

# 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

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

Pastor Sue Short 419-346-7827  
Pastor Dan Miller 574-238-1883

**August 21, 2022**

Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034  
Project Hope: 419-445-0728

## Zion Activities this Week

### Sunday, August 21 ~ Bridge Sunday

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class  
9:00 am ~ Cinnamon Rolls served!  
9:30 am ~ Worship/Conversation (fellowship hall & Zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School for preschool - 8th grade  
12:00 pm ~ Celebration Lunch provided in fellowship hall

### Wednesday, August 24

7:00 pm ~ MYF Life Planning (Chris & Julia Richer's)

### Thursday, August 25

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

### Sunday, August 28

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Class  
9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & Zoom)  
10:45 am ~ Sunday School\*\*

**\*\*High School Sunday School will start August 28th\*\***

## Order of Service

Cinnamon rolls at 9 am

Singing ~ Julia Richer

“Come Thou Almighty King” (HWB 41)

“This Is The Day” (HWB 642)

“Come Gracious Spirit” (HWB 303)

Welcome & Announcements ~ Sue Short & Dan Miller

Interlude ~ Julia Richer

“Come We That Love The Lord” (HWB 14)

Call to Worship & Prayer ~ Sue Short

Story

Table Interaction I

Movement

Offering

Scripture ~ Philippians 2:5-11

Story

Table Interaction II

Movement

Song ~ “Lord Listen To Your Children Praying” (HWB 353)

Prayer for the Church and World ~ Mike Zimmerman

Plenary Session

Movement

Wrap Up

Sending Song ~ “Praise God For Whom” (HWB 119)

Benediction ~ Dan Miller

## Happy Birthday:

August 22 - Kirk Beck

August 23 - Sara Nafziger, Vivienne Legato

August 24 - Guinevere Brooks

August 26 - Jackie Lehman

August 27 - Elaine Swartzbaugh

## Happy Anniversary:

August 21 ~ Mark & Ruth Matthews (40)

August 25 - Lynn & Bonnie Short (60)

## Office News

~ Dan will be out of the office following Sunday's service on August 21st through Saturday, August 27th.

~ Sue will be out of the office Tuesday, August 23rd for Ohio Conference Pastors Meeting.



*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

***Dwelling in the Word* Fall Worship Series:** This summer, we were invited to join other congregations around Ohio Conference in reading through the entire New Testament together using the same Bible reading schedule. **Starting September 18th**, we'll be using scripture texts from this Bible reading schedule each week as a way to deepen our thinking about what we've been reading. We'll reflect together on questions such as "What does this text reveal about Jesus?" and "How does this text reflect the House of Peace?" and "What are we being invited toward in this text?"

If you've already been reading along, keep it up! If you haven't started yet, we encourage you to jump in at today's date on the schedule. (There are extra paper copies of the Bible reading schedule on the table across from the mailboxes. Or, contact the office and we can email one to you.) If you fall behind, pop back in when you can and restart with the reading for today's date. **Whether you complete the entire New Testament, or just read straight through a book or two, the important thing is to just keep going and to experience larger sections of scripture in their context together.**

*"With my whole heart, I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.  
I treasure your word in my heart,  
so that I may not sin against you."* (Psalm 119:10-11, NRSV)

**August 28 worship:** Front Porch conversation

**September 4th worship:** Last Front Porch conversation

**September 11th:** Combined worship **at Central** (Since 1AD will be providing music for Central Mennonite's worship service on September 11, Duane Beck invited us to come over to worship with them for a combined Central-Zion service. Dan Miller will be serving as the worship leader, and Central's pastor, David Elkins, will be preaching)

**September 18th worship:** "Dwelling in the Word" series begins

**September 25th:** Bridge Sunday #2 (worship, conversation, and a special lunch)

**October 2nd worship:** "Dwelling in the Word" series and World Communion Sunday (moving our usual 2nd Sunday communion to this week)

## Upcoming Fall 'Bridge Sundays'

**The first 'Bridge Sunday' is coming on August 21**, and the morning will begin with warm cinnamon rolls. August's focus will be heritage. Heritage includes a group's God-given personality and how the group faces into events. Reflection on where a group has come from brings awareness of these characteristics, and sheds light on how the group is likely to face events going forward. Lunch will be a charcuterie board or table.

**The goals for this fall series of monthly Bridge Sundays are to:**

- accomplish some significant work,
- have fun, and
- set up a pastoral search committee for a successful search.

Everyone's participation and perspective is valuable!

