

## 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

February 16- March 16, 2018 Newsletter



Zion United Church of Christ

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### February 18 11:00am

USHER Dana Lohr  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Missy Breddin

### February 25 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

### March 4 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

### March 11 11:00am

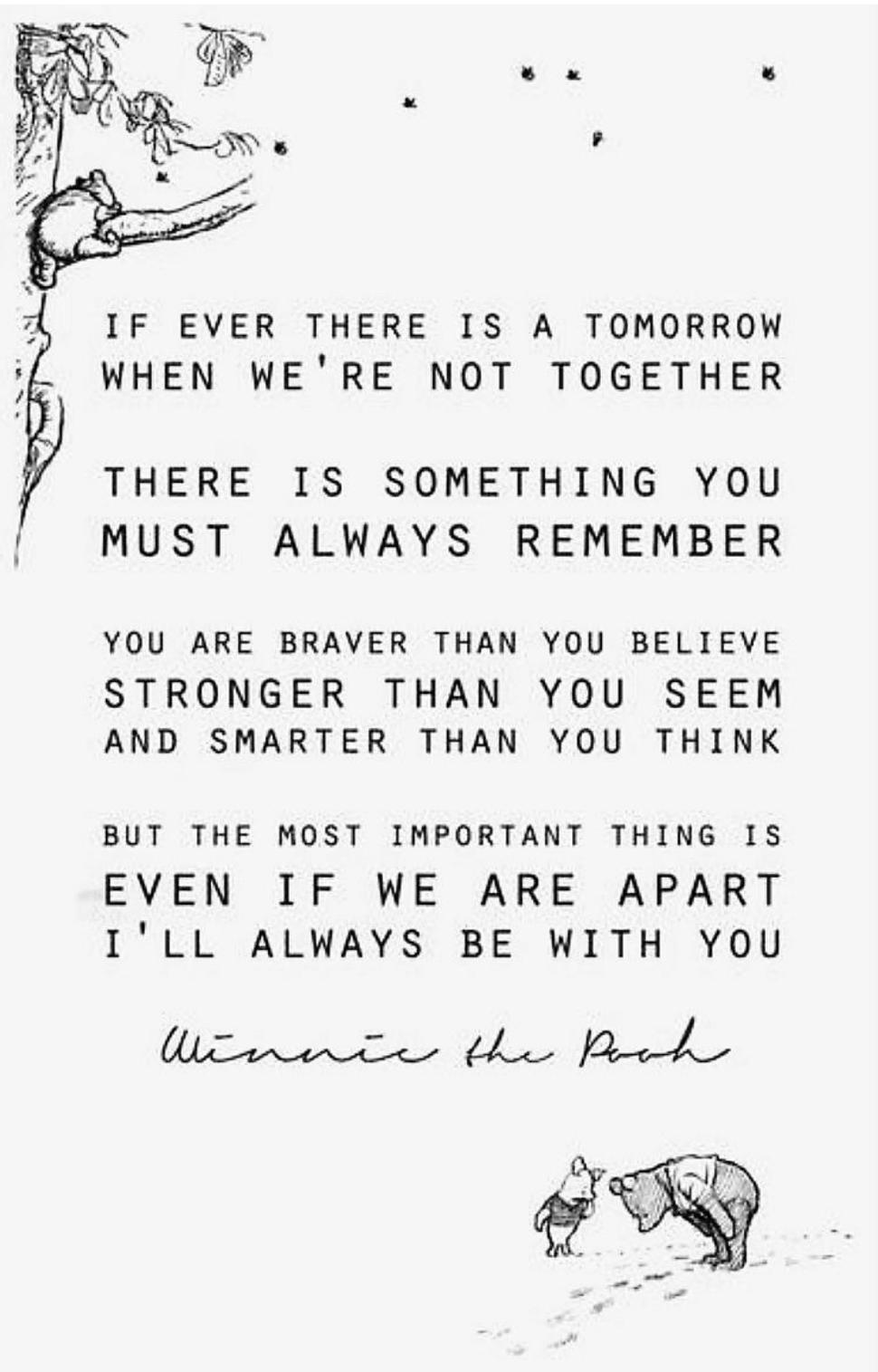
USHER Dave Hunt  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

### March 18 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER John Diekmann

### March 25 11:00am

USHER Dana Lohr  
FLOWERS Flower Fund  
LAY READER Renea Starkey-Hunt



**WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS!!**

Zion welcomes new council members: Cristin Wise and Melanie Delbrugge.

