

# 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  
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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 28, 2024**

## Zion Activities this Week

### Sunday, July 28

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

### Tuesday, July 30

9:00 am ~ Staff meeting

### Thursday, August 1

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

### Saturday, August 3

3:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved

### Sunday, August 4

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** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Karen Rodriguez

**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey

**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Karen Rodriguez

**Opening Songs** ~ Kate Roth

“How Firm A Foundation” (VT 592)

“All People That On Earth Do Dwell” (VT 5)

**Offering/Offertory** ~ Karen/Bonnie

**Hymn** ~ Kate Roth

“Praise To The Lord, The All Mighty ” (VT 88)

“Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn ” (VT 146)

**Scripture** ~ 2 Samuel 7:1-14

**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker

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

**Prayer of Blessing for Sue's Sabbatical**

**Closing Song** ~ Kate Roth

“We Are People Of God's Peace” (VT 797)

**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker

## Attendance & Offering

July 21: 101 ~ \$2,260

## Happy Birthday

July 31 ~ Cheryl Britsch

August 1 ~ Duane Sauder

August 2 ~ Grace Hastings

## Happy Anniversary

July 28 ~ Mark & Joyce Nafziger (45 years)

July 31 ~ Frank & Cara Ulrich (70 years)

August 1 ~ Corey Roth & Rachel Aeschliman (12 years)

August 3 ~ Abby & Travis Pennington (5 years)

August 3 ~ Dale & Arlene Short (61 years)

## Nursery Workers

July 28: LouAnn Kanagy, Glora Belle Yoder

August 4: Holly Liechty & Carol Short

## Office News

~ Sue begins her sabbatical on Thursday, August 1.



***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 28:** 2 Samuel 7:1-14

### **August Worship**

We invite you to "Come to the Lakeshore" for worship during August. Our stories will center on New Testament events that happened on or along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Our worship will be informal and maybe a little unexpected.

**August 4** "Calling the Disciples"

**August 11** "Jesus Calms the Storm"

**August 18** "Jesus Walks on the Water"

**August 25** "Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac"

## Prayers for the Global Church

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Pray for our international students who are leaving their homes and preparing for a year at Eastern Mennonite School.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for Hesston College as we live into our theme verse for the 2024-25 school year, Revelation 21:5a: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" May the words of the Lord inspire our students, faculty, and staff as we begin a new year.

Mennonite Mission Network: requests prayer for the Mennonite Bible School in South Africa. Pray for the participants in five locations as they study the Bible together and engage in church leadership training. Pray also for wisdom and energy for director Dr. Reuben Mgodeli.

## August Service Opportunities

### Seeking a few helpers:

**Picnics in Rauhley Park:** Last year, Phil Nofziger had the idea to organize lunches in Rauhley Park to help bridge the gap between the free meals that NOCAC offers in the park (which end in late July) and the beginning of the school year. With the help of other churches, we held them daily for three weeks in August. Unfortunately, they were not very well attended. This year, we'd like to try scaling it down and making sure that people know that the picnics are for all children. We simply want to offer a lunch break to parents, grandparents, and babysitters as the summer winds down. We've teamed up with Archbold United Methodist Church and the Black Swamp Arts Council to offer *free children's picnic lunches in the covered picnic shelter near the Archbold pool and splash pad on Thursday, August 1st, Thursday, August 8th, and Thursday, August 15th from 12:00-1:00pm.* The Black Swamp Arts Council will have a craft table for children on August 1st and August 15th. GloraBelle Yoder will be organizing the lunches on August 1st and August 8th (the Methodist Church is taking care of August 15th). See GloraBelle if you'd like to help with this opportunity.

**East Garden Cookouts:** The Archbold Area Ministerial Association has been offering free cookouts for the residents of the East Garden complex twice a month this summer. *Zion's Mission in Service team is in charge of the cookout on Thursday evening, August 8th, from 5:00-6:30pm.* In the past, these cookouts have sometimes been poorly attended due to lack of consistent cookout dates and advertising. This year, with the help of an East Garden resident, attendance has been very good - averaging between 40-60 served. St John's Christian Church has graciously set up a trailer with most of the equipment churches will need. We just provide the food, and volunteers to set up, serve, clean up, and interact with those who attend. See Stan Short if you'd like to help with this opportunity.

## Sue's Blog

**You are invited to follow Sue's new blog!** I've published four posts so far, and would love for you to follow along. You can read my posts online here: <https://tinyjesusadventures.substack.com/> When you visit my blog, you can also choose to subscribe 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!

## New Announcements

**The Gifts Discernment Ministry Team** brings to the congregation the Affirmation Slate for candidates to serve on Zion's Ministry Teams. Copies are in your mailbox for the high school youth and adults in your household. Additional copies are placed on the table across from the mailboxes. A copy is also attached to this week's email.

Please complete the Affirmation Slate and place in the marked box on the table across from the mailboxes by ***Sunday, August 11***. Alternatively, you may mark your responses electronically by clicking on this link <https://forms.gle/3GLMcfP834AiESmb7> or the link in the PDF file of the Affirmation Slate attached to this week's email.