**Please note, the September Bridge Sunday has switched from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## Dwelling in the Word Weekly Schedule

**Bible Reading Schedule for the coming week:** If you've started our read through the New Testament, keep going! If not, we encourage you to jump on in! See the newsletter for this week's reading schedule. If you find it difficult to read, or regularly spend time driving, or just prefer to listen, feel welcome to use an audio Bible version of these chapters each day.

Mon, August 22: Matthew 9-10

Tues, August 23: Matthew 11-12

Wed, August 24: Matthew 13-14

Thurs, August 25: Matthew 15-16

Fri, August 26: Matthew 17-18

Sat, August 27: Matthew 19-20

## New Announcements

**High School Life Planning** - Please mark calendar for **August 24 @ 7:00 pm** Life Planning kick-off @ Chris and Julia Richer's (24055 Co Rd B , Archbold). The rest of Life Planning will be the fourth Wednesday of the month, September through May 2023.

**Update from Gifts Discernment Ministry Team:** We received a total of 80 responses (57 paper, 23 electronic) to the recent proposed slate of candidates to serve on Zion's various Ministry Teams, beginning in the new church year on September 1. The overall affirmation rate was 99%, with all candidates affirmed by 95%, or greater. An updated list of Zion's Ministry Team members will be made available soon. Thank you to all who have agreed to serve and to those who responded to the Affirmation slate. – *Gifts Discernment Ministry Team*

**The August edition of *On the Level*** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Learn about the urgent need for volunteers to clean up after the Kentucky flooding, see a tasty display of gratitude in Princeton, B.C., and enjoy the smiles of volunteers in the Family Program at Camp Amigo.

**The International Day of Peace, dedicated to the absence of war and violence, is celebrated around the world each year on September 21.** The 2022 theme of "End racism. Build peace." shows that peace requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race. MCC has created a worship resource including call to worship, songs, scripture readings and prayers, for congregations to celebrate and pray for peace on Sunday, September 25, or another Sunday. Download the resource at [mcc.org/day-of-peace](https://mcc.org/day-of-peace).

**36th CPC Steps for Life Walkathon, Color Run & Family Fun Day Walkathon:** The 5K and 1 Mile Color Run is at 8:00 am – 11:00 am Sat., Sept 17, 2022 at the MacDonald-Ruff Ice Arena, 601 Townline Road, Bryan. Sign up at <https://cpcnwo.org/events/36th-annual-walkathon/> To receive a walkathon packet, call 419-636-5692. Please join us as we take Steps for Life!

## Thank You

"Thanks to everyone who donated blood, brought food, and helped with the blood drive on Monday! 22 units were collected, which are going to help so many people.!" - Ella Richer

Thank you for your prayers, concerns, cards, and expressions of sympathy during the sickness and loss of my brother, Donald Rupp. We are very grateful for all of the support. - Arlene & Dale Short

## Don't Forget

**Shalom** is looking for an advocate from the church to represent Shalom to the congregation. This is a program Shalom had before and is now looking to reinstate. The advocate would meet 2-3 times a year and be responsible for getting information out to the congregation about things happening with Shalom. If you are interested in this, please let the office know.

**Student Aid Contributions** – Zion's students at our Mennonite colleges & universities will begin the fall semester shortly, and we'll be sending Zion's student aid contribution for each soon. Your contributions are encouraged and greatly appreciated at this time (you may mark your envelope "Student Aid"). Our four students are Meleah Plank and Quinn Wyse at Goshen College, and Eli Grieser and Elijah Zimmerman at Bluffton University. If you have questions, please contact Phil Bontrager, Chair, College Financial Aid Committee at 419-966-3127.

**Choir is Returning!** The Zion Choir is planning to begin rehearsing in late September on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. Anyone with questions is welcome to talk with any of the choir committee members, Kevin Sauder, Karen Ruth, Cheryl Britsch, and Bonnie Stuckey, or director, Duane Beck (419-551-7143, [dbeck@pettisvilleschools.org](mailto:dbeck@pettisvilleschools.org)). The choir typically sings once a month at the beginning of the Sunday morning worship service. They also sing a Christmas and a spring program. The choir welcomes new members, whether they attend Zion or another church.

