



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 2, 2024)

Zion Church, Rochester

10 Park Place, Avon, NY 14414, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
40	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes	No	Yes

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

In 2023, Zion parishioners went to Rochester to visit a Repair Café. Repair Café is an international program where people can bring broken household items and have them repaired for free. In partnership with East Avon Presbyterian Church, Zion joined the Repair Café Organization, received membership, and started a Repair Café at in the educational wing of Zion-Avon church building. A grant was obtained to purchase tools and materials. This site of Repair Café is staffed by volunteer members of Zion, East Avon Presbyterian and community members. We offer electrical repair, sewing, wood repair, mechanical adjustments etc. once a month. While items are repaired, our guests experience a loving atmosphere that supports their social, emotional, spiritual, practical needs. This important ministry offers free repairs, environmental stewardship, interdenominational and community outreach, and fellowship through service. This ministry is only one of several missions of Zion. One of which is Circle Nursery School, which is housed in the educational wing of the church. This mission has served 3- and 4-year-olds for 40 years and is the oldest continuous nursery school in Avon.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We want to ensure our viability and continue to bring the word to our current and future congregants. We are investing in our website presence, ensuring recorded Facebook LIVE services are available on the site, and we continue to offer Zoom services each week or as needed during holiday seasons. In addition, we are expanding our web presence and we advertise in local publications. Current missions of the Repair Café and Martha's Kitchen, along with our Lasagna dinners and Corn Festival attendance provide us a consistent group of venues to inform the public of our service options. For our church building, we are renovating some of the building, updating the roof, establishing a furnace fund, and seeking out alternative funding for upkeep. We are opening doors by participating in online Bible Study led by other Episcopal churches and forming a singing group known affectionately as "The Singing Group Not Officially a Choir." We understand changes are coming within the Episcopal Church along with changes in leadership. Zion wants to be prepared to pivot with these changes.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

sense of humor, active listener, problem solving skills, fundraising success

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Zion celebrates the Eucharist (Rite II) in one service on Sunday mornings at 10 am. When a priest is not present, we use Morning Prayer (Rite II). Our inclusive style honors the traditions of our past and includes contemporary features drawn from *Enriching Our Worship*. Our worship deepens our community and spiritual growth through an understanding and appreciation of our relationship with God, each other, our community, and the world. Zion has an active Worship Committee that meets regularly to plan each liturgical season with the guidance from the rector and feedback from the congregation. We use various musical and liturgical sources in planning our hymns and service music which adds to our enjoyment and understanding of the various expressive forms the Gospel takes. We are a worshipping community that includes fourth generation of members; families for whom Anglicanism unites their different backgrounds; cradle Episcopalians; and young members who have found Zion as a result of “church shopping.” We have been very successful in merging many expressions of one value - loving God with all our hearts and minds and loving each other as ourselves.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are Christ’s Hands and Feet in a small but mighty congregation! One of our main ministries, Martha’s Kitchen delivers a message of hope and that God’s Mercy never fails. Martha’s Kitchen serves hot lunches to senior citizens several times a month. This program reminds all of us of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and how God worked throughout scripture to feed those who are sad, lonely, and worried about a next meal. Community volunteers such as Girl Scouts, and congregants participate in preparing, serving, and clean-up after lunch. In Martha’s Kitchen we pray, we provide an opportunity for socialization, and we always have leftovers go home with guests. We deliver takeout to the homebound. As the congregation and Martha’s Kitchen guests have aged, or had knees and hips replaced, we have installed a stair chair so people can participate in the gathering area of the church without having to navigate the stairs. This is an important way for us to open our doors further to all who come.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Zion Church strives to comfort and welcome each person right at the door. We cares about and for each other, and we want to welcome you in. Visiting clergy often comment on our extended passing of the peace. Every member of the church greets each other, shakes hands, shares hugs, and wishes each other peace. Sometimes we have to be called back to the service and continue our exchanges at coffee hour! We care for those who are outside our doors too. Lay Eucharist Ministers take communion to members who are unable to attend services in person. Church members comfort, support, and respond to each other in difficult times. Recently, many parishioners attended calling hours and the funeral for a member’s parent. We post and regularly update the list of those in need of prayer, and we include those in our prayers for the people. We grew our Coffee Hour offerings to offer more nutritious options, including vegan and gluten-free choices. The most important virtue of Zion Church is the mutual trust and respect we have for each other which truly makes it a family. Everything we do is to care for, nurture and improve the health of who we are as a community.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