~ *Gifts Discernment Ministry Team (Duane Sauder, chair; Chris Richer; Corey Roth; Judith Short; John David Thacker)*

**MCC Central States will be hosting an immigration-focused learning tour in South Texas:** MCC learning tours present a unique opportunity to engage directly with the work done by MCC and partner organizations. This learning tour will give the opportunity for participants to have the chance to meet with law enforcement officials from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), gain insights into the complexity of immigration enforcement, including deportation and apprehensions, and visiting migrant response shelters. Additionally, the tour will shed light on the challenges faced by migrants on their journey and raise awareness about the asylum process, and conditions faced by displaced and uprooted individuals. For additional questions, please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso, MCC Central States - Immigration Program Coordinator via email at [abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org](mailto:abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org)

**Registration Period:** May 1, 2024, to August 09, 2024

**Learning Tour Dates:** Sunday, August 18, 2024, to Friday, August 23, 2024

**Locations:** McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, USA; Matamoros and Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico

**Registration Fee:** \$750 USD - Covers lodging, meals, honorariums and transportation in the region. \*does not include air-fare\*

**Link:** <https://mcc.org/events/immigration-learning-tour-south-texas>

**2025 Greece & Turkey in the Footsteps of Paul Trip** - If you have any interest in the trip, mark your calendars now for one of the two informational meetings planned for August 22nd and September 19th. Meetings are at 7:00pm in the sanctuary at West Clinton Mennonite, 18029 Co. Rd. C, Wauseon, OH 43567. Pastor Ryan Harker will answer any questions you might have as well as take a detailed walk through the trip itinerary.

## Don't Forget

**Sue's sabbatical is August 1st through September 30th.** She will return to the office on October 1st. John David, with assistance from the elders, congregational caregivers, and other ministry teams, is available to care for needs which may arise. We encourage you to re-read the sabbatical document for additional information. Extra copies are available on the table across from the mailboxes. This would be a good time to make sure you have John David's contact information handy. His phone number is at the top of each newsletter, in addition to the names and phone numbers of the elders. The pastors also have business cards with their contact information in a holder on the table across from the mailboxes.

**On the Level announcement:** Our July Edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares a letter of gratitude from Arcadia, Florida, volunteers install our 100th bridge allowing residents to travel home again, and homeowners are on the road to recovery thanks to volunteers working in Lytton, British Columbia. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3WnPGFw>

**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.

**If anyone is interested in ordering the *Anabaptist Community Bible*,** we will be taking orders in the church office. **Please contact Bethany in the office by August 18th if you wish to preorder with the church.** Pre-ordering ensures you a copy at a discounted rate, but you will not receive it early. Shipment is expected for January.

## Book Nook

Children's book - *Children of the World* by Tessa Strickland, Kate DePalma and David Dean. This book invites young readers to explore the world and discover their place within it. At the core of this book are the values that are shared the world over, wherever our homes happen to be. This book has many beautiful illustrations.

*My University of the World* by Neill Mckee tells about his experiences while filming in many countries of the world. This book tells about the history of many developing nations. If you are interested in traveling to third world countries this book relates interesting stories and the long term impact of the projects he documented.

## Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

July 15, 2024

**Opening:** Barb led the opening using Chapter 1 of *Divine Gravity* by Meghan Good. In each chapter of the book, Good focuses on what she terms a “rediscovery.” Rediscovery #1 is “Jesus is the authoritative lens through which God is seen and the Bible is interpreted.” Our discussion focused on what it might mean to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus, and what we can learn about God through Jesus that we wouldn’t have known otherwise. Barb ended the discussion with prayer. Greg will be in charge of the opening at the next meeting with chapter 2 of *Divine Gravity*.

**Discussion related to Sue’s sabbatical:** Mike will make a verbal announcement on Sunday July 21 to remind the congregation about Sue’s sabbatical, as well as his agreement to stay on as elder chair for one month past the end of his term to be available during Sue’s sabbatical. The sabbatical document will be sent out electronically again, and a note about Mike’s term extension will also appear in the newsletter. We discussed details about Sue’s return after sabbatical, and the idea that there could be different expectations about her workload now that she has completed seminary. The annual congregational meeting in the fall was suggested as a good time to remind people of the perimeters of her job.

**Continued discussion of memorial funds disbursement:** Stewardship and Church Council have both been included in the discussion about creating a more consistent procedure for using memorial donations. Mike will create a statement giving our recommendations to Council to aid in making decisions.

### **Reporting on the life of the congregation:**

- John David will be on vacation at Friedenswald on July 22-26.
- John David reported that many of the opportunities on the Gifts Discernment slate have been filled.
- For communion on Sunday August 11, Sue will be on her sabbatical, and also Suz will be gone, so we will need additional servers. We have enough juice and crackers. Barb will get bread.
- This fall, John David is working on a series about the book of Revelation. *He is considering creating a guide that could be used by people for more in-depth study. In the spring, the focus will likely be on Anabaptist history and theology, in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement in January, 2025.*
- A baptism class will most likely be offered this school year.

**Pastoral concerns were discussed.**

**The next meeting will be on Monday, August 19, at 5:00.**