
Zionite Newsletter

A Christ-centered, inclusive, community of faith



ZION UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



October 2026



Pastor's Letter:

Dear Church,

Autumn always makes me think about change. The weather changes, the leaves change, the kids' schedules change, the church schedule changes. Some change is good, and some change is hard, but the reality is that change is inevitable.

The Apostle Paul said to the Church in Corinth:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation."

Part of being a faithful follower of Christ is accepting that we are called to change - not in an inauthentic way - but we are called to see others the way God sees them. We are called to be more loving, forgiving, merciful followers of Christ as we grow in our journey of faith. But change is hard!

We might know that we're not supposed to judge people (*after all, Jesus said that 'the judgment you give will be the judgment that you receive' in Matthew 7:2*), but we struggle to overcome our judgments. We might know that we're supposed to forgive (*we are taught by Jesus to pray, "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*), but we struggle to let go of past hurts. We might know that we're supposed to be humble and kind (*we're told to "do nothing out of selfish ambition" in Philippians 2:3*), but the world we live in can sometimes make this hard.

We might know that we're supposed to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27), but sometimes our old habits creep in.

So as Autumn approaches, reminding us that change is inevitable, maybe we should try - prayerfully - to let go of some old bad habits?

Maybe we can try to shed our hurtful judgments; maybe we can work to let go of our old resentments and grudges; maybe we can try to be more loving - seeing others the way God sees them? If we're going to make changes to our lives, these are changes that will surely bring us closer to Christ.

And maybe, by the time the leaves are done falling and winter approaches, we'll be leaning into God's love more than ever before.

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Elizabeth*

Thank you for reading!

FORMING A ZION BEGINNERS QUILTING GROUP

Have you ever desired to quilt? Here's your chance to start! We are trying to form a beginners quilting group and need 8 people to join us. A teacher has been sourced with 30+ years experience in quilting and she teaches in various churches in our region. For starters, we will be learning to hand quilt a table runner. Yes, hand quilt (no machines), like in the olden days!

If you are interested, please **email Elizabeth Kovacs** at info@healthykitchenhealthylife.com or Text/Leave a Message on **716-282-2098**.



The classes will be \$10 each with a commitment to attend each class; most likely 8 classes for this project. They may be weekly or bi-weekly; we don't have a day of the week or time set yet, so **please include your preferred day of the week and timeframe in your message**.

Classes would likely start the end of October. We need 8 individuals to make this class happen. The teacher will come from Ransomville, so we need to cover her expense for travel. Students cover their own cost for materials. Looking forward to receiving responses **no later than Friday, October 2nd**.

Church Events

- Summer Worship ► Sundays 9:30am
- Summer Sunday School ► During Worship
- Nursery ► Sundays during worship
- Food Pantry ► Tuesdays 10am-12pm
- Bible Study ► Tues. @12pm on Facebook
- AA ► Thu. @5:30pm; Sat. @10am & 1pm
- Oct 2 ► Youth Group at Lasertron @6:30pm
- Oct 3 ► Ken-Ton Area CROP Hunger Walk at Church of the Nativity @9:30am
- Oct 4 ► Blood Pressure Checks, 10 - 10:30am
- Oct 9 ► Meat Raffle at Knights of Columbus, 755 Erie Ave., N. Tonawanda @6pm
- Oct 13 ► Consistory @7pm
- Oct 14 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Oct 16-18 ► WAY Fall Retreat at Dunkirk
- Oct 17 ► Women's Fellowship in Kuck Hall @11am
- Oct 17 ► Halloween Happening at Dunkirk @3:30pm
- Oct 19 ► Trustees Meeting @7pm
- Oct 24 ► Men's Fellowship at Family Tree Restaurant @9am
- Oct 24 ► Trunk or Treat @6pm
- Oct 28 ► Exercise Buddies w/ Dawn @5:30pm
- Oct 29 ► Network of Religious Communities Dinner at Grapevine Banquets @6pm
- Oct 31 ► Drive Through Community Dinner @4pm (One Hour Early)

Find more events at:

www.zionucc.com/events

Looking for daily Bible readings?

