

Open and Affirming Declaration

We, the members of Zion United Church of Christ in Steubenville, Ohio, seek to continue the faithful presence and witness to God's love that has been maintained by our denominational predecessors for more than 150 years. Our ultimate goal is to have the Message of Jesus Christ permeate all that we profess, through our words and by our actions. To that end, we join together on this day of the celebration of the Feast of Transfiguration, February 10, 2013, to joyously proclaim:

We believe we are all created in God's image, female and male, and are called to proclaim and show our love for God by loving our neighbors as God loves us. We believe that we are many members, but one body in Jesus the Christ, called to unite all people in God's enduring love. We therefore offer our Open and Affirming pledge of Radical Hospitality to all God's created, with a commitment to extend God's Extravagant Welcome to persons of every gender, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, social and economic status, faith background, political and theological beliefs, marital standing and family structure. Remembering the time frame in which our church was founded, we particularly affirm President Abraham Lincoln's call that all of our words and actions must reflect "malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right....".

The People of Zion United Church of Christ



Joyful Noiz

January 12- February 16, 2018 Newsletter

Write it on your
heart that every
day is the best day
in the year.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Zion United Church of Christ

Rev. Erik E. Breddin

Cell: (319) 504-2630

139 North Fifth Street

Steubenville, OH 43952

Church Phone: (740) 282-1793

Church Fax: (740) 314-5452

E-mail: church@zionucc-steubenville.org

Web address: www.zionuccsteubenville.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

January 14 11:00am

GREETER John Diekmann
USHER Dana Lohr
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

January 21 11:00am

GREETER Opal Kleineke
USHER Dave Hunt
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

January 28 11:00am

GREETER John Diekmann
USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

February 4 11:00am

GREETER Jeff Knauff
USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER John Diekmann

February 11 Valentine Lunch 11:00am

GREETER Opal Kleineke
USHER Dave Hunt
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Renea Starkey-Hunt

February 18 11:00am

GREETER John Diekmann
USHER Dana Lohr
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Missy Breddin

The Year

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.

We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our brides, we sheet our
dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of the year



From the Pastor



As we begin a new year, it's normal for us to look back at the year that just ended. This year, as we look back we see many headlines pointing to destruction, death, and heartache. From the hurricanes, flooding, and fires, to the tragic shooting in Las Vegas it has been a difficult year to say the least. As the New Year begins we are worried about the economy and politics, worried about North Korea, and probably worried about much more than I could ever write in an article. Some years are obviously better than others, and there have surely been worse years than this one, but if you are closing out 2017 with a bit of anxiety, I don't blame you.

Despite all of the tragedy there have also been great things this year, and reasons to celebrate. I know in my own life I have had several blessings this year and it goes to show that all of us have lives that are combinations of good and bad. Even in the bad, however, there are signs of good. If we look at the very same tragedies that I spoke about before, you will see examples of bravery, kindness, compassion, and love. Even in the worst of times the love of God can shine through.

As we continue into the New Year together let us remember that the hope and joy of Christmas we just experienced comes with us into whatever awaits us in the months ahead. Together we can share the love of God with each other and the world. We can share that love in good times, but also in times of hardship, because the light of Christ shines on no matter what. In this New Year look for that light, and share that love.

With the Greatest of Hope!

Erik

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

If you haven't checked out our website, take a look!

www.zionuccsteubenville.com



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Thompson, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, Thelma Cook, Barb Irvin, John Rhueff, Nancy Tingler, Marie Brobston, Dakota Miller, Patricia Loyszczyk, Marlene Rhueff, Jim Mottice, Barb Mottice, Opal Kleineke, Al Panyi, Janice Gilcrest (Former Church Secretary), Peggy Lohr

*If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

PARSONAGE PHONE

We have decided to have the parsonage phone disconnected due to inactivity on the line. If you would like to contact the pastor please contact the church at **740-282-1793** or on his cell **319-504-2630**.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2018 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up. If anyone desires envelopes and has not received them in the past, please contact the church office and they will be made available to you. We will be mailing some of the shut-ins and out of town folks.

TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We will be taking down Christmas decorations in the church **January 14**, following the morning worship service. **Anyone willing to help with this project is encouraged to stay and participate.**

ANNUAL MEETING

Council has selected **January 28th** for the annual congregational meeting. If any member wishes to serve on council they should let any council member know prior to the meeting. The 2018 budget will be in the annual report for each of you to review prior to the meeting. The **deadline for all reports is January 14th** and the 2017 Annual report will be available **January 21**, so each of you will have the opportunity to review it prior to the meeting and come to the annual meeting with any questions or concerns.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be **February 8, 10:00 AM, at the Church.**

VALENTINE DINNER

The annual Valentine Dinner will be held following the morning worship service on **February 11**. The Entrée will be Ham Loaf with all the trimmings. If you'd like to help, please contact Jeff Knauff. There is a reservation in this newsletter.

GUEST ORGANIST

Charles Maffett has requested **February 11th** off. **Joyce Palmer** will be the guest organist for worship and guest pianist for the Valentine dinner.

LENTEN LUNCH VIABILITY

Council has been batting around the idea of whether we can continue the Lenten lunches without more help from the congregation. We will be discussing this at the annual meeting.