**Continuing Community Meal:** Pastor Erich is assessing how much support he has for continuing the community meals this fall/next year. An average of 60-90 have been coming consistently. Zion has committed to providing 4 meals in the coming year, and transporting the food to St. Johns. Please let me know if you're interested and able to do a meal, or get a group together to do one or two. Thank you! Lori Bontrager for MiST 419.966.0275

## Ongoing Opportunities to Give

**During August**, Mennonite Women are **supporting the request by MCC for two kits currently in short supply: relief kits and school kits**. Itemized lists necessary for each kit are listed below. Copies of the items needed are also on the table outside the church office, or can be found online at [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org). Bring any items you wish to contribute in a bag or box and they will be packaged and delivered to a MCC pick up location. Items for MCC kits can be placed on the table immediately outside the church office.

**Relief Kits:** provide needed supplies for a family of four, and are given to those whose lives have been disrupted by disaster or crisis. Please purchase NEW items only: (4) large bars of bath soap, left in wrapper; (1-2) shampoo, totaling no more than 20 oz, and placed in resealable plastic bag; (4) bars of laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote brands); (4) adult-sized toothbrushes in packaging; (4) new bath towels, medium weight, in dark/bright colors, approx 29x60 inches; (2) wide-toothed combs, 6-8 inch size; (1) nail clipper, good quality; (1) box of adhesive bandages, minimum 40 count, assorted sizes; sanitary pads, THIN, 1-2 packages, minimum 28 pads total.

**School Kits:** (4) spiral or perforated-page notebooks (8x10 - 70 sheets); (8) new unsharpened pencils; (1) ruler, flat, good quality, must have 30 cm. Inch markings optional; (2) new black or blue ballpoint pens; MW will provide the all-metal pencil sharpeners that are to be included in these kits.

**MCC in need of material resources:** MCC is resuming shipments of material resources to Ukraine. Five containers of emergency supplies are being shipped to Ukraine in the next few months with more planned for later in the year. With this increase in demand for supplies for Ukraine and other countries around the world, MCC's inventory of material resources is getting low. ***We need comforters and relief, hygiene, school, dignity, infant care and sewing kits, as well as soap and towels.*** Your donations will provide relief and a tangible sign of hope to people in Ukraine and other difficult situations around the world. Go to [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits) for information on needed supplies and drop-off locations.

## MiST (Missions in Service Team) Update

Have you wondered what MiST (Missions in Service Team) is up to these days, after some "summer silence?!" We actually continue to be moving forward on three major projects and want to update you again.

- ~ Community meals at St Johns: we've committed to providing a meal 4x in the coming school year. (St J will set up, serve and clean up) Mennonite Women group will provide Aug 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Lori Bontrager with a date/group you can offer to this vibrant, weekly gathering. They've been serving 60 – 85 regularly each Tuesday.
- ~ Bring asylum seekers from San Antonio TX to Archbold area "asap:" We are Slowly finding traction for this endeavor. A couple people are on board to share the responsibility of organizing; we'd REALLY like to have two more join the core group. **Please** give consideration before you say 'naw, not me!' – the asylum seekers are basically on hold in TX, waiting for the next step in their long and brutal journeys. We've already secured a lawyer willing to take care of the 'legal gymnastics' pro bono; housing is the next hurdle. **Big** thanks to the interested parties who are willing to step up with helping in various and creative ways. (there are about 30 of us, so the core group can delegate tasks, helping spread out the load) Contact one of MiST if you feel a tug to be part of the core group, please. THANK you! (Lori, Ilse, Duane W, Cara/Frank)
- ~ Abby Pennington has re-ignited the prospect of a community garden, particularly for those who come to the Food Pantry. She and MiST have been scrambling the past 2-3 weeks to get the ball rolling. (I must say, Abby is ON FIRE about this!!) To be brief, we're already in communication with City Council to secure the 2 acres behind the Food Pantry building. Brad Grime, the mayor, is Very excited to see this fly. The idea would be to organize interest so that Food Pantry patrons could work alongside community members to plan, prep, weed and harvest the garden. There is little fresh produce available to them at this point. We've already applied for a grant through Ohio Conference to fund prepping the ground, put a fence around the garden, get irrigation set up, etc. We envision giving cooking classes during harvest, hoping to engage youth so they can broaden their scope of 'community.' As this moves forward, we will open support to the whole community. We're still in the brainstorming phase, but it seems to be gaining traction quickly. We realize others in this area have put effort into getting something like this off the ground; perhaps this time is ripe for the idea. We would have the East Garden residents participate, maybe on the days they come shopping at the Pantry. Please give consideration to how you might support this, if you are drawn to do so. We will be looking for garden tools eventually (even offering a couple of your 'extra' tools would be great support) I think I went into more detail than I intended, but at least you're caught up with our shenanigans for now!

Contact Abby or Lori if you have questions and/or ideas. Thanks! Lori for MiST