Click this link.

OCT 31ST COMMUNITY DINNER (ONE HOUR EARLY)	October Dinner Hosted by Women's Fellowship <i>Thank you!</i>
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WALK WITH US TO FIGHT HUNGER

KEN-TON AREA CROP HUNGER WALK 2026



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 9:30 AM



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

*Every step helps fight hunger--
locally and globally.*

25% of what we raise stays right here in Ken-Ton,
helping support Zion's food pantry.



*Join us for a morning of
walking, community & giving.*

**JOIN ZION'S TEAM
OR MAKE A DONATION**

Scan to Join or Donate



Double your impact: Donations
made through Brianna's page are
eligible for an employer match, up to
\$500.

<https://events.cropshungerwalk.org/thebrianna-qr-c3>

TOGETHER, WE CAN END HUNGER.

ONE STEP AT A TIME.



NETWORK OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES APPRECIATION DINNER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29, 2026

Starts at 6:00 PM

THE GRAPEVINE
333 DICK RD. DEPEW, NY

2026 ZION UCC HONOREES
Jill Fowler & Robin Fowler

TICKETS: \$75

716-836-6220 www.zionucc.com/events/nrc-dinner



zionucc.com/events/trunk-or-treat

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 24, 2026
6:00-7:00PM
ZION UCC'S PARKING LOT
15 KOENIG CIR. TONAWANDA, NY

FREE

To volunteer to be a "Trunk" sign up at www.zionucc.com/events



OCTOBER EVENTS

October 16-18, 2026

WAY FALL RETREAT

WESTERN AREA YOUTH GRADES 7-12
REGISTER FOR THE WAY FALL RETREAT
WWW.ZIONUCC.COM/WAY
\$30 PER YOUTH

LOCATION: DUNKIRK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
DROP OFF: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 6-7PM
PICK UP: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 10AM

Bring a Halloween Costume for Saturday!



YOU'RE INVITED TO

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Sat. October 17
3:30 PM - 6:30 PM
\$5 CARLOAD DONATION

* TRICK OR TREATING *
* HAUNTED HOUSE *
* COSTUME CONTEST * PRIZES *
* CONCESSIONS * DANCE PARTY *

DUNKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
3602 LAKE SHORE DR E, DUNKIRK, NY



YOUTH GROUP YEARLY PLANNER

2026-2027



SEPTEMBER 9/18 Youth Group 6-9pm. <i>First youth group of the school year!</i>	OCTOBER 10/2 Youth Group at Lasertron, tentative time: 6:30pm 10/16-10/18 Halloween Happenings WAY Retreat at Dunkirk	NOVEMBER 11/6 Youth Group 6-9pm 11/13 Chris Tomlin Concert 11/20 Youth Group Friendsgiving	DECEMBER 12/4 Youth Group 6-9pm 12/18 Youth Group Caroling and White Elephant Party 6-9pm 12/19 Breakfast with Santa, 10am
JANUARY 1/15 Youth Group Ice Skating at North Buffalo Rink, 7-9pm	FEBRUARY 2/5-2/7 Winter WAY Retreat 2/19 Youth Group 6-9pm	MARCH 3/5 Youth Group 6-9pm 3/19 Youth Group off site (maybe Bandits game) 3/27 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 10am	APRIL 4/16 Youth Group 6-9pm
MAY 5/7 Youth Group 6-9pm 5/21 Youth Group 6-9pm	JUNE End of the year Youth Group BBQ! Either 6/4 OR 6/11	JULY - WAY Mission Trip tentative date of 7/5-7/11 Billerica (Boston) MA <i>date is tentative, it will be the week after Sr. High Camp</i>	

NOTES

Youth and parents, we're excited to have a wonderful year of youth group, events, retreats, and mission trip!

Please mark your calendars with all of these events.

Friday Night Youth Groups will run from 6-9pm and will be held at Zion (15 Koenig Cir Tonawanda).

We will start each youth group with dinner.

Parents, if you would like to cook dinner one Friday, please let Pastor Duffy know!

