

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 26, 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 26

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:00 am ~ Choir
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
3:00 pm ~ Global Anabaptist Stories with Elizabeth Miller

Monday, January 27

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 28

7:00 pm ~ Anabaptist History & Theology class (310/zoom)

Wednesday, January 29

5:30 pm ~ Church Family Meal
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, January 30

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

Sunday, February 2

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

Nursery Workers

January 26: Chris Richer & Creighton Aeschliman
February 2: Hastings Family

Happy Birthday

January 27 ~ David Kanagy
January 27 ~ Lynn Roth
January 31 ~ Mabelann Crossgrove
February 1 ~ Gerald Short

Attendance & Offering

January 19: 68 ~ \$3,365

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ John David Thacker
Choir Interlude
"Gott Ist Die Liebe"
"True Evangelical Faith" Larry Nickel
Choir & Congregation ~ Duane Beck
"I Sing With Exultation" (VT 444)
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ John David Thacker
Hymns ~ Anita Roth
"All Hail The Power" (VT 364)
"We Are People Of God's Peace" (VT 797)
Offering/Offertory ~ John David/Karen
Children's Time ~ Karen Ruth & Anita Roth
Scripture ~ Philippians 1:27-2:18
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (VT 778)
Sermon ~ Elizabeth Miller
Response
Prayer for Church & World ~ Chris Richer
Benediction ~ Elizabeth Miller
Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Praise God, From Whom" (VT 70)



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

January 26th - Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday: 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. **Elizabeth will also share recent stories of hope and faith from global Anabaptist communities in an event open to the community in the afternoon at 3:00pm.** Don't miss this Sunday!

Feb 4, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2 - Anabaptist Texts: In the Sundays leading up to Lent, we'll look at texts and themes important to the early Anabaptists, exploring topics such as 'Jesus as the Foundation'; 'Communion and Ordinances'; 'Gelassenheit (yieldedness)'; 'Love for Enemies'; and 'Community and Discipleship.'

Anabaptist History and Theology Class

As part of Zion's commemoration of 500 years of Anabaptism, John David is teaching a series of weekly classes on Anabaptist history and theology. Classes will last an hour and will be offered on most Tuesdays at 7 PM at Zion Mennonite Church in Room 310. A schedule of the classes is attached to the weekly email. The class will be available on Zoom at: <http://tiny.cc/zionclass>. They will be uploaded to Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11544458>

Thank You

"Dear Zion Family, Thank you all for your prayers, meals provided, and words of encouragement and support during and following my surgery last month. It was all very much appreciated! I'm happy to report that my post-op rehab and therapy sessions are going well so far and, with some patience and hard work, I should eventually be able to return to full strength." Chris Richer

Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) minutes

January 18, 2025

SLT Retreat - Saturday, January 18th: The SLT met at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse for a time of worship, contemplation and connection. The regular monthly meeting was incorporated into the day as well.

We started our day in the small chapel on the grounds for a worship time led by Sue. Isaiah 43:1-4a was used as a text. The worship focus was on the idea of remembering that since we are beloved by God, we can then bless others and remind them of their belovedness. Following worship, there was time for individual reflection on the topic.

The group then met for a visioning discussion on three questions: What are you grateful for at Zion? Where do you see God at work? What are your hopes for Zion in the coming year? The ideas were recorded to refer to in the coming year.

Moving into the regular monthly meeting time, Chris led a devotion based on the end of chapter 5 in the book *Divine Gravity*. He played a portion of an episode from the podcast *Shifting Culture* hosted by Meghan Good that related to the theme of this chapter and gave more insight into some of the material in the chapter.

The regional cluster meeting for Ohio Conference delegates was held last week. John David and Sue reported on what they had learned. One topic was financial concerns for Ohio Mennonite Conference. The conference has a budget shortfall and decisions will need to be made at Annual Conference Assembly in March. A delegate Zoom meeting is planned in February, where options will be presented. At that point, there may be more concrete details to share with the congregation.

Sue and John David reported that even though the Ohio Mennonite Conference pastor peer group has grown smaller, they still feel supported by it. They also have the opportunity to connect with the other Mennonite pastors through the Archbold Area Ministerial group.

The final activity of the retreat was each person reading the blessings they had written to the other SLT group members. We closed our time at the Lial Renewal Center in prayer.

After a meal together at a local restaurant, the SLT drove to the Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor, where we talked to director Harvey Savage, Jr. about the work that is done there and had a tour of the facility. We'd like to have further conversation with him about ways Zion can connect with the Kitchen at other times during the year, in addition to our annual Christmas gift collection.

Next SLT meeting will be Monday, February 10 at 5:00.

Book Nook

Jimmy Carter has written many books. Our library has these 3: *Sources of Strength*, *Living Faith* and *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*.

New Announcements

January Church Family Meal rescheduled for this week!!! This Wednesday, January 29th will be our regular monthly Family Meal. We will be having a soup meal together, with a choice of three different soups, bread, and dessert. Come any time between 5:30-6:30pm and share a meal with your church family!

Mennonite Arts Weekend: Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 7-9, 2025, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org>.

Adriel has an upcoming superbowl fundraiser. To learn more or participate, go to [Adriel.com](https://adriel.com) or see the attached document.

The Red Cross is in need of volunteers to help on weekday blood drives in Fulton Co. or Henry County, or to be Local Disaster Relief Specialists. Contact Kevin Brooks at 419-261-6277 for more information.

Don't Forget

MCC Comforter Bash Update: Approximately 85-100 people came together in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, January 8th for the third annual NW Ohio Comforter Bash, completing 50 comforters. This event is part of a much bigger story of love, warmth and comfort around the world. MCC, Mennonite Central Committee, has a lofty goal of collecting 7,000 comforters by March 31, 2025! Last year, MCC donated 53,601 comforters to Ukraine, El Salvador, Malawi, Zambia, and many more places where the warmth of a comforter can be life-sustaining, in many cases. If you would like more information, you can find it here: mcc.org/great-winter-warm-up

There were many, many people planning from various churches and getting ready for months to make this happen. Many things happened behind the scenes, but we would be remiss if we did not give a shout out to Zion's fellowship committee who provided a great meal! Thank you. -The NW Ohio Comforter Bash Committee

Human Trafficking Awareness Event on **January 26th** from **4:00 - 6:00pm**, hosted by West Clinton Mennonite Church, 18029 County Road C Wauseon, Ohio. We will be showing the movie *unDEFILED*. Invite a friend and plan to attend this powerful film that is inspired by true events. *Parents please note this movie is rated for ages 16 and older, childcare will be provided. Contact our office at 419-445-1195 for more information and to register for childcare.

Community Movie Night: PEACE Mennonite Church is hosting a women and girls movie night on Saturday evening, January 25th at 6:30pm to watch Disney's "Young Woman and the Sea," the true story of Trudy Ederle. The movie will be shown at Katrina Wyse's house (26550 County Road DE). See the flyer on the bulletin board for directions and more information.

Join MCC for a free webinar exploring Peaceful Practices curriculum: Conflict is a normal part of life. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. *Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict* invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other. On Friday, January 31, from 9-11:30 am. EST, this webinar will introduce this curriculum and give examples of how it might benefit congregations. **Learn more and register at mcc.org/peaceful-practices-webinar**

On the Level announcement: Our January edition of *On the Level* is now available. In this edition, an update on the MDS response to the LA Wildfires, a new job opportunity with MDS, plus all the details for the upcoming MDS 75th Anniversary Celebration. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/40gJGz2>