

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

September 18, 2022

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

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, September 18

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School
9:30 am ~ Worship
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, September 19

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 21

7:00 pm ~ CHAOS
7:00 pm ~ MYF

Thursday, September 22

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

Sunday, September 25 ~ *Bridge Sunday 2*

8:30 am ~ Sojourners Sunday School
9:30 am ~ Worship & Conversation
10:30 am ~ Sunday School for children
4:00 pm ~ Menno History Presentation
by Joe Springer (Sanctuary & Zoom)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Leah Roth

Welcome & Announcements ~ Karen Rodriguez

Interlude ~ Kate Roth

Call to Worship ~ Karen Rodriguez

Songs ~ Julia Richer

“We are People of God's Peace” (HWB 407)

“New Earth, Heavens New” (HWB 299)

Reception Into Membership ~ Lynn, Anita & Kate Roth

Offertory ~ Kate Roth

Children's Story ~ Karen Rodriguez

Song ~ Julia Richer

“God of the Bible” (STJ 27)

Scripture ~ II Corinthians 5:11-21

Sermon ~ Sue Short

Song of Response ~ Julia Richer

“Jesus, Be the Center”

Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger

Benediction ~ Sue Short

Sending Song ~ Julia Richer

Office News

~ Dan will be out of the office Friday afternoon (16th) through Sunday (18th) in Goshen for his nephews wedding. He will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday this week.

Happy Birthday:

September 20 - Lynette Bontrager, Pete Rodriguez

September 21 - Charlene Short, Karmin Brooks

September 23 - Mark Matthews

September 24 - Karen Rodriguez



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.

Dwelling in the Word Weekly Schedule

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, September 12: 1 Corinthians 1-2
Tues, September 13: 1 Corinthians 3-4
Wed, September 14: 1 Corinthians 5-6
Thurs, September 15: 1 Corinthians 7-8
Fri, September 16: 1 Corinthians 9-10
Sat, September 17: 1 Corinthians 11-12

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 entire 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)

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

September 25th: Bridge Sunday #2 (worship, conversation, and a special lunch) & annual business meeting.

September 25th: Joe Springer, curator of the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College, will be **offering a presentation called, "Past as Prologue: Montbeliard traditions replanted in Fulton County soil" at 4 pm here at Zion.**

Joe has done extensive research for the past 25 years on the congregation in Montbeliard, France, the home congregation for many Amish Mennonite immigrants to Fulton County. He will speak about factors that may have led to immigration, and some of the religious and cultural traditions that were brought along to our area. There will be opportunity for questions following the illustrated presentation. **This event is free and open to all.** Zoom is available for those who cannot be present. The Zoom link for this event will be emailed out next week.

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

Upcoming Fall 'Bridge Sunday'

The next Bridge Sunday is one week away. Sorry, no cinnamon rolls this time, but there might still be a surprise or two! This time the Elders will share parts of the Congregational Information Form as a step of transparency about what will be sent to potential candidates. It is also a way of giving us all a picture of who Zion is now. Second, we will see if we can find a bridge between Zion's heritage and the future. The Annual Business Meeting will be part of the morning, too. Lunch will be Outlaw Barbecue and soft-serve ice cream.

The goals for 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!

Upcoming Bridge Sunday Dates: September 25, October 30, & November 20

Another note from the Zion Mission team!

We have entered an exuberant attempt to create a community garden. We know several others have tried to get one going in the past; we're hoping our area may be ripe for the idea now. Our vision is simply to provide opportunity for growing community involvement through sustainable growth and beauty, through a garden. We're in the brainstorming phase, but already it is taking solid shape to create a beautiful space in the (hopefully!) 2-acre lot behind the Archbold Food Pantry. We've begun talking with residents from East Garden re their interest in having access to more fresh produce during the summer, and our hope is some will feel inspired, along with other community members, to help prepare, weed, harvest the garden, as well as take classes we aim to offer for specific aspects of this. Of course, many hands make light work, so we're hoping to structure this venture so no one feels overwhelmed.

We are so excited to get this off the ground – come join an even small portion of the efforts! Stay tuned! And feel free to be in touch at ANY point. It's all welcome!

MiST, specifically Abby and Lori (no, I'm not still chair of MiST! I offered to Stan to be one of the core movers for the time being)

Fall Health Update

We want to recognize and say thank you to everyone for Zion's good response of caring for one another in healthy ways over the past two years. As we enter the fall and winter months, it's a good time to begin thinking about how we can continue to demonstrate care by helping to keep Zion a healthy place to be. For example, we can show our love for others by staying home when feeling ill or running a fever, washing our hands often, covering a cough/sneeze, and by practicing other good health habits.