One of Zion's key ministries is hosting the Circle Nursery School ("Circle"). Started in 1977, Circle provides top quality, nondenominational preschool services in the heart of the Avon community with 3-, 4-, and 5- day programs. The program provides art, verbal expression, stories, creative dramatics, games and finger play, all with an emphasis on socialization. Circle had two camps this summer and is fully enrolled for the 2024-25 school year. As a result of Circle, our building is bustling on weekdays! We enjoy the sounds of joyful little ones all around us. Our Martha's Kitchen and Repair Café ministries are direct responses to the economic pressure our neighbors are facing. As food costs rose, our guest numbers rose as well. During the Covid shut down, we continued our ministry through bagged lunches at a distance. We have many creative people who knit for our prayer shawl ministry and hats for infants at local hospitals. In the wider church, parishioners serve on the Diocese of Rochester Board of Trustees, as delegate to the diocesan Southwest District, as representatives on the Avon Interfaith Council, and as delegates to Diocesan and General Conventions.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Zion lives out Jesus's admonition to us to let our light shine before people, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven. We provide pastoral care to those beyond our worship community both corporately and individually. In addition to Martha's Kitchen, we provide regular ministry to the Avon Nursing Home. We hold worship services and birthday parties, and our volunteers provide nurture, encouragement, and witness to the residents. Historically Zion has provided pastoral care to a variety of those beyond our worshipping community. We have continually sought new ways to minister to the hurt, troubled, and alienated. Our weekly prayer list includes many people outside of our worshipping community known to our parishioners for whom prayers are requested. Individually, Zion members serve as volunteers at Teresa House hospice, Chances and Changes domestic violence program, and the Livingston County Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation. Our faith and service witness to the dying, victims of domestic abuse, and those with long-term physical and mental diseases.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

In March 2020, when Covid 19 occurred, it was imperative that we protected the health of our parishioners and still brought faith and service to our congregation. After the national shut down ended, we put together a plan to broadcast services to our audience. Each attendee was guided on the use of ZOOM and through much experimentation we were able to bring a quality visual and audible service to our parish each and every Sunday. As Covid wound down, and our congregation began coming back to an in-church service, we continued to broadcast weekly services via Zoom and also added Facebook LIVE which is now attached to our Website. Today, we broadcast weekly services on both Zoom and Facebook LIVE and our audience has watched our services from as far away as North Carolina. While in-church service constitutes the bulk of our attendees, everyone knows that if for whatever reason they cannot attend a live service, they can always watch it from the comfort of their homes, while out of town, and even from a camp-site. For more information, please contact Church administration or any vestry member.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We are straightforward with parishioners about Zion's needs. This year, fund raising has included a successful yard sale and holding the first of what are now our "famous" lasagna dinners. We are seeking a part-time rector so we can limit our reliance on Diocesan funds and balance our expenses with resources. Members pledge their spiritual gifts such as talents, skills, and time on pledge cards collected Stewardship Sunday in mid-October. Our Repair Café supports environmental stewardship by repairing items rather than placing them in the trash. Members take care of the church building, cleaning, maintaining the grounds, and removing snow. Volunteering has helped reduce costs. Sharing resources helps us efficiently serve more people. For example, we participate in a regional on-line Bible Study that helps participants have a closer and abiding relationship with God. We like participating in this ministry as a way of going deeper with God and getting to know our neighbors in other parishes. Especially since so many of us serve on more than one committee, tying into offerings from others and sharing our resources is important to us.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Avon Zion has experienced conflict between clergy and the congregation. There was a serious event a few years ago, and the results included loss of members and that rector leaving. The next rector was aware of the healing needed and the pain, anger, and frustration held by the parishioners. All prayed and worked together to have Zion move forward. With God's grace, Zion has continued to serve, grow, and heal. This OTM question has prompted members to realize healing is still needed, and those members new to Zion realize the results of conflict can run deep and persist. Small group discussions still inspire introspection for this question, and we are looking for mercy in managing conflicts big or small. We may explore a class on conflict resolution or a similar topic, starting with the current Vestry and then branching out to include other committees' members. Zion is a prayerful, faithful community and will continue to ask for God's guidance and healing. Addressing this question will continue with the next rector. We hope for a rector that can understand emotions that continue to exist, but also that we want to heal, learn, and grow.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

In 2020 we developed a plan to introduce new music and liturgy with a growing spiritual and contemporary understanding of our relationship with God and others. We wanted the music to be inspirational and potentially draw new worshippers to Christ. We formed a committee of parishioners with diverse musical and liturgical experience. We communicated with the congregation through announcements during worship services, articles in the Zion newsletter, and presentation of new music through videos used as preludes and postludes. We elicited feedback parish's Quarterly and Annual meetings. Some parishioners felt we were introducing too much new material at one time. We developed a more balanced mix of traditional and contemporary music for each service. Parishioners now say they feel an increased sense of the presence of the Spirit and an increased joy in the celebration of our weekly worship. We learned that open, clear, and full communication as well as honest expression of opinion, and loving, active listening and response made this transition successful. We now share an enhanced, inspiring, and growing worship experience.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Virginia Mazarella	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2017-01	2024-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Kelly Ayer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Mark Stiegler	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Pre-K	40	5	6



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Worshipping Community Web site:

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=>https://www.facebook.com/Zionchurchavon/&ved=2ah>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 585-473-2977

**Right Rev. Kara Wagner
Sherer**

Diocesan Transition Minister 585-315-6604

Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader