

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 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

December 22, 2024

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 22

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

Monday, December 23

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting (office)

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (sanctuary & zoom)

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Office Closed

Thursday, December 26 ~ Office Closed

7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Saturday, December 28

8:00 am ~ Church Reserved (all day)

Sunday, December 29

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
(check with teacher to see your class will be meeting)

Office News

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



Nursery Workers

December 22: Elaine Short & LouAnn Kanagy
December 29: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth

Happy Birthday

December 23 ~ Sarah Hastings & Quinn Wyse

Happy Anniversary

December 22 ~ Troy & Jan Roth (34 years)
December 25 ~ Eric & Marcia Lehman (42 years)
December 26 ~ Ned & Mary Gisel (53 years)
December 26 ~ David & LouAnn Kanagy (60 years)
December 28 ~ Scott & Barb Yoder (33 years)

Attendance & Offering

December 15: 117 ~ \$8,425

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey & Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Trevor Short
Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey & Karen Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Trevor Short
Opening Hymns ~ Eric Lehman
“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” (VT 216)
“My Soul Cries Out” (VT 412)
Candle Lighting ~ Julia & Steven Nafziger
Special Music ~ Julia Richer, Ella Richer, Bonnie Stuckey
“You’re Almost There”
Offering/Offertory ~ Trevor/Bonnie & Karen
Time for young and young at heart ~ Steve Hastings
Scripture ~ Psalm 113 ~ Trevor Short
Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
“My Soul Proclaims With Wonder” (VT 222)
Scripture ~ Luke 1:26-55 ~ Trevor, Ella, Julia N.
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn of Response ~ Eric Lehman
“The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed” (VT 221)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Barb Yoder
Sending Hymn ~ Eric Lehman
“How Many Times We Start Again” (VT 553)
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?

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

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

"Thank you to the CHAOS (6th-8th grade) youth for putting together the goodie bags for our Christmas Eve Service. I'm grateful for your help!" ~ Sue Short

New Announcements

Several new small groups have been formed for the next year, and we are working on forming another one. If you would like to be a part of a small group in the future, please let the church office know.

Comforter bash 2025 - Come to Zion Mennonite Church on January 8 from 3-8pm. All are welcome. A meal will be provided for a donation. Come have fun providing warmth around the world with comforters. Contact Chris Wyse for questions or to volunteer at 419-516-4164.

Lamplighters Cookie News: The Lamplighters, a ministry of volunteers who offer hope to those incarcerated at CCNO, used Zion's kitchen this past Wednesday morning to pack small bags of cookies to deliver to approximately 600 inmates. For many years, the Lamplighters asked the congregation to help provide some of the cookies for this annual project. In recent years, a generous donor has supplied all of the cookies needed. They still enjoy coming to Zion each December to pack the cookies, and we are grateful for the continued fellowship and relationship with the Lamplighters.

On the Level announcement: Our December edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares thoughts and inspiration from a deer stand, and celebrates with family in West Virginia who will be home for Christmas, thanks to MDS volunteers, plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/49FzaWp>

Don't Forget

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.

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!

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 Stewardship Team is taking grant requests for the Zion endowment fund. Applications can be found on the table across from the mailboxes, and can be turned into the office or to Dan Ruth's box. Deadline for the applications is January 1, 2024. Please contact stewardship team with any questions.: Dan Ruth, Cal Britsch, Crystal Rodriguez, Lynn Roth.