

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

March 16- April 13, 2018 Newsletter



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

March 18 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS In Memory of E. Jane Porter
from John Diekmann & Jeff
Knauff
LAY READER John Diekmann

March 25 11:00am

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

April 1 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Missy Breddin

April 8 11:00am

USHER Robert Vargo
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Joe Lemasters

April 15 11:00am

USHER Dave Hunt
FLOWERS Flower Fund
LAY READER Peggy Lohr

April 22 11:00am

USHER Howard Ross
FLOWERS In Memory of Loved Ones from
Betty Sparr
LAY READER Jeff Knauff

WIND ON THE HILL

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn't keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes...
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.

- A.A. Milne



VETS IN THE VILLE

Inspired by the **Gem City Heroes** in Toronto, **Peggy Lohr** has chaired a similar project here at Zion. It was created to honor veterans in the Steubenville / Wintersville area and will be sponsored by **Zion United Church of Christ, and Domino's Pizza**.

We are collecting nominations and every two weeks one person will be randomly selected to receive a pizza from Domino's and we will deliver it to their home as a thank you for their service to our country.

Nominations are being accepted on Facebook. Please contact **the Vets In the Ville** Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/peggylohrrs/>) with the name of the veteran and the address. We will not contact the veteran but we will work with the nominator to find the best time for delivery.

KITCHEN PROJECT

As many of you know, the kitchen is in bad need of some renovations and repair work due to moisture problems. The church council has contacted Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration to bid the needed repairs which include rebuilding the framework around the cupboards, waterproofing the walls, new countertops, redoing the plumbing, installing a circulation pump to ensure hot water in the lines when not in use, replacing the broken glass block windows and stripping and refinishing of the floor. The amount of the bid was **\$15,055.18** and was submitted to the Findt Trust along with another bid for the work to be approved as a **capital improvement**. The bid was accepted by the Findt Trust and they issued a check for ½ down and the contracts have been signed and they are due to schedule a time to begin the work in the near future with an expected time of 3-4 weeks completion time. The church will be in a difficult position of scheduling events to be held at the church during this time, but we ask that everyone will be understanding.

From the Pastor



In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating Easter. We will make the journey of Holy Week from Palms to an Upper Room to a Cross, and then to an Empty Tomb. So often when we leave the church on Friday we do not reflect on the time between that dark night and the bright morning of Easter. Yet, perhaps God is calling us to pause and reflect in this in-between time.

We know about Good Friday and the cross, about sorrow and death. All humankind knows about suffering, brutality, and injustice, about tragic endings, about death, all of which are part of the human condition, in our private lives and in the life of the world. We Christians also know about Easter Sunday and the promise, the hint of resurrection for the rest of us, because Jesus is risen from the dead.

However, our lives are not all about Good Friday or all about Easter Sunday. We experience suffering and abandonment, exile and loss, and we face death, our own and the deaths of those we love. We know ourselves as sinners, and our lives as broken.

And we also taste forgiveness, we taste hope, and we taste new life, we catch sight of it here and there, get word of it, listen and wait and hope...we remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, and yet we know ourselves also as destined for glory...pain and hope, dying and rising again...all humanity waiting, waiting, waiting...and we understand a little more why faith is best described as trust. We live most of our lives in that in-between, Holy Saturday-feeling time, the longest day as it is often referred to.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

On that longest day we come face to face with the reality of our powerlessness. We couldn't stop Friday from happening, and there is nothing we can do to make Sunday come any quicker. We must face that emptiness (even if we choose to ignore it with plans for Easter dinners and Easter egg hunts.)

In the emptiness of waiting, we begin to learn something that the gods of this world cannot bear, the knowledge that they do not want us to know: at the very point of our failure and betrayals, when we taste our own impotence and limit, if we are not afraid to live in the absence, we discover God.

The in-between time is God's time. It is the time when we learn to trust Jesus' sacrifice of love which death can neither conquer or understand. In this in-between time we begin to see that it is God who has made death not an instrument to terrorize us into submission, but to call us more intimately to God's side. In the darkness of Holy Saturday we discover the power of our waiting. We come to the end of our way and the beginning of God's way. It is only Christ who can carry us over into Easter morning.

So let us journey, focused not on the end point, but on the journey itself. Allowing God to become present to us in an ever-new and ever-more intimate and personal way; and on that bright Easter morning our cries of "Alleluia! He is Risen!" will rise with even greater passion and joy.

With the Greatest of Hope!

Erik

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

www.zionuccsteubenville.com

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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

*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

Church council met March 7; minutes from the meeting are in the back of the sanctuary. The next council meeting will be **April 4 at 5 PM.**

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.**

OLIVIA RAE MARTIN CELEBRATION OF LIFE

There will be a memorial service **April 7, 2018 4 pm** in the social hall for Olivia Rae Martin, mother of Peggy Lohr and Dorothy Martin. **All are welcome!**



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: _____