

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

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

July 14, 2024

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, July 14

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (adults)

Monday, July 15

5:00 pm ~ SLT

Tuesday, July 16

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

Wednesday, July 17

7:00 pm ~ Gifts Discernment

Thursday, July 18

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ AA

Sunday, July 21

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (adults)

Summer office hours are Mon-Thurs from 8am-12pm. Please have all newsletter items to the office by Wednesdays.

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Abby Pennington

Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Abby Pennington

Opening Songs ~ Anita Roth

“God Of Grace, And Glory Of Glory” (VT 716)

“When All Thy Mercies” (VT 119)

Offering/Offertory ~ Abby/Karen

Hymn ~ Anita Roth

“What Does The Lord Require of You?” (VT 207)

Scripture ~ Amos 7:7-15

Sermon ~ John David Thacker

Confession

Communion

Prayer for Church & World ~ Mike Zimmerman

Closing Song ~ Anita Roth

“Renew Your Church” (VT 717)

Benediction ~ John David Thacker

Attendance & Offering

July 7: 92 ~ \$3,300

Nursery Workers

July 14: Lonnie & Carol Short

July 21: Chad Aeschliman Family

Happy Birthday

July 16 ~ Phil Rich

July 16 ~ Artie Short

July 17 ~ Max Aeschliman

July 19 ~ Elaine Schnitkey

Happy Anniversary

July 17 ~ Micah & Sarah Frankenfield (14 years)

July 19 ~ Keith & Jackie Lehman (44 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.

Upcoming Worship

This summer, we've been exploring themes in texts from the lectionary. We invite you to read ahead to prepare for worship.

Sunday, July 14: Amos 7:7-15

Sunday, July 21: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 28: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

We want to invite you to “Come to the Lakeshore” for worship during the month of August. If you can, send us a photo or selfie of you at the lake. Send to the church office or to Karen Ruth (krruth1@gmail.com) or Jackie Lehman (jlynnlehman58@gmail.com). Watch for more details.

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: We still have open positions we need to fill for the 2024-25 school year. Pray for God's leading to bring us the right candidates.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our adult students who will begin their classes this week. May they discover new avenues of growth personally, professionally, and spiritually and use their talents and gifts to benefit their communities.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please join us in a prayer of thankfulness for those who deep clean the school during summer break.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for the students and faculty of Hesston College that they enjoy the remainder of their summer break. May they return to campus rested and ready to take on the new school year.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN workers in Asia and the Middle East recently completed a five-day retreat in Thailand. Pray that the refreshing times of worship, fellowship and encouragement will help them return to their ministries renewed.

New Announcements

Zion Mennonite Women are once again doing the MCC School Kit Challenge: Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families around the world who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Without these items, many kids in places like Ethiopia, Ukraine and South Sudan can't get the education they desperately need. The **School Kit Challenge:** 24,000 school kits to help 24,000 kids during the month of August. A list of needed items are: 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks; about 21.5 cm x 27.5 cm (8.5 in x 11 in); approx. 140 pages (70 sheets) each, totaling 500–600 pages (250-300 sheets); 8 new unsharpened pencils; 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm (inch markings optional)); 12 colored pencils (in packaging); 1 large eraser; 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens. MW will be collecting donations through August 14. Tax free days are July 30th through August 8th this year.

Family Fun Day/Lockport Bridge Celebration. Anyone is welcome to join the family fun day at Lockport Mennonite Church today, July 14th, starting at 11am. There will food trucks (free will donation), inflatables (obstacle course and waterslide so bring a towel or change of clothes!), games, dunk tank and kickball game. There will also be a focus on celebrating the 25th anniversary of the covered bridge with a photography show and other cool bridge memorabilia.

Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners is hosting an ice cream social on July 21 from 11am-1pm. Carry out is available and everything is for a free will donation. (20-141 County Road X) See the bulletin board for more information.

MCC Bike Michiana: Join bicycle enthusiasts of all skill levels on September 13-15 to cycle through the beautiful lake and farmland region of southern Michigan and northern Indiana to support MCC's water projects in Bolivia. Hosted by Amigo Centre, registration includes cabin lodging and meals. For more information and to register by August 30, visit mcc.org/bike-michiana.

Don't Forget

Good Shepherd Announcement: Construction has begun on a new sanctuary for Good Shepherd Mennonite Church. The project is expected to cost about \$251,000. If you would like to contribute toward rebuilding the sanctuary, please designate your checks for Good Shepherd and deposit them in the offering plate by September 1. Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters repair their church.

If anyone is interested in ordering the *Anabaptist Community Bible*, we will be taking orders in the church office. Please contact Bethany and she will get you on a list. Sample pages have been printed and posted on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes if you would like to see the size of the text. More details will be coming on pre-paying, deadline for ordering, etc. Pre-ordering ensures you a copy at a discounted rate, but you will not receive it early. Shipment is expected for January.

Thank You

Thank you Zion for your continued support of the Archbold Community Garden. Your donation of \$2000 has helped us get our community gardening program off to a good start. We couldn't do this without you.

