
Zionite Newsletter



A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith

ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

♦
August 2026



Pastor's Letter:

Dear Church,

Do you know what I'm not very good at? It's saying "Thank you." Sure, I make my kids send thank you cards for presents, and I try to send thank you cards to people as well, but I'm not personally great at thanking all of our volunteers at church. I honestly think it's because we have so many volunteers, that if I was good at it, I would simply be walking around saying thank you all the time, because you are all seriously amazing! But I also think I've never really been great at thanking people. And yet, it's not because I don't appreciate people (I think it's exactly the opposite!), I'm just not good at remembering to thank them.

So I would like to take a moment to say **thank you. To YOU.** If you're reading this: THANK YOU. Thank you for taking the time to read the Church Newsletter (seriously, so many people don't)!!! Thank you for being a part of this Church. Thank you for getting up on Sunday mornings and joining us for worship! Thank you for being a great church to preach to (*there's a story with this, but I don't have room to type it!*) Thank you for volunteering in ANY capacity, because every role, large or small, matters! Thank you for forgiving me for not saying thank you to you before (*I'm being presumptuous and assuming I'm forgiven if you have realized while reading this that I have failed at thanking you in the past!*)

I can't get over how amazing our church is at volunteering. Just look at any event we host: volunteers galore!

Or look at Vacation Bible School going on this week or the mission trip earlier in July: Volunteers give up their week to help!

Look at our church leadership, past and present: amazing volunteers!

Check out our Sunday School Teachers: Talk about dedication!

Or our PBJs (fundraising team): Wow!

Our Community Dinner Team: You rock!

And our lectors: You sign up without even being asked!

I love this church for many reasons, but one of them is because our people show up and help because they love to serve. We're truly blessed.

So since I know I'm terrible at thanking people, I'm going to take this Pastor's Letter as a moment to say: "Thank you! God loves you, I love you, and I love being your pastor."

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

We're collecting School Supplies
for a family in need!

If you would like to help, please click this link or scan the QR code below to let us know what supplies you will purchase. Please have all school supplies to the church office by August 9th.

Thank you!!



VOLUNTEER NEED: UNITED CHURCH MANOR

United Church Manor (a 50-unit, affordable senior apartment building in West Seneca) is seeking **UCC members willing to join their Board of Directors**. As a Board Member, you would play a vital role in guiding our mission in providing an affordable, vibrant, faith-based community that encourages independent lifestyles.



Your expertise would be invaluable in helping strengthen our organization, enhance workforce strategies, and ensure best practices in governance and leadership development. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful impact while collaborating with a passionate team.

We meet on the **3rd Tuesday** at **6pm** in **Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov**. The term is a 3-year commitment. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to **Sarah Bohnstadt, Director of Housing**, at **(716) 668-5804** or email sbohnstadt@ucmanor.org. Check us out online at www.ucmanor.org

Church Events

- Summer Worship ► Sundays 9:30am
- Summer Sunday School ► begins July 5
- Nursery ► Sundays during worship
- Food Pantry ► Tuesdays 10am-12pm
- Bible Study ► Tues. @12pm on Facebook
- AA ► Thu. @5:30pm; Sat. @10am & 1pm
- Aug 2 ► Contemporary Worship @9:30am*
- Aug 9 ► Traditional Worship @9:30am and Baptism of Molly Wiorkowski
- Aug 9 ► School Supply drop off deadline
- Aug 11 ► Consistory @7pm
- Aug 12 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- Aug 15 ► Women's Fellowship breakfast at Olympic Restaurant @11am
- Aug 16 ► Contemporary Worship @9:30am*
- Aug 17 ► Trustees Meeting @7pm
- Aug 23 ► Traditional Worship @9:30am
- Aug 26 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30
- Aug 29 ► Men's Fellowship breakfast at Family Tree Restaurant @9am
- Aug 29 ► Drive Thru Community Dinner @5pm
- Aug 30 ► Contemporary Worship @9:30am*
- Sep 6 ► Traditional Worship @9:30am
- Sep 13 ► Rally Day! Worship & Picnic @10am!
- Sep 20 ► Return to 2 services @9am & 10:45am

*Outdoor worship is weather permitting

Find more events at:
www.zionucc.com/events

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

**AUG 29TH
COMMUNITY
DINNER SIGN-UP
(SCAN OR CLICK
HERE)**



tinyurl.com/DinnerAug2026



Veterans Blanket Project

**Do you knit, crochet, sew or quilt?
We need you!**

On **Sunday, November 8**, we will be displaying at the altar rail, red, white, and blue afghans, blankets, quilts, and lap robes, made by our church family and friends. Pastor Elizabeth will bless them during the service, before they are distributed to veterans in our church, community, and local nursing homes to show our appreciation for their service.

If you knit, crochet, sew, or quilt, we would be thrilled to accept your finished project. Any pattern is fine, but we prefer the red, white, and blue color scheme. If you wish, you can also purchase a ready-made fleece throw which are plentiful for our 250th anniversary of the USA at most stores.

