

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

March 16, 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, March 16

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School (No preschool-12th)

Monday, March 17

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting

Tuesday, March 18

3:00 pm ~ Pastor Peer at Tedrow
7:00 pm ~ Anabaptist History & Theology class (310/zoom)

Wednesday, March 19

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

Thursday, March 20

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

Sunday, March 23

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
11:45 am ~ Kitchen, Gym, Fellowship Hall Reserved

Nursery Workers

March 16: Chad Aeschliman Family
March 23: Lonnie & Carol Short

Happy Birthday

March 16 ~ Barb Short
March 21 ~ Mike Zimmerman
March 22 ~ Barb Aeschliman

Happy Anniversary

March 19 ~ Eric & Kellie Creighton (20 years)

Attendance & Offering

March 9: 83 ~ \$2,225

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Tom Stuckey
Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Tom Stuckey
Hymns ~ Anita Roth
 "Holy Spirit, Come With Power" (VT 57)
 "Bread Of Life" (Screen)
Offering/Offertory ~ Tom/Bonnie
Children's Time ~ Mark Nafziger
Scripture ~ Psalm 126
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
 "Be Thou My Vision" (VT 549)
Prayer of Confession ~ Tom Stuckey
Words of Assurance ~ Tom Stuckey
Passing of the Peace ~ Tom Stuckey
Scripture ~ Luke 13:18-21
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
 "In The Bulb There Is A Flower" (VT 670)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Chris Richer
Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth
 "You Are Salt For The Earth" (VT 297)
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



Lent 2025 - "Bread of Life: Gather. Savor. Share"

The world feels heavy—divided and uncertain. Hearts ache, minds seek peace, and souls hunger for hope. Amid injustice and tragedies, we remember we must first gather around the table for strength so we can respond with love and grace. This Lent, let us gather together to break bread, savor the divine generosity of God, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the Bread of Life. The table is open. Come, be renewed.

Lent 2 - Sunday, March 16th: "Bread for Growth" - Luke 13:18-21 (Parable of the Yeast)

Lent 3 - Sunday, March 23rd: "Bread for Each Day" - Matthew 6:9-13 (Lord's Prayer)

Lent 4 - Sunday, March 30th: "Bread for Sharing" - Luke 14:7-14 (Parable of the Great Banquet)

Lent 5 - Sunday, April 6th: "Bread for Community" - Luke 19:1-10 (Dinner with Zacchaeus)

Lent 6 - Sunday, April 13th: "Bread for the Road" - John 12:12-16; Luke 19:28-40 (Triumphal Entry)

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 on most **Tuesdays at 7 PM** in Room 310. The class will be available on Zoom at: <http://tiny.cc/zionclass>. They will be uploaded to Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11544458>

Book Nook

Donated book: *Stories How Mennonites Came To Be* by John D. Roth. He has written a clear comprehensive history that condenses a considerable amount of detail into a cohesive, engaging narrative. The book highlights major themes in provocative ways and with its vibrant vignettes, its recommended reading for both new and long term Mennonites.

New book: *The Wages Of Peace* by Brian Humphreys. How to confront economic inequality and love your neighbor well. Published by Herald Press.

Thank You

Words fail to express our gratitude to our wonderful church family that we are blessed to be a part of for the love, support, and prayers during the time of Walt's illness and passing. Walt is truly missed but it is comforting to know his days of pain and worry are gone and he is at peace. You are cherished friends and we thank you for everything!

~ Sincerely, Darlene Polasek and family

New Announcements

Missing book: If you happened to have borrowed *A Collection of Historic Barns* by Beth Gorczyca, please return it to the library at your earliest convenience. Thanks!

A copy of the Bangladesh arsenic February '25 newsletter is posted on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes.

New address!! Doug & Ilse Meyer would like to share their new address of 890 NW 2ND Ave., Canby, OR. 97013

Pictures from service experiences are still welcome. Send them by text or email to Barb Yoder.

Don't Forget

The Everence Sharing Fund provided \$3,000 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Phil Bontrager serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact him for more information.

