

## 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

November 16- December 14, 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ  
139 North Fifth Street  
Steubenville, OH 43952

Church Phone: (740) 282-1793  
Church Fax: (740) 314-5452

E-mail: [church@zionucc-steubenville.org](mailto:church@zionucc-steubenville.org)  
Web address: [www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### November 18 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

### November 25 Renea Starkey-Hunt Speaker 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

### December 2 Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER John Diekmann

### December 9 Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello 11:00am

USHER Dana Lohr  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

### December 16 Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

### December 23 Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello 11:00am

USHER Tom Kaufmann  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Jeff Knauff



When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.

Tecumseh

### ADVENT CAROL LUNCHEON

The annual Advent Carol Luncheon will be held Sunday, **December 9**, following the morning worship service in the church social hall. There is an invitation/reservation slip included in this Newsletter if you plan to attend. **Anyone wishing to help with the dinner should speak with Jeff Knauff or contact the church office.**

### PULPIT SUPPLY FOR DECEMBER

**Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello** has agreed to serve as pulpit supply for Advent and Christmas Eve. Pastor Carol served as our Interim pastor in 2012-2013. She led us through the process of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. We look forward to having her with us during the holiday season.

### ANGEL TREE



The Salvation Army Angel Tree is in the back of the sanctuary. Pick up a tag, put unwrapped gift in a grocery bag, attach Angel tag, and leave in narthex or church office. These gifts go to local underprivileged children. **All gifts are due on or before December 7.**

### POINSETTIA

We will be decorating the church with Memorial Poinsettias again this year. There is an order slip in this Newsletter for you to order one this year. **Please fill out the "memorial" or "in honor of" slip exactly the way you wish it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter, attach your check and return to Jeff Knauff or place in the offering plate on or before December 9<sup>th</sup>.**



### EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

During the month of December or until an Interim Minister is hired, **Rev. Tom Bullard** has agreed to be "on call" for any pastoral needs the members may have during this time. His cellphone number is **740-381-0962** and he has graciously agreed to help anyone that needs pastoral care during that time.

## *From the Pastor*



This is a note that I have been avoiding thinking about over these last few weeks. This will be my final Pastor's Pen.

I leave Zion with a heart that is both weighed down with grief, and buoyed by hope.

I grieve that we are coming to the end of our ministry together in an environment that is not fully at peace. I grieve that there are individuals who are hurt by all that has happened in the last few months. I especially grieve that I was a part of causing that grief. My prayer is that in the weeks and months to come, healing may take place for all of us. That we may all be reminded of who we are, and our calling to be not only the church, but children of God.

And that is where my hope resides. Zion is not the same place it was when I came nearly four years ago. We have grown in many ways. We have new members. We have a new ministry in our serving as a location for Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Vets in the Ville. We have increased our visibility within the community. As Bonnie Raitt sang, 'People are talking. Let's give them something to talk about!'

My hope and prayer is that Zion will be a church that people talk about. Talk about because of its love for all people. Talk about because of its service to the community. Talk about because of the way it welcomes all who come through its doors. Talk about because the light and love of Jesus Christ shines brightly among and out from us.

One of the keys to leaving a church as a pastor is that the goodbye must be done in a way that does not

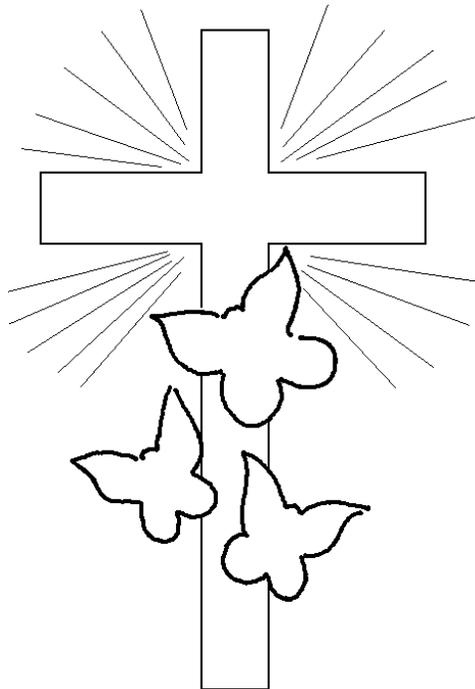
infringe upon or hinder the ministry of the pastors that follow. As such, I will be ending my connections with you. Both in the real world and on social media. The only exceptions to this being those individuals with whom I had a connection before they began to attend Zion. This is not easy to do, yet it is something that is necessary for the successful ministry of all those who follow.

I can honestly say, that it has been my joy and privilege to serve as Zion's pastor these last four years.

I hope that in the years to come, Zion will fulfill its biblical namesake and be that city on a hill - a holy place that is set apart for God that allows the light of the Spirit to illuminate a lost world. Or as Jesus says in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

Let your light shine.

With the Greatest of Hope!



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

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

[www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)

*God is still speaking,*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



### IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, Thelma Cook, John Rhueff, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Barb Mottice, Al Panyi, BethAnn Postlewait, Alan Cochrane, Howard Ross, John Diekmann, Pat Loyszczyk

\*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.

### COUNCIL MEETING

The next council meeting will be **December 5, 5:00 PM** at the church. Minutes from the last meeting are in the back of the church.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will be decorating the church for the upcoming Christmas Season on **November 25**, following the morning worship service. **Jeff Knauff will be preparing a lunch for that day as well. Anyone willing to help with this project is encouraged to stay that Sunday and participate.**



### BUDGET COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Budget Committee on **Wednesday, November 28, 5 PM**. We would love to have input from as many members as possible! We will be setting the budget for next year. **Any member wishing to serve on this committee needs to contact the church office and let Jeff Knauff know your desire to serve.**

