

# 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 *on sabbatical*  
**Pastor** John David Thacker 419-572-0340  
**Child's World Preschool:** 419-445-6034  
**LAMP:** 419-445-0728

**September 8, 2024**

**Elder Co-Chair** Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769  
**Elder Co-Chair** Suz Wirick 419-966-2266  
**Elder** Barb Yoder 567-694-3112  
**Elder** Chris Richer 517-320-0429

## Zion Activities this Week

### **Sunday, September 8**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (all ages)

### **Monday, September 9**

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting  
11:00 am ~ Congregational Caregivers

### **Tuesday, September 10**

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

### **Wednesday, September 11**

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women  
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS Kickoff  
7:00 pm ~ MYF Kickoff

### **Thursday, September 12**

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

### **Sunday, September 15**

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (all ages)  
11:30 am ~ LAMP Spaghetti Fundraiser

## Order of Service

**Prelude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Elaine Short  
**Interlude** ~ Bonnie Stuckey  
**Call to Worship & Prayer** ~ Elaine Short  
**Hymns of Praise** ~ Julia Richer  
“Oh For A Thousand Tongues” (VT 764)  
“There's A Wideness In God's Mercy” (VT 156)  
**Offering/Offertory** ~ Elaine/Bonnie  
**Hymn** ~ Julia Richer  
“We Give Thanks Unto You ” (VT 117)  
**Prayer for Church & World** ~ Mike Zimmerman  
**Scripture** ~ Mark 7:24-37  
**Sermon** ~ John David Thacker  
**Hymn** ~ Julia Richer  
“Far Above The Noise Of Life ” (VT 625)  
**Closing Song** ~ Julia Richer  
“Open My Eyes That I May See” (VT 738)  
**Benediction** ~ John David Thacker

## Attendance & Offering

September 1: 59 ~ \$2,430.47

## Nursery Workers

September 8: Brenda Aeschliman

September 15: Josiah & Lydia Dahl

## Happy Birthday

September 9 ~ Lydia Dahl, Wendell Nofziger

September 12 ~ Sally Beck, Mabel Ann Klinger

September 14 ~ Julia Richer, Kenneth Rufenacht

## Happy Anniversary

September 13 ~ Gerald & Karen Short (55 years)

## Office News

~ Council notes were incorrectly published as SLT minutes last week. Council minutes are attached to Fridays email. Sorry for the confusion.

~ Annual Reports are due. If you were the chair of a committee please turn your report into the office. Thanks!



**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.**

## Midweek Service & Class Info

On **Thursdays at 7 PM:** This fall, John David will be leading a service of prayer and silence and scripture on Thursday evenings. Quiet yourself and be refreshed during this time of contemplative worship.

**Tuesday, Sep. 17, 7 PM:** John David will begin a weekly Bible Study on Revelation. We will be studying chapters 1-2. This series will run through the end of the year and will be accompanied by a sermon series on Revelation later this fall.

## Prayers for the Global Church

### Mennonite Education Agency:

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for members of the Bethel College community who have been touched in some way by suicide during the annual awareness walk and vigil this evening.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for wisdom and clarity as the Hillcrest Academy administration makes decisions, continuing to uphold the school's mission.

Mennonite Mission Network: Andi Santoso, Mennonite Mission Network's regional director for Asia and the Middle East, and Joe Sawatzky, Mission Network's mission education specialist, along with David Boshart, president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, began two weeks of teaching in Indonesia yesterday. Pray that God's love, truth and light may be revealed through this time of learning together.

## New Announcements

The Builders class is inviting anyone to join their class. They will begin the year with a study on Esther. Class begins around 11 am and meets in room 310.

Mennonite Women will meet Wednesday, September 11 from 9:00 – 3:00 pm. Bonnie Stuckey will lead the meditation at 11:30, followed by a noon meal which will be furnished. Visitors are very welcome. If you like to quilt, knot comforters or fleece blankets, it's the place to be while visiting with friends. Additionally, we would appreciate help from those who like to work at home on their own sewing machine; there are now several comforters pinned and ready to finish around the edges so they are ready for knotting, plus we have material and instructions available for sewing kit bags.

