

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 5, 2021

Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, December 5

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

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

12:00 pm ~ Kitchen & FH reserved

Monday, December 6

8am-5pm~Fellowship Hall and Kitchen reserved

Tuesday, December 7

8:30 am ~ Staff

Wednesday, December 8

9:00 am ~ Mennonite Women

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

7:00 pm ~ MYF (high school)

Thursday, December 9

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer

7:00 pm ~ AA

Sunday, December 12

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

10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Kathy Beck, Mary Gisel, Bonnie Stuckey

Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Ruth

Interlude ~ Kathy Beck, Mary Gisel, Bonnie Stuckey

Call to Worship ~ Karen Ruth

Opening Prayer ~ Karen Ruth

Advent Candle Lighting ~

Creighton Aeschliman & Grace Hastings

Recorded Song ~ *May You Find A Light* (The Brilliance)

Video Children's Time ~ Karen Rodriguez & Meleah Plank

Scripture ~ Malachi 3:1-4

Offering ~ Kathy Beck, Mary Gisel, Bonnie Stuckey

Scripture ~ Luke 1:67-79

Sermon ~ Corben Weaver Boshart

Confession & Assurance ~ Karen Ruth

Prayer for the Church and World ~ Greg Nofziger

Hymns ~ Cheryl Britsch

“Longing For Light” (STJ 54)

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (HWB 195)

Benediction ~ Corben Weaver Boshart

Sending Song ~ Cheryl Britsch

“Dona Nobis Pacem” (HWB 346)

Office News

~ Rejoice has been placed in your mailbox.

Happy Birthday:

December 6 - Dale Short

December 7 - Glora Belle Yoder



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 II - December 5th: *"Dare to Imagine God's Embrace"*

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

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

New Announcements

Mennonite Women will meet at Zion Wednesday, December 8, from 9 am to 3 pm. The preschool children will provide the program for the day starting at 10:45 am. Chili will be provided for lunch, attendees whose names start with N-Z are asked to provide accompanying dishes.

Chili for Christmas Cheer: Charlene Beck will be continuing the annual tradition of preparing chili for the volunteers working at Christmas Cheer on Thursday, December 9. Please note, *6 dozen cookies are also requested for delivery to Christmas Cheer, cookies may be brought to the kitchen on Wednesday. You will find a sign up sheet on the table across from the mailboxes.

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

Prayer during Worship

When Covid first hit, we began to offer worship via Zoom, and also began posting our services online for the first time. This opened up questions and discussions about privacy, since anyone outside of Zion would now have access to worship services. One way that we initially responded to this was to use first names only during the prayer time in worship. Today, we recognize the ways in which online access has shifted from a Covid necessity, to a way of connecting with folks that will likely continue into the future. As such, we have been thinking about how to accommodate those who would find it helpful, and far less confusing, if full names were mentioned during prayer. Going forward, the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) would like to propose that when prayer requests are given to the office, the pastors, or the elders, our default understanding is that the full name will be used during the prayer in worship. In order to be sensitive to concerns about privacy, you may request that only a first name be mentioned aloud during the prayer, if preferred. We will continue to print full names in the prayer requests in the newsletter, as we have been doing. If you have counsel to share regarding this, please contact one of the pastors or the elders.

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 Rauhley 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

***Christmas Cheer:** Christmas Cheer will continue their outreach this year. Once again, we will have our tree by the **West** door, decorated with tags - tags for specific foods, gifts, and even for cash which is always welcome to increase the buying power Cheer has when buying in bulk. Pick off as many tags as you wish and bring back what you've chosen by **December 5th**.

***Sunshine 2021 Christmas Wish List:** The list has been **posted on bulletin boards** and baskets placed near the **north and west doors** to receive your donated gifts. Residents of Sunshine Communities vary in ages and needs. Or, you may also make a direct financial donation to *Sunshine Communities - Holiday Gift Fund* at 7223 Maumee Western Rd., Maumee, OH 43537. **Any new, unwrapped gifts donated here will be delivered to Sunshine on December 10.** Thank you for giving this year.

***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)