CPC Women's Health Resource has a spring benefit and silent auction fundraiser on **April 8th, 5:30 pm at Archbold Evangelical Church**. Registration is required to reserve your spot. \$10 per adult with children under 18 free. For more information or to register, call 419.636.5692 or check out the flyer on either bulletin board.

GOT MAIL? Come join us in room 310 during the Sunday school hour as we discuss Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the book of 1 Corinthians. The discussion will be led by Randy Stuckey.

Annual Conference Assembly 2025 Report

John David, Sue, delegate Mike Zimmerman, and Stan Short (non-delegate) left last Thursday, March 6th for Ohio Mennonite Conference's Annual Assembly, hosted by Berlin Mennonite Church in Berlin, OH. Our theme this year was "Foundation to Future," which invited us to consider what we would bring with us from the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement as we move forward.

Our day began on Friday morning with worship. Henry Beun, a Bible teacher for many decades at Central Christian School in Kidron, reflected on the famous image and story of Dirk Willems - the Anabaptist who risked recapture by turning back to rescue the guard who had fallen through the ice. Henry wondered with us what had shaped Dirk's identity as a believer that he would help an enemy, knowing the cost would likely be his own life. He challenged us to think about how Dirk had patterned his life after Jesus, and relied on the Spirit to help him do what he could never do on his own.

John D. Roth was our main speaker for our Friday sessions, taking us on a whirlwind tour of Anabaptist history through engaging storytelling. He noted that we have a tendency to focus our attention on the 'hero stories' of Anabaptism, while often ignoring the more complicated parts of the history. In just a few short years after the movement's beginning, for example, there were already frequent squabbles and divisions among Anabaptist groups, a trend which has continued from the 16th century until today.

The rest of the day on Friday was filled with workshops and a business session for questions about the proposed Conference spending plan for the coming fiscal year. This plan included reductions or cuts to create a budget which more closely reflected the current size of the Conference, as well as projected congregational giving. It had been determined that renting physical office space was not needed, so one of these cuts was to close the Conference office in Kidron. Staff, whose roles had been consolidated last year, will be working remotely, which some of them had already been doing.

A highlight of the weekend was on Friday evening, as we gathered in the nearby Amish Mennonite Heritage Center for worship and a hymn sing. Inside the main exhibit room, we were surrounded by the huge cyclorama painting named "Behalt" (*German for "to keep, behold, or remember"*) which was an inspiring and moving experience. The painting begins with Jesus, and the scenes around the room continue the story of the church through the Reformation and rise of the Anabaptist movement, and into the present day. To hear all of our voices raised in song in this space was a moment we won't soon forget!

Saturday morning began with worship, featuring a powerful sermon by David Hargrave, pastor of Salem (Wooster) Community Church on Menno Simmons focal passage/verse, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. David challenged us to consider what foundation we are laying, and to take care and courage how we build on it.

Shannon Dycus (Vice President of Student Affairs, Equity, and Belonging at Eastern Mennonite University), was our main speaker for our Saturday sessions. She reminded us that change is a constant force in our lives, and that there is great spiritual truth to be found in the waiting. The season of Lent that we have just entered can be characterized by waiting, as we experience the tension between life and death.

Annual Conference Assembly ended late Saturday afternoon with the final business session. We voted on the proposed budget, which passed unanimously. This business session is also the time in which we celebrate congregations that have joined our Conference in the past year, and lament and bless congregations that have chosen to leave. This year, we mourned the loss of Agora Christian Fellowship, Lockport Mennonite Church, Friendship Mennonite Church, and Central Mennonite Church. Each of these congregations have voted to join other conferences or groups since last spring's Annual Assembly. Other business included affirming "Resolutions of Thanks" for Dan Miller's faithful service as our Interim Conference Minister, and also for Paula Snyder Belousek's years of excellent work as Assistant Moderator, and then Moderator, for the Conference. We joyously celebrated Paula's acceptance of the position of Conference Minister! She will begin this new role in June.

Many thanks to Mike Zimmerman for serving as a delegate this year. We are also very grateful to Mabelann Crossgrove for her time and willingness as she prepared to serve as a delegate, but was unable to be present.



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OF GOD LIKE?