The Congregational Caregiver group will meet Monday, September 9 at 11:00 am in room 310.

The Zion choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday evening, September 26. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. The choir sings during worship once a month and sings a Sunday evening program in December and April. Duane Beck will be the director again this year. Anyone who would like to sing is very welcome. Talk with one of the choir committee members, Mark Nafziger, Karen Ruth, Cheryl Britsch, Bonnie Stuckey or Duane if you want more information or are interested in singing.

EMU Visit to Zion Sept. 15 - We welcome Eastern Mennonite University Admissions Counselor Hannah Beck, **who will worship with us Sunday, Sept. 15.** Hannah will have an information table set up in the narthex and will meet informally with our MYFers and any interested youth during the Sunday School time.

This year's Reach Up Banquet will be held at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold on Saturday, September 21, 2004, starting at 12 pm. We prayerfully ask all who have supported the ministry of Reach Up, Inc. in the past and those who would like to this year, to consider sponsoring a table of 8 for the same amount as last year \$125. Individual seats are also available to anyone not at a reserved table. Bring your friends and enjoy an afternoon with good food, music and testimonials. Our speaker this year is CCNO correctional Officer Lisa Osborne. The Zion Builder Sunday School class has been a sponsor of this mens ministry at CCNO for many years. If you wish to attend, RSVP to either Chaplain John Cattell at 419-439-3783, or to Pat Miller at 419-237-6953, no later than September 14. If you are coming as a guest of a table sponsor, no response is needed. Your table sponsor will report on your attendance.

## Thank You

Thanks to all involved in the Come to the Lakeshore series this month. Special thanks to Helen Weldy, Keith Lehman, Abby Pennington and Jodi Nofziger for sharing their faith stories. Thanks to Kellie Creighton and Nicole Aeschliman for the lake setting. Thanks to all who sent photos to share. Thanks to all who participated in the services. This is truly a collaborative community! Worship Team

## Don't Forget

**The Sojourners Sunday school class will meet next Sunday, September 8**, at 8:30 AM in Room 310. The *Anabaptist World* magazine is used for curriculum, with the focus for September 8 being "Not cured, but healed" on page 40 of the August 2024 issue. **Anyone who is interested is invited to attend the classes.**

**Greetings from Barnaby, Michelle and Jodi**. We are the Mennonite Youth Fellowship sponsors for this year's group of youth and wanted to let you know we are excited to get started with our MYF year! Our goals for this year are to grow spiritually through faith night, participate in service projects, connect through games, fun activities, and other general outings. Thank you for sharing your youth with us this year on Wednesdays from 7-8:30. We are excited to get to know each one of your children through MYF.

**Good news for preschool to senior students. Sunday School starts again September 8. See you there.**

**The fellowship committee** is happy to provide the coffee for before and after worship. As we are starting our new fiscal year, a sign sheet is on the coffee bar. **Your help is needed!! Please consider signing up to help make the coffee.**

**Oct. 13-15, The Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse**, Ohio is offering a Spiritual Formation Retreat with Zion member Joyce Nafziger providing art activities and reflections on "The Imprint of Christ."

**Join MCC Great Lakes for the Dismukes Project Learning Tour on October 9-13:** This learning tour provides a unique experience to learn more about Black history and experiences in the coalfields of Appalachia, while also learning the incredible story of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician in the early 1900's. Participants will visit various sites connected with Dr. Dismukes, hear from local speakers, learn about MCC's work to preserve Black history in the area and attend the Dismukes Gala featuring John Ellison. Learn more and register at [mcc.org/dismukes-learning-tour](http://mcc.org/dismukes-learning-tour). Tickets are also available separately for the Dismukes Gala on October 12 at [mcc.org/dismukes-gala](http://mcc.org/dismukes-gala). Learn more about Dr. Dismukes and the project, including a video and podcast, at [mcc.org/dismukes](http://mcc.org/dismukes).

