

# Zion Mennonite Church Newsletter

Phone: 419-445-3796 ~ E-mail: church.zionmc@gmail.com ~ www.zionmennonitechurch.com  
300 Short Buehrer Road Archbold, OH 43502 ~ Church office hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm

**Pastor** Sue Short 419-346-7827  
**Pastor** John David Thacker 419-572-0340  
**Child's World Preschool:** 419-445-6034  
**LAMP:** 419-445-0728

**April 21, 2024**

**Elder Chair** Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363  
**Elder** Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769  
**Elder** Suz Wirick 419-966-2266  
**Elder** Barb Yoder 567-694-3112

## Zion Activities this Week

### **Sunday, April 21 ~ CHAOS Sunday**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School, followed by MYF Taco Bar Fundraiser

### **Monday, April 22**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

### **Tuesday, April 23**

7:00 pm ~ Spiritual Practices: *Fasting*

### **Wednesday, April 24**

5:30 pm ~ Family Meal  
6:30 pm ~ Board Game Night  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)  
7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning

### **Thursday, April 25**

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)  
7:00 pm ~ Scripture & Theology: *What Is The Gospel?*  
7:00 pm ~ Choir practice  
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

### **Saturday, April 27**

5-8:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall Reserved

### **Sunday, April 28 ~ Church School Sunday**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School  
7:00 pm ~ Choir Concert

## Nursery Workers

**April 21:** LouAnn Kanagy, Carol Short

**April 28:** Glora Belle Yoder, Sonja Wheeler

## Happy Birthday

**April 21** ~ Juliene Wise, Keegan Wyse

**April 22** ~ Lynn Short

**April 23** ~ Travis Pennington

**April 27** ~ Jim King

## Attendance & Offering

April 14th: 96

March offering was \$26,130.

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Choir** ~ "Be Joyful In God" arr. Alice Parker  
"The Lord IS Risen Indeed!" (VT 357)

**Welcome & Introductions** ~ CHAOS students and leaders

**Announcements** ~ Sue Short

**Interlude** ~ Karen Stuckey

**Call to Worship** ~ Lydia Hastings & Jessa Mohring

**Opening Prayer** ~ Sam Hastings & Lincoln Aeschliman

**Opening Song** ~ Cheryl Britsch

"Wonderful Grace Of Jesus" (VT 703)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Miriam Richer & Jessa Mohring

**Children's Time** ~ Lydia Hastings & Jessa Mohring

**Song** ~ Cheryl Britsch

"Lord, Listen To Your Children" (VT 682)

**Scripture** ~ Luke 5:1-11

**Sermon Conversation**

~ Brenna Creighton, Sophie Wyse, Sue Short

**Song of Response** ~ Cheryl Britsch

"Rain Down" (VT 703)

**Prayer for Church & World** ~ John David Thacker

**Closing Song** ~ Cheryl Britsch

"You Shall Go Out With Joy" (VT 847)

**Benediction** ~ CHAOS

## Happy Anniversary

April 27 ~ Brad & Rachel Short (33 years)



**By God's Grace, Zion Mennonite Church will be a House of Peace where all people are invited to share Christ's love with each other and the world.**

# Today

**Sunday, April 21st** is a BIG SUNDAY! Our CHAOS (middle school) youth are helping to plan the service and will lead us in worship. Following a shortened Sunday School time, you are invited to a fundraising lunch prepared and hosted by the MYF (high school) youth. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this!

## Prayers for the Global Church

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: This is the last week of regular classes at Bluffton University for the spring semester. Please pray for our students whether they start new jobs, move home for the summer, or gain additional knowledge through internships, crosscultural experiences, and graduate studies.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for all Goshen College students, faculty, and staff involved with Commencement Weekend on April 27-28.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for all of those involved in the "Pen to Paper to Performance" playwriting festival at Hesston College. May the Lord bless the playwrights as they channel their creativity into a beautiful work of art. May the Lord also bless the members of the Hesston College theatre department as they work hard to produce and perform these unique works.

Mennonite Mission Network: praises God for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren's two decades of ministry in the Argentine Chaco and for the exciting audio and visual ministries they are developing. Pray for the Christian radio programs, which help the Toba-Qom people better understand the biblical message, and for the impact that the Jesus Film is having in communities in the Chaco.

## Weeknight Classes

**Spiritual Practices - Tuesday, 7PM (Fellowship Hall):** *Fasting*

Why do we fast? How do we benefit from this ancient practice?

**Bible and Theology - Thursday, 7PM (Fellowship Hall):** *What is the Gospel?*

What was the Good News that Jesus and his disciples preached? Was it the same as the Gospel preached today?

## Church School Sunday

**Church School Day- Sunday, April 28** - Michael Danner, Executive Director of Mennonite Education Agency & Associate Executive Director of Church Vitality for MCUSA, will visit & share the morning message. After worship we'll have a session in the fellowship hall for all interested to explain Zion's student aid program, hear additional input from Michael as well as Zion's Elijah Zimmerman (a current student at Bluffton University) & give opportunity to pledge financial support toward the program.

