

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 30, 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 30

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

Monday, March 31

9:00 am ~ Staff Meeting
7:00 pm ~ Preschool Board Meeting (basement)

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 am ~ AAMA (off campus)
6:00 pm ~ ZOW (preschool-5th)
7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (6th-8th)
7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, April 3

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

Sunday, March 30

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class (310)
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School
10:45 am ~ Exploring Baptism class (office)
12:00 pm ~ SLT

Nursery Workers

March 30: Joyce Nafziger, Naomi Richer
April 6: Maggie Short, LouAnn Kanagy

Happy Birthday

April 2 ~ Darlene Polasek
April 4 ~ Don Oesch

Attendance & Offering

March 23: 105 ~ \$4,455

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Mike Zimmerman
Interlude ~ Bonnie Stuckey
Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Mike Zimmerman
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "Come To The Table Of Grace" (VT 461)
Offering/Offertory ~ Mike/Bonnie, Julia, Mark
Prayer of Confession ~ Mike Zimmerman
Words of Assurance ~ Mike Zimmerman
Passing of the Peace ~ Mike Zimmerman
Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "Bread Of Life" (handout)
Scripture ~ Luke 14:7-14
Sermon ~ John David Thacker
Hymn of Response ~ Julia Richer
 "Jesus Took A Towel" (VT 490)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Suz Wirick
Sending Hymn ~ Julia Richer
 "I Am The Bread Of Life" (VT 480)
Benediction ~ John David Thacker
Sharing about Pastoral Reviews ~ PCRC



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

Holy Week Drop-In Prayer and Spiritual Practices: The sanctuary will be open at specified times in the morning and evening during Holy Week for anyone to come to sit in God's presence, pray, read scripture, draw, write, etc...This will be unstructured time to come and go as you wish.

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, 6:00pm. Come remember Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples, in which Jesus washed their feet, and instituted the bread and cup as symbols of his body and blood given for each of us. We'll gather together around the fellowship hall tables to eat a light soup supper, study scripture, wash one another's feet or hands, and serve one another communion.

Friday, April 18th - Good Friday Service, 7:00pm. Join us in the sanctuary for a short observance of scripture readings and the extinguishing of candles. We'll depart this service in silence to remember the sense of heaviness and hopelessness that descended upon the disciples on the day of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Sunday, April 20th - Easter Sunday Celebration: Come early for a breakfast potluck beginning at 8:30am, and hymn singing beginning at 9:00am. Worship at 9:30am.

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

New books: *Katy: The Little Rose From Ukraine* by Joan and Lisa Mueller, written for ages 8-12. A German Russian family seek a new home in the United States. *Kernels Of Hope: Little Mary's Journey To Canada* by Tina Fehr, written for ages 6 and up. Story of Russian Mennonites migration to Manitoba, Canada. Main character wants to taker her cloth doll on her journey to their new home.

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers and cards as I recover form my surgery. ~ Roger Crossgrove



New Announcements

Church School Day-Sunday, May 4 - Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, President of Goshen College, will visit and share the morning message. After worship we'll have a session in the fellowship hall for all interested to explain Zion's student aid program, hear additional input from President Stoltzfus, & give opportunity to pledge financial support toward the program. Next school year Zion will have five students at the Mennonite schools. We have a fundraising goal of \$94,000 for the year. Those unable to attend on May 4th may make pledges by contacting Phil Bontrager (pabontrager@gmail.com or cell 419-966-3127).
~ College Financial Aid Committee

Senior Citizen Luncheon: Archbold High School is hosting the 13th Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon on Friday, April 25th at 11am in the High School Gymnasium. Please pass on to any senior citizens in your life who live in the Archbold School District. Lunch is free with a State of School Address, along with Band and Choir performances. To make reservations, please call 419-445-5579 or email aoyer@archboldschools.org. **Reservations begin Tuesday, April 1 and need to be received by Wednesday, April 16.**

Don't Forget

Gospel of John Reading: Our Lenten Gospel of John Read-Thru will begin on Monday, March 31st. One chapter a day will get you to the end of John on Easter. If you've done this before, try switching things up this year: Use a different Bible translation; Read it aloud by yourself or with someone else; Listen online or use a Bible app, etc... If you fall behind, begin again and keep going! It's more important to finish John, even if it's after Easter by the time you complete it. The point is to experience this gospel as it was intended - as a whole unit, rather than random stories.

You are warmly invited to attend "Praiseworthy!", a concert of hymns and classical works reflecting the incomparable love of Jesus. Duo pianists Kristi Gautsche and Debbi Wyse (Julia Richer's mother) will perform, along with narrator Ned Wyse. Performances will be at College Baptist Church, Hillsdale, Michigan, on Friday, April 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 6th at 3 p.m. Free Admission! Mark your calendar!

New address!! Charlene Beck has moved to assisted living: 500 Haven Drive, Apt. 206, Archbold, OH 43502

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 Don Oesch.

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes - February 10, 2025

Congregation Updates and Discussion: The Sojourners class hosted a lunch at Fairlawn for the Builder's class, and for those at Fairlawn connected to Zion. About 50 people attended, including John David and Sue. It was a good opportunity to reconnect with people who haven't been able to make it to church regularly.