**Mennonite College Student Aid** - As our students return to class at the Mennonite colleges in the coming weeks, we welcome your contributions to Zion's student aid fund, either as fulfillment of an existing pledge or as a new contribution. Your support of this important ministry of Zion is much appreciated. Our six students this semester are Kate Roth and Keegan & Quinn Wyse at Goshen College, and Ella Richer and Rachel & Sarah Wheeler at Eastern Mennonite University. College Financial Aid Committee

**Following worship on September 15, LAMP** (Logistic Assistance for Migrant People) will be hosting a spaghetti dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This meal is a fundraiser for their ministry to immigrants in north-west Ohio. The meal will be by free-will offering.

# SLT Minutes ~ August 19th

## ***Opening:***

Greg led the opening focusing on chapter 2 of the book *Divine Gravity* by Meghan Good. The rediscovery focus that she shares here is "Salvation encompasses the setting right of all things, on earth as it is in heaven."

Greg's impression of the chapter was that it contained a lot of "what ifs" The author discusses the expression "Jesus saves" and asks what exactly is he saving people from? Are we being saved from a "wrathful God"? Jesus was sent to show us what God is like, and Jesus did not bring wrath to those he interacted with. If instead we are being saved from problems in the world, it's a never-ending task. We work towards a perfect world, but achieving perfection is not realistic.

One of the chapter's suggested questions was "What would change about the story and message of Jesus without the resurrection?" The group kept returning to the idea that the resurrection brings hope to the message. It can be helpful to consider the possibility that even if we don't achieve perfection, when we at least try we can make the world better. The things that do become better can be glimpses of heaven. Greg closed the discussion with prayer.

## ***SLT organization for 2024-25:***

Chris Richer attended this meeting to get acquainted with the job of elder as he will be joining the group in September. A new elder chair is needed for the upcoming year as Mike ends his term as elder. The group encouraged both Greg and Suz to consider it, but neither felt completely comfortable with taking on the job. The elder chair is responsible for working with pastors to plan the agenda for each month's meeting, leading the meetings, attending council meetings, taking the lead on working with conference pastors if conflicts arise within the congregation, and having conversations with the Pastor-Congregation Relations Committee as needed.

After discussion, Greg and Suz agreed to be co-chairs dividing up the tasks in ways that felt most comfortable to them. Suz will get the agenda around and send out communications to the SLT and Greg will lead the meetings. Together they will share going to church council meetings and meeting with people as needed.

## ***Memorial Funds***

Procedures for memorial funds have been discussed with church council. It will be helpful to have a procedure outlined for working with memorial funds so that the plans that have been developed don't get forgotten as new people become involved. Mike will put together guidelines for disbursement for memorial funds.

## ***Small groups***

Those in charge of organizing small groups are asking SLT for guidance about what the vision might be for small groups.

Some of the ideas that were brainstormed at the meeting were:

- the possibility of organizing groups based on interests (ex. Bible-study; social activities; spiritual disciplines)
- How could information be gathered about the types of experiences people are interested in with small groups?
- Would it be helpful to have a session during the Sunday school hour where people would be asked to identify ways that they might be community to each other?
- How might it work to assign people to small groups and designate several Sundays a year for those groups to meet during the Sunday school hour?

## ***Ohio Mennonite Conference***

Delegates for Ohio conference need to be selected. John David and Sue will be going. Mike volunteered to go as well. The SLT nominated some potential delegates, and Suz volunteered to contact them.

Discussions related to various activities within the church

- John David is making plans for Bible studies and spiritual practices this fall.
- The Worship Team will be asked to offer the Prayer for the Church and World on September 1 since John David filled in for their date on August 11. Barb will contact Bethany to set up the prayer schedule calendar for the upcoming year.
- Congregational caregivers have continued the process of seeking new people for the job. Julia Nafziger is joining the group; Linda Nafziger is leaving.
- Randy Stuckey will be getting an ad hoc committee together to review the church constitution and to propose changes that might be necessary. It's possible that a representative from the elders will be asked to be a part of that committee. Mike expressed interest.
- It is probably time to review the safe church policies again.

minutes by Barb Yoder