

Zion Mennonite Church Newsletter

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.

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 Corben Weaver Boshart 419.906.4729

Pastor Sue Short 419.346.7827

Elders: Lonnie Short 419-583-9567; Chris Liechty 419-572-1009; Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769
Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363; Suz Wirick 419-966-2266

Project Hope: 419-445-0728

December 12, 2021

Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Noteworthy (select choir from Pettisville H.S.)
Welcome & Announcements ~ John Baer
Interlude ~ Noteworthy (select choir from Pettisville H.S.)
Call to Worship ~ John Baer
Opening Prayer ~ John Baer
Advent Candle Lighting ~ Reiss Creighton, Leah Roth
Recorded Song ~ *May You Find A Light* (The Brilliance)
Video Children's Time ~ Karen Rodriguez & Meleah Plank
Scripture ~ Zephaniah 3:14-20
Offering ~ John Baer/Bonnie Stuckey
Scripture ~ Luke 2:1-20
Sermon ~ Corben Weaver Boshart
Confession & Assurance ~ John Baer
Communion ~ Corben Weaver Boshart
Prayer for the Church and World ~ Mike Zimmerman
Hymns ~ Cheryl Britsch
“Angels We Have Heard On High” (HWB 197)
“Joy To The World” (HWB 318)
Benediction ~ Corben Weaver Boshart
Sending Song ~ Cheryl Britsch
“Dona Nobis Pacem” (HWB 346)

Office News

The church office will be closed **Monday, December 27th**, and **Friday, December 31st** for the holidays.

Happy Birthday:

December 14 -

Karin Legato

December 16 -

Jodi Nofziger

December 16 -

Mary Ellen Nofziger

December 17 -

Ruth Grieser

Happy Anniversary:

December 14 -

Kirk & Sally Beck (47)

Zion Activities this Week

Sunday, December 12

9:30am ~ Worship (in-person & Zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Tuesday, December 14

8:30 am ~ Staff

9:30 am ~ Condo Coffee

4:30 pm ~ SLT

6:30 pm ~ Worship Team

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS (7th-8th)

7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 16

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ AA

Sunday, December 19

9:30am ~ Worship (in-person & Zoom)

10:45 am ~ Sunday School



Upcoming Worship

Advent 2021 - "Dare to Imagine": This season, we'll shift our attention to the natural world, particularly the wonder of the heavens, as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. The writers of this year's materials describe their theme in this way: "So much [in our lives] has been put on hold or turned upside down that we need to listen and respond to God's presence with new ears and renewed hearts and minds. As we anticipate a new year ahead, let's dare to imagine our path ahead toward God's good dream for our world."

Advent III - December 12th: *"Dare to Imagine God's Song"*

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Advent IV - December 19th: *"Dare to Imagine God's Face"*

Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve Service - December 24th at 7:00 pm: Join us on Christmas Eve, along with your family and friends, for our annual evening of worship. This will be a short service with scripture, carols, a story and fun for children, and the traditional candlelight singing of "Silent Night."

Advent V - December 26th: *"Dare to Imagine God's Robe"*

1 Samuel 2:18-20 & 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

New Announcements

Give gifts of comfort and joy with MCC! Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more. Give at mcc.org/delight or call 888.563.4676.

Don't Forget

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on April 22-23! A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event in Kidron to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops and backs (60" x 80") for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be dropped off at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road) between January 1 - March 1. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Thank You

A shout out to the C.H.A.O.S. youth and their sponsors for their service project at Care & Share. Their many hands and willing hearts helped out so much on projects that we do not always have time to do. Your prayers offered at the end of the evening were very meaningful. Thank you again for being a part of our mission here at Care & Share and serving the needs in our communities and through the work of Mennonite Central Committee. ~ The Staff at Care & Share

Address Change

Please update your mailing address for Butch and Sharon Frey to PO BOX 404, Archbold OH 43502.

****New address/phone/email directories are very close to being finished! Thanks for your patience on this!****

Where Could Joseph Find Housing in our Community?

-Submitted by Cecily Rohrs, St Martin's Lutheran Church

In this season of the year we remember the Holy Family arriving in Bethlehem only to learn there was not a single room available. Even after several inquiries, we're told the Innkeeper told Joseph and his very pregnant wife, "The stable out back is empty; at least you'd be warm and have a roof over your heads."

Over 2000 years later, we too have travelers coming to our town seeking shelter with just a few coins and we say, "Sorry, there is nothing available for the money you have."

Because of the extreme shortage of housing in our area, there is almost nothing available to rent, and if a door does open, the monthly prices have soared to levels once considered a house payment, not a rental payment.

And if by chance the seeker does find a living unit suitable for the family, a new problem arises. With the high rental rates, when the standard agreement is signed the renter needs perhaps \$700 to \$800 to move in AND an equal sum for the deposit. That means \$1,500 in-pocket to secure housing. Even many working people cannot accumulate that much cash, instead using what they have to buy food, gas and essentials.

In northwest Ohio, public shelter options are limited. Some seeking shelter find a bed at The Open Door in Delta, The Sanctuary in Bryan, Noah House in Pettisville, the Path Center in Defiance, or the Friendship House in Archbold. Those 5 locations are always full and people are turned away day after day. It's serious.

That's why within the last 30 days two families were found living in their cars in our community. One couple, both working, were in their car in Ruyhley Park by day, and moved to the overnight semi-truck parking lot behind the Marathon station for the evening. The other couple parked their car in the lot behind the West Unity Turnpike Plaza and then drove into town for his job each day. The only problem was that she had to come along and spend the whole day in the car in the parking lot while he worked, because that car was also her home!

These too are holy families. Families created in God's image. Individuals seeking shelter and being turned away. This season is all about hope and light. To share that heavenly hope and light, we must meet the basic needs of our fellow travelers on life's journey.

Although the Arch Motel has been permanently closed since mid-summer, one area adult Sunday School class has cleaned and rented two rooms and provided toilet tissue, bedding, towels and essentials to get the recent couples out of their cars.

A group of community leaders is working on one possible solution. If some of those plans come together, as God's people perhaps we can collectively offer a secure, temporary stable. For more information, see Sue Short.

Ways to give this Holiday Season

***MLK Kitchen for the Poor** will accept gifts under the big tree near the (un)coffee bar. Gifts are to be for newborns thru 8th grade; please leave them unwrapped. Monetary donations are welcome as well for the Center to buy the gifts. **Deadline for bringing gifts is December 15th.**

***Adriel:** It's almost that time of year again! As we look forward to the holiday season, Adriel needs your help in bringing the Christmas spirit to our foster families. **Each \$25 donation will sponsor a Christmas gift** for an Adriel foster youth or Bridges young adult. Please help us reach our \$5000 goal to assure that each Adriel foster child and Bridges young adult receive their Christmas gift in time for the holiday. **2021 marks Adriel's 125 year anniversary caring for children. Consider supporting gifts for 5 children with a \$125 dollar donation in celebration of our anniversary.** Visit <https://Adriel.networkforgood.com/projects/142000-adriel-christmas-angel-tree-2021> to make an online donation or mail a check with the memo "Angel Tree" to PO Box 188 West Liberty, OH 43357. As always, thank you for your continued support of our organization and generosity toward the children and families we serve!

A big thank you for helping touch the lives of people in our area for the holidays.

~ Missions in Service Team (MiST)