

# 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 29, 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 29

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)  
No Sunday School

### Monday, December 30 ~ Office Closed

8:00 pm ~ New Years Eve Lock-in (CHAOS)

### Tuesday, December 31 ~ Office Closed

### Wednesday, January 1 ~ Office Closed

### Thursday, January 2

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

### Sunday, January 5

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

## Nursery Workers

December 29: Michelle Wyse & Leah Roth  
January 5: Lonnie & Carol Short

## Happy Birthday

December 30 ~ Nedra Sauder  
December 31 ~ Kathy Beck  
January 2 ~ Chloe Nofziger  
January 4 ~ Gus Legato

## Happy Anniversary

December 30 ~ Kelvin & Karen Rodriguez Friesen (7 years)  
December 31 ~ Allen & Ginny Liechty (52 years)  
December 31 ~ Dave & Jana Wheeler (36 years)  
January 4 ~ Verlan & Mabel Ann Klinger (61 years)

## Attendance & Offering

December 22: 111 ~ \$8,895

## Office News

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



## Order of Service

Prelude ~ Trumpet Quartet\*  
Welcome & Announcements ~ Jackie Lehman  
Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey  
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Jackie Lehman  
Hymn ~ Kate Roth and trumpets  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (VT 241)  
Candle Lighting ~ Larry & Elaine Short  
Hymn ~ Kate Roth  
"Oh, How Joyfully" (VT 254)  
Offering/Offertory ~ Jackie/Karen  
Time for young and young at heart ~ Mary Ann Yoder  
Scripture ~ Psalm 131  
Hymns ~ Kate Roth  
"What Child Is This" (VT 267)  
"Helpless & Hungry" (VT 268)  
Scripture ~ Luke 2:21-38  
Sermon ~ John David Thacker  
Hymn of Response ~ Kate Roth  
"To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born" (VT 259)  
Prayer for Church & World ~ Sue Short  
Sending Hymn ~ Kate Roth and trumpets  
"Joy To The World" (VT 240)  
Benediction ~ John David Thacker

\*Anita Roth, Kate Roth, Leah Roth, Phil Hoverman

**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.**

## Prayers for the Global Church

### **Mennonite Education Agency:**

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for wisdom and clarity, as the operating board and administration lead the school forward, continuing to plan for the future.

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton's adult and graduate students, who are resuming classes this week. May advanced education make a difference in their lives, the management of their organizations and the wellbeing of their communities.

Goshen (Indiana) College: Pray for Goshen College students, especially those who will celebrate the Christmas holiday far away from their families.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for rest and rejuvenation for EMU's students, staff and faculty, as they finish out their much-needed winter break.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** requests prayer for the Nigeria Mennonite Church and the Nigeria Anabaptist Peace Center, as they work for peaceful communities in their multi-cultural context, where Muslim-Christian relations are often challenging.

## Thank You

Dear Zion friends – thank you for the birthday and Christmas greetings, the visits, flowers and tasty treats. I am so grateful and blessed to be a part of this caring fellowship. Ginny Doehrmann

“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

## Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

November 11, 2024

**Devotion:** Suz led the devotions, based on the first half of Chapter 5 of *Divine Gravity*. The author describes two different approaches to spiritual life as it connects to the outside world using the stories of Noah and Joshua. Noah's approach was to lock himself and his people (and animals!) in and brave the storm. Joshua's approach was to march into foreign lands and convert people at sword point. In modern times, some people have become so opposed to the pushy Joshua method that they have taken a more Noah-like approach of following God in their own way, staying away from interfering with the lives of others. The author suggests a third alternative instead. (We decided to save this for a devotion at a future meeting) It was time to renew our Elder Covenant with Zion for the year. Greg read through the covenant and there was some discussion for clarification before we signed it.

### **Discussion items**

- We would like to do an SLT retreat again and will work out details at the next meeting.
- The next meeting for Ohio Conference delegates is in mid-January 2025.
- There was discussion about how scheduling of outside speakers for Sunday worship services is handled, specifically to clarify what the roles are for the Collaborative Ministry Team, elders, and the Worship Team in this. After much discussion, we concluded that while the SLT has no desire to micromanage teams within Zion, in situations involving interaction with outside groups such as other congregations or educational institutions, there should be involvement and discernment from the pastors and SLT on the final decision.

**Pastoral concerns** within the congregation were discussed.

**Next meeting is** December 9 at 5:30pm. Chris will lead the opening, continuing on with Chapter 5 of *Divine Gravity*.

## Book Nook

*Full Moon Over Pleiku* by Allen Stuckey and Terry Stuckey is a story of near death, visions, life and resurrection as a volunteer physician in South Vietnam. He also tells about traumatic losses of important people in his life and in his family. (donated book) *90 Minutes In Heaven* by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey is a true story of death and life. (donated book)

## A Note from Phil & Lori Bontrager

"Dear Zion family, We sneak out of our somewhat crazy lives to pause and spend a moment with you all. We have not done well to keep up; we've missed you! I'm afraid this is what has happened with all of our moves, sadly. I yearn for all the connections yet... I need some energy for investing where we are, too.

We've mostly been in Seattle the past year, traveling some, enjoying a couple major reunions, and settling into a vibrant church community here (Presbyterian). We love getting to know more nuances of each of the grandchildren's personalities - and you can celebrate with us that Darin and his wife Amy are expecting their first in May!

It's fun to see some of you in Goshen when I'm there, as I was this fall more. That was warming. We wish you all a holiday full of rich memory-making and warmth. Love, Lori and Phil (Our cell #s are the same)"

## Don't Forget

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 recently 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>

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.