People have been asking about ways we might be able to help LAMP. The pastors have talked to the directors, Tahir Masood Bhatti and Fouzia Tahir, about finding a time to give an update during worship on how their work has been affected by recent changes. Some of their grant sources have been drying up, which they believe may be out of fear of connections to immigration.

Another immigration-related discussion was regarding the two Ukrainian families who came to the area with the help of the Refugee Resettlement Team - a group made up of persons from Zion and Central. The federal program the families came over with has ended, and it is unknown how that will affect them.

There was some discussion around the organization of teams and activities at Zion. Perhaps there should be consideration about downsizing or requiring less of a time commitment.

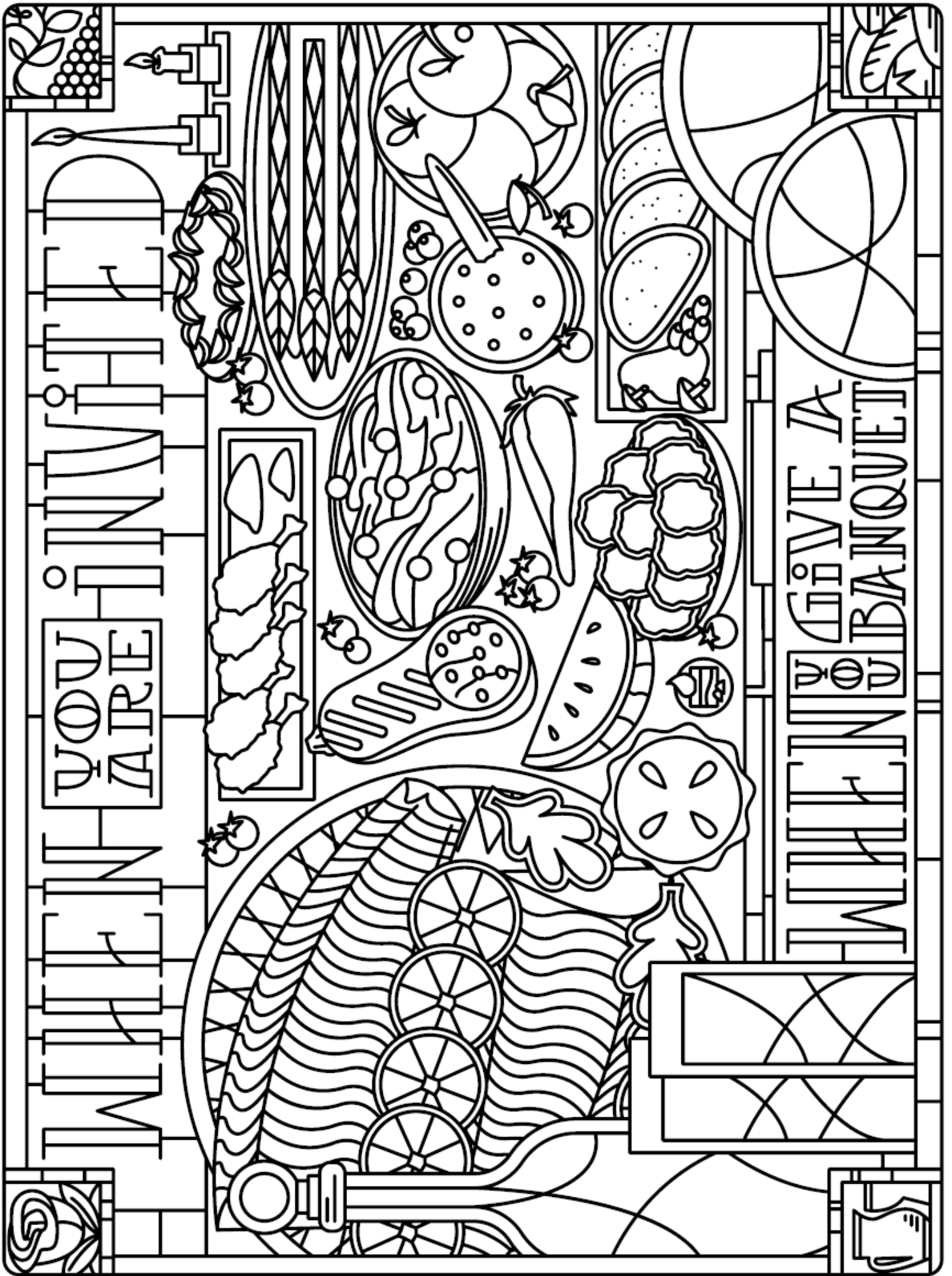
Pastoral care updates and concerns were shared.

Community Connections: The SLT would like to consider how to shape Zion's energy towards involvement in the community. The past two summers, we've hosted lunches for kids at Rauhley park in August, after the lunches offered by the Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission ended. We can see what may be offered this summer by NOCAC. Since these meals receive funding through grants, it's possible there may be changes.

Housing needs in the area were also mentioned. There are people in the community looking for opportunities to create more housing options, yet there is difficulty in finding places for the development of more affordable housing. We would be interested in learning if there are any projects we could get involved with related to this situation.

The SLT portion of the meeting concluded at 6:00, and the pastors were dismissed. The Elders met with Micah Frankfield from PCRC to look over what they have learned from the congregation's pastoral performance evaluations, and discuss how to present the information to the pastors and the congregation.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. It will be Barb's turn for devotions.



WHEN YOU INVITE A

FRIEND TO

BANQUET