The pastors, elder chair, and church council chair, along with perspectives offered by our local health professionals, recently met for an initial conversation about Covid, Influenza, and other viruses which have the potential to increase in frequency or severity during the upcoming season indoors. This group will meet as needed, look at changes in guidance and local conditions, and communicate with the congregation.

-Dan Miller and Sue Short (pastors), Lonnie Short (elder chair), and Randy Stuckey (church council chair)

Spiritual Leadership Team minutes

Sue Short led us in devotions "Being Formed in Christ." She referenced the book by Ruth Haley Barton, "Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups."

New Business: Cliff and Marilyn Brubaker asked to have their membership transferred to Parkview Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA. Delegates and pastors are preparing to attend the Ohio Conference fall cluster meeting on September 27th at West Clinton Mennonite Church. Our first fall 'Bridge Sunday' interaction will take place on August 21st, focusing on the stories of Zion's heritage, followed by sharing lunch together. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall around tables to worship together and to give everyone an opportunity to participate in sharing ideas.

Pastoral Search Update: The SLT reviewed two documents from Mennonite Church USA: "When Your Church Seeks New Pastoral Leadership" and the "Congregational Information Form". We spent time looking through the Congregational Information Form, which the SLT will complete this extensive document. We will ask leaders of some ministry teams for assistance. This will be offered to the congregation in stages during upcoming Bridge Sundays for feedback.

SLT Retreat on October 15th: We spent time discerning our focus for this event. Sue suggested the SLT incorporate the book, "Pursuing God's Will Together," as a guide for our discussion at this retreat, and possibly throughout the coming church year, as we discern Zion's vision for the future.

Other Business: Tasks were assigned for communion on Sunday August 14th. Church Council has agreed to take on the task of reviewing our funeral meal guidelines.

Congregational Concerns: We continue to walk with those in medical treatments and those mourning losses.

Respectfully submitted: Suz Wirick

Phone & Address Directories

Phone and address directories are posted for you to review on a table in the fellowship hall. If any changes are needed, please contact the office by phone or email. If you are not listed and would like to be, check in with the office also. Directories will be available for review for a few weeks.

Thank You

Thank you to my caring church family for all the prayers offered for my healing in the last week. The cards, phone calls, and visits were greatly appreciated as well. May God continue to bless each of you. ~ Ron Nofziger

New Announcements

Teachers needed: the primary department is still in need of some teachers. Contact Sarah Frankenfield (419-615-3937, sarahfrankenfield@gmail.com) for more information or if you are interested.

Zion Choir will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 29 from 7:00 to 8:30. If you're interested in singing or have questions contact Bonnie Stuckey (419-551-6847 or bonitastuckey@gmail.com) or Duane Beck, the director. All singers are welcome!

Message from Church Council regarding Memorial Service Meals. After discussion of various options, the church council has decided that Zion Church will be paying for meals or refreshments at the church after a funeral or memorial service. Council encourages donations toward a memorial fund for these meals/refreshments. Donations can be given in the church office or placed in the offering designated for funeral meals. The church council is encouraging the Funeral Meal Coordinators to have suggested menus for simple meals or refreshments. If you have questions, speak with a church council member or one of the Funeral Meal Coordinators, Glora Belle Yoder and Bonnie Stuckey.

Don't Forget

MiST is looking for housing leads for 1 or 2 immigrant families. A motivated and resourceful group here at Zion has committed to welcome 1 or 2 immigrant families to the area and help them get settled. Finding housing is the next big step. If you have leads on possible housing, please contact Lori Bontrager.

EMU visit: Jacoby Horsley, EMU admissions counselor, will be at Zion on September 18th, meeting with youth during the Sunday School hour.

MCC Comforter Bash: Make plans to join us on November 11 and 12 for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Church (58529 County Road 23). For more information about the event visit mcc.org/goshen-comforter-bash or contact LaVera Schlabach at 574.538.9629. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

Ladies Night Out Solid Rock Community Church would like to invite the ladies of your church to join us for a very special ladies' night out on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 6pm for The Unknown Tour. The Unknown Tour is a ladies' night out packed with comedy, music, worship and 2 speaking sessions. They focus on navigating life's unknowns through God's word with humor and heart. If you need to laugh, this event is for you! If you need to be filled up, this event is for you. If you need encouragement on how to choose faith over fear in the unknown, this event is tailor made for you. Early bird tickets are available now with a price break for groups of 10+. Tickets can be purchased online

Child's World Preschool Tuition Scholarship Fund Child's World Preschool offers families with financial difficulties to apply for a tuition scholarship. The preschool is looking for individuals or Sunday school classes that would be willing to help cover the cost of tuition if a family would need the scholarship. If you are interested in potentially sponsoring a student please contact the office.