle with cancer. We celebrated Ellen's life on April 18<sup>th</sup> with her friends, family, choir, and bell choir here at Zion. Please continue to hold Ellen's family, especially her daughters, Elizabeth and Casey, and her brother, Ron, in your prayers.



## 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
- May 1 ► Youth Group @6pm at Zion
- May 3 ► Blood Pressure Checks @10am
- May 9 ► Women's Fellowship Lunch @11am at Family Tree Restaurant
- May 12 ► Consistory @7pm
- May 13 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- May 15 ► Youth Group @6pm at Nativity
- May 16-18 ► Work Weekend at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center
- May 17 ► Niagara Falls Spiritual Retreat with Pastor Kalee @12:30pm
- May 18 ► Trustees Meeting @7pm
- May 21 ► Women's Fellowship Air Freshener & Candle-Making Workshop @1pm in Classroom 1
- May 21 ► Health Ministry Annual Meeting @7pm in Classroom 3
- May 27 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- May 30 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @5pm

• **Save the Date:** June 20 ►  
**Zion Strawberry Festival!**



**Find more events at:**  
**[www.zionucc.com/events](http://www.zionucc.com/events)**

Looking for daily Bible readings?  
[Click this link.](#)

MAY 30TH  
 COMMUNITY DINNER  
 SIGN-UP  
 (SCAN OR CLICK  
 HERE)



# Busy Moms & Friends Facebook page

**Busy Moms & Friends** is a women's group at Zion, designed for busy moms and other women - being a Mom is not a requirement! We would love to plan occasional get togethers and we welcome ideas for activities and outings.



Join our Facebook group today by [clicking this link!](#)

## Women's Fellowship

Join us for lunch on **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** at **11am** at **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst

## Air Freshener & Candle-Making Workshop

If you signed up for the **Air Freshener & Candle-Making Workshop** on **Thu. May 21<sup>st</sup>** from **1-3pm**, please note that we will now be meeting in [Classroom 1](#).



### With You

A Mental Health Support Group



Find Calm. Find Clarity. Find Connection.

Join "With You" - A mental health support group centered on the healing practice of journaling. This is a safe and welcoming space to slow down, reflect, and gently explore your thoughts and emotions - no writing experience needed.

Dates: June 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Location: Community Mission, Meeting in the Community Room  
1590 Buffalo Ave. Niagara Falls

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact: Please Text Rev. Kalee Mielke at 716-327-2960 if Interested.



## PBJ's Corner

### Did Someone Say Fundraisers?!

Here's a list of upcoming fundraisers planned for 2026. Mark your calendars!:

- **Strawberry Festival: Sat. June 20 (Newly Announced!)**
- **Meat Raffle: Fri. October 9 (Date Changed!)**
- **Rummage Sale: Date TBD**  
(typically mid-November)



## Outreach Activities

### Animal Blessing Event

On **Sunday, July 19** from **11-1** (after summer worship), we are hosting an Animal Blessing event here at **Zion Memorial Park**. In addition to Pastor Elizabeth blessing our beloved pets, we have two confirmed vendors (**Pet Supplies Plus & EarthWise Pet**) joining us! We'll also have pet and human refreshments and a Zion information table.



# Health Ministry Updates

## EXERCISE BUDDIES W/ DAWN

Dawn is a certified trainer who does weight training with light weights, chair yoga, strength training & more! Classes are held 2 times a month on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.**

All ages are welcome

5:30-6:30 pm, right here at Zion

Wed., May 13<sup>th</sup>

Wed., May 27<sup>th</sup>



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

**These classes are free!**

## LOOKING FOR A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT? LOOK NO FURTHER. YOU ARE IN LUCK!

Health Ministry has **17 Church cookbooks** left to sell and one of them can be yours to give!

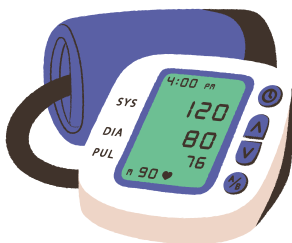
At the same time, know that your **\$20** for the cost of the "Taste of Heaven" cookbook, will be going to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help others! **What a win-win!**

To get your copy, please see **Debby Williams** or **Pam Sedota** to receive your copy before Mother's Day on May 10th!

HAPPY  
Mother's  
Day

## Blood Pressure Checks

Out next blood pressure clinic will be on **Sun., May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from **10 - 10:30am**



Get your blood pressure checked for free by one of our nurses.

## 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.

**DASH'S**  
MARKET

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!

Save the Date for VBS!  
July 27-31, 2026



## DUNKIRK SUMMER CAMP

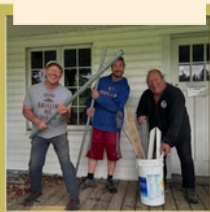


# WORK WEEKEND

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 Cc      Email to RSVP      ice Center



PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE!

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center  
3602 Lakeshore Dr., Dunkirk, NY 14048  
exec.director@dunkirkcc.com  
(716) 366-1900



# 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

**JR. WAY!**  
WELCOME TO SUMMER DAY!  
4 YEARS TO GRADE 6

JUNE 6, 2026 | 9AM TO 11AM

**EPIPHANY UCC**  
9365 CLARENCE CENTER RD. CLARENCE CENTER, NY 14032

REGISTER AT:  
[WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/WAY](http://WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/WAY)



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:

**5**  
[www.zionucc.com/WAY](http://www.zionucc.com/WAY)