

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

January 12, 2025

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, January 12

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

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 pm ~ Church Council

Wednesday, January 15

6:00 pm ~ ZOW (Preschool-5th)
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, January 16

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
6:30 pm ~ Ohio Conference Delegate Cluster (Salem)
7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, January 19

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (no class for PreK - High School)

Nursery Workers

January 12: Gloria Belle Yoder & Sonya Wheeler
January 19: Joe Graber & Ben Wheeler

Happy Birthday

January 16 ~ Troy Roth
January 17 ~ Evon Rufenacht

Office News

Bethany will return to the office on Tuesday, January 14th. The office will be open and staffed in her absence.

Attendance & Offering

January 5: 100 ~ \$7,229.42

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Larry Wyse
Interlude ~ Karen Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Larry Wyse
Hymns ~ Julia Richer
 "God Is Here Among Us" (VT 62)
 "All Who Are Thirsty" (VT 49)
Offering/Offertory ~ Larry/Karen
Scripture ~ Psalm 36:5-10
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "Seed Scattered And Sown" (VT 477)
Scripture ~ John 2:1-12
Sermon ~ Sue Short
Communion
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "Taste And See" (VT 467)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "You Shall Go Out With Joy" (VT 847)
Benediction ~ Sue Short



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

Save the Date: This January marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Anabaptist movement. We're planning a celebration to commemorate this occasion on **Sunday, January 26th**. Elizabeth Miller, Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism and professor of history at Goshen College, will be preaching during worship and the Zion Choir will be singing. In the afternoon, Elizabeth will share recent stories of hope and faith from global Anabaptist communities in an event open to the community. Don't miss this Sunday!

Prayers for the Global Church

Mennonite Education Agency:

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our students, faculty and staff, as the spring 2025 semester begins this week. May our students' minds be open to new ideas, experiences and connections developed by their education.

Goshen (Indiana) College: Pray for all artists, performers, athletes and other guests who will visit the Goshen College campus this month.

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas: Pray for Dr. MeShonya Wren-Coleman and the Bethel College student life staff, as they prepare to host the Ad Astra Conference for first-generation college students at Kansas colleges, on campus Jan. 23 and 24.

Hesston (Kansas) College: Pray for our new students and the new student orientation process taking place today at Hesston College. There is sure to be anxiety and nervousness, as these students join the campus community. Pray they find new friends, new challenges and new rewards, and pray they contribute to the campus environment in many positive ways.

Mennonite Mission Network: praises God for the 29 SOOP volunteers serving in Arizona and Florida this month. Pray that these SOOPers will be a blessing to vulnerable populations, as they serve between two weeks and four months.

Anabaptist History and Theology Class

On January 21, 1525, outside Zurich, Switzerland, a group of young adults were baptized upon their confession of faith in Jesus, breaking with the state church. This started a reform movement within Christianity that has endured—often through persecution and hardship—for 500 years.

As part of Zion Mennonite Church's commemoration of 500 years of Anabaptism, John David will teach a series of weekly classes on Anabaptist history and theology **beginning on January 21, 2025**. Classes will last an hour and will be offered on **most Tuesdays at 7PM** at Zion Mennonite Church in Room 310. A schedule of the classes is attached to the weekly email.

Thank You

“Deb and I would like to express our sincerest thanks to the Zion family and the many ways you have loved us in the last month. We are so grateful for all the cards, meals, visits, but especially the prayers we received for the last month. We are blessed to be a part of a great Christ-like family that loves us. Again many thanks for all the support.

My recovery is coming along nicely and hope to be back to doing many things by the end of January and biking in the spring!” ~ Mike and Deb Zimmerman

“Fulton County Christmas Cheer appreciates Zion's donations! Christmas cheer helps between 500-700 families each year. With the donations, each family was blessed to receive a starter box of cleaning supplies and hygiene items, large package of toilet paper, favorite nonperishable grocery items, blankets, towels, first aid kits, gift cards and brand new toys for Christmas for their children. Over 400 volunteers were also fed the week of the Holiday Giveaway Project.” ~ Thanks again, from the Fulton County Christmas Cheer Holiday Project Team

New Announcements

Little Eden Kids Camps: Sign up today for one of Little Eden's summer kids camps! Located in beautiful NW Michigan, *Junior High Camp* is June 8-13, and *Boys & Girls Camp and High School Camp* is June 15-20. Brochures are located on the table across from the mailboxes or can be downloaded at <https://www.littleeden.org/kids-camps.html>

A note from Cynthia Yoder: "I wanted to let you know that I'll be in Ethiopia with MCC for a short term English teaching assignment. I'll be at Meserete Kristos Seminary for Spring Semester, January to May. Thank you in advance for your prayers."

Don't Forget

Upcoming address directory: An updated address directory will be coming soon. 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!

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

December 9, 2024

Opening: Sue led the opening with a table liturgy from the book, *The New Anabaptist: Practices for Emerging Communities*, by Stuart Murray. After prayer, we ate a simple soup meal.

Topics of Discussion:

- There was discussion about what we've heard from the congregation. One topic has been how there are fewer people at events. While there seems to be some concern that this might be a Zion problem, we noted that there are fewer people involved in *many* other activities in the area, including non-church related events. We also noted that we've had several members from Zion moving into Fairlawn, including some who will probably be staying in nursing care.
- Ohio Conference Delegate Cluster meeting will be on January 16, 2025. One of the changes coming up in the Ohio Conference is moving from two regional pastors to one. Dan Miller's term as Interim Conference Minister will be ending after the Annual Conference Assembly in March, and a new Conference Minister is still being sought.
- There was considerable discussion about an SLT retreat. We've had one the last two years, but previously it hadn't been a yearly event. Is it necessary to have one every year? Sue remarked it has been a time for bonding among members of the SLT, and there is value in that. It was decided we would have a day retreat, rather than stay overnight this year, which will include our regular meeting for the month.
- Pastoral Concerns were discussed.

Next meeting will be on January 18, 2025 as part of the SLT retreat. Chris Richer will lead the opening.