In Loving Memory



Barb King

Barb King was a long time member of Zion UCC. She was the sister-in-law of Sue House, and she leaves behind her two daughters and her grandson. Barb was a sweet woman who is now at peace in the Kingdom of Heaven.



John Wagner

John was a well-known and well-loved member of Zion UCC. He ran the food pantry, helped with the community dinners, and always greeted everyone with a smile. John had 4 sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Dennis Muff

Dennis joined Zion UCC along with his wife, Mary, in 2010. He was the beloved brother-in-law of Herb and Melanie Hachten. Dennis had two children and two grandchildren. Dennis was a proud veteran and he loved to talk to fellow veterans and service members.

ARE YOU A FLOWER CHILD? DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Zion needs a volunteer to take over the Christmas Poinsettia and Easter Flower ordering. It involves putting out announcements, logging the names of those purchasing flowers, tracking the money collected, and contacting our flower vendors to place the order. In-person training is available!



Our Church always looks so beautiful with the Alter full of flowers! Please prayerfully consider this!

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please speak with or email **Laurie Mittlefehldt** at mittle62@aol.com.



PBJ's Corner

Putting the FUN into fundraising!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming FUNdraisers!:

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



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on
Saturday, October 17th at **11am** in **Kuck Hall**.
 All women are invited.



Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship will be meeting for
 breakfast on **Saturday, October 24th** at **9am**
 at **Family Tree Restaurant**, 4346 Bailey Ave.,
 Amherst. All men are invited.

ZION UCC'S

MEAT RAFFLE



DOOR PRIZES



LOCAL RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS



"S" WINE TOSS!



50/50 RAFFLE!



FRI, OCT 9
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
FIRST SPIN AT 7PM



755 ERIE AVE.
N. TONAWANDA, NY

TICKETS

includes beer, pop & door prize entry
 bring snacks, singles & a cooler

\$15 INDIVIDUAL
 \$100 TABLE OF 8
 \$125 TABLE OF 10
 \$20 DAY OF EVENT

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE!

outside food welcome,
 no outside drinks.

All proceeds benefit
 Zion United Church of Christ,
 Tonawanda, NY

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:

 zionucc.com/events/meat-raffle



Veterans Project Reminder



We will be collecting and displaying the blankets and lap robes on **Sunday, November 8**. We've also determined that there is a need & desire for simple wraps or shawls as well. These donations may be handmade or store bought. They are all appreciated!

After the blessing by Pastor Elizabeth, they will be distributed to Veterans in our church family, as well as community friends and shut-ins. There is a bin located outside the sanctuary or you can bring your donated item up to the altar on that day.

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

Health Ministry Updates

SLEEP BETTER! STRESS LESS! NUTRITION & COOKING CLASS

Do you struggle with poor sleep quality, sleep apnea, or sluggishness during the day? Find out how more and more research is being released on sleep and what a powerful effect it has on our daily health.



Blood Pressure Checks

On the first Sunday of the month, you can have your blood pressure checked for free by one of our nurses!



Our next blood pressure clinic will be on **Sun. October 4th** from **10 - 10:30am** in the room behind the sanctuary.



Class Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026 @ 10AM-NOON

See Registration Instructions Below

\$10 Per Person or \$15 Per Couple

**Held at Zion United Church of Christ (Kuck Hall)
15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda, NY 14150**

Classes are taught by a Certified Nutrition Instructor approved by the Food Saved Me Institute. Class includes videos, cooking demonstration, a beautiful class booklet including all the research and recipes, and food sampling!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1st, 2026.**

To register, email your name, cell phone and email address to Elizabeth Kovacs at info@healthykitchenhealthylife.com. If you have questions, please call cell 716.282.2098.



Elizabeth Kovacs

Pay class fee at the door. Please arrive 10 minutes before class begins.

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!

EXERCISE BUDDIES W/ DAWN

Dawn is a certified trainer who does light weight training, chair yoga, strength training



Wednesday.



All ages are welcome

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

Wed., Oct. 14 & 28

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

These classes are free! 8