Officers for 2018:

**President- Renea Starkey-Hunt**

**Vice President/ Chairman of Trustees- John Diekmann**

**Secretary- Jeff Knauff**

**Treasurer- Jeff Knauff**

**Diaconate: Chairperson- Joe Lemasters**

**Deacons:**

**David Hunt**

**Opal Kleineke**

**Howard Ross**

**Peggy Lohr**

**Melanie Delbrugge**

**Cristin Wise**

**An installation service is being planned for February 25, 2018.**

**NEW ADDRESS**

Marie Brobston has moved to Country Club Manor. She would love to hear from the church family.

**Marie Brobston c/o  
Country Club Manor**

575 Lovers Ln

Room 110

Steubenville, Ohio 43953

**740-512-9196**



*From the Pastor*



We've entered into the season of Lent. It's easy to tell we're in Lent because all the restaurants have rolled out their fish specials. There are many television shows that are trying to tell us how this is the perfect time to try to lose weight, begin an exercise routine, try to stop a bad habit. That's what Lent is about isn't it? It's that time when we avoid eating meat on Fridays. Isn't Lent about giving up something for 40 days, in remembrance of Jesus' wandering in the wilderness for 40 days following his baptism? Isn't it?

In its beginnings Lent was about baptism, but it wasn't the time after baptism; it was the time before. When the church was still young, Lent was a time of preparation. In the early church, new converts, new believers were welcomed into the church through the waters of baptism on Easter. On the day the church remembers and celebrates how Jesus rose from the grave, conquering death, new converts would rise from the waters of baptism recipients of God's grace, welcome and forgiveness. It was during those weeks before Easter, the 40 days of Lent, that these new converts learned what it was they were entering into through the baptismal waters.

So often, when we talk about becoming part of something we focus on what we get. We like to ask what benefits are we going to get from joining. Do we get a discount at the clubhouse? Do we get a free meal after we have bought a certain number at full price? How do we get that 5% cashback for buying our gas with that card? We want to know what we get out of being in. And that's the way a lot of people like to talk about the church, and about our faith too: what we get out of it.

Come to Jesus, commit your life to him, and in return you will receive forgiveness and a get out of hell free pass. But

that's not what our faith, or Lent is about, us. In Lent, we take on a position of humbleness, of self-examination, of quiet submission. If we were to take that emotional and spiritual action, and make it physical, we would stand there with our head bowed, with our eyes lowered; looking at our feet. If we watch our feet, we will see where we walk. If we don't look at our feet, we focus on our destination, not on the way we are getting there. We might not see the stones and broken glass, the dangers and obstacles in our way, and we might not see the cool soft grass, or feel it between our toes, those wonderful moments of grace that God provides for us.

Lent is a wake-up call from God. It's a time when we become aware of our need to look down, to see where and how we are walking. We lower our eyes, we bow our heads, we look at our feet. How are we walking? Are we following the path of God as closely as we would like, as closely as God would like? Are we going our own way? What pulls us off the path? What distracts us, and causes us to wander? Is God calling you back, asking you to pause and look, see how you may have strayed and wandered, how your feet have slipped from the way?

Lent is a gift from God. It's the space we need to see how we might walk better. It's God calling us to see how we might be able to walk in closer step, and it's our response, our prayer that we might have a closer walk with God. That we would walk through these 40 days of Lent to that glorious Easter morning; that we would walk through the days of our life to that glorious day when we are received into our eternal home.

Take time in these 40 days to pause, and look down.

With the Greatest of Hope!

**Erik**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

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

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

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be **March 7, 6:00 PM, at the Church.**

### LENTEN LUNCH SUSPENDED

As a council and congregation, it was decided to suspend the Lenten lunches this year. They have been growing bigger every year and we were stretched thin last year. We are hoping to bring them back in the future.

### LENT SEASON SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday, March 25:** Palms will be distributed.  
**Deadline for Easter Flowers Order Form Enclosed.**  
**Good Friday, March 30: 6:00 pm:** Communion service  
**Easter Sunday, April 1:** Fellowship and Easter Egg Hunt at **10 am**; worship following at **11am**.



*Easter Memorial Flowers 2018*

Please complete this form and place it in offering plate, or give to Jeff Knauff along with your payment, by March 25, 2018. If paying by check, please make payable to the church. Remember to mark your “In memory of” or “In honor of” exactly as you wish it to appear on the memorial list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lily \$12\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth \$12\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip\$12\_\_\_\_\_ Azalea\$24.00\_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_