The items should be brought to the church office **by the end of October**. There will also be a bin available starting in September. If you prefer to personally bring your blanket forward during service, you may do so before the blessing.

If you have any questions or need a pattern idea, please email **Elaine Sparks** at lanielamb@aol.com or text me at (716) 425-1133.



PBJ's Corner

Putting the FUN into fundraising!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming **FUN**draisers!:

- **Meat Raffle: Fri. October 9**
- **Rummage Sale: Sat. November 14**

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will be meeting for breakfast on **Saturday, August 15th** at **11am** at **Olympic Restaurant**, 1601 Military Rd., Tonawanda. All women are invited.

Please join us!

Breakfast



Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship will be meeting for breakfast on **Saturday, August 29th** at **9am** at **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave., Amherst. All men are welcome.

Please join us!

NEWS FROM PEOPLE INC.

Meet Demarques, who sings lead for his band, alongside one of Zion's young adults, **Madison Fortuna (on guitar)**, with support from Personal Development Mentor Sean Wild. Together, they're making music, and showing the right support can help big dreams become reality.

[Click here](#) to read their full story!



Health Ministry Updates



Topic: **Our Aging Brain- How to keep it Healthy**

Sat., Sept. 12; 10am-noon in Kuck Hall

Presenters: Michelle Spencer who specializes and assists in helping the elderly and a representative of the Alzheimer's Association.

Cost: **FREE**

Maintaining brain health is crucial because it directly affects mental and physical well-being. Poor brain health can lead to cognitive decline, emotional dysregulation, and increased risk of neurological disorders such as dementia, stroke & Parkinson's disease.

Neurological conditions are a leading cause of disability and death worldwide, with significant social and economic impacts. Moreover, brain health influences quality of life, independence, and the ability to engage in meaningful activities, particularly as people age.

Learn how to take care of your brain (we only have one!!).

EXERCISE BUDDIES W/ DAWN

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

All ages are welcome

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

Wed., August 11th

Wed., August 25th



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

These classes are free!

Topic: **Sleep Better/Stress Less**

Sat., Nov. 7; 10 am-noon in Kuck Hall

Presenter: Elizabeth Kovacs, certified nutrition instructor

Cost: **\$10 a person**

More research is being released on sleep and what a powerful effect it has on our overall health. Many people struggle with poor sleep quality, sleep apnea and sluggishness during the day.

This class explores the science of what to eat and when to eat to achieve optimal sleep, stress reduction and body health renewal

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.



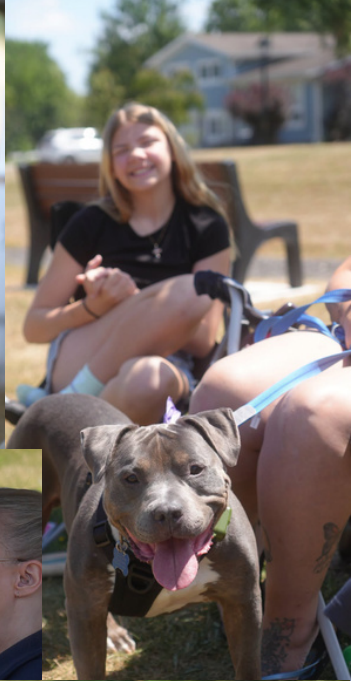
You can drop off your receipts in the designated box on the sanctuary shelf or place them in the labeled clear folder located just outside the church office.

Thank you for your continued support!



Our Animal Blessing was a Great Success!







Western Area Youth's **ANNUAL MISSION TRIP** *to Greenville, PA!*

This summer, **53** youth and adults answered the call to serve in Greenville, PA—sharing the love of Jesus and making a real difference in the community. Thank you to all who went, gave, prayed, and supported this life-changing week!



53 YOUTH & ADULTS
ATTENDED



22 YOUTH & ADULTS
FROM ZION

SERVING TOGETHER. SHARING HIS LOVE.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE.
TOGETHER, WE MAKE AN IMPACT.**



SERVED FREE HOT DOGS
and told people that
Jesus loves them.



WORKED WITH MEALS ON WHEELS
to prepare and deliver meals to
seniors in the community.



BUILT A PLAYGROUND
for a local family in need—creating
a place for joy, play, and lasting
memories.



BUILT A SENSORY ROOM
for a child with autism—providing
a safe, comforting space for him
during worship.



AND SO MUCH MORE!
From yard work to painting, cleaning,
prayer, and encouragement—our
youth were the hands and feet of
Jesus.



**“Whatever you did for one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.” – Matthew 25:40**



THANK YOU!

To everyone who prayed, gave, and supported our youth!

God is good!



*"I can do all things
through Christ
who gives me strength."*



VBS

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



What a joyful week of faith, learning, and fun!



THANK YOU to our amazing volunteers, families, and Church Kids
for making this week so special! We can't wait for next year!

