

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 28, 2022

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

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, August 28

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

Monday, August 29

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting
5:00 pm ~ SLT (310)
5:30 pm ~ PCRC (MYF room)

Wednesday, August 31

7:00 pm ~ MYF Service Night

Thursday, September 1

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer (fellowship hall)
5:30 pm ~ Preschool Open House
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Sunday, September 4

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

Happy Birthday:

August 28 - Patsy Nofziger, Karen Ringenberg
September 1 - Steve Nafziger
September 3 - Howard Snyder

Happy Anniversary:

August 28 ~ Richard & Eileen Nyce (45)
August 30 - Jan Cobb Nofziger & Merrill Spiess (6)

Office News

~ Dan will be out of the office through Saturday,
August 27th.

Order of Service

Prelude ~ 1 AD

Opening ~ Karen Ruth

Pause for Music ~ 1 AD

“Blessed Assurance” (HWB 332)

“Just a Closer Walk” (STJ 106)

Pause to Listen and Pray

Offertory & Prayer ~ Julia & 1 AD

Scripture ~ Psalm 116:1-2

Prayer

Song ~ Julia & 1 AD

“What a Friend”

Pause for Conversation

Scripture ~ Hebrews 10:24, Philippians 1:3-6, 9

Front Porch Conversation

~ Sue Short with Nikki Aeschliman

Reception into Membership

Benediction ~ Sue Short

Sending Song ~ Julia & 1 AD

“I'll Fly Away”



*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)

Update from the FISH Food Pantry: It's been a while since I have updated you on the happenings at the Archbold Fish Pantry. I need to start off by saying that we have been very blessed the past few years, even throughout the pandemic, with incredible volunteers and a very generous community. So many have stepped up their financial contributions and canned good donations to help Archbold Fish provide for the needs of local families.

The majority of the clients that now come to the pantry for food are people on fixed incomes - the elderly and disabled, which is a change since 2020. We still provide home deliveries when needed. There are about 50 households coming to the pantry each month for food assistance. The increased cost of food and gas, as well as employees off work for health-related issues, have greatly affected the number of households asking us for assistance with rent and utility bills.

Because of the supply shortage, all pantries are struggling to get product for their shelves. For years, we had been getting food, including frozen meat and fresh produce, from the Toledo Food Bank. Unfortunately, the Food Bank is unable to hire enough drivers to collect product from Walmart, Kroger, and Meijer, so pantries like ours are unable to get those items to distribute to our clients. The Archbold Fish Pantry purchased gift cards to Archbold Super Valu and handed them out to the clients who came to the pantry in May. We are doing this again in August for those who want to get meat or fresh produce.

We were very excited to be able to purchase our building from the Farmers and Merchants State Bank last year, and we are now moving forward to make several much-needed improvements to the facility. A few items on the to-do list include energy efficient windows, an automatic sliding front door, siding, and insulation. The work will begin sometime this fall and shouldn't interfere with our regular food distribution.

Thank you for taking your turn to collect canned goods for the pantry, and thank you for your financial support as well. We truly appreciate your partnering with us as we serve those in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Lynn Lehman
Archbold Fish Pantry Coordinator

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! 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 29: Matthew 21-22

Tues, August 30: Matthew 23-24

Wed, August 31: Matthew 25-26

Thurs, September 1: Matthew 27-28

Fri, September 2: Romans 1-2

Sat, September 3: Romans 3-4

Child's World Preschool Update

Child's World Preschool is excited to begin their school year soon, with Open House on Thursday, September 1 and the 1st day of school on Monday, September 12! There are 52 children enrolled this year. The preschool has a few needs & would love to involve Zion in helping! Thank you for the help in assembling the new bookcases that were purchased for the basement hallway. Some items needed are dress up clothes, baby doll clothes, styrofoam meat trays, and clean toilet paper or paper towel rolls. We also appreciate your prayers for a great start to the school year! Thank you so much for all your support! ~ Mrs. King

New Announcements

SUNSHINE! The 25th annual Roll & Stroll event is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th from 11am -2pm on Sunshine's main campus (7223 Maumee Western Road). Come enjoy a little exercise, live music, family friendly activities and even food trucks if you want to have lunch! Check the bulletin board for more information.

I wanted to let my Zion friends know that I'll be spending a semester as a volunteer at Meserete Kristos College and Seminary in Ethiopia. I'll be teaching English from September to January. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to teach full-time again, help out where there is a need, be in a Mennonite environment, and be in a country that has been dear to my heart since college when I made life-long Ethiopian friends. It's always hard to be far from my parents, but I trust they will be OK. Bob will be staying in Mexico with the possibility of visiting me at some point. I appreciate your prayers for me, Bob, and the students I will have. In peace, Cynthia Yoder

West Clinton Mennonite's pastor, Ryan Harker, is hosting a tour of the Holy Lands April 18-27, 2023 for anyone interested. He will hold an informational meeting about the tour on Sept. 15 at 7 PM in West Clinton's sanctuary. Come with any questions you may have about the tour. First deposits of \$300 are due by October 1 with final payments due January 10.

Don't Forget

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.

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!

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. 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 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 16th. 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