~ Abby Pennington, Archbold Community Garden President

Sue's Blog

You are invited to follow Sue's new blog! My first post is below, in which I explain the name of the blog and the intention behind it. You can read my future posts online here: <https://tinyjesusadventures.substack.com/> When you visit my blog, you can also choose to have each future post sent directly to your email. My expected posting frequency will be about once a week or so. Since my blog is public and online, and in order to preserve privacy, I have chosen not to use my name, my photo, or the church's name or photo anywhere on the blog. So, don't be confused if you sign up to get the blog posts via email, and the sender's name on the email you receive says "Tiny Jesus Adventures." Be assured it's just me. I'm excited to have you join me on this writing adventure!

Blog Post #1

It began with an Instagram reel...

Pastors, like teachers and parents, are always on the lookout for great ideas. I saw another pastor on Instagram talking about how he had hidden a bunch of little Jesus figures around his church that he had purchased on Amazon. As he described how much fun his congregants had searching for them, I thought to myself, "It's almost Easter. Let's do it!"

The set of 1.5 inch smiling "Tiny Jesus" (as I dubbed them) figures arrived in the mail. I carefully hid them around our church after the Good Friday Service.

The plan was to invite both the young, and young-at-heart, on a fun search through the church building after Easter worship. My hope was that each time folks saw Tiny Jesus' smiling face, it would remind them of God's presence and love - in the large and small moments of their lives.

I think I had as much fun hiding them, as the congregation had trying to find them!

In the weeks following Easter, I began to hear stories, and receive photos, from congregants about what their Tiny Jesus was doing now. A few Tiny Jesus figures were riding around on the dashboards of cars. Some were sitting on shelves or on bedside tables. Others were re-hidden at a relative's house for family members to find, etc.. Tiny Jesus was an instant hit!

After graduating from seminary, and nearly seven years of pastoral ministry work, I am grateful for the gift of space for my first sabbatical.

Starting this blog to chronicle my experiences, and where I notice God moving, seemed like a good way to encourage some intentional reflection and writing. And, it felt very appropriate that Tiny Jesus should accompany me on this journey. You never know where the two of us will end up!

So, come along on the Adventure!

I'm not sure what shape this blog will eventually take over the next few months, and I'm excited to see what develops. Glad you're along for the ride too. Let's notice God at work together!

Book Nook

Don't forget to check out the church library to grab a book before you go on vacation, a weekend at the lake, or for some quiet reading at home. A new title in the library is *The End of Nature* by Bill McKibben. The author has written a graceful, witty, and tragic essay about the consequences of global warming caused by the greenhouse effect.

SLT Minutes

June 17, 2024

Opening: Mike led the opening devotion time on the introduction to the book *Divine Gravity* by Meghan Good. Mike hopes the questions he had after reading the intro will be answered as we continue to read. Meghan Good talks about this being a time like the Reformation. Some areas Mike commented that he would like to hear more about would be why we need a reformation, and how this time period is like a reformation. We discussed some areas in which we'd like to see growth, such as:

- Desire to look for a deeper, personal relation with Jesus
- Desire to study more from the Bible; to become familiar with Bible text
- Finding ways to best serve God in a community that considers itself "Christian"
- Knowledge in what to do when scripture conflicts with the world

Mike led in prayer to end this discussion. Barb will be in charge of opening in July.

Conversation related to Sue's sabbatical (August 1 - September 30): Mike's term as elder ends August 31, while Sue is still on sabbatical. The PCRC and Gifts discernment have talked to Mike about a one month extension for him until the end of September. This would be helpful for continuity as a new elder comes in, as well. Sue would like to communicate expectations for her ministry going forward. Although she will have completed her seminary work, there will not be a change in her pastoral workload after she returns from sabbatical. She will continue to serve at Zion part time.

Discussion related to processing of memorial donations: Greg had the opportunity to talk to Stewardship about how memorials given to the church are processed. Based on that conversation, the suggestion is to develop a more systematic way of handling these donations. Mike will bring suggestions to the Council for processing memorials, and clearing up current memorial funds to ensure that they are being used, and that donor families are thanked and told where funds have been used, when appropriate.

Helping LAMP (Logistic Assistance for Migrant People): LAMP has talked to Randy Stuckey (Council Chair) and the pastors about the possibility of using the church for their fundraiser. The details of when, and what format the fundraiser might take, have not yet been determined.

Review of past items: The updated elder ministry description has been given to the Gifts Discernment team to be shared with prospective new elders. Sue will give our suggestions for prospective new Congregational Caregivers to the group, to help as they discern and contact people. John David continues to meet with members of the congregation, but has not met with as many in the last month due to summer schedules and his being on vacation. He is considering taking vacation days on July 22-26, but wouldn't be missing any Sundays. John David has an 'emergency sermon' prepared for if he would unexpectedly be unavailable on a Sunday morning.

Pastoral care concerns were discussed.

Next meeting: July 15