Next school year Zion will have six students at the Mennonite schools. We have a fundraising goal of \$93,000 for the year. Those unable to attend on April 28th may make confidential pledges at any time via the secure electronic link below, or by contacting Phil Bontrager (pabontrager@gmail.com or cell 419-966-3127). Link to electronic pledge form: [Zion College Financial Aid Pledge](#)  
~ College Financial Aid Committee

## Zion Budget Update

Thank you for your generous budget support! Zion's 2023-24 budget is \$416,400. Divided by 12 months, the offerings needed average \$34,700 per month. Zion ended 2023 on a strong note. Our offerings showed a \$64,000 surplus balance. However, since January of 2024, the monthly totals have decreased by \$11,000 on average. With 5 months remaining in the budget year, Zion needs to average \$29,000 per month to meet the budget. Please check in with stewardship members if you have questions or concerns.  
~ Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Lynn Roth, Crystal Rodriguez

March offerings (5 Sundays)	\$26,130.00
Average monthly budget	<u>34,700.00</u>
	-8,570.00
Year to date Offerings (Budgeted)	\$242,900
Year to date Offerings (Actual)	<u>\$272,734</u>
Surplus Offerings	+\$ 29,834

## New Announcements

**Did you know you can view Zion's church calendar online?** View up-to-the-minute event information at [zionmenonitechurch.com/calendar](https://zionmenonitechurch.com/calendar). You can also add the Zion calendar to the calendar on your phone or computer by clicking the "+" symbol in the lower right corner.

**On the Level announcement:** The April edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares a truly uplifting story of MDS work in Maryland, volunteers are transforming lives in Mississippi, and long-time project in Jennings, Louisiana comes to a close. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3UjUriu>

**Are you looking for something meaningful to do?** Become a Blood Program Leader for the American Red Cross. You can support the American Red Cross by managing a blood drive at your Church. The responsibilities would be to advertise the blood drive amongst the congregation, be the liaison between the Church & the Red Cross Account Manager and to find a few volunteers to work with you! The Account Manager will walk you through and design a program that works for you. Please contact the Church office if you are interested or call Linda Hartman at the Red Cross 1-419-308-7921.

**Mennonite Public Educators** offers a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 25th, at 7 pm eastern time. This group is intended for all Mennonite education professionals working in public school settings. The focus will be "simple ways to show our faith" and while the event is free, registration is required by contacting [info@mennoniteeducation.org](mailto:info@mennoniteeducation.org) to receive registration information.

**Attention Golfers of all ages and levels. Join us on May 18, 2024 for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shalom Golf Scramble benefit at Ironwood Golf Course, Wauseon, OH at 8:00 AM, shotgun start.** *REGISTRATION is OPEN!* Look for a fun day of golfing with friends and/or family for a good cause. Four person team: \$260; Individual golfers: \$65. No worries if you don't golf, additional sponsorships available at various levels. Registration Deadline: May 13<sup>th</sup> – 26 team limit – register now! For details and/or registration visit our website [www.shalomworks.org](http://www.shalomworks.org) or contact Kerry Beck at Shalom 419-445-1552 or e-mail [kbeck@shalomworks.org](mailto:kbeck@shalomworks.org).

## Sue's Seminary Graduation Update

*It's getting real, folks!* My graduation regalia (cap, gown, and Masters hood) has arrived. My spring semester classes are winding down. I am starting to feel all the feels. Graduation weekend is almost here! A number of you have been asking, so I wanted to share what I'll be experiencing.

Graduation weekend kicks off on **Friday, April 26th**. Stan and I will travel to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart that morning for the Dean's Luncheon, and remain for the Commissioning Service that evening. Each graduate was asked to choose a professor to offer a blessing for them at the Commissioning Service. I asked my academic advisor and friend, Rachel Miller Jacobs, to give my blessing. (You may remember Rachel when she preached at my ordination service two years ago.) I imagine this will be a very meaningful part of the service.

On **Saturday, April 27th**, we will have group photos taken and then rehearse for the Commencement Service that afternoon. I was honored to be asked to be one of the scripture readers for Commencement. There will be two of us reading in English, and two of the Ethiopian graduates reading in Amharic. I will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, Pastoral Ministry major. Many of the graduates, myself included, still have a summer class to complete yet. So, while we are graduating on this weekend, we won't receive our actual diplomas in the mail until later.

If you are interested in watching the livestream online of either of these services, click the link below. This will take you to the page on AMBS' website with the schedule for graduation weekend. From that page, you can scroll down and find the link to watch the Commissioning Service on Friday night, April 26th, at 7:00pm, and the link to watch the Commencement Service on Saturday afternoon, April 27th, at 3:00pm.

<https://www.ambs.edu/graduation/#h-2024-graduation-weekend-schedule>

Also, I've had some questions about what my degree means. While earning this degree holds a great deal of meaning for me, I suspect the questions are wondering about my future plans. I've been asked if I am leaving Zion, or if I will be going away to "get my own church now." The answer to both of these is 'no.' Some students go to seminary first, and then begin pastoral ministry in a congregation. I happened to do both at the same time. My plans are to continue to serve exactly where I am.

As I've mentioned before, I am so grateful to each of you for your support along this journey. I truly feel it has been 'our journey' instead of solely 'my journey.' Thank you. ~ Sue Short (Class of 2024)