

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

December 15, 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, December 15

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
12:00 pm ~ Church Reserved for Family Reunion

Monday, December 16

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 pm ~ Bible Study (Rev 21-22)

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 am ~ Kitchen Reserved
5:15 pm ~ PCRC (310)
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS Service Project
7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm ~ Longest Night Service (sanctuary)

Thursday, December 19

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, December 22

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



Nursery Workers

December 15: Lonnie & Carol Short
December 22: Elaine Short & LouAnn Kanagy

Happy Birthday

December 16 ~ Jodi Nofziger, Mary Ellen Nofziger
December 17 ~ Ruth Shoemaker

Life Planning Christmas Dinner

Come anytime after 6:30 to socialize before
dinner is served at 7pm!

Office News

The church office will be closed the following
days over the upcoming holiday:
December 25, 26, 30, 31, & January 1.

Attendance & Offering

December 8: 132 ~ \$4,215

Order of Service

Prelude ~ 1AD
Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Rodriguez
Interlude ~ Kel Friesen
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Karen Rodriguez
Candle Lighting ~ Duane & Cecilia Wyse
Congregational Hymn ~ 1AD
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (VT 241)
Offering/Offertory ~ Karen/1AD
Time for young and young at heart ~ Steve Hastings
Scripture ~ Isaiah 61:1-11
Hymn ~ 1AD
"Hark! The Glad Sound!" (VT 217)
Scripture ~ Luke 4:16-21
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn of Response ~ 1AD
"Bless'd Be The God Of Israel" (VT 223)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick
Sending Hymn ~ 1AD
"Poor Of The Earth" (VT 213)
Benediction ~ John David Thacker

**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

Advent 2024 - "Together on the Journey" - This year's theme focuses on the image of a hike along the way in community with one another. Where can we see God's guiding hand directing our steps as we anticipate encountering Jesus - God With Us - afresh this season? Stop by the table across from the mailboxes to pick up your advent at home devotional which coordinates with our worship themes.

Longest Night Service - Wednesday, December 18th @ 7:00pm: The winter solstice (Dec 21st) marks the day of the longest hours of darkness and shortest hours of daylight of the year. Some churches use this occasion to acknowledge grief. This observance is a short and quiet service of readings, prayer, and candle lighting. Grief can take many forms, from the death of a loved one to the loss that comes from a change in life situation. All are welcome to this space to receive comfort.

Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday, December 24th @ 7:00pm: Come celebrate at this short service of joy for all ages! We'll conclude with our traditional candle light singing of "Silent Night."

Midweek Service & Class Info

Tuesdays at 7 PM Bible Study: We will be studying Revelation chapters 21-22 this week.

Address Change

Kenny and Evon Rufenacht have moved to an Independent Living apartment at Fairlawn. Their new address is: 600 Haven Drive, Apt 116, Archbold, OH 43502

Thank You

A BIG thank you to all who took tags and purchased items for Fulton County Christmas Cheer. For the second year in a row, we completely cleaned off our tree! Items were delivered Monday morning, and the Christmas Cheer "store" was open this past week for the families who had been invited. Thank you for helping provide hope this season through these household and gift items. ~ Mission in Service Team

A thank you to Kellie Creighton and Nichole Aeschliman for the beautiful Christmas decorations around the church. Thank you for the time and effort you put in.

New Announcements

Stewardship quarterly report: Budget offerings for first quarter (Sept, Oct, Nov) totaled \$90,962. Amount budgeted is \$106,350 for a shortfall of \$15,387. Thank you for your continuing support.

Christmas Cards: As the holiday season approaches, we want to show our love to our Zion friends in care facilities, as well as those who spend most of their time at home. If you'd like a current address list to send cards, contact the office.

Don't Forget

Upcoming address directory: An updated address directory will be coming after the new year. If you think your information may have changed since the last one, feel free to double check with the office to make sure your information is up to date!

The Builder's Class that meets in room 310 will be studying the book *How To Pray* by Pete Greig. The study will be taught by John David for the first 4 sessions. You are welcome to join us after the worship service.

Mennonite College Student Aid - As our students return home for Christmas break, and prepare for the upcoming spring semester at our 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. Thank you for your support of our students!

~College Financial Aid Committee

The Martin Luther King Jr. Kitchen for the Poor is collecting items to celebrate Christmas. We at Zion will be collecting gifts for the young children of families who attend the Kitchen. The range is infants through teens. Gift ideas include toys (still in packaging), hats, gloves, scarves, etc. For teens, gift cards (Kohls, Target, Walmart, etc.) are great options for them to then purchase what they like. **Please place your new and unwrapped gifts under the tree by the elevator area by Thursday, December 19.** The gifts will then be delivered to the Kitchen for the Poor. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the MLK